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Sent: Monday, June 19, 2023 11:39 PM
To: Parks Publiccomment <Parkspubliccomment@carson.org>
Subject: FW: Comments: CCPROC Joint Meeting 6/20/23

From: Dan Greytak
Sent: Sunday, June 18, 2023 10:47 PM
To: parkspubliccomment@carson.org.
Cc: Lyndsey Boyer <LBoyer@carson.org>; Jennifer Budge <JBudge@carson.org>
Subject: Comments: CCPROC Joint Meeting 6/20/23

I am unable to attend the June 20th meeting in person, I would like the committee members to discuss the following points during the meeting.

Item 5c Buzzy's Ranch Management Plan

I do not feel the Board should act on the draft plan, please move the matter to a meeting of the OSAC for discussion.

My major concern is that the farm operation at Silver Saddle is no where evident in this plan. The exception is the Silver Saddle Mitigation Wetland being proposed to be managed in the Buzzy's Ranch Plan as a pasture. It should be preserved as wildlife habitat. It supports more than waterfowl.

Will the future lessee not be jointly operating the whole property, as it is now?

What is the current status of a farm plan for the Silver Saddle Ranch? How can they not be jointly managed? Water flows through Silver Saddle to Buzzy's. There is a north ranch(Buzzy's) and a south Ranch(SSR). Haying operations are part of the potential to keep the ranch green and economically viable. We need to join the ranches under a holistic plan: grazing, water, haying, fencing, conservation, and wildlife.

Specific comments

INTRODUCTION AND PLAN PURPOSE SECTION

I agree with the overall statement. Annual Plan should be part of a longer-term plan. Any lease in the future should be longer than 1 year, just to give the lessee some stability.

Hasn't the potential for municipal wells already been demonstrated by the failure of the test wells already dug by Vidler?

MANAGEMENT PLAN

So how many acres will the 1895af of water irrigate? Does the ranch currently use 1895af of water under the current irrigation regime? Is there tail water from SSR used on Buzzy's? Are we looking for deeded water for SSR?

Objectives

Seasonal DU wildlife Habitat grazing is OK. I believe the SSR mitigation Wetland should only be grazed on a special case exception. Let's see what potential is there without grazing. Once grazing was introduced on the mitigation wetlands weeds followed. Excess manure in wetlands is a water quality issue that was not expressed in the plan.

Irrigated Pasture

So how many cows, approximately? Are these cows going to use SSR as well? How is that rotation factored in?

Current practices do not meet the recommended stubble height requirements.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT

Will the present lease (agreement) allow immediate implementation of all proposed recommendations?

BR-01 Remove Mitigation wetland from this pasture. It should be a stand-alone parcel and managed under the SSR plan.

Do the 142 acres for BR-1 include the Mitigation area, and therefore eligible for the new water right through SNPLMA?

If nesting season begins April 15th how can grazing commence on March 15th?

Do we know that 1575 AUMs are sustainable? That number is with full irrigation. How many AUMs are on the SSR pastures?

When will the fencing be initiated? Can we plan on repairs this season? Do we need to wait for the management plan approval to begin?

Irrigation and Infrastructure

Muck from ditches is not a very good road or trail material.

Tail water and stock water from SSR is transported to Buzzy's. Stock water should be available from the Mexican Ditch all year. Management of stock water outside of irrigation season is not addressed in plan.

611af of Municipal water is more expensive than the equivalent amount of Irrigation water rights. Do we know if the well can produce 611af? Well could pump supplemental water through Point of Diversion modification to water rights acquired in the future?

We need to make effluent for the ranches a Carson City priority. I personally would rather have the ranches green than golf courses.

Improved stock water practices

Probably the place to start fencing. Like now.

Drought contingency

You can reduce the herd size (AUMs)

Table 1 This is good.

BR-07 would be suitable as a wildlife area.

Pg10 We can use SSR pasture recovery as a model of loss of irrigation. Grazing unirrigated pasture would probably not do a lessee much good. Even a successful seeding with introduced forage species (not the best idea) would be as sustainable as native species selected for wildlife values. I think that a well-conceived and executed restoration plan could be successful if given enough time and supplemental irrigation for establishment. Think more holistic, there are new methods for management.

Table2 No native species, poor diversity. There is a lot of salt grass present. Herbicides should only target noxious weeds. Find a better seeding strategy.

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Bank Stabilization Carson River.

What happened to the "Living River" concept.

That fence was unnecessary; cows haven't grazed there since completion of the trail project. It's wildlife area. Build a safety fence next to the trail. We shouldn't put infrastructure where we need to defend it by stopping the natural river function. The point bar that's formed on the opposite shore has some of the best expanding riparian vegetation in the city.

Engineers should be able to model that reach and estimate where the meander would become stable. Move the fence there.

Installation of gravity fed irrigation and tailwater recovery.

Tail water recovery is only feasible if you have water rights for those acres. May be mandatory for an effluent flood irrigation system.

Vegetation Monitoring Plan

Thorough, more than just photos.

This should have been happening all along. How will the city provide for qualified personnel to conduct the qualitative sampling. Budget \$\$ to hire qualified monitors if staff cannot commit to proper monitoring schedules. Future contracts should be based on meeting sustainability goals of the ranch, not just on profitability goals.

I hope these comments are helpful and I look forward to watching the proceedings..

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