



**MODOC/WASHOE
EXPERIMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM**



DRAFT MINUTES

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 27-28, 1990**

**CATHOLIC CHURCH PARISH HALL
CEDARVILLE, CA**

Time: 9:00AM
Date: February 27, 1990

Steering Committee Members Present:

Tom Ballow	Ray Page
Wayne Burkhardt	Barry Reisweg
Jeanni Conlan	Jean Snider Schadler
Banky Curtis	Nancy Gardner (for Doug Smith)
Rick Delmas	Jim Stokes
Rick Hanks	John Weber
Rich Heap	Fred Wright
Terri Jay	
John Lowrie	
Irv Toler (for Bruce Main)	

Members Absent:

Wes Cook	Bruce Main
Harold Harris	Doug Smith
Joe Harris	John Laxague
Chris Lauppe	

Others Present:

Karen Shimamoto
Tony Danna
Rich Westman
Jeff Fontana
Gene Jensen

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

John Lowrie called the meeting to order.
Agenda discussed and finalized. (Attachment 1)

2. MINUTES

Correct Irv Toler's name. Minutes for 10/27-27/89 - MSC as amended.

3. FINANCES

Tom Ballow (M) & Jeanni Conlan (S) - financial report be given at every meeting. Consensus.

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 15, 1990 AT SUSANVILLE BLM AT 1000. Subsequently changed to May 25 at 0900 at the Alturas Resource Area Office.

5. NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

June 28-30, 1990 - Combined meeting with SRM Nevada

. ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP MEETING

ESP/CRMP joint meeting proposed. ESP to send letter to CRMP requesting a joint meeting. Subcommittee to include Lowrie, Smith, Delmas, Cook, Hanks, Ballow, and Weber. Tom to look into facilities.

Jean moved to host a meeting in Reno in November or December, 1990. (MSC).

Jean explained the objective was to share quality information. Her disappointment with past meetings was lack of information. We need to attract surviving ranchers and newcomers who want to keep up with change. The existing ESP business is nothing new; and the bureaucracy of ESP is at her tolerance limit. In her mind the objective is to put heads together and really work on problem areas or areas where many people have no knowledge. Need to invite people and teach them something. ESP is no longer on the cutting edge. Discussion continued around her comments.

Rich felt if we wanted to sell the ESP process, we had to improve the range - on the ground. Have we simply stalled for 10 years by staying out of court? He wants proof of range improvement - not that we like each other - but proof on-the-ground that you can take anyone to and they agree - yes ESP works by getting range improved or improving.

Jean commented about Tuledad. Different people saw different things. We continue to factionalize; we have continued breakdown in information credibility.

Other comments: Problems with good objectives; Still lots of areas without ESP process and they need it; We haven't seen conflict like we're going to in 90s; How can we remain on the cutting edge; ESP not moving fast enough.

John Lowrie felt ESP has many issues to address. What do we need to do? Talk at the annual meeting like we talked today. Should we have national

speakers? Chief of FS, Director of BLM, NCA, PLG?? Has ESP worked? Can we really document our accomplishments and show measureable successes? We are talking about the life or death of ESP. John feels the annual meeting subcommittee should solicit information from others. His challenge to the committee - Build on today's discussion. Make a committment to the land to do something for it.

7. EVALUATION OF ALLOTMENTS

Discussion took place on the Steering Comm. role in evaluating whether objectives are met. Tuledad continued to be used as an example of what works/doesn't work in the consensus & evaluation process. Steering Comm. felt they needed to allow the TRT to do their job.

When evaluation reports are submitted, the Steering Committee will select an allotment and go to the field. If there are concerns, the TRT will resolve and the Steering Comm. members may participate. Hope to reaffirm respect and confidence of field people.

Tuledad Objectives Task Force will (MSC) - 1) establish objectives; 2) develop prescriptions to meet objectives; 3) at the Fall, 1990 meeting the Steering Committee will review the results on the ground.

