

NRAC Standing Committee Meeting

February 28, 2023

Members in attendance

Dennis Sheehy
Jessie Michaelson
Marci Sheehy
Kyle Hogrefe
John Hillock
Teresa Smergut
Jeff Fields
Susan Roberts
Lisa Mahon
Andy Marcum

Chair

Katy Nesbitt

Title II Projects Rankings

- #1 - ICAPS – Range data collection on Cayuse, Grizzly Ridge, Horse Creek allotments
- #2 – Wallowa Resources – Virtual fence equipment for East Moraine Community Forest
- #3 – Northern Blues Forest Collaborative – Wallowa County field trips

Agency Reports

The Nature Conservancy – Jeff Fields
Staffing status quo – five work out of our office

Work scope:

2022 grazing year adaptive analysis = Zumwalt Preserve – 30k, easement – 20k
Bring information together and analysis ahead of 2023 – to adapt management

Mike Hale and Jeff work with WCRAMS – biggest focus – talk about how to bring together robust set of WCRAMS tools – looking at past, present and future, how we package tools in various ways livestock managers can use them to inform decisions – computer models with ground truth-ing.

WC invasive annual grass work – support role

Out of County: decent reps at SRM meetings –

- Trout Creek Ranch (Mountains)
 - Private/BLM – helping with grazing management planning
 - Oregon Desert Land Trust

Upper Camp Creek, Zumwalt Preserve
Restoration Planning

Grant agreement signed soon, field work this summer
Five to six mile of upper Camp Creek

Weed Board, Teresa Smergut –

Support Weed Levy – Wallowa County
Annual Invasive Grasses project
Updating – Wallowa County Integrated weed management plan
Booths
Woodlands and Watershed Fest
Wallowa County Fair

Commissioner John Hillock

Oregon Global Warming Commission

Carbon sequestration

Baseline work

Pay carbon credits to no-till, range management, etc.

Need research to pay out

DEQ Rule Making

How the money that program generates through (cap and trade type method) sells
or transports fossil fuels – money to clean up – spend to offset carbon
footprint

Focus on low income/affected communities – minorities/rural

EMCF – forest tour for 19-acre logging operation was well attended, Jan. 28, 2023

U.S. Forest Service, Wallowa Mountains Office, via email, Brian Anderson

- Morgan Nesbit public scoping opening this week. Accepting comments through the month of March. Open House scheduled for March 15 2023 from 4:30 -6:30 pm at Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise.
- Recently submitted a funding request to Regional Office for Burned Area Rehabilitation for the Double Creek fire. Funding to address burned infrastructure (signs, fences, invasive plants, buildings, trails).
- Reviewing burn plans and making arrangements for spring burning
- Conducting Range Allotment Annual Operating Instructions meetings and billing issuance
- Staff is establishing agreements to transmit recently awarded title 2 funds to outside entities. This includes trail work, youth programs, range fencing, aquatic monitoring, etc...
- Staffing: Actively hiring a Deputy District Ranger, Silviculturist, Silviculture Technician, Assistant Fire Management Officer, Wildlife Biologist, 2 Recreation Specialists, Botanist, 2 Range Management Specialists, and Range Ecologist

Kyle Hogrefe, WC Range Assessment and Monitoring System

- Title 2 funding for data collection on Cayuse, Grizzly Ridge, Horse Creek allotments

- Test of our subcommittee process – capacity building

- PhD will be wrapped up in June

- Post-doc funding for two years – Texas A&M

- Improve technical aspects of model

- May include work in Africa

- Condition and Trend data collection expand accuracy of data for the county

Looking for stable funding for next decade

Wallowa County Livestock Early Warning System coming on line for grazing season

- PHYGROW model – based on field surveys (110 sites) species inventory, rainfall forecast, soil type, water availability estimates plant growth

- Estimate off-take from livestock and wildlife – sheep, elk, cattle and deer

- Integrating with satellite information

Subcommittee structure

- Next piece of information

- NEPA project

- Which models bring to bear for “next” piece – IAG/AIG

Wallowa Resources, Marci Schreder

Staffing

- New

- Communications specialist – Avery ____

- Clayton Metheny – monitoring specialist – forest health projects – on public and private (CFLRP)

Education:

- Two internships open

- Perm position for HAWK

Wallowa Canyonlands

- Seasonal staff – six months

Submitted for Upper Wallowa River Project with ODOT to replace bridge as well as restoration work – redesign – a lot of original estimates were lower than current costs

Grant applications to Western Native Trout Initiative and OWEB – instream work window of July 15-Aug. 15 2024

Working with NRCS

- Invasive Annual Grass project

- Inflation Reduction Act – Farm Bill

Stakeholder engagement pilot project

(Talking to funders, two-year work windows not enough to get work done)

Increasing Firewise – Union and Baker counties, Hurricane Creek joined and others in WC in the works

Monitoring projects

Aspen stand maintenance and monitoring

Spalding's catchfly

McFarlane's

BLM in Idaho

Oregon Department of Forestry, Tracy Brostrom

Interviews next week to fill the vacant admin position at our front office in Wallowa

An announcement out recruiting for a Wildland Fire Supervisor

The training that we are attending this week is in preparation for the new Private Forest Accord rules that take effect July 1 which will be a big change for some landowners and operators