

## **Minutes: Plateau Management Committee 09/02/2020**

Online meeting

### **Committee Members Present:**

- Richard Kim, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Dustin McLain, Riverside County Regional Park & Open Space District
- Zack Principe, The Nature Conservancy
- Alexander Marks, Metropolitan Water District

### **Reserve staff reports:**

- Visitor center and interpretation, Rob Hicks Riverside County Regional Park & Open Space District
- Ranger Patrol and activities, Bill Evans Riverside County Regional Park & Open Space District
- Reserve Management, Hailey Laskey/TNC

### **Guests:**

- Oscar Serrato, Riverside County Regional Park & Open Space District
- Danielle Stewart, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Ginger Greeves, Santa Rosa Plateau Nature Education Foundation

**1. Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Richard Kim.

### **2. Public comments:**

None

### **3. Approval of 06/03/2020 minutes:**

Richard asked if the minutes were nominated for approval. Alex moved to approve. Dustin gave a second to the approval. All approved and the motioned was carried.

#### **4. Staff reports:**

##### ***Visitor Center and Interpretation - Rob Hicks:***

Rob spoke of the on-going work in securing access for the sylvan and vernal pool gates. He mentioned we are hearing complaints about not being completely open. But most are happy Sylvan is open. Rob said he is working with the foundation to obtain more volunteers for the future opening.

Rob is working with the foundation on making a few videos for an online program. He hopes to have six programs to start with.

##### ***Ranger Patrol and Activities - Bill Evans:***

We have been focusing on access control and the parking lots in particular on the weekends. The Murrieta side has remained active early in the day and late in the afternoon. After putting out stakes for the fencing contractor we found substantial amounts had been removed. We had to go back and replace them. The fencing project was completed. Further information is available in the fencing update to be given later in the meeting.

We have had several issues arise on note. On August 18<sup>th</sup> representatives from the Department of Fish and Wildlife prepped for a raid on some marijuana grows sites. They used the vernal pool parking lot for a helicopter and staff base. On the same day a Marine Corps. helicopter made an emergency landing due to mechanical failure. The helicopter remained on site overnight. On 08/19 Cal fire landed a helicopter several times to refill from a hydrant with water while fighting the Deluz fire. They were just inside the fencing by Rancho California Road and Avocado Mesa Road.

We have continued to post fencing and signs on the Murrieta side. They have been removed numerous times before the fencing went up. A vehicle was broken into in the Sylvan Meadows lot on 08/14. Items lost were a purse in the back seat. The couple hiking heard the alarm and returned to watch someone exit their vehicle and then leave before they could get any vehicle information.

#### **Reserve Manager Report - Hailey Laskey**

##### **Reserve Manager Activities June 3-Sept 2, 2020**

I had scheduled the Hidden Valley and Colorado management units for prescribed fire on June 5, however we received 0.24 inches of rain that morning, so the vegetation was too moist to ignite and carry fire throughout the units. The fire was postponed until June 30. June 30 is much

later than normal for a prescribed fire, however the management goals were to remove jointed goat grass and non-native forbs which were both still green. Unfortunately, humidity dropped too low and the winds shifted making the fire unsafe, so it was extinguished.

I received one new research request during this time. Dr. Winston Vickers received a grant from CDFW to test a few methods for sustainable long-term monitoring of the mountain lions within the Santa Ana Mountains. The first method is baited hair snares that will be checked weekly, the second is wildlife cameras placed randomly throughout the project area, and the third is the use of scent detection dogs. The project was supposed to begin this week however there have been multiple delays due to wildfires, COVID, and access, so data collection won't begin until Winter or Spring.

CDFW and I have been working on removing yellow star thistle out in the prescribed fire units on the Hines property. CDFW is also working on Russian thistle removal and Adobe vegetation maintenance.

I've been working on the annual report for FY 19-20, which involves writing up all the activities conducted last year and organizing the data for the report. I have also been planning for the 2021 field season.

## **5. Update on Current Post-Fire Fencing and Status of Fencing Request for Bids**

Dustin said the cost came in at 85,000. A general discussion was held on the project. Oscar said the project has been completed.

## **6. CNLM/TNC Presentation of Annual Work Plan**

Hailey presented her work plan. See attachment

Richard asked for a motion to approve. Zack so moved. Alex Seconded. The motion was carried.

## **7. SRPEF Filming Project Overview**

Ginger shared information on a project for a series of nature educational videos to the Committee for approval. A discussion was held on the videos being approved by the committee before their release. Ginger discussed her desire to complete more videos in the future.

Richard asked if he had a motion to approve the project as listed in the written request. Alex made the motion and this was seconded by Dustin. The motion was carried.

**8. CDFW Filming Requests and Special Use Permits**

A general discussion was held on the permitting process.

**9. Roundtable**

Dustin thanked Hailey for her work. Danielle spoke briefly on the minor staffing issues within her organization in the past year. She mentioned new staff has been brought on board and the help will be appreciated.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:41 AM.

**Next meeting on December 2, 2020 online via Microsoft Teams**