

Notes 8-2-2023

Meeting re Lazyman IRA and Nevada IRA 5:30-8:00
219 Vawter Street
Doug Powell, Camie Westfall, Gary Ingman,
Dennis Milburn, Gayle Joslin

Gary, Doug and Dennis reported on Blackhall Meadows. Paul Ferry, Gary, Doug and Dennis hiked into the area. The north end of the meadows is in the Inventoried Roadless Area. Gary filled out a hydrology sheet.

Blackhall Meadows has historically been irrigated. There is a cattle enclosure at the source of Colorado Gulch. Fence is fallen down, gate open. Developed stock water with tank and pipe indicating that there was an effort to try to keep cattle out of the creek.

The water source is nonfunctional at this point and not working. Breached dam at top end – maybe tried to back up the creek for placer or other mining. It's a steep incised channel through granite boulders, pitching down. Boulders are piled on the side – there use to be a tram to move rocks in order to get to bedrock to find gold.

Gary says that hydraulics are not affecting the stream today. There is deposited granite sand but is no longer a sediment source. It has stabilized. Below that, the gradient drops where there was a beaver dam complex. Beavers have been trapped out. The channel cut around the beaver dam and now the gradient is down cut and loses energy to create a stable stream channel. At one time it was a big sediment source when it happened, but is not now. It will create some sort of a flood plain within the entrenched reach. Not a big issue to habitat quality at this time.

Doug says there is a waterfall on private land below, that fish can't get around. Saw all kinds of frogs (likely spotted frogs) with lots of pollywogs. Several roughed grouse. A huge (600#) rock had been moved by a bear. There were several other rocks flipped as well. Last year Steve saw a sow and cub grizzly tracks in Colorado Gulch.

Dennis – some weeds but not a lot. Occasional musk and Canada thistle. The most significant weed was as a patch of hound's tongue near the beaver pond. But other than that, it looked good. The area had been placer mined up to the meadows. Cut banks could be listed as a critical sediment source. But the creek is in a granite system that produces mainly sand. Stream had cut down through existing beaver dams but are now revegetated – healed itself. There was a blowout spot (lat/long was taken).

Fence around the headwaters. There is an enclosure at the top that needs to be fixed; it was created to protect the source. In 2006, the Conservation Corps put in a fence that is falling down – corners pulling out. Needs fixing if cattle are in there. HHAA should get a copy of the grazing permit and restrictions/time periods. Cattle do sit in there and trample everything.

Gary noted that in Nevada Creek cattle grazing was occurring, but confirmation of bull trout prevented further grazing. Len Walsh, the FS fisheries biologist was instrumental in stopping the

grazing. HHAA should contact the fish biologist to see what surveys have been conducted in Lazyman.

It will be Jan-Feb to do reports, but we can ask for grazing permits. Ask for last 5 years. Since we have a volunteer agreement so they shouldn't charge for that. We should get other agreements for each IRA we work in. We should track our costs (hours) to show the effort we put in. We can count mileage too just to show our expenses as well.

Dennis sent google drive info to Paul. But no response yet from Paul.

Everyone can see it if you are working within Google drive. Can also put info into the Excel list. Ultimately everything will be in excel. Photo number should be referenced, but photos will be stored in a different folder. Make a copy of the master. You can rename the file. If you don't have enough.

So, we do feel like we are done filling out the Lazyman IRA forms (completed and stored on Google Drive). We can upload the Roads Reports to Google. Gayle will upload all the roads reports that we submitted for the lawsuit. Designated subunits – We need to have a subunit map for each IRA. For veg stuff, we need aerial estimation of how much beetle kill, canopy cover. Doug uses 3 basic seral stages so it can be related to the NRVs for the geographic area. Doug has photos from previous years. Doug will make the call on the 3 seral stage estimates. A lot of early seral stage is encroachment into grassland. We can maybe do it with the NAIP imagery.

Recreational intrusions behind private property needs to be captured via the roads Reports. This must show up in the final report.

Gary has a scoring protocol that will get refined by going through the different sheets. We need a meeting to establish the Report Card before we do the actual scoring.

We are looking at broad themes that we will convey to the managers. Challenge is to maintain what we have. Lazyman has fragmentation, recreation (Helena Proximity), home impacts. Have a numerical or letter grade, but the narrative that justifies the grade is really important. Each resource has a narrative statement that explains what is going on. Keep it as broad as possible. People will read the information, but they won't look at the data. But we will have the data. From here out, we will split up, unlike Lazyman where we went out in a big group. So we need to rely on each other's perspectives.