8. 10-YEAR REPORT (Attachments 2A, 2B, & 2C)

Tony reviewed joint meeting minutes. From the outline Keith Axline and others developed, Rich Westman put together a draft of BLM's portion of the report. It included a)introduction and program description; b)overview of past reports; c)success stories; d)failures; e)resource management programs; f)special management area progress - High Rock ACEC, Massacre Lake archaeological solutions, Sand Creek, livestock grazing. They also wanted before and after photos in the appendix to the report. Goal was to have report done by the end of May.

Other options discussed: 1) presentations at National SRM in DC next year to Congressional types; 2) 10-year report to Congress.

Group agreed that SRM forum in DC appropriate for ESP participation.

Other ideas included focus on grazing AMPs - acres, issues, implementation, ACECs, timber, wild horses, T & E, minerals. Focus on grazing being managed so these other resources prosper. Suggestion to compare SRA with Cal Neva - # AMPs, improvements, other plans and projects for other resources. Another idea to review decade of successes and failures; private investment on public lands, \$ for maintenance, \$ for participation in process, comparison of accomplishments.

Subcommitee - Jean Schadler, Rick Hanks, John Lowrie, Karen Shimamoto, Tony Danna. Nancy Gardner and Jeff Fontana to assist with public affairs.

John Lowrie to contact Keith Axline to drop combined ESP report in favor of formal presentation to Washington DC SRM in Jan 1991 by each area.MSC.

Rick Hanks feels that the BLM Washington staff and State BLM director want a written report and will check with their office on motion passed by Steering Committee.

9. BLM SHOWCASE AREAS (Attachment 3)

Credibility being challenged and to counter this, BLM wanting to market information about areas of interest to public. Susanville District is known as the grazing district in California. Instead of focusing on the allotments, Rick wants to showcase all aspects of ESP. Other highlights in the Susanville District are the Bizz Johnson Trail and the Cedar Ck riparian area. Purpose is to show anyone, from staffers to other interested parties.

10. ASSESSMENT OF STEWARDSHIP ALLOTMENT PLANS (Attachments 4A & 4B)

Wayne Burkhardt has been bothered by the lack of consistency between what we are doing and what we said we would do. In Wayne's opinion, the Steering Committee never did quality checks. He attempted to get the job done through other sources and obtained funding from the BLM Washington office to pay for a graduate study. He had graduate student track issues to resolution in 20 AMPs.

AMP Process includes a quality assessment, good tracking of the process, measureable objectives, appropriate monitoring techniques, and management accomplishments clearly reported.

Examples of good objectives are:

- Maintain bitterbrush in 2.25 form class;
- Reduce frequency of iris in meadows;
- Allow <15% hedging of bitterbrush;
- Within 6 years increase total vegetative cover by 90% on big sage sites;
- Allow 20% aspen sucker regrowth.

Monitoring should specify: C&T Transects, Actual Use Records, Utilization, Photos, Weather Records, Plant Productivity.

Evaluations should include Annual Report, Record of Significant Events, Interpretion of Monitoring.

Typical problems found:

Isolated Objectives: Goal-Soil Stability; Issues - none; Objective - Decrease soil erosion to <2 tons/ac/yr; Action - none; Monitoring - none; Evaluation - Not possible.

Stranded Issues: Goal - Maintain wild horses; Issues - Allotment receives yearlong horse use; Objective - none; Action - none; Monitoring - none; Evaluation - none.

Abandoned Objective: Goal - Antelope habitat; Issue - Kidding grounds in SE corner of allotment; Objective - Provide good habitat for antelope population; Action - none; monitoring - none; Evaluation - none.

Conclusions: Need a quality control process. Someone needs to think about the overall flow of issues from start to finish. Write objectives that are measureable.

11. SUCCESS STORIES (Attachment 5)

Steering Comm. to review 3 new stories. Forest Service to desktop publish whole package.

