

Las Cienegas National Conservation Area
Fall 2018 Biological Planning Meeting

Friday, December 7, 2018

9 AM – 4:30 PM

Empire Ranch HQ and Associated LCNCA Field Visits

Themes: Landscape and Uplands

Meeting Objectives

1. Facilitate information sharing, education and learning among stakeholder participants.
2. Update participants on relevant decisions in last 6 months, plans ahead and upcoming decisions in next 6-12 months.
3. Gather and document stakeholder/partner feedback on specific management treatments, proposals, and other issues.
4. Review relevant management objectives as outlined in the RMP, utilize available data to evaluate progress, and discuss possible adaptations or adjustments as appropriate.

AGENDA

Morning Session – Empire Ranch Headquarters (8:30 – 10:00am)	
8:30am	Bagels, Coffee and Networking
9:00	Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review – <i>June Lowery, BLM</i>
9:10	BLM and Team Updates <u>BLM Updates – <i>Amy Markstein, BLM</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Announcements ● Personnel update ● Completed projects ● Upcoming projects <u>Landscape Tech Team</u> Cross-cutting initiatives, adjacent lands, and partner updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sentinel Landscapes & Large Landscapes Initiatives ● Sentinel Landscape Restoration Partnership (SLRP) ● Cienega Watershed Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State of the Watershed (March 2018) ● Pima County Multi Species Conservation Plan – ● Coronado National Forest Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch ● Cross Watershed Network ● Desert LCC Madrean Landscape Conservation Design <u>Heritage Tech Team – <i>Shela McFarlin, CWP</i></u> <u>Riparian Tech Team – <i>Jeff Simms, BLM and Cat Crawford, USFWS</i></u>

	<u>Uplands Tech Team</u> – Topics covered in field visit
Field Tour (10:00am – 4:00pm)	
10:00	<i>Load up and Drive to Andrada Loop – 30 min</i>
10:30 (1 hour)	<p>Stop 1: Andrada Loop <i>Ian Tomlinson, Vera Earl Ranch, and Dan Robinett, Robinett Rangeland Resources</i></p> <p>Purpose: Post fire recovery and stocking rest system</p> <p>Discussion/Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Is the grass recovery continuing? How will fire, precipitation and planned grazing influence recovery? – Business viable economic planning in adverse conditions and uncertainty
11:30	<i>Drive to Limy Slopes on Gasline in North Pasture</i>
11:45	<p>Stop 2: Lunch near Gasline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at Limey Slopes recovery and discuss differences • Continue discussion on grazing systems • Comment on Key Area 22
12:45	<i>Drive to Key Areas 30 and 31</i>
1pm	<p>Stop 3: Key Areas 30 and 31 in Springwater Pasture</p> <p>Purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on grazing practices - <i>Ian Tomlinson, Vera Earl Ranch</i> • Discuss fire behavior - <i>Ian Tomlinson, Vera Earl Ranch</i> • Discussion on upland monitoring – <i>Gita Bodner, TNC</i> <p>Management objectives:</p> <p>Ecological site: Loamy Uplands and Limy Slopes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bare ground <30% (<50% immediately after severe disturbance like fire or drought) • Perennial grass basal cover 8% <p>Discussion/Feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on grazing plan • Monitoring and look at upland monitoring data
2	<i>Drive to Hills above Cinco Tank- 15 min</i>
2:15 (45 min)	<p>Stop 4: Hills above Cinco Tank – <i>Ian Tomlinson</i></p> <p>Purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on fire behavior and grass recovery

3	<i>Drive to Gardner Canyon Wash - 30 min</i>
3:30	Stop 5: Gardner Canyon Wash <i>Purpose:</i> Wrap-up Debrief and next steps
4pm	<i>Drive to headquarters – 10 min</i>
4:30pm	Head home

UPCOMING MEETINGS