

# MEISS MEADOW GRAZING ALLOTMENT

MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 18, 1995 MEETING

In Attendance:

Dr. Ranjit Gill	Lahontan
Bob Harris	USFS
Jim Cuneo	Rancher
Bill Thomas	Lawyer
Doug Joses	Rancher
E. Loree Joses	Rancher
Jeff Reiner	USFS
Chris Knopp	USFS
Erich Walker	USFS
Fred Blatt	Lahontan
Tom Suk	Lahontan
Linda Elverum	Lahontan

Ex C3

The following is a capsulation of the major points of discussion during the meeting. Not every discussion is summarized below, only the important points, recommendations, and agreements.

- Fred Blatt began with a brief introduction expressing concerns regarding grazing management planning and protection of water quality, riparian habitats, streambanks, etc.
- Bob Harris clarified that standards (USFS and Lahontan) need to be met by management options, which the permittees must ultimately meet through their management.
- Dr. Gill thanked everyone for attending and expressed that he wants the best approach put forward for protecting the watershed and water quality. He mentioned that some problems do exist within the Meiss Allotment with regards to water quality, specifically nitrogen, phosphorus, and bacteria, as well as what the USFS has identified with regards to streambanks, riparian habitats, and fish habitats. However, he gave some examples how when all involved parties work together on addressing potential livestock grazing impacts, things can work out for everyone. A cooperative approach with good faith efforts is the preferred approach, as opposed to the regulatory approach which is the last resort.
- Bill Thomas discussed the EA, appeal, and decision. He expressed that state water quality standards are relevant. He mentioned that the permittees are aware of the agencies' concerns and anticipate modifying management to address concerns - might include fencing enclosures in Big Meadow. Bill mentioned that there should be more monitoring of the Upper Truckee River (UTR) watershed as well as in Big Meadow. He said that there has been quite a bit of discussion on alternatives, mitigation, etc. and that we are not worlds apart on issues and solutions.
- Dr. Gill again mentioned that the voluntary approach is preferred and was glad Bill Thomas wishes to proceed with such an approach. He recommended that we form some sort of advisory group to help guide watershed improvements for the Meiss Allotment.

- Bill Thomas recommended Bill Frost (UC Coop) be a part of the group as well as members from the USFS, Lahontan, permittee, and UC Coop. He again mentioned that some fencing may be necessary to achieve goals.
- Bob Harris mentioned that we need to define what criteria we are attempting to achieve - is it nitrogen, phosphorous, or bacteria. Nonpoint source pollution (NPS) control is difficult to pin down. What are we going to measure?
- Dr. Gill mentioned that we could use effluent standards or ambient standards. However he is willing, if we move forward in the right direction with management and BMPs which are designed to improve the watershed conditions [and therefore ultimately water quality], to allow a reasonable time period for achieving compliance with quality standards. He has discretion on when water quality standards must be met. Health of the watershed (riparian, vegetation, streambanks, fish habitat, etc.) is the most important component.
- Bill Thomas stated that he was sure they could meet the water quality standards.
- Tom Suk explained the applicable Lahontan's water quality standards.
- There was a minor discussion of monitoring.
- Dr. Gill summarized that it appeared we agreed to form a "group" for assisting in the development of a management plan for the allotment by the 1996 grazing season. Dr. Gill stated that if an acceptable plan is in place by spring of 1996, that Lahontan will not proceed with intensive monitoring and enforcement efforts. We discussed who should be in the group. Also, USFS will take the lead in developing schedule for getting group together, and Lahontan will work on water quality standards, what to monitor, when, etc.
- Bill Thomas summarized that we should: ID standards, ID goals and objectives of our proposed "process", get the available data, prepare a grazing mitigation plan, work on the monitoring issue, and evaluate.
- Bob Harris summarized that we should: work on the standards and monitoring issue, and a Project Plan (EA around work to be done - here's where the group comes in). Bob suggested the group be called something like Advisory Group of Monitoring Protocols.

Please review these minutes and call Fred Blatt within a week at (916) 542-5423 with any comments. Thanks for your assistance.