

2020 Platte River Recreation Access Program Annual Subcommittee Meeting

March 9, 2020

9AM- EDO

1) Update on Existing Access lands

- a. Area P- Dippel Tract- Adjacent landowners have been unresponsive toward discussions for management agreements in channel. The subcommittee recommends proceeding to open channel up to mid-point to waterfowl and all other approved activities. The boundary negotiations on the remaining portion is nearly complete. Once finalized, open remaining portions of property on Northern and/or Eastern boundaries pending any restrictions on the Eastern boundary.
- b. Area B- CWR Morse Tract- The subcommittee reviewed circumstances surrounding completion of the broad scale recharge project. The group recommends a tiered approach at opening the property up to PRRA access again. First, seek input from the WAC to provide any conditions that should be added specific to access to this property and whether there are outstanding issues that need to be addressed prior to opening the property. This might include adding a statement on permission slips on water structures, changing water levels, etc. The subcommittee recommends opening the site after fall WC season, to allow for the first test fill, operation of recharge, revegetation and reseeding establishment. It was recommended not to be opened to deer hunting in 2020 during the rifle lottery but may be considered for access to other uses during that time.

2) New Property Additions

- a. Discussed Chapman complex- Hunting rights were given to previous landowners for varying timeframes as part of the acquisition. Access will not be considered indefinitely until the timeframes are exceeded or circumstances change.
- b. Other Program Properties- Briefly discussed Program water tracts and consideration of opening access on them. The subcommittee agreed to evaluate CWR water project and PRRA access as a test case, then revisit other Program water tracts in the future once plans are determined for properties.

3) Discussed Area Closed Signs

- a. Numerous complaints on confusion related to "Area Closed" signs was reported again. The EDO is in the process of ordering new signs that eliminate confusion and will update signage once received. Highest traffic areas (parking lots) will receive priority.

4) Comments From PRRA Surveys

- a. Mobile Permits with Electronic Signature and Time Stamp- The subcommittee discussed potentially changing to allow for mobile permission slips. After discussing the pros and cons, the group recommended pursuing this option, pending discussions with NGPC related to their ability to modify reservations to allow for this. NGPC will internally discuss whether they can provide this to accommodate the needs of the Program and implementation would be left to NGPC for modification.

- b. Lottery system changes- Numerous comments in the surveys indicated a desire to have a buddy lottery system where two individuals could get drawn for the same site. After weighing pros and cons and discussing ways that it could be fairly implemented in a manner where buddy applicants would neither be preferentially benefitted or adversely affected creating unequal opportunities to others, the group recommended buddy applications will only get one site choice, but if one is drawn than both will get in. The same form would be used for all entries, but different sections would allow for three site choices (standard single entry) or one site choice and space for a buddy's name (buddy entry).
 - c. 2nd drawing for sites not filled during initial lottery- Multiple sites didn't get filled during the lottery drawing. NGPC indicated they could email applicants not drawn and hold a second drawing to fill remaining spots. The subcommittee had no objections and recommended pursuing this option.
- 5) Public Comment- The public Comment period was posted in the Kearney Hub and has closed. No comments were received.
- 6) Area N property boundary and tree clearing- A report of tree clearing completed by an adjacent landowner within the PRRIP property boundary was reported. The EDO will look into this and address the situation as determined appropriate.

General Note: None of these changes are considered to affect the public access policy approved by the GC. Therefore, no formal changes or approvals would be needed by the GC. Discussion and approval of these recommendations may be considered by the LAC.