Use Avenza and use the cheat sheet to be sure we document what we need on the final form. Have different points in different colors (veg = green, wildlife = brown, etc) When KML is exported, all the photos, narrative, lat/long come through, but photos don't come through (embedded). Google Earth works, but arc map does not allow photos to come in. Could also upload in a photo file – with photos properly labelled (but very long photo numbers in avenza). The problem will be labelling and attaching photos.

On photo file (Doug) in google drive in completed files, there is a photo file. Must use Column J for photo numbers, ie. cw905. Put them in the FOLDER. Rename the template copy. Doug likes folders for subunits.

NEVADA MTN

Doug and Gary will fly Nevada. Threemile, behind Quigley to get idea of proliferation of ATV trails and another inholding in Georgia Cr where there are big 4 wheelers. MacKay Creek to main Nevada (Shingle, Mitchell) will cover to see what is happening. See if cattle are in main Nevada Cr. So, look for cattle.

Gary said he and Rod had gone up main Nevada Cr where there is a main trail head with private cabin that has been taken over by FS. There is a fence is right above the cabin that is supposed to exclude cattle.

Camie created a Nevada Subunit map with 7 units based on accessibility.

Gary envisions 3 main units including:

1. Threemile Creek to Ophir to Little Blackfoot River;
2. Main Nevada and Poorman to Blackfoot River;
3. All of the east side drains to Little Prickly Pear (LPP) and the Missouri River – so we need those units at a minimum. CD National Scenic Trail with CD corridor is important recreationally and we need to reflect that and know it is a movement corridor and we have documentation of sensitive species on both sides of the corridor. Fire always produces major human damage from camps and activity.

Kalon Baughan could do the NW corner: Dalton – Ogden.

Rod had volunteered to do Marsh Creek but he can't walk very well, so maybe he can inventory other access points or be a shuttle for "through" hikers.

Targeted assessment areas:

1. Marsh Creek, starting on the east side to the CDT via the NFK LPP then follow Nevada Cr trail out and get picked up. Much beetle kill and cattle – this area will provide lots of info. So, we would be gathering data in 2 subsections. Would be looking at:
 - a. recreation use along a couple miles of CD Trail,
 - b. hydrology – old placer mining that breached with remnants, and
 - c. cattle damage all way down the west side.

Could do a "Key Swap" at the mid point, or hike in to the CDT from each side but turn around to get back to one's car.

2. Threemile is inaccessible – would need an overnighiter if walking. Access from Deadman – would cover both sides of the divide. Aerial survey of this area in particular will be important.
3. Lincoln Face – up SFk Poorman and pick representative drainage like McClellan or Prickly Gulch. This could be done in a day. People were coming up Poorman and

getting to the Gould-Helmville trail. This was controversial but Supervisor Avey's boundary left this area out of the recommended Wilderness. It would be good to reflect that in the survey – very important wildlife area. Historical mining in McClellan. People are maintaining motorized trails in Prickly Gulch.

4. Unit 6 = NW Corner. Kalon may be able to do this area with one of us. Includes: Dalton, Ogden, Moose Cr, Little Moose Cr. It is on the fringe of Trapper Mtn and the winter range.
5. East slope – Black Mtn toward the corridor and CD trail. Take SFk LPP to where Threemile drops down. SFK LPP, Beartrap, McQuithy, NF LPP. Human use could be checked.
6. Rod could do all the other access points from the ground. Look at Travel Plan for them.

Any data we can gather to support the boundary adjustments will be very important. The ROD said the FS would make the decision on the Wilderness boundary by 2024 (Avey).

Schedule: Aug, Sep, maybe Oct. Start right away.

- Fly – Doug, Gary, Camie 11th of August
- Camie available – 12, 13, 27th
- Gary 9, 11th, then open
- Doug available on 11th and thereafter
- Dennis not next week but avail after the 14th.
- Kalon – need to call him and schedule someone with him.
- E side can be done by those of us hunting during the season.
- Threemile: Gary, Camie, Doug 12th 13th ???
- Marsh – Nevada: Dennis and Gary 19th ???
- Stemple – Poorman: Camie early Oct

Map that Camie has uploaded has the IRA boundary and roads.

Use the 3 main drainages then use Camie's 7 units within those 3.

Mtn bikes are all over the CDT. They go down Marsh and up Empire, and so generally go around Nevada, but Gary has seen them coming out of other areas they shouldn't be in.

Tongue/McQuithy = 2

Marsh to CDT Gould-Helmville then down main Nevada Cr to FS bdy

Jericho IRA may happen in September. Maybe map out subunits. Doug did a Jericho flight in 2020 that he will dig up for a baseline.