

Minutes: Plateau Management Committee 03/03/2021

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

Reserve staff reports:

- Visitor center and interpretation, Rob Hicks read by Bill Evans 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:

- Mitch Daudert, Riverside County Regional Park & Open Space District
- Susan North, The Nature Conservancy
- Kim Klementowski, Center for Natural Lands Management
- Danielle Stewart, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

2. Public comments:

None

3. Approval of 12/02/2020 minutes:

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

4. Staff reports:

Visitor Center and Interpretation - Rob Hicks:

We're continuing to staff entrances onto the Reserve to prevent entry and to explain closure.

We have been training docents in small hiking groups to prepare them to teach new volunteers about the Plateau's natural and cultural resources. Volunteers have been learning the basics of welcoming visitors, giving rules and regulations, and increasing their knowledge and appreciation of the Reserve will help them to better serve the public.

First videos about the Reserve made with the help of the Foundation have completed filming and are now in the final editing stages.

Thanks to Hailey for working with Charity Hagen on a virtual program to educate our volunteers! Go toads!

Ranger Patrol and Activities - Bill Evans:

We are continuing to interact with the public by education and directions with their visit. I led several small trail patrol classes on 01/26/2021 and 02/22/2021. Both were attended by 6 volunteers each time. The goal is a clear understanding of what we ask and how we can support their effort to help in a way that is beneficial to both Parties. Ongoing education opportunities for all other volunteers in the near future are being planned.

On 01/18/2021 a 52 year old man was having chest pains while hiking on the Manzanita trail so he called 911. He was carried out by Cal Fire and transported to a local hospital. A familiarization tour was given to Cal Fire station #75 crew later in the same week. This was following past protocols stemming from minor issues that arose for Cal Fire. In January, a cat was dropped off in Sylvan Meadows by an unknown person and then was successfully trapped by staff. The cat now has a new home with one of the volunteers. On February 7th, two Doberman pinchers were dropped off at the vernal pools. The dogs were caught and a local took them to a Doberman rescue group.

Additional bags of marijuana debris have been dropped off on the road side. Following the marijuana taskforce directions, unless it is the marketable material, we discard as trash. A small grow site was found by MSHCP biologists on Colorado Mesa while doing ongoing research. The information was handed to Hailey by the group and then handed to CDFW.

We have had cats, goats and birds arrive for walks with their human companions in Sylvan Meadows recently. In the past following the direction of the committee only dogs and horses were allowed. We have changed the map and the terminology has changed to no longer mention open for dogs and horses only. If the request is limit animal visitation to dogs and horses only we would need to reprint new maps with the correct information.

A general discussion was held on concerns and it was decided to update signage and continue with allowing canine and equine only.

Reserve Manager Report - Hailey Laskey

Reserve Manager Activities December 2, 2020-March 3, 2021

The SRPER is at 5 inches of rain. It is looking like a very dry year and a quick monitoring and weed treatment season. Our creeks are still holding water for now, and I am continuing to keep water in one of the constructed ponds.

I am continuing to analyze 20 years of vegetation data that was collected in the grasslands within the vegetation management plan to guide future management of the grasslands and a prescribed fire plan.

I am working on enhancing the arroyo toad habitat through habitat maintenance and monitoring. RivCo Parks assisted me with clearing and removing thatch within and around the habitat. CDFW and I harvested and then planted willows and deer grass within the habitat. Due to lack of rains, we are watering the plants weekly to ensure a successful transplant. If we get more rain, I will conduct arroyo toad surveys.

Last time we met; I had started mapping stinknet skeletons that we were unable to treat in Spring of 2020. We found over 200 plants within 600 acres of the fire area. I worked with UCR and Chris McDonald to figure out the best treatment and now I am working with CDFW to treat the plants. We are bagging the skeletons which have seeds still attached, and then I am spraying the new stinknet plants and the surrounding area using a pre-emergent post-emergent herbicide called Milestone.

I have treated artichoke thistle, mapped the extent of the population which seems to have migrated a bit from previous years. Zach and I have discussed different tactics to treat the yellow star thistle this year but they are all contingent on burning or a mowing contract. We were hoping to burn it early winter, but that didn't work out due to staffing issues with Cal Fire.

I have also working on mapping and monitoring chocolate lilies throughout the Plateau. We know of a few populations, but their extent has never been fully explored. Charity found a new

sub-population that I was unaware of and will go out and map next week. Unfortunately, it is in a heavily used unauthorized trail in the Research Area. I have also noticed and increase in use trails from the research area into the main reserve.

I am working with Charity to host a reserve management discussion with the volunteers over zoom, which will happen sometime mid-March.

5. Ground water well drilling project.

Zack gave an update on the project to be utilized for the pond turtles and red legged frog reintroduction. It will be a solar array only no batteries were projected to be used. The project was projected to be low impact and low maintenance. Dustin motioned to approve the project for approval and Richard seconded. All approved so the motion was carried.

6. Roundtable

Zack started a brief discussion on the foundation moving into the residence.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:51 AM.

Next meeting on June 2, 2021 at the Lake Skinner Recreation Area – Alamos School House, 37701 Warren road, Winchester, Ca 92596 or online via Microsoft Teams