12. BALD MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT

Evaluation completed. Utilization of both upland ranges and riparian areas substantiate increase in carrying capacity. Evaluation of full numbers completed but done under a temporary permit. Prepared to increase Ray Page's permit numbers, but not prepared to increase Pratt's permit in Soldier Creek. Need to test Pratt cattle and there is a problem with adding numbers to their permit without validating the permit in the first year.

13. BIGHORN SHEEP

Jean Schadler appeared to be concerned about how the guideline was worded. She feels the document gives permission to do whatever is needed to get bighorn back into their historic areas. Jean felt that the document should not have a management objective to establish sheep because this gives outside groups permission to push the FS/BLM to do so, at whatever the cost to permittees. Instead, the management objective should be to ascertain that a viable population can exist in a specific location. She felt we needed a step-by-step process to determine if the location is suitable for reintroduction.

Banky Curtis said the document was now a set of guidelines and no longer a "Plan." Objectives are usually prepared for a plan. Since the document was a guideline, spelling out what was needed to get from one point to another should be fine.

Rich Heap said to call reintroduction a goal. Use "Conditions" to establish what conditions are necessary for a successful reintroduction.

Both Jean and Banky said the document should push for more research.

Jean is supportive of reintroduction if ecological conditions are in place for success. The policy statement in the guideline should include discussion with all affected parties. She also wants to make sure the guideline includes a clear definition of habitat, the cost of reintroduction if its a mistake, what would it take to get a sufficient buffer. She also has a problem in the introduction. She feels the syntax used skews the reader to believe that livestock and hunters are the main problems for bighorn. Also, disease transmission goes both ways. Domestic animals are vaccinated; wild animals are not.

Forest Service will "word-smith" bighorn guidelines.

Time: 9:00AM
Date: February 28, 1990

Steering Committee Members Present:

Tom Ballow
Wayne Burkhardt
Jeanni Conlan
Banky Curtis
Wes Cook
Rick Hanks
Rich Heap
Terri Jay
John Lowrie
Irv Toler (for Bruce Main)

Ray Page
Barry Reisweg
Jean Snider Schadler
Nancy Gardner (for Doug Smith)
Jim Stokes
John Weber
Fred Wright
John Laxague
Harold Harris

Members Absent:

Bruce Main
Doug Smith
Joe Harris
Chris Lauppe

Others Present:

Karen Shimamoto
Tony Danna
Rich Westman
Jeff Fontana
White Pine Ranch
Tracy Irons

Ernie Eaton
Bill Phillips
Alan Uchida
Bob Bunyard
Susan Stokke
Roger Farchon

1. BLM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Surprise RA is starting on a 2nd generation of MFPs, now called RMPs. It will be the umbrella planning document for Surprise RA for the next 10 years. Rick Hanks explained the RMP will be issue driven and will include management direction to address new issues, as well as continuing direction from the current situation.

Discussion continued around planning philosophies, viewpoints, concerns, frustrations, & hopes.

2. BILL REAVLEY POSITION

Rick Delmas contacted Bill to give us names.

3. BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS (Separate enclosure - Please add to your orientation book)

Area Manager and District Ranger role added. Also definition and role of Technical Review Teams added.

4. MASSACRE MOUNTAIN (Attachment 6)

ESP dealing with this for 10 years. Focuses around Highrock ACEC and amended LUP. Report presented by subcommittee.

MS (Wayne Burkhardt & John Laxague) - to accept report and recommendations and send forward to District Manager. Discussion around Bunyard & White Pine unable to comment until they speak to their lawyers; cancelling vs. suspending AUMs; Long Valley seedings; conflict between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep remains.

Amended MS (Fred Wright and Rich Heap) - amend report to recommend that 340 AUMs be cancelled, instead of suspended.

Steering Committee thanked Jean Schadler and Rich Westman who were primary authors of report.

