

Terrestrial Resource Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2017
Noxon Emergency Services Building
10:00 a.m. (MST)

Attendees

Designated TRTAC Representatives:

Avista Corp. – Nate Hall
Elk Creek Watershed Council – Judy Hutchins
Sanders County Commissioners – Tony Cox
U.S. Forrest Service – Les Raynor
MT Fish Wildlife and Parks – Dave Bennetts

Other Attendees:

Avista – Jason Pignanelli, Eric Oldenburg, Catherine Kenney, Susan Drumheller

Introduction

Hall welcomed and introduced the group to Jason P. Avista's new Recreation/Land Use Specialist, and asked for brief introductions.

Purpose of the meeting is to review the 2017 Annual Implementation Plans and make any technical recommendations for MC review and approval in March.

Hall highlighted the usage of recreation sites, and the maps and reports created that described the use of the sites, electronic and hard copies are available.

Hall noted that there may be formatting changes made to the AIPs before they are sent to the MC but the content will not change.

TRTAC Annual Implementation plans

Appendix G: Implementation of Land Use Management Plan (LUMP)

Hall explained the purpose of the LUMP and reviewed the 2017 actions, tasks, and decisions.

- Administration of the Land Use Management Plan (LUMP)
- Monitoring Associated with the Land Use Management Plan (LUMP)
- Enforcement Associated with the Land Use Management Plan (LUMP)

The TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix G as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix H: Implementation of the Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP)

- RRMP Administration and Resource Integration
 - Working on updating the Recreation Resource Management Plan, which will need to be approved by the TRTAC. Noted that it will be sent as a consent mail and if approved by the TRTAC it will then be sent to the MC for approval at the March MC meeting.

- RRMP Recreation Facility Development
- RRMP Monitoring
- Operation and Maintenance of recreation facilities
- Interpretation and Education Program

The TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix H as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix I: Implementation of the Aesthetics Management Plan

- Monitor recreation, land management, erosion, and facility construction programs to ensure AMP guidelines are considered.
- Continue to investigate measures to restore views, as appropriate, identified in the 2013 re-inventory of 41 key viewpoints. Sites will be revisited again in 2018 to take photos to compare to past inventoried.

The TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix I as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix J: Implementation of the Wildlife, Botanical and Wetland management Plan

Hall described this Appendix and the timelines in place to ensure that acquisitions held by Avista stay in front of the MC. Reminded the TRTAC that the bald eagles, peregrine falcons and common loons no longer have their own appendices but incidental observations, if any, will be reported in Appendix J.

The TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix J as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix K: Wildlife Habitat Acquisition, Enhancement and Management Program

Hall described the projects plans and what is planned in 2017.

- Operation and Maintenance of Acquired Property and Contingency Fund
- Habitat Acquisition and Conservation and Contingency Fund
- Wood Duck Re-vegetation and Maintenance
- Pack River Conservation Easement

The TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix K as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix L: Black Cottonwood Habitat Protection and Enhancement

Hall described this project and what is planned for 2017.

- Continue protection of black cottonwood stands through the implementation of the Land Use Management Plan.
- Continue to monitor and maintain the enclosure at Hereford Slough.
- Construct two more enclosures within the Hereford Slough stand.

The TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix L as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix M: Wetland Protection and Enhancement Program

Hall described this project and what is planned for 2017.

- Investigate the possibility of purchasing 18 acres of shoreline habitat adjacent to the 2016 Twin Creek acquisition.
- Investigate the potential for wetland enhancement opportunities on the Twin Creek property acquired in 2016.
- Monitor past enhancements at Hereford Slough, McKay Creek, Finley Flats, and Blacktail Bay islands.

The TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix M as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix P: Timber Habitat Protection and Enhancement

Hall described this project and what is planned for 2017.

- Continue to manage Conservation 1 areas.
- Continue to work with CSKT to develop management plan for the Honey Flats area
- Continue to monitor and enforce road closure at Stevens Creek Point.
- Continue to prohibit motorized use of Finley Flats Point
- Continue to participate in MFWP Block Management program for hunter access
- Continue weekly patrols of forested lands surrounding the State Shop property.
- Initiate timber stand improvement efforts in stands that have disease, high fire danger or other problems. This work will be evaluated on a case by case basis and specific proposals will be presented to the TRTAC and MC as they are developed.

The TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix P as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix Q: Reservoir Island Protection

- Continue to ensure restriction developed for the protection of these areas utilizing the land use classifications described in the Land Use Management Plan.

The TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix Q as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix S: Erosion Fund and Shoreline Stabilization Guidelines Program

- Address erosion concerns identified by the CRMG
- Address a site where erosion threatens to go past Avista ownership on Cabinet Gorge Reservoir (Laundry site).
- Address erosion concerns associated with the boat ramp at Finley Flats as part of larger redevelopment of the parking area.
- Provide technical assistance for projects proposed by adjacent landowners on Avista property.
- Utilize a geotechnical contractor to assist with evaluating erosion control proposals received by Avista.

The TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix S as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Other Business:

Date for the Fall TRTAC Meeting was set for September 13, 2017 at 10:000 a.m. in Noxon.

Hall thanked everyone for attending the meeting which ended at 11:45 a.m. (MST).