

HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTES

October 12, 2010

Room 326, City-County Building
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS: Melissa Broch called the meeting to order. A quorum was present: Dawn North, Corey Baker, Melissa Broch, Lois Olsen, Sarah Carlson, Denise Pengeroth, Andy Baur, Greta Dige, Brad Langsather

NOTES: Adopted as presented

REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Natural Resource Coordinator:

Brad noted the next RAC grant is due October 22. He will propose a project by the communication tower where four trails intersect adjacent to Forest Service land as projects must provide benefit to adjacent federal land. He reported the archery range trail relocation is ongoing. Volunteers have obliterated the old one, and the Forest Service is starting a new one. The Forest Service will continue the project next spring. The McKelvey trailhead is ongoing. The city street division asked to get help with getting a permit to fix Davis Gulch road by moving fill from Davis to the Mount Helena parking lot to expand it and widen Davis at the narrow spot. The Boy Scouts have finished their part of the archery range fence. The city commission approved Prickly Pear's donation on Mount Ascension. Forest fuel mitigation has started on Mount Helena's east face with trails closed as needed. New employee Anna Baker is working on flagging project boundaries. Powerline unit 2 turned out well and should finish soon wrapping up the LeGrande grant. He will start laying out the DSR grant in three weeks. Work will also be done at the Donaldson property and the Winne tank. The disc golf club wants to do more work on the course, but Brad wants to wrap up tree work first. He is still working with SHPO on the cultural resource inventory grant above the Beattie trail. There were two volunteer firewood events in September.

Weeds: Greta is updating the weed map. She would like to get schools involved in starting an insectory. She is considering skipping a year to apply for a grant and submit the insectory project for a grant the following year. C. R. Anderson would be good because they have a lot of knapweed on school grounds.

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Trails: Andy reported another lot was acquired on Mount Ascension, and PPLT is working on others. PPLT is also working on RAC grants for maintenance on forest service trails. There was discussion about the adopt-a-trail program and money in the budget for workers comp premiums.

Cultural Resources: none

Wildlife: The Urban Wildlife Advisory Committee put out a survey to gauge how people feel about the ongoing program. The police department will conduct a deer count in late October.

Forestry: The Forest Service conducted a second-year flammulated owl survey on Mount Ascension and Mount Helena. There was discussion of developing aspen and cottonwood stands as wildlife habitat as both are important for many species. There was also discussion of water guzzlers that could collect water out in the open lands for wildlife. Brad said he would support FS monitoring of chip projects.

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

NEXT MEETING DATE: Nov. 9, 2010

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

Carol Kirkland
Recorder