

HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 13, 2012

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

Mary Arnold called the meeting to order. A quorum was present: Jane Kollmeyer, Lois Olson, Scott Mincemoyer (HCC), Corey Baker, Clint Morrison, Dawn North, Dan Wirak, Brad Langsather

MINUTES

There were no October minutes to approve. There was a request for the group to provide notes—if they had them—from the public meeting in October. Brad indicated he had some he could provide.

ACTION none

REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Natural Resource Coordinator:

Brad reported on the complaints he received about the Daisy Hill trail that crossed a couple of private properties and his attempt to relocate the trail in October. After all is said and done, the new trail that MCC built that encroached on private properties has been removed, and an existing social trail up on Daisy Hill will replace it. Brad asked the members to send him an email on their thoughts about sending letters to adjacent property owners when trail changes are made close to private property owners, notwithstanding that open meetings are advertised for them to attend and comment about open lands changes. There was discussion about how to notify the public about work on open lands. Brad will write up a policy on notification to discuss and act on at the December meeting. Brad reported on the community forest program which had to be formalized in order to receive the grant funds and noted it was required for the forest to be an actual 'working forest'. He met with Heather from PPLT and someone from the regional office about the grant who felt the HOLMAC group constituted adequate public review. The Land and Water Conservation Fund and Fish, Wildlife and Parks trust grant, for a total of \$95,000, will be combined to purchase Lot 16 on Mount Ascension from PPLT and will go to the commission on December 3. There were not enough PPLT funds to purchase Lot 17 at this time. Thinning on Mount Ascension at Beattie will probably start up again in about two weeks and finish off that grant this winter. He will be bringing the college kids back during Christmas break to work on

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cleaning up some of the smaller projects. He is planning to do some parking lot work at the Beattie Street parcel using surplus fill from the Davis Gulch project.

REPORTS

Weeds: none

Trails: Corey reported that the social trails that seemed to work have been added to the Prickly Pear (PPLT) map that should come out this winter. The next step is to consider the trails that need to be closed, probably next summer. He noted there is now a good inventory of the social trails. There are plans to put an article in the paper in the spring explaining the rationale for closing the trails. Winter can be used to prioritize which trails should be eliminated; Lois and Dan offered to work on that project. Corey announced that he would be gone for awhile but would be back in the spring and reachable by email. Brad suggested bringing the Trails Committee in at the January meeting to discuss specifics on the trails.

Cultural Resources: none

Wildlife: There was some discussion about putting out a wildlife guzzler in cooperation with the Forest Service and trying to find one that was put out years ago.

Forestry: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

NEXT MEETING DATE: December 11, 2012

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: policy for sending out public notice; Mount Ascension;

Carol Kirkland
Recorder