

HELENA OPEN LANDS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
July 8, 2014

Room 326, City-County Building  
5:44 to 7:13 pm

Wirak, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:44.

A quorum was present: Dan Wirak, Clint Morrison, Craig McLane , Ann Gilkey (HCC), Jim Philips and staff Brad Langsather (Guests: Corey Baker-trail director and Annie McLaughlin-intern of Prickly Pear Land Trust).

**Minutes:**

Note: no minutes were presented at the meeting. The May 2014 meeting minutes will be presented at the next meeting)

**General Discussions:**

**Volunteers**

Philips noted that the Police department will be having ambassador police volunteers on the trails going forward at this point since the training was completed. This brings up the issue of doing the initial training. How often do we do the training? On an ad-hoc basis, or on a recurring basis? How do we outfit these volunteers? Use unique identifying hats, or vests, or shirts are options. How will these volunteers report their findings? Baker noted that the PPLT is working on a website so that people can post problems using a map pinpointing the problems. Some problems reported would be down trees, erosion, weeds, vandalism, etc.) (Note: 14 people were committed to the training, however, 6 people actually attended the training.) Though these were noted as questions, the committee agreed that these were simply things to ponder and consider and observe going forward. No decisions to the questions above were made.

**Trails:**

Baker noted they had 1,100 respond to their trail use online survey, which is ongoing. He felt this was a very good response. Annie has been doing a lot of the surveys using an ipad as a summer intern. She's done about 80 so far this summer. About 10 questions are on the survey. Also, they had out cards which point the person to the web-based survey if they don't want to take the survey at the trailhead. Some of the survey data will be used in grant applications. He noted the preliminary results. Hiking, walking, dog walking, and biking are the primary uses, with hiking about twice as much as the next use. 48% of the people noted that they arrived at the trail by foot. A trail work day is scheduled July 14<sup>th</sup> in Orofino Gulch. It will be called the Evans trail since it crosses the Evan's property.

**Weeds:**

Wirak gave a report from the weed committee submitted by Dige.

**General Discussion Continued:**

Philips asked generally about how switchbacks are designed. Langsather noted we should examine the issue and try to stick to the Forest Service guide for trail building and design. He continued to note it could be addressed in their contract with PPLT next year as part of the trail maintenance.

Morrison asked about directional trails (ie. One way for bikes). Baker noted it's a continued issue that is raised. Langsather noted we will need to address this issue.

**Funding:**

No report

**Public Comments:**

None

Wirak moved to adjourn the meeting and Morrison second the motion. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** August 12, 2014 at 5:00 in the field (meeting at the Beattie Street trail head)

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Field observation of various trails focusing on the need for signs.