

Terrestrial Resources Technical Advisory Committee (TRTAC) Meeting Notes
Winter Meeting January 19, 2023
Noxon Multipurpose Room
10:00 a.m. (MST)

TRTAC Representatives Attendees:

Avista –Arthur Potts
Green Mountain Conservation District (GMCD) – Terry Hightower
Elk Creek Watershed Council – Judy Hutchinson
Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) – Ken Bouwens (10:25)
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks – Dave Bennetts -sitting in for Brian Swartz (10:12)
Noxon-Cabinet Shoreline Coalition – Rick Reich (Alternate)
Sanders County Commissioner – Tony Cox
U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Les Raynor, Ron Torretta

Other Attendees:

Avista – Monica Ott (10:30), Eric Oldenburg, Lisa Johnson, Davina Brown
Avista Grant Writer – Susan Drumheller
Noxon-Cabinet Shoreline Coalition – Chuck Harrington
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho – Sarah Thompson
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks – Zach Farley

Welcome

Arthur welcomed those in attendance. The purpose of today's meeting is to review the draft 2023 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 14, 2023.

Other business

- Hiring full-time Land Use/Rec Tech (position closes today), seasonal technician for 2023 summer (closes 1/24), and camp hosts at RV Park and Finley Flats
- Cabinet Ranger District personnel update (Les Raynor/Ron Torretta)
- Grant Writer Update (Susan Drumheller)
- Would like to convene the Land Use Subgroup to develop a vegetation management plan for Island Park Subdivision – Potts will reach out to LUSG to initiate discussion in February.
- Working with Kim McMahon on Recreation survey for 2023; will be holding a kick-off meeting with Avista/MT FWP/USFS in early February
- Chuck Harrington erosion issue (Vermillion Point): TRTAC was in favor of approving installing rock toe and securing bank with erosion fabric and vegetation plantings. Potts will forward Work Authorization to CMRG for review and Mr. Harrington will send in 310 request to GMCD.
- Fall Meeting Date set for August 30, 2023

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

1. Administration of the Land Use Management Plan (LUMP)
 - a. Five-year update of the LUMP – Met on 12/20/2021. Agreed the LUMP continues to function well in current iteration; will consider changes for review in 2023. Group to work on developing an FAQ sheet for interested public.
2. Managing Aquatic Invasive Plants on Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs
 - a. Request is the same as last year for facilitation and other assistance to the Sanders County Aquatic Invasive Plant Task Force
3. Monitoring Associated with the Land Use Management Plan (LUMP)
4. Enforcement Associated with the Land Use Management Plan (LUMP)
 - a. Travis Johnson in place as new Warden. Note that FWP is no longer requesting funding enforcement. - IDFG to send Annual Report on enforcement

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)

1. RRMP Administration and Resource Integration
2. RRMP Recreation Facility Development
 - a. Similar to last year, many of these projects were not completed due to staffing and contractor availability issues. As such, most of the proposed projects are carried over from 2022.
 - b. dredge boat ramp area at Flat Iron- Arthur to send out meeting request to MFWP- Add in counters.
 - c. Per Les R., NEPA is finished for maintenance work at North Shore.
 - d. Avista to work with FS on desired plan of expansion for North Shore. Will determine acreage needed to accommodate expansion and then talk with Bill Nolen.
 - e. Clark Fork Access will be left on table. Ken B. would like to add a grate to the end of the ramp. Arthur will follow up with IDFG regarding necessary permits.
 - f. Frog Pond – Arthur to remove duplicate line item on Secondary Rec page.
 - g. North Shore Boat ramp – Arthur to initiate discussion with stakeholders about high/low water boat launches after bathymetry data is completed.
3. RRMP Monitoring – *Note that 2022 Recreation Monitoring Report is available for anyone that would like a copy.* Overall, we saw a 13% increase in visitors over 2021.
 - a. **In 2023, Pinnacle Research will be conducting a System-wide Recreation Visitor Survey. This is not included in the AIP but will be added in before submittal to MC. Proposed budget is \$130,225.**
4. Operation and Maintenance of Recreation Facilities
5. Interpretation and Education Program - Current MOU with MFWP expires in June. Avista and MFWP will work to finalize new Amendment this spring.
 - a. Zach Farley (MFWP) gave an update on Big Game Harvest Study from Heron to Belknap.

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

Appendix I: Aesthetics Management Plan

*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. Re-inventory of 41 key viewpoints will be conducted in 2023. This is scheduled to occur every 5 years.

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 the AIP is the project plan. Compliance is achieved through implementation of the LUMP and RRMP.

- Potts explained that the primary activity under the PM&E is updating the spreadsheet and ensuring the MC is reviewing ownership on a regular basis.
- Bald/Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Loon observations can be tracked 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
2. Habitat Acquisition and Conservation and Contingency Fund
3. Wood Duck Re-vegetation Maintenance
 - a. Potts acknowledged that Brita is departing the LCFWG and will be phasing out slowly through end of May. He expressed thanks her for her dedication to the CFSA and all of her hard work on enhancement projects.
 - b. Brita will be developing a long-term revegetation management plan in the spring, with draft to be completed by April 1. Potts will provide draft to the LUSG for review.

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.

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

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.

- IDFG/Avista will continue to evaluate opportunities to enhance the Twin Creek property.
 - Dex (haying lease) agreed to harvest the section north of the railroad one more year. IDFG and Avista will continue discussion to evaluate long-term plan for the property.

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

- Protect/enhance parcels identified by the Wildlife, Botanical, and Wetland Work Group as having significant value.
- There are no new deliverables or new project plans associated with this PM&E.
- New forester under MSA. Will evaluate forest stands on case-by-case basis for potential improvement projects.
 - Explained how any revenue generated through timber management remains within the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement. Any proposed project will need TRTAC review and MC approval
 - Ken B. requested acreage of the islands under Avista ownership.

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.
- There is no budget associated with this PM&E for 2023, as the activities are covered under the implementation of the LUMP.
- Ron T. requested an inventory of islands under Avista ownership.

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

- There are no project plans associated with this PM&E
- In 2023, work efforts will focus on addressing any erosion concerns identified by the CRMG; and utilize engineering assistance to help evaluate erosion control proposals received by Avista from adjacent landowners.
 - Will continue to evaluate solutions for erosion at Pilgrim Creek Park and will be presented to TRTAC and MC prior to initiating. Potts will reach out to Elk Creek Contracting to discuss.

- Potts noted that Harrington erosion issue was discussed during the Other Business portion of the meeting and Avista would be forwarding the Work Authorization to the CRMG for review.

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

- Meeting Adjourned: 1:19 p.m. MST