

12-6-82

**DRAFT**

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
for the  
MODOC/WASHOE EXPERIMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

December 6, 1982

Members Present: Sam Millazzo, Glenn Bradley, Jeanni Conlan, Rex Cleary, Jean Schadler, Bill Reavely, Joe Harris

Others Present: Donnell "Mick" Richards (Mrs. Ken Earp), Bob Bunyard, Larry Hill (Ken Earp), Jerry Hillyard, Lee Delaney, Richard Westman, Bill Phillips, Rick Cooper.

Chairman Jeanni Conlan called the meeting to order at 10:15 A.M. on Monday, December 6, 1982 at the BLM office in Cedarville.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as sent out with time added for Rex Cleary, Lee Delaney, and Glenn Bradley.

High Rock

Lee Delaney stated rather than try to resolve the stocking rate issue (as charged by the Steering Committee), this meeting should serve more as an informational and brainstorming session. This then can be presented to the TRT when it meets in early February. Lee also reported that Bill Phillips and Ernie Eaton will be meeting with Bob Bunyard to look at his total operation, private and public.

Lee also reported that the remaining decisions in C/M except for the Massacre Mountain and Little High Rock Allotments have been issued.

Bob Bunyard was asked to express his views on the proposed stocking rate in Massacre Mountain/High Rock. He stated that he felt he should not take a reduction because:

1. The Powers permit (originally Espil) was moved from Long Valley to Massacre Mountain without adequate carrying capacity in the Massacre Mountain Allotment.
2. The land exchange between BLM and White Pine Lumber Co. created an opportunity to exclude livestock from the area now proposed for exclusion. He feels the reduction should have occurred when the land exchange was finalized and apply solely to the White Pine grazing permit.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the Powers (Espil) permit which was moved from Long Valley. Rick Cooper briefly explained the base properties, the permits and how the permits were consolidated into allotments throughout the Massacre adjudication unit in the 1963 adjudication. When asked, Bob Bunyard stated he had not run livestock in Long Valley and had protested the rangeline between Long Valley and Massacre Mountain Allotments.

Rex Cleary stated that he knew of no precedence where disproportionate shares of reduction can be made unless error in the 1963 adjudication is proven. Then, the effect would be to open up the adjudication unit wide for scrutiny for error.

Jean Schadler stated she felt the Massacre permittees should get excess forage produced in Long Valley seedings. Bob Bunyard stated he did not want any part of the seedings in Long Valley. He stated he would rather have an individual allotment centered around the Massacre Ranch. Larry Hill stated Earp would not agree to an individual allotment until everything (waters, etc.) were in place and it could be seen how things are working. Rex Cleary then emphasized that BLM could go along with individual allotments if both operators agreed. If they didn't however, it would place the burden on the BLM to administratively create the allotments and also to demonstrate the operators proportionate shares are satisfied.

Jean Schadler then asked for clarification of the history related to AUMs on the private lands in the land exchange. It was noted that the exchange-of-use AUMs on the private lands were reallocated to White Pine as Federal AUMs (340 AUMs) when the exchange was finalized.

Bill Phillips stated it was still unclear and that maps, etc. were needed. Rick Cooper will search the files and provide this.

The meeting broke at 11:37 A.M. and resumed at 12:45 P.M.

Mick Richards asked if the domestic sheep were removed, would this raise the area in priority for bighorn sheep reintroduction. Sam Millazzo stated NDOW would reintroduce in any event. Sam also stated their priorities now lie in the areas without these problems. However, the process for reintroduction in High Rock would accelerate if domestic sheep were removed.

Larry Hill asked Bob Bunyard if he had a record of protest and, if so, there should have been a hearing. Bob said he would have to check his files and the BLM will also.

Jean Schadler asked Larry Hill if they (Earp) are accepting the proposed reduction without protest. Larry said there is only 8,000 AUMs to work with. You can start there and adjust according to monitoring. He further said that you could start at the top (10,500 AUMs) and that country won't handle it, everybody knows that.

Jean Schadler asked Larry Hill if the ranches were for sale. Larry didn't know but Mick Richards said they all were.

Jean Schadler asked if BLM would approve transfer of present active use if Earp sold his permits. She further stated that BLM would compound the problem if the agency did not reduce the permits when transferred. Rex Cleary stated we could not take action against Earp's permit without taking action against Bunyard's also.

Mick Richards noted the point that there are possibilities of seedings and prescriptive use on the east side, therefore carrying capacity could only be set through monitoring of the actual use.

Jean Schadler proposed that Earp absorb the total reduction (by agreement) and be compensated through an additional payment above the grazing fee and an increased percentage of future increases.

Lee Delaney suggested that, by agreement, Ken Earp would assume all of the proposed reduction and when increases are available, he would have first priority up to the amount of Bob Bunyard's suspended nonuse that he assumed. Beyond that, increases would be based on existing proportionate shares.

Mick Richards stated there would have to be a time restriction. Larry Hill still felt reductions should be on proportionate shares.

