

**WHITE PINE COUNTY PUBLIC LAND USERS ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY, March 10, 2020**

**6:00 p.m.**

**White Pine County Library Conference Room  
950 Campton Street, Ely, NV 89301**

**AGENDA**

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions**
- III. **Public Comment**
- IV. **\*Discussion/for Possible Action - Approval of February 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes**
- V. **Liaison Report**
- VI. **\*Discussion/for Possible Action**
  - A. **\*Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – Bureau of Land Management**
  - B. **\*Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – U.S. Forest Service**
  - C. **\*Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – National Park Service**
  - D. **\*Update/Discussion/for Possible Action – Nevada State Parks**
- VII. **\*Discussion/for Possible Action – EIS regarding New Grazing Regulations Comments to the BLM.**
- VIII. **\*Discussion/for Possible Action – Review The White Pine County Public Lands Management Plan, OHV Section, to establish a County-Wide OHV Policy, using the CRM process.**
- IX. **\*Discussion/Action – Updates, Issues Contained in White Pine County’s Public Land Use Policies Including OHV Use, Energy, Minerals, Water, Land Sales, and Greater Sage-Grouse**
- X. **\*Discussion/Action – Committee Vacancies, Resignations, Appointments**
- XI. **Next Meeting Time and Date Announcement**
- XII. **Public Comment**

# THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

## DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

### PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY

#### LECTURE NOTES

BY

PROFESSOR [Name]

LECTURE 1: [Topic]

[Text]

- VII. \*Discussion/for Possible Action – EIS regarding New Grazing Regulations.**  
Dana Johnson referred to the talking points of the EIS; basically they are streamlining the opportunities in permit lease renewals, permit lease transfers, crossing authorizations, non-renewable permits and leases. This was all in the email that was sent to the board. Jacob Carter is planning on attending the meeting in Elko on 02/18/2020. Craig Baker made a motion to have Dana Johnson, Craig Baker and Jacob Carter meet after the 02/18/2018 scoping meeting in Elko and possibly contact Jake Tibbitts, to put together comments from PLUAC to send to the White Pine County Board of County Commissioners for the 02/26/2020 meeting for approval and send to the BLM. Mary Kerner seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- VIII. \*Discussion/for Possible Action – Review The White Pine County Public Lands Management Plan, OHV Section, to establish a County-Wide OHV Policy, using the CRM process.** Laurie Carson will put this item on the next CRM meeting agenda which is 03/06/2020 10:00 am at the BLM offices. Mark Tefft made a motion to request that Dana Johnson be appointed as a member of the CRM representing PLUAC. Craig Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- IX. \*Discussion/Action – Updates, Issues Contained in White Pine County’s Public Land Use Policies Including OHV Use, Energy, Minerals, Water, Land Sales, and Greater Sage-Grouse** No comments or actions were made on this item.
- X. \*Discussion/Action – Committee Vacancies, Resignations, Appointments**  
There currently is one vacancy on the committee.
- XI. Next Meeting Time and Date Announcement** The next meeting will be 03/10/2020 6:00 pm at the WPC Library Conference room.
- XII. Public Comment** none were made.
- XII. \*Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned @ 7:30 pm.

Asterisks (\*) Denotes possible action items of the White Pine County Public Land Users Advisory Committee

- We are looking to develop a high quality Mountain Bike Trail System adjacent to the city of Ely.
- We hope to have a proposed action to move forward with in 2020.
- We are currently looking at options for trailhead locations.
- Great Basin Trails Alliance is currently working a new trail construction that was funded through a RAC Grant.
- Anyone with comments or concerns about this project may contact Erin Rajala at (775) 289-5129.

**Travel Management**

- Under the Ely Ranger District Travel Management Plan the use of motorized equipment off designated open roads is prohibited. Use of vehicles off of designated open roads may be permitted under specific circumstances as approved under this decision and the Travel Management Rule (i.e....firewood permits, grazing permits or special use permits as examples).
- Forest Service Travel Management Plans are intended to be periodically reviewed and may be updated as new information becomes available.
- The District held four open houses during 2012 and an additional four open houses during 2013.
- During the winter of 2013-2014 the District began preparing a proposal to revise the plan and update the maps. This effort will require NEPA analysis and additional opportunities for public comment.
- This project has been delayed due to other priority projects and is currently on hold.
- The Forest Service Nationally has issued new direction that all units must analyze and make a decision regarding over the snow vehicles and where they are allowed to operate. The Ely Ranger District has a plan for how to incorporate this direction into our current plan with little or no impacts to the public.
- Anyone with comments or concerns about this project may contact Jose Noriega at (775) 289-0176.