Discussion about lack of consensus. What happens when Steering Comm. offering good advice to FS & BM, but advice in entirety is not accepted by the committee

Bill Phillips proposed to accept everything else in report, but drop how AUMs are handled (suspended vs. cancelled). Jean said it was an all-or-nothing deal. Jean proposed to change recommendation to cancel 340 AUMs and have subcommittee prepare rationale to support this. At the same time Bunyard and White Pine to seek legal advice, and for Rick Hanks to also seek legal advice in BLM. Subcom. would then revise recommendation to District Manager after input received by all and reviewed again by Steering Comm. No Consensus.

M (Rich Heap) - Accept report but allow Dist. Mgr. to decide about 340 AUMs. No Consensus.

Rick Hanks proposed to change suspended to "based on the District Manager's understanding of the 1975 land exchange between White Pine Ranch and the BLM, modify, cancel, or suspend 340 AUMs."

MSC (Jean & John) - To accept subcommittee report and recommendations as amended by Rick's wording. Steering Committee agreed to support District Manager's decision.

5. HAYS CANYON BIGHORN SHEEP RELEASE

15 released on 12/21/89 - 10 females, 2 rams, and 3 lambs. Four collars are being monitored.

6. WARNER MOUNTAIN DEER HERD

Warner Mountain Deer Herd Plan outdated. As soon as Calif. Dept Fish & Game revises, will send out to subcommittee.

7. HAYS CANYON BIGHORN SHEEP ACTION ITEMS

Fred said he would review and recapitulate action items deferred. (EG., hunting seasons and allotment management objectives).

8. MT. VIDA EIS (Attachments 7 & 8)

Irv Toler reviewed Paul Barker's Environmental Agenda and also referenced a letter he had from Mr. Whitfield of WFIA. (Whitfield had sent a letter to the Modoc NF on 2/21/90 that no one had yet seen.)

Irv wanted to know how Mt. Vida fits in with the Forest Plan, the spatial relationship to Compartments 301-306, Management 31, and what level of decision-making this fit? Karen Shimamoto responded.

Karen also gave a review of the schedule for releasing the Draft EIS for the Mt. Vida area and the future involvement of the ESP subcommittee.

9. HIGH ROCK IMPLEMENTATION

Susan Lynn, Pub. Resource Assoc. contacted the Nature Conservancy and Trust for Public Land with proposals. Both are interested and desire to participate. Negotiations/discussion between Bob Bunyard and TPL indicating Bunyard willing to negotiate using a fair appraisal. Susan, Bob, and TPL are driving the process now.

Discussion about Land and Water Conserv. Funds being used to purchase \$1 billion in private lands. \$1.25 million associated with Bob's land.

Jean has reviewed a letter prepared for potential collaborators. Need to contact Washoe Co. commissioners on removing private lands from tax rolls. She sees the ESP Steering Committee setting up the M/W ESP Foundation which then oversees a Stewardship Center at Highrock. The Center would have its own Board of Directors and staff. The Foundation is used to receive and distribute funds for the benefit of natural resources in the stewardship area.

MS (Jean and Terri Jay) - desire SC approval to meet with attorney to set up M/W ESP Foundation. Discussion around building monuments to ourselves; opportunity to have money to do more projects, including the Stewardship Center; good options to National Park type management; opportunity for Center to educate, promote tourism; some favored the Foundation, but were'nt sure about Center.

MSC (Terri & Jean) - Form a 501-3C nonprofit corporation to establish Foundation.

10. FOREST PLAN ISSUES

Karen gave an overview of the status of the Forest Plan. On 3/7 the Critical Issues were presented to the Regional Forester. By 6/28, the final Plan will be submitted to the Forest Management Team and ID Team for their review, followed by the RO review in July. By 8/7, a Record of Decision will be prepared and we will prepare for the executive review (RO) of this decision. Sept. 28 is when the final package will go to the Washington Office.

11. FOREST 91 BUDGET

Up \$10,000 for wild horses. Range Betterment only \$37,700 when \$52,000 received in past. FY91 best range budget received \$481,000 compared to \$418,000 in FY90.