

## **Tuscarora – Comprehensive Fuels Management & Weed Containment Plan**

Minutes - Thursday, March 18, 2010

Attending: Tyson Gripp – BLM, Wendy Fuell – BLM, Tom Reed – BLM, Ryan Shane – NDF, Kent McAdoo – Cooperative Extension, Chris Jasmine – FWS, Mike McCarty – Fire Safe Council, Shammy Rhoads – Owyhee Conservation District, Sharon Rhoads – Rancher and interested citizen, Leta Collord – NNSG, Ron Arthaud – Artist from Tuscarora and Township project coordinator

Following introductions Mike McCarty gave an overview of the Fire Safe Council authorities. The Tuscarora Chapter is the newest chapter in Nevada. Mike clarified that their funding came from very diverse sources, but most frequently from NRCS, Forest Service, BLM, NDF, those agencies who have a shared concern for reducing wildland fires around rural communities. FSC does not fund weed projects, only fuels reduction and protective measures. Mike noted he spends the fourth week of each month in Reno for FSC business.

Kent McAdoo lead a discussion on the Demonstration Plots planned for the Tuscarora region. The points of the discussion were:

- Elko County indicated they might have matching monies for the NDF grant (\$2,267) for use on private land. Ron will follow up with Sheri Brown to see what the county can do.
- Plot or plots need to be identified and staked soon in order to begin the follow on steps of the project.
- Kent, Ryan and Ron will tour potential plots next week and send their suggestions along.
- Kent mentioned he had secured donated chemicals for the project.
- Seed was offered by the Owyhee Conservation District, and Shammy will check on that for content/kind, age, and availability of seed.
- Used fencing, posts and panels are available
- Honor Camp workers were discussed; they charge around \$900 per day.
- Mike will explore surplus funds that might be available from a few other FSC projects.
- Ryan Shane pointed out that each participant would benefit from looking over the Plan he compiled (a very thorough piece of work) He brought our attention to the first step in proceeding with the project would be accomplishing the necessary archeological surveys. When we set the plot sites, we can then send the information to SHPO State Historic Preservation Organization.
- Ron Arthaud will try to document the various activities that take place in Tuscarora as the project proceeds.

Kent covered the educational possibilities for T. residents and interested folks in the area. The Weed Extravaganza takes place May 4-5-6 in Elko. Some folks will

take the training during the Elko meeting, and Kent will follow up with the Tuscarora residents.

Tom Reed– BLM is directing updating the work on the Greenstrip. He will mow and spray the area within the next few weeks. Some equipment is being prepared.

Tyson Gripp spoke to the Pilot Project that BLM is undertaking. This involves the use of satellite colored imagery (10 m pixel) to detect locations of hoary cress and other species in the Tuscarora region. There will be a field ground truthing process with GPS units in order to make the data as accurate as possible. This process verifies the color spectrum of vegetation that will be compared to satellite imagery which BLM purchased. Ryan told of a study on leafy spurge that related a 85% accuracy rate with financial savings, so he is encouraged. This is an experiment to test the usefulness of remote sensing for detecting noxious weed infestation locations and approximate acreages. Tyson stated that once the data is processed maps will be available to the public.

Tyson has a spray crew arriving April 19 to treat hoary cress in the Tuscarora larger region.

Mike is looking for scientific documentation for various weeds and the potential susceptibility of species to fire.

Submitted: Leta Collord