**Proposed Changes to Developed Campgrounds**

- The Ely Ranger District will be proposing to increase fees at our developed campgrounds. The last fee increase occurred over 20 years ago. The following will be the fee changes that we are going to propose:

CAMPGROUND	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE	COMMENTS
Ward Mountain	\$8.00	\$12.00	Newly Reconstructed with water
Timber Creek	\$8.00	\$10.00	Partial Reconstructed with water
Bird Creek	\$8.00	\$10.00	Reconstruction in Progress with water.
East Creek	\$4.00	\$5.00	Future upgrades planned, no water.

- In addition to the fee changes identified above we will also propose to simplify the fee system for the group sites and propose changes for additional options.
- Lastly we will be holding open houses in several communities to gather public input on future management of the Kalamazoo and White River Campgrounds. We are considering upgrades at those campgrounds, however if we do those upgrades we would then have to charge a fee on those sites. We want to know your thoughts.
- Anyone with comments or concerns about what we will be proposing may contact Jose Noriega at (775) 289-5100 or by cell at (775) 289-0176; or Erin Rajala at (775) 289-5129.

**Ellison Meadows Restoration**

- This is a project within the Current Ellison Watershed Restoration Project Area and is in the very early stages of planning.
- The intent of this project is to implement restoration activities to restore and improve Ellison Meadows where downcutting, encroachment of non-riparian vegetation, and unstable stream channels are affecting the health of the meadows and the stream.

- This project involves pinyon-juniper treatments, wildlife habitat improvements, fuels reduction, and watershed restoration.
- Approximately \$821,000 is available for treatments.
- This project is nearly complete.
- Anyone with comments or questions may contact Justin Rozich at (775) 289-5127

#### **North Schell Landscape Treatments (SNPLMA Round 15)**

- This project continues landscape level treatments in the Schell Creek Range and has been funded by SNPLMA.
- This project will involve wildlife habitat treatments and fuels reduction.
- Approximately \$1,000,000 is available for treatments.
- Anyone with comments or questions may contact Lisa Kemper at (775) 289-5132

#### **Ward Mountain Landscape Treatments (SNPLMA Round 14)**

- This project is completed and is in the process of being closed out.
- Anyone with comments or questions may contact Lisa Kemper at (775) 289-5132.

#### **Round 17 Projects Have been Approved**

- Ward Mountain. Implementation (Phase II).
- East Creek Campground Renovation Project.
- Timber Creek Campground Phase II
- Multi-Jurisdictional Noxious and Invasive Weed Partnership.

#### **Potential Round 18 Projects**

- Ward Mountain Bike Trails
- Mount Moriah Trail System Reconstruction
- Ellison Meadows Restoration Project
- Duck Creek Watershed Project

### **OTHER PROGRAM UPDATES**

#### **Cottonwood OHV Trail Reconstruction**

- This project is located between White River and Ellison Creek in the White Pine Range.
- We were just awarded a Nevada State OHV Grant for over \$78,000.
- The Project will reconstruct over 10 miles of OHV route, install 3-4 OHV Cattleguards, install signs, and re-route a section of the trail where significant safety concerns exist.
- The project will likely begin during the late summer of 2020.
- Anyone with comments or concerns about this project may contact Erin Rajala at (775) 289-5129.

#### **Ranger Trail Reconstruction**

- In October of 2017 the Ely Ranger District submitted and received an OHV Grant from the Nevada OHV Commission for approximately \$100,000 to reconstruct a portion of the Ranger Trail in Duck Creek.
- Most of the trail work is complete and all that is left is some finish work and some signing.
- The trail is suitable for OHV's up to about 65 inches in length. Oversized OHV's may not be safe on portions of this trail.
- The District has purchased 4 OHV cattle guards and will be installing them at problem locations, one of which is on this trail near Timber Creek.
- This trail provides an excellent OHV riding opportunity and provides access along the way to the East Creek, Bird Creek and Timber Creek Campgrounds, as well as the Berry Creek Watershed.
- This project is nearly complete.

