

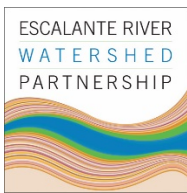
**Escalante River Watershed Partnership
March 8, 2017, WICR Committee Meeting
Interagency Visitor Center, Escalante, UT**

Attendees:

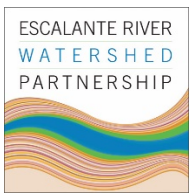
Alex Engel, Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Dave Bastian, Utah Conservation Corps
Emily Schrepf, Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Evan Curtis, Four Corners School CCYC
Grant Johnson, Escalante Canyon Outfitters
Joe Zelman, Utah Conservation Corps
John Spence, National Park Service Glen Canyon
Kris Waggoner, Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Linda Whitham, The Nature Conservancy
Mike Wight, Southwest Conservation Corps (phone)
Nicole Croft, Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Noel Poe, Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Phoebe McNeally, DIGIT Lab
Raymond Brinkerhoff, Bureau of Land Management – GSENM (phone)
Sarah Harderlie, Utah Conservation Corps
Stephanie Minnaert, Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Steve Cox, Private Lands Volunteer
Sue Fearon, Grand Staircase Escalante Partners

WICR Committee Meeting Notes

- 3 handouts provided during meeting: Agenda, RO Acreage Table, and Funding Table
- Kris Waggoner discussed re-cap of 2016:
 - 246 acres completed
 - 3 new partnerships
 - Lessons learned: 1) Finding right fit for staff positions and becoming more efficient at field work (Kris Waggoner); 2) Moving camps during fall field work helped with greater efficiency (Grant Johnson); 3) Hack and squirt method (Alex Engel); and 4) 4 field staff is the best fit for the work needed to be done.
- Now into 2017:
 - GSEP moved from BLM office to new office on the west side of Escalante near Cowboy Blues restaurant – This has always been one of GSEP's goals, and the move better serves the organization for advocating for the GSENM.



- Raymond Brinkerhoff was asked to discuss status of NEPA DNA – BLM isn't expecting any updates are necessary, will be complete soon.
- 2017 Funding Table:
 - Total project expenses between \$1.4 and \$1.7 million
 - WFF – submitted 2-year grant for \$1.35 million
 - Utah Partners for Conservation and Development (UPCD) – recently received ranking for 2017 and in top tier, will hear about funding in May
 - Submitted National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grants (5-star and Developing Next Generation; will submit Resilient Communities by end of March)
 - National Park Service – Kris Waggoner and Stephanie Minnaert need to discuss number of crews and logistics with NPS and Mike Wight
 - The Nature Conservancy – Kris and Stephanie need to discuss numbers with Linda Whitham
 - Did not receive – New Belgium and Coke-Cola
 - Sue Fearon suggested to apply for Wilbur Force this year; Stephanie Minnaert will followup
 - A few others, GSEP plans to apply for this year: REI, Ford Foundation, North Face Explorer
 - NRCS and Partners for Fish and Wildlife not reflected in the funding table – private land funding
 - Sue Fearon has submitted Forestry Fire and State Lands in the past, but did not rank – no plan to submit again in 2017
- Proposed Work – 2017
 - 2, 8 person crews above The Gulch
 - 2, 8 person crews below The Gulch
 - 2, 8 person crews below Horse Canyon
 - 2, 8 person crews into GLCA below Horse Canyon
 - If additional funding, then there will be a crew in Harris – GSENM
 - April in GLCA – crew leader training for UCC crew leaders
 - Will occur at Allen Dump Harris Confluence
 - Won't be using chainsaws
 - Volunteer Trips – Great Old Broads and Wilderness Volunteers
 - Will occur at Hwy 12 Bridge (front country)
 - Talk within the group about leaving a small piece right near bridge as show piece for before/after visual
- Other
 - GSEP working with Phoebe at DIGIT Lab on crew member story map, which will be posted on ERWP website
 - ArcGIS will be funded by WFF for next two years



- In 2017, Long-term Monitoring and Maintenance plan will be completed – Partners will be pulled in to work on this document to ensure it fits Partnership needs.
- Retreatment Work – 2017
 - Upper Alvey, Escalante to Death Hollow, Harris confluence on main stem of river, Fools to Coyote, Nazer Draw in Boulder (Forest Service), Deer Creek
- Citizen Science – GSEP will be working on a pilot citizen science app this year
 - Phoebe McNeally suggested building an app through ESRI ArcGIS
 - iNaturalist and Amphibians of Utah project were examples provided by Mark Grover
- Crew training scheduled to start Aug 20 (6th year)
 - Prep meetings will happen over the next three months
- Private Lands
 - Started season in Oct 2016, will finish soon
 - Restart work again in the fall 2017
 - Working on Alvey project, SWIFL and Range Improvement - 88 acres (50 acres range land), densities at 95% RO and Tamarisk