Rex asked Larry if his earlier statements regarding the reduced grazing level meant that both parties would agree to reduce to the 8,000 AUMs and monitor it. Larry said yes. This converted to 333 head of cattle for Bunyard for six (6) months.

The Committee then reviewed the Status Report (Attachment 1). Everyone agreed with the tasks and timeframes in the Report except that Bob would research his legal options at his discretion rather than by 1/15/83 as in the Report.

Bob Bunyard stated he had not talked with Forrest Cooper. Bob also said he probably would not until he saw what evolved from his work with Bill and Ernie.

#### 1983 Stewardship Program (What should Committee tackle this coming year?)

Lee Delaney suggested M/W ESP formerly initiate a program similar to the "Westergard Plan" presented in Challis where the livestock permittee assumes the lions share of the responsibility for managing the livestock to meet the objectives in his allotment. Lee proposed the following allotments: Tuledad, Crooks Lake, Nevada Cowhead, Bitner, and Wall Canyon (West).

Bill Reavely asked if this would be considered an incentive. Lee replied yes under the "more user flexibility incentive" that the Steering Committee approved.

Sam Millazzo stated the experiment has to spell out the criteria, objectives, recourse if objectives are not met, etc.

Joe Harris stated this probably will work fine for individual allotments, but there may be problems in common allotments. Lee stated that one of the objectives of the experiment is to evaluate how successful this approach is in common allotments.

Rex stated this may not save any time for BLM however the concept of the rancher assuming more responsibility is worth experimenting with to see if it improves his stewardship.

Bill Reavely stated that BLM must be able to answer other publics questions of what does this do for them.

The Committee agreed to present the proposal to the Steering Committee.

Bill Reavely stated he would like to see something for other interests such as wildlife. Joe Harris stated he would like to see California's deer hunting program parallel Nevada's.

Jean Schadler stated she would like to see the M/W ESP insure the Grazing Fee Incentives Program is implemented; that the M/W ESP pursue the possibility of getting the wild horse coalition back together; and that the High Rock issue be resolved.

Everyone agreed the points were good and should be presented to the Steering Committee as possible tasks.

Jean Schadler asked what should be done about Frank Lundberg's letter (Attachment 2). Jeanni Conlan will contact him to find out the cost of his offer.

Bill Reavely felt that M/W ESP needs to strongly pursue public information avenues.

In summary the Executive Committee agreed to present the following to the Steering Committee for possible '83 tasks.

1. Management by contracts on selected allotments (aka "Westergard Plan") - Sam Millazzo has lead.
2. Report on riparian management in 1983 - Bill Reavley has lead.
3. Implement the five (5) components of Grazing Fee Incentive Program - Jean Schadler has lead.
4. Form a subcommittee to deal with wild horse issues. Rex Cleary has lead.
5. Aggressively pursue public information - ? will have lead.
6. Resolve High Rock issues - Lee Delaney has lead.

#### Meeting Dates

Executive Committee - March 15 - 10 A.M. - 12 Noon

Steering Committee - March 15 - 12 Noon - 5 P.M.

March 16 - 8 A.M. - 12 Noon

#### Agenda for Steering Committee Meeting

Steering Committee Appointments  
TRT Report on High Rock - Report  
Committee Review - Report  
All Subcommittees Report  
1983 Tasks

### Future Direction of M/W ESP

Rex explained reorganization of fire management program in the District. He has decentralized the program down to the Resource Areas and established a Fire Management Officer in the Resource Area under the Area Manager. He has also put emphasis on establishing a prescribed burn program.

Rex asked to what extent the Executive or Steering Committee should get involved in setting priorities for projects. Sam and Jean Schadler both felt comfortable with the current process and that permittees should help determine priorities in their allotment. Everyone else agreed.

Glenn Bradley emphasized the Forest Service is fully supportive of the ESP. He stated there was a misconception that came from Challis in regards to the Forest Service Washington people. Everyone was relieved to hear this.

Lee Delaney proposed that the Steering Committee members (except for the rancher members) be assigned 2-3 allotments to "ride herd" over. That member then would be responsible to become familiar with the permittee and allotment and report back to the Committee on the happenings in the allotment. He expressed this may bridge a potential credibility gap between the Steering Committee and permittees where some ranchers feel the Committee talks about allotments they know nothing about. He also thought this will keep the Steering Committee actively involved and interest will remain high.

The Executive Committee thought it was a good idea and added it to the 1983 task list for implementation. Joe Harris has lead.

Lee also said he plans on meeting with permittees, environmentalists, etc. to get their concerns and ideas about where Stewardship should go.

### Other Business

Concern was expressed that California Fish and Game was not an active member of the Forest Service TRT. Everyone felt it was a good idea and recommended that California Fish and Game be an integral member of the Forest Service TRT.

Jeanni Conlan said a draft copy of the Annual Report was supposed to have come for comment but had not received it yet. They wanted comments by 12/15 but that was unrealistic now and that we needed an extension.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.