

Gravelly Landscape Collaborative
Upcoming Events & Spring Meeting Notes
June 5, 2017

Upcoming Events:

Gravelly Flower Tour – July 6, 2017
Greenhorn Project Field Trip July 7 & 8
Information table (share with FS) Madison County Fair August 11-13
Information table Fly Fishing Festival September 1-2
Information table Conservation Film Festival TBD – September ___
Presentation to Ruby Watershed October 18 or November 15

Fall Meeting Schedule:

Meetings will be held at Alder Community Center at Fire Station, 29 Upper Ruby Road, Alder. Second Wednesday of the month 5:30-8:00pm
Wednesday, September 13, 2017
Wednesday, October 11, 2017
Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Greenhorn Project website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51053>

May 31, 2017 Meeting Notes

Attending: Jennifer Boyer, Dale Olson, Darcie Warden, Aaron Paulson, Clint Kolarich, Rebecca Ramsey, John Anderson, Karen and Richard Stem, Kevin Suzuki, Dan Durham, Jim Berkey, Caitlin Avey.

The meeting opened with introductions and a review of the ground rules. The GLC was brought together after being inactive because there is an important role to play while the Greenhorn project moves through NEPA and there are other resource concerns in the landscape that can continue to benefit from community attention.

The current steering committee includes: John Anderson, Darcie Warden, Kris Inman, Dan Durham, Dale Olson, (Nathan Korb is stepping down but is available for technical assistance). If anyone is interested in contributing to the GLC as a member of the steering committee please contact Jennifer jen@future-west.org.

We are working on updating our mailing list, please contact Jennifer with any additions or corrections to our mailing list. We will also be getting the GLC website back online which will have upcoming events, project links, description of the GLC and a contact form to be added to our mailing list.

An effort to engage motorized users was suggested. Local and regional contacts will be identified and we will send out an invitation to be included on our mailing list.

Backcountry users were also suggested. The mailing list will be reviewed and missing stakeholders will be invited to join.

Greenhorn Project Update

Clint Kolarich and Dale Olson provided an update on the Greenhorn NEPA process. The effort is a new approach that has iterative public engagement and feedback as the FS team goes through their analysis and NEPA process. The approach uses collaborative learning as the management prescriptions are developed and has many opportunities to refine the scope of work in the project. Collaborative learning is the exchange of information, data and concerns from the public, user group, professional resource scientists and groups like the GLC. The pilot approach to NEPA has been designed to be more efficient.

The NEPA process includes:

- Kick off meeting
- Scoping activities with periodic public comment and outreach
- Field verification (summer 2017)
- Environmental Assessment would be produced in about 18 month (Spring 2018)
- Decision Fall 2018
- Objection period follows the decision

The group discussed opportunities to highlight on the tour identifying interest in areas for regeneration like Birch Creek and burn only sites. It was also mentioned that a burn unit from the past would be helpful, it is important to see the conditions that will be the result, not the immediate impact.

The potential impact on grazing allotments during implementation was also discussed. This component is not included in the NEPA but will be carefully orchestrated in the implementation plan. The Warm Springs Allotment will be involved with the planning and timing of any rest periods and implementation schedule. The post treatment rest period does not have to be extensive. The implementation will likely be piecemeal – taking small bits over time.

Summer Outreach Activities

In addition to events listed at the beginning of the notes, the GLC will work on a series of articles to submit to the Madisonian, Ruby Valley Conservation District and Madison Conservation District. The articles will highlight the Greenhorn Project and focus on different user group and resource concerns. All articles will be reviewed by the Steering Committee before submission.

Looking Ahead to Future Projects and Needs

The group brought a few ideas to the table to explore for future projects. These will be investigated in more detail and discussed during the fall meetings.

Aspen release is still a priority in many areas. This may be a good project to pursue with the aspen release categorical exclusion in place. These might be smaller projects to develop.

Doug Fir encroachment on mid and lower elevations is another possible habitat target.

More fire to create habitat diversity and address conifer encroachment. GLC should look at past fire areas in Mountain Big Sage to see what outcomes could look like.

Work in the Tabaco Roots ? There is a lot of low elevation Doug Fir encroachment that could be the focus of future work.

Meet and work with the Ruby Valley Strategic Alliance to identify future project ideas.