

RANCH AT ROARING FORK
Fishing Advisory Committee
Minutes of March 6, 2010 DRAFT

Present: Stephanie McConaughy and JP Pfaust were present at the gazebo. Dan Bishop participated via conference call.

Others Present: Mike Fordyce, Tom Neel, and Richard Sierzant.

Absent: George Pucak and Arnie Goldblatt

Old Business:

FAC Liaison to the BOD. Stephanie McConaughy reported that the RRF Board of Directors (BOD) reappointed Gordon Nelson as FAC liaison.

Stocking 2010. JP Pfaust reported that he ordered 600 pounds of 10-12 inch Kamloop rainbows from Crowther's Fresh Water Trout: total cost = \$2500. Crowther's waved their \$500 delivery fee. Stocking is planned for March 26. JP will supervise stocking. The plan is to place fish in the old and new stream at easy access points (e.g., bridges). Mike Fordyce and Tom Neel noted that it is important to make sure that the water temperature in the holding tank matches the water temperature in the stream. JP will double check that with Crowther's.

“Demucking” Upper Spawners. As noted in the 12-29-09 minutes, the RRF consultant, Bob O'Brien, recommended removing silt build up in the Upper Spawners section of the stream below the bridge where the old and new stream V-off. Bob O'Brien felt that the work could be easily done by Rick Carsten and RRF staff in the winter months when the ground is frozen. The FAC recommended this work to the BOD at their 01-04-09 meeting. The BOD asked the FAC to estimate how much material would be removed and asked whether an Army Corps of Engineers (COE) 404 permit would be needed.

JP Pfaust and Rick Carsten estimated that approximately 45 cubic yards of material would be removed. Dan Bishop corresponded via email with Bob O'Brien about the need for a permit. O'Brien recommended obtaining a permit and sent the FAC the name and address of the person to contact at the COE (Stephen Moore). There was discussion at the meeting about how extensive this work might be. Dan Bishop said that the work should involve removal of minor pockets of silt without disruption to the stream bed. Tom Neel, Mike Fordyce and JP Pfaust thought it would be important to have professional supervision if the project is expanded. Richard Sierzant asked whether this project had been part of the list of potential projects for 2009 stream work. Stephanie McConaughy reported that “Demucking Upper Spawners” was not one of the potential projects included in the 2009 work plan disseminated to RRF home owners. The demucking project was a subsequent suggestion from O'Brien during the final walk through for the 2009 work. Tom Neel reported that O'Brien had previously recommended about four years ago that no work be done on Spawners until the new stream had time to mature. Because there was no agreement on this project, it was tabled for further discussion at a subsequent meeting. Also see the addendum to these minutes regarding COE permits.

River Keeping--grass control on bank sides and within streams. Dan Bishop reported that Bob O'Brien has advised the FAC in the past regarding grass and brush cutting along the stream banks. He recommended that we try to maintain a blend of a natural wild look and maintenance of access points for fishing. Most of the work can be done by Ranch staff with a DR mower and a brush hog to establish paths and fishing access, with the goal of keeping a 2-3-foot high band of grass along the edge of the stream. There was discussion of how to manage grass cutting as a regular maintenance program. For consistency, the FAC will recommend to the BOD that one person from the FAC act as advisor to the Ranch Manager and staff on grass cutting. Dan Bishop volunteered to act as the FAC contact, as he did in the latter part of 2009. The FAC encourages RRF community members to contact Dan Bishop or the Ranch manager if they have suggestions regarding grass cutting along the stream banks.

Dan Bishop suggested that the RRF staff, supervised by the FAC, try cutting pond weed with scythes in several areas of the stream beds as an experiment for grass control. Last year, Dan worked with Ranch staff to do similar cutting in Kelso Ditch. Dan volunteered to supervise similar work this summer. He recommended that we try grass cutting in the Ranch Creek stream bed. Richard Sierzant recommended including one or two additional areas in Sopris Creek below twin bridges, where the water temperatures are relatively warmer than in other areas. Richard agreed to consult with Dan on areas to do this work. They plan to take pre and post pictures and to monitor water temperatures in the selected areas.

Action Item: The FAC will recommend to the BOD that Dan Bishop act as advisor to the Ranch manager and staff regarding grass and brush cutting along stream banks. The FAC will further recommend that Ranch homeowners contact Dan or the Ranch manger if they have any suggestions for grass cutting.

