



## Whittell Forest Advisory Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 12pm-2pm**  
**Meeting Location: Ross Hall Conference Room 207**

**Advisory Committee:** Sarah Bisbing (Chair) & Hunter Noble (Secretary); Members: Ryan Shane, Anna Belle Monti, Pat King, Chris Pritsos, Tom Hall; Representative from Administration and Finance **Guests:** Josh Baker, Mridul Gautam, James Steed

### Agenda

#### House Keeping (Hunter)

Hunter asked for any additional comments or edits to the previous meeting summary, there were none. Tom moved to approve, and Ryan seconded, motion carried.

#### Aspen Creek Property Acquisition (Sarah)

Sarah provided details on the acquisition of the parcel on Aspen Creek in southwest Washoe Valley. This property provides a facility with utilities that can be used to support research and teaching. It also has pasture mature forest cover, and a spring. The route from Reno is paved the entire way and will also allow for shorter access into Whittell with an access agreement with the USFS. It will cut the total drive time into Whittell Forest by almost in half. There is also a conservation easement on the property that protects the water rights and limits development.

#### Planning & Funding (Sarah)

1. **SNPLMA:** Sarah outlined the SNPLMA funding and who can apply. She reviewed a map of the proposed or current treatments across the landscape including UNR's recent proposal. She explained the relationship with TMFPD and the work they will be doing on private property. Tom asked questions regarding the operations and who would conduct the work (local or outside). Ryan said local contractors are hard to find but that they have a local contractors list they can share. He and Tom also highlighted the need for more local contractors with the increase in funding coming in.
2. **NDF Fuel Treatment Funding:** Sarah outlined the proposal for funding from the BIL through NDF which totals about \$400,000 for hazardous fuels reduction.
3. **LSR and WSFM Grant Updates:** Sarah gave updates on the LSR. She reviewed the original LSR proposal and gave updates on the Drone Seed work and the shift in funding priority. Sarah explained the planned use of funding for planting on private property in Franktown. Ryan gave background on the LSR preference of funding. Sarah provided details on the funding from Western States Fire Managers (WSFM) grant, about \$300,000 which will support hazardous fuels reduction on the Whittell Forest.

## Forest Outreach & Collaborations (Sarah/Hunter)

1. **Friends of Little Valley:** Sarah provided background on the idea of external fundraising opportunities to support the Forest. In collaboration with Ed Kleiner and Pat King, the Friends of Little Valley was created under the UNR Foundation. The Friends of Little Valley will serve as a mechanism to provide flexible funding to support Forest activities. Pat added details about the formation and the rationale of why it will be under the UNR Foundation. The Friends of Little Valley requires seed funding to officially be incorporated, which Tom committed to. An event in collaboration with the Foundation will be held to showcase the Forest.
2. **Washoe Tribe of NV and CA:** Hunter provided updates to the group on the firewood collection MOU between the Washoe Tribe and the Forest, including a recent site visit as well as marking and layout of the unit. Sarah provided details of the tour that she and Hunter provided to a dozen members of the Washoe Tribe, including the Tribal Chairman. Sarah added that she and Hunter will be presenting at the November Washoe Tribal Council meeting, providing details on the Forest and encouraging use by the Tribe.
3. **Fall Forest Festival:** Hunter reviewed the first ever Fall Forest Festival held earlier in the month. About 40 people attended, with a variety of campus departments represented, as well as students and a few members of the public.

## Open discussion of agenda items

Ryan detailed that the Bower's Mansion fire station is now in NDFs hands and that a crew will be stationed there within 6 months, and they would be available for work.

## Meeting Adjourns