
Date: 7/21/98 8:13 AM
Subject: Twin Seeding and Horse Valley Project
----- Message Contents -----

Steve,
Attached below is the project proposal for phase I of the Horse Valley Meadow project.

The only ground disturbance includes:
The log barricade will include about 4 post holes measuring 2 foot deep X 14 inches in diameter. The sagebrush matt/plugs will include 1 inch X 2 inch stakes pounded into the ground a few inches in depth (these will be very similar to the matts constructed at Pleasant Valley Meadow last year.)

Lets discuss details sometime if you like.

The Twin Point Seeding project will include hand dispersed grass seed followed by light handed leaf raking. The location will be in the Twin West and Twin II burn sites (which have been arch surveyed).
Let me know what you think.

Thanks
Curt.

----- Forward Header

----- Subject: Horse Valley Project Staff

Presentation for July 21

Author: LAME Res. Mgmt. (Field) at NP-LAME

Date: 7/17/98 6:02 PM

Project Name: Horse Valley Meadow Spur Road Barricade and Meadow Rehabilitation

Project Coordinators: Curt Deuser/ Ian Torrence

Presenter: Bill Burke

This is the continuation of the previous project proposal presented to staff in April 1998. This project has been revised to propose the minimum we should do before proceeding with more complex future solutions to restore the health of the meadow.

Problem:

The spur road is negatively impacting the meadow because the soil has been compacted and lowered from vehicle traffic causing the meadow to drain at an accelerated rate leading to the development of numerous dendritic gullies draining perpendicular to the road bed. This is not only causing soil erosion but is also reducing the amount of time that water is in the meadow which is critical to maintain the meadow habitat type. This spur road is a redundant road and does not lead to a different destination. If the status quo continues the unique meadow plants may be completely replaced by the ubiquitous sagebrush plant community.

Phase 1 of Project Implementation:

This phase only includes stopping and slowing the "hurt" but is a must for a first step in reversing the degradation of the meadow. Basically

it keeps the situation from getting worse. Decisions can be made later on filling the elevation of the road bed and the barricades can be removed if access is needed for future phases. Decisions can also be made at a later time whether to continue to use the main road with improvements or to designate another route entirely. But we do know that the current condition of deep ruts in the spur road is not an acceptable situation for responsible land stewards.

Project Detail:

Construct road barricade on redundant spur road with existing pine logs on north end. Install small sign to use left fork road which is the main road through the meadow and direct route to Waring Ranch. South end of spur road will be blocked with a gate and lock type system by using an existing fence line. A small sign with arrow to use right fork of main road will be installed on south end. Total portion of road taken out of use is only 1/2 mile.

Then sagebrush plugs will be constructed in the bottoms of erosion gullies leading into the spur road bed. Plugs will not include ground disturbance and will be constructed of natural degradable materials much like what we established in the Pleasant Valley Meadow project last year.

Project Coordination Prior to Initiation:

Arizona Fish and Game will be consulted

LAME Cultural Resources Specialist will be consulted

Proposed Project Initiation Date: August 17-20, then ongoing

Labor: Resource Management Staff, Engine Crew staff?, volunteers?, other park staff?.

Author: William J. Burke at NP-LAME
Date: 6/2/98 2:51 PM
Priority: Normal
TO: Kent Turner
TO: Alice C. Newton (Ian Torrence)
TO: Jennifer S. Haley
TO: LAME Res. Mgmt. (Field)
Subject: Re[2]: horse valley restoration

----- Message Contents -----

I'm not convinced that keeping a road through the meadow is the best long term solution. During wet periods people will drive through the boggy meadow and start the process all over. Maintenance will not have the funds to maintain the meadow road. Vehicles will drive around bad spots and cause more damage. I would rather exhaust a search for a road route outside the meadow if our objective is to restore the meadow.

Reply Separator

Subject: Re: horse valley restoration

Author: LAME Res. Mgmt. (Field) at NP-LAME
Date: 5/29/98 2:34 PM

Should we now take back to staff with the preferred alternative of improving and upgrading the existing main road through the Horse Valley Meadow?

I think we should stress that the ONLY purpose of the road improvement is for protection of the meadow and NOT to improve access to points beyond. This may avoid this urgent project from getting "bogged down" in the much bigger and controversial issue of what to do with maintenance of the entire Kelly Pt. road system.

Curt

Reply Separator

Subject: horse valley restoration

Author: Jennifer S. Haley at NP-LAME
Date: 5/22/98 3:25 PM

I thought I would take a minute and summarize our meeting on the restoration project for Horse Valley/Pleasant Valley watershed. This is how I remember it, please correct me if I'm wrong about something.

1. We can go ahead and close the very rutted road as per Alan. (I suppose this probably still needs staff concurrence...?)
2. Begin constructing and installing brush mats in eroding fingers within the meadow to stop increased cutting. (Ian lead)
3. Determine project lead.
4. Project lead work to acquire hydrologic data on watershed including photos and professional hydrologic assessment. Determine

for certain what the cause of the accelerated erosion is.

5. Design project based on hydrologic assessment. Goal is to restore meadow including removal of cause of erosion, restoration of natural contours within the meadow and eventual reinvasion of native plants (other thoughts...)

6. Begin compliance, arch surveys

7. Work with Hans Koenig to secure funding.

8. Determine if we can move forward with getting fill from cattle tanks.

9. Work with Roger Taylor to secure interagency implementation team.

10. Project implementation

11. Monitoring for signs of accelerated erosion