Action Item: The FAC will recommend to the BOD that Dan Bishop work with Ranch staff to do experimental cutting of pond weed in the stream beds in two or more areas. Proposed sections are: Ranch Creek section of Sopris Creek, plus one or two more areas of Sopris Creek below twin bridges. Richard Sierzant volunteered to work with Dan Bishop on this project. They will take pre- and post-work pictures and monitor stream temperatures.

“Pegged egg”/Moffit system of fishing. A member of the Ranch community contacted JP Pfaust to ask if using pegged eggs or the Moffit system was allowed by the fly fishing regulations at the RRF. JP reported that there are several ways to fish eggs. This method is used in Alaska to catch trout behind large groups of spawning salmon. It has been proven to catch fish more effectively in the mouth and makes it easier to release fish. Arnie Goldblatt reported that he checked with an official in the Colorado Department of Wildlife who said that the pegged egg pattern was legal in Colorado fly fishing only waters. The FAC concluded that this system of fly fishing should be allowed in the RRF waters. The following link has information on this technique:

http://pressroom.moffittangling.com/read_first/Approved_in_Colorado.pdf

New shelter. Several Ranch homeowners have suggested that the Ranch consider building one or two new shelters on the property to provide protection from sudden thunderstorms and lightning as well as other uses, such as picnics. The new shelter at the golf course is a possible model, with one possible location near the former skeet range. JP Pfautz discussed cost and construction with Tom Vail. They estimated \$5,000 for materials and \$3,000 for labor, if the shelter were modeled on the one at the golf course. Costs could be reduced by not having a concrete platform and perhaps making use of volunteer work by Ranch homeowners. Possible locations included: somewhere near Sopris Creek below twin bridges, the parking area near Spawners or the former skeet range, and somewhere on the Eastern end of the Ranch property. Since the shelter would serve all Ranch homeowners, the FAC discussed having this project financed partially out of the FAC budget and out of some other appropriate budget line. The FAC felt that it would be important to get community input on this project if it were approved by the BOD. More specific information is needed to make any proposal to the BOD. This issue will be discussed further at the next FAC meeting.

Long-term fishing/waterways management plan. The FAC decided to devote most of their next meeting to discussion of recommendations to the BOD regarding a long-term fishing/waterways management plan. Tom Neel, Mike Fordyce, and Bob Tucker volunteered to meet with the FAC to provide their historical views of what has been done in the previous 12-year period. The FAC encourages all Ranch homeowners particularly interested in this issue to attend and to contribute information.

New Business:

Additional stocking. There were no suggestions from Ranch homeowners or the FAC for additional stocking in 2010. Therefore, no further stocking is proposed for 2010.

Creating FAC records. Dan Bishop and Stephanie McConaughy will work together to create a history of FAC records on key issues: fishing regulations, stocking, stream work, long-term management plans. This will be an on-going project. Suggestions for record keeping and contributions of records are welcome.

Next meeting: The FAC will schedule their next meeting for sometime in early to mid June, 2010.

Addendum to FAC Minutes—COE permits and RRF BOD meeting, March 8, 2010:

Subsequent to our FAC meeting, JP Pfautz reported that he had contacted Stephen Moore at the Army COE about the need for a 404 permit to do the work the FAC was recommending on Upper Spawners. Stephen told JP that he has to do research on the permits that we pulled in the past to see if we can move forward in the future. Depending on how the permits were set up, there may be things that have to happen before we can perform more work on the property. If we are in compliance with our past permits and we can in fact move forward, we have to schedule a site visit with Stephen and have a walk through on what kind of work we would like to perform. The new Ranch manager, Steve

Coley, is now working on this issue and was planning to schedule a meeting with Stephen Moore to have a walk through to see what the scope of work will be and what permits are required.

At their 04-05-10 meeting, the BOD stated that all future contacts with the Army COE should be done through the Ranch manager and not by any other individual, including committee members or consultants. This applies to any future stream work, including the work the FAC has been discussing on Upper Spawners. The Ranch manager is currently consulting with the COE regarding the status of our compliance with permits for the 2006 and 2009 stream work.

Submitted by Stephanie McConaughy, Secretary