### **Other Looming/Potential Issues and Projects**

- Budgets.
- Shared Stewardship
- Prescribed Fire
- Road Maintenance

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Jose Noriega  
District Ranger  
Ely Ranger District  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest  
825 Avenue E  
Ely, Nevada 89301

Front Desk - (775) 289-3031  
Direct Line - (775) 289-5100  
Cell Phone - (775) 289-0176  
Email - [jose.noriega@usda.gov](mailto:jose.noriega@usda.gov)

## White Pine County Public Land Users Advisory Committee

Recommendations to the White Pine County Commission regarding the regulatory changes to grazing permits.

Possible comments to be approved and forwarded to the Department of the Interior.

**Each grazing permit should allow for maximum flexibility and adaptive measures during seasons of use.** Decisions should be based on current weather, climate and forage conditions. Seasons of use for each allotment should not be rigid or absolute in order to manage the forage resource more effectively to meet forage standards. Permits should allow for the flexibility of livestock numbers within an allotment to allow for short duration, high density grazing to control annuals and allow for longer seasons of rest. The same would apply for longer seasons of use during forage dormancy.

**Permits should allow flexibility and be managed through an outcome based plan.** Permittees should be allowed to continue good practices and be granted more flexibility to meet range land objectives through an outcome based grazing system. If permittees are not meeting standards or making significant progress towards standards, due to current management practices, a plan should be made on an annual basis through collaborative monitoring to allow the livestock management to meet the proper standards and rangeland health objectives. Plans should not put undue hardship on permittees but should be organized to meet objectives through a collaborative, agreeable effort. Where standards are not being met, every effort to plan, coordinate and manage respective areas should be exhausted before any major restrictive regulations be placed upon the permit holder. A descriptive tool list should be considered through science based range management practices. Regulations should make it simple for the DOI to work on an even level and understanding basis to promote good relations and good management practices.

**When rangeland health standards are not being met and the reasons are due to other contributing factors, not associated with current livestock practices, the other factors must be held accountable and should not reflect on the permittee.** In order for rangeland health to improve, when it has been determined that standards are not to being met, all factors contributing to its decline must be addressed and made responsible through new management practices. This includes and is not limited to wildlife, horses and burros, plant and forage disease, pinion and juniper encroachment and other multiple uses. All contributing factors need to adapt to meet rangeland objectives.

**All forages, browse and forbs including invasive annuals should be considered for management.** The abundance of cheat grass and other invasive species covering many areas of the Great Basin need to be managed by appropriate livestock grazing practices due to its long standing existence and perpetuity. Temporary Non-Renewable (TNR) or new better management equivalent, should be granted in a timely manner, as needed, to control such forages. Management of annual forage must be considered of equal importance to perennial forages when making a grazing plan. There are numerous studies documenting that proper grazing with livestock can be used to facilitate the resistance to the invasion of annual grasses as well as aid the recovery of rangelands. Livestock grazing is the only cost effective tool to effectively manage invasive annual grasses on a landscape scale. Decisions to manage specific forages during certain seasons must be made quickly in order not to pass the optimal grazing opportunities. Those decisions should be made on a local level without NEPA requirements.

**Targeted grazing should be used to reduce fuel loads.** In years of abundant forage, efforts should be made by the agencies to analyze current wild land fire risks and then collaborate with permittees in the affected areas to use and manage the excess forage. Practices considered to do this could be temporary electric fencing, increased numbers, water haul sites and herding. Action to make available all tools needs to be considered. Ability to place fencing and water hauls must not be hampered. During the growing season decisions to manage excess forage must be done promptly. Under current conditions TNR does not effectively make it possible to achieve targeted grassing during years of abundant forage. TNR needs to change to a more reliable regulation giving district managers swift ability to make timely decisions. Managing fuels in the winter must be flexible to avoid inclement weather. Additional AUM'S (TNR) or new equivalent must be granted quickly to make the best management decisions.