

Training Lands Core Group
Meeting Notes for 19 February 2003

Attendees: Jeff Foster, John Weller, Dave Clouse, Janice George, Bret Ruby

1) Review of Advisory Group meeting

Only six off-post folks showed up, three of who are already working with us. However, we were competing with a major salmon summit the same day. New attendees included Karla Reece of the National Marine Fisheries Service, who requested that we address fish in our species recovery goals. Anna Thurston from the Tacoma Public Utilities is willing to tap into volunteers and provide educational resources.

We agreed to schedule the first meetings of those working groups which have not yet convened. These are Training Lands & Range Management (lead: John), Prairies & Oak Woodlands (lead: Dave), Species Recovery (lead: Dave), and Cultural Resources (lead: Bret). Encroachment Issues will continue to be dealt with by the PW EMS training lands team (lead: Ken Cadwell, encroachment issues lead: Jeff).

We will not convene the next Advisory Group meeting until we have a "critical mass" of participants on the working groups, and we have specific accomplishments to brief them on. In the meantime, as concrete actions are initiated or completed, we will e-mail this info to the advisory group members.

2) Encroachment lands review

We reviewed a map showing all the potential encroachment land purchases that are adjacent to the installation. At COL Conte's request, the leased inholdings in the RTA are included. Maps of non-adjacent areas are being prepared by TNC and will be available for review shortly.

Jeff and Dave talked with Sam Agnew, who maintains bird nesting boxes on the two major properties of interest along Muck Creek. Based on this information, conservation values of this area include oak woodlands, *Trillium parviflorum*, native prairie wildflowers, and nesting bluebirds, kestrels, wood ducks, and eastern kingbirds. John described potential military use of this area.

The draft Statement of Need for Weir Extension reviewed. We decided to include a section on Contribution to ISP Objectives, e.g., location for rare species reintroduction. Jeff will draft up some language for the group to over.

We reviewed the encroachment lands ranking scheme. Two proposed metrics for military training value are Contiguity/Access and Terrain. Jeff will draft these metrics and pass to John for editing.

3) Next core group meeting will be Thursday, 13 March, 1400, at Range Control.