

Terrestrial Resources Technical Advisory Committee (TRTAC) Meeting Notes
Winter Meeting January 20, 2026
Noxon Multipurpose Room
10:00 a.m. (MST)

TRTAC Representatives Attendees:

Avista – Arthur Potts
Elk Creek Watershed Council – Judy Hutchinson
Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) – Rob Ryan
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho – Cambell Olson (conference line)
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks – Tony Powell
Noxon-Cabinet Shoreline Coalition – Rich Robinson
Sanders County Commissioner – Tony Cox 10:16
U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Caleb Matthew
U.S. Fish Wildlife Service – Wayne Kasworm (conference line)

Other Attendees:

Avista – Monica Ott (conference line), Eric Oldenburg, Davina Brown, and Lisa Johnson
Avista Grant Writer – Susan Drumheller (conference line)
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks – Zach Farley (conference line)
U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Ron Toretta, Michael Fieger (conference line) departed 12:58

Welcome

Arthur welcomed those in attendance. The purpose of today's meeting is to review the draft 2026 Annual Implementation Plans (AIPs), make any necessary corrections, and recommend forwarding them for Management Committee's (MC) review and approval at their upcoming meeting March 17, 2026.

Other business

- Grant Writer Update (Susan Drumheller)
- Fall Meeting Date set for **August 25, 2026**
- CRMG Update (Lisa Johnson)

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

Administration of the LUMP

1. Hunting Update
 - Looking at changing some areas to Closed/Restricted or Public Recreation
 - Monica provided an update on OnX. Waiting for the right information and will continue conversation and update accordingly.
2. LUMP Update
 - Kleinschmidt is facilitating the LUMP update. Expected completion summer of 2026.
 - Draft will be sent out to TACs, CRMG and MC for review.

Fuels Reduction Planning

3. Fuels Reduction Planning (*new*)
 - Inland Forest Management (IMF) is working to finish remaining parcels.
 - High risk areas will be addressed first.
 - May be able to offset some cost through commercial harvest.

With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix G as presented to the MC for review and approval.

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

Management Fund

1. Electronic Site Evaluations
 - Avista staff are working to develop a site assessment form in Survey 123.
 - Sites will be inspected regularly.
 - Data will be used to determine site maintenance needs and help predict supply/service needs.
2. North Shore Swin Dock
 - Expecting to have repairs done before summer.
4. Marten Creek Fire Rings
 - Currently Conservation 2, which doesn't allow campfires. Proposing to change to Public Recreation.
 - Request to change from rock to metal rings, in which case the USFS can provide.
5. McKay Creek Camping
 - Potentially reclassify to private Recreation and change from rock to metal rings.
 - Could also consider closing it to camping.
6. RRMP Update
 - Recreational Resource Subgroup is working to better understand the intended uses of the RRMP. If update is needed, effort can be focused on specific areas.

Facility Fund

3. North Shore Expansion Acquisition (Tier 1)
 - Acquisition will be for less than an acre.
 - Focus will be on increasing parking.
4. Thompson Falls State Park Group Shelter (Tier 1)
 - Tony Powell provided an update.
 - Bryan Burke was identified as an interested contractor.
5. Flat Iron Boat Ramp Extension Construction (*new*)
 - Avista Project manager working to get RFP issued.
 - Avista and MFWP are working to evaluate proposals.
 - MEPA is not required.
6. Avista Boat Launch Assessment and Prioritization (*new*)
 - Identify current status on all ramps.
 - Goal is to have engineered designs and identify where we can make most impact.
 - Assessment needs to be done prior to any supplemental projects.
7. Supplemental Projects (Tier 2)
 - Projects that will be completed if budget, resources, and time allows.

With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix H as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix I: Aesthetics Management Plan

1. Implementation of the Aesthetics Management Plan
 - AMP Update will go out to TRTAC in the coming days for review and comment or approval for MC final approval in March.
2. Key Viewpoint Restoration (*new*)
 - Conduct site observations and drone footage to determine where view restoration is feasible.
 - Avista labor or hire contractor as needed.

With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix I as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix J: Wildlife, Botanical and Wetland Management Plan

*Note that this is a continuing project approved annually and there are no formal project plans, but the AIP includes 3 annual requirements. Compliance is achieved through implementation of the LUMP and RRMP.

1. Review will take place at fall meeting.
 - 2025 Parcel for Review: Trestle Creek, Gold Creek, Twin Creek and Cabinet Reservoir: RV Park
2. Bald/Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Loon observations are no longer required, but Avista tracks sightings that are reported through this PM&E.

With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix J as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix K: Wildlife Habitat Acquisition, Enhancement, and Management Program

1. Operation and Maintenance of Acquired Property and Contingency Fund
 - Karen Neorr is assisting with the plan template and completing some management plans. Only have back logs as of now.
 - Twin Creek and South Fork Bull River to be drafted in 2026.
2. Wood Duck Re-vegetation Maintenance
 - Complete draft of Vegetation Management Plan for TRTAC review and MC approval in March.
 - Avista Tech Dylan Gollen will provide updated shots of Bull River with drone.

With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix K as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix L: Black Cottonwood Habitat Protection and Enhancement

*Note that this is a continuing project approved annually and the AIP is the project plan.

1. Primary protection is provided through implementation of the LUMP.
2. Avista will continue to monitor and if needed repair existing exclosures at Hereford Slough.

- Hereford Slough Management Plan is expected to be completed in 2026.
- Fencing to be looked at this summer.

With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix L as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix M: Wetlands Protection and Enhancement Program

*Note that this is a continuing project approved annually and the AIP is the project plan. Compliance is achieved through implementation of the LUMP and RRMP.

1. Assessment of Potential Enhancement Projects
 - Potential enhancement sites will be assessed at Noxon Wetland Complex, Hereford Slough, Little Hereford Wetland Complex, Gravel Pit Slough, etc.
 - Additional resource benefits associated with other PM&E measures may be considered (e.g., fisheries, Black Cottonwood).
 - Once a project has been identified, more information will be provided to TACs for review.

With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix M as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix P: Forest Habitat Protection and Enhancement

1. South Fork Block Management Area Spotted Knapweed Treatment
 - Final monitoring round planned for spring. If needed, last round of treatment will take place.
2. Honey Flats
 - CSKT is seeking input from elders on access and desire.
 - If elders approve, a revegetation plan will be developed and distributed for review and approval.
 - Avista will work to obtain access agreement from neighbor if needed.

With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix P as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix Q: Reservoir Island Protection

*Note that this is a continuing project approved annually and the AIP is the project plan. This PM&E was developed in recognition of the importance of protecting the Avista owned island habitat along the project area.

1. Ensure restrictions developed for the protection of these areas continue, utilizing the land use classifications described in the LUMP.

With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix Q as presented to the MC for review and approval.

Appendix S: Erosion Fund and Shoreline Stabilization Guidelines

1. Bull River Bay Erosion Mitigation

- Avista, USFS, and CRMG are working to develop a plan to mitigate the extensive shoreline erosion. Once a plan is in place, more information will be shared with TRTAC.

With no further discussion, the TRTAC approved forwarding Appendix S as presented to the MC for review and approval.

- Davina and Arthur to send out TRTAC Fall meeting Outlook reminder
- Noxon Staircase – Eric Oldenburg provided and update.
- Meeting Adjourned: 1:18p.m. MST