



Whittell Forest & Wildlife Area Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, October 20th, 2021

Present: Sarah Bisbing (Chair); Hunter Noble (Secretary), Anna Belle Monti (Fuels Forester, USDA), Tom Hall (Community Member), Pat King (Community Member), Chris Pritsos, (Associate Dean, College of Agriculture Biotechnology and Natural Resources), Vic Redding (VP, Administration and Finance), Ahmad Itani (AVP, Research), Mridul Gautam (VP, Research & Innovation)

Absent: John Christopherson (Deputy Administrator, NV Division of Forestry)

Previous Meeting Minutes

W... Hunter provided details on the snag felling planned project s.

Discussion:

Chris Pritsos asked about ATV access on the trail and Hunter explained several limitations will limit its use to a foot trail. Sarah discussed other historic access routes and their role as part as well as research as part of the Master Plan. MriM

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Discussion:

Tom noted that he felt the meeting went very well and that many members of the community were ready to listen and move forward. He suggested having a following up meeting for progress updates. Pat King seconded Tom’s feeling and expressed that the meeting allowed community members to have their questions answers and hear the perspective of UNR. Anna Belle added that a critical point of the meeting was engaging newer members of the community who moved in after the fire. It was agreed by Advisory Committee members present at the town hall that community leaders still need to be identified.

Work with WWV Landowners/Post-Fire Restoration Internship:

Hunter detailed the ongoing work by students in the WWV as part of the post-fire restoration internship. Students to date have completed almost 2000-man hours of work assisting landowners in the WWV. Multiple landowners have expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the work being conducted by students.

Whittell Forest Tour:

Hunter described tour that he and Sarah held for members of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Nevada Division of Forestry, the Tahoe Fund, and the Office of Research and Innovation. The tour resulted in productive discussions about the many opportunities that Whittell presents as well as ways to use it for student teaching.

Courses at Whittell Forest:

Sarah described the silviculture class field trip that occurred the in mid-October. Students gathered forest inventory data as part of their class which provided hands on experience. Students expressed how much they enjoyed spending time at the Forest and camping overnight. Sarah reminded the group the importance of access, as the drive time is a challenge for faculty and students.

Forest Research

Whittell Fellowship:

Hunter provided an update on the two current graduate students who were awarded the Whittell Fellowship. One project is investigating using charcoal left after fires to determine burn temperatures and burn severity from fires. The other project is remeasuring to update a long-term arthropod population dataset on the forest.

Alert Wildfire Camera:

Graham Kent and his lab, with the help of Hunter and students installed an Alert Wildfire Camera on the Eastern ridge, with the camera looking North. The camera will help provide early detection for wildfires and help protect the surrounding communities of Whittell. [Link to camera](#)

Forest Inventory:

With the help of students, Hunter has continued progress in measuring forest wide inventory plots. The data will be used to help write the forest management plan and also used by students in their classes

Wildlife Cameras:

With the help of students, Hunter put up over a dozen game cameras across the forest, primarily along the Lonkey Flume Trail. The cameras have captured a variety of wildlife, including bears, bobcats, deer, skunks, mountain lions, and foxes.

Meeting Adjourns