

ARMP  
July 12, 2011

In attendance:

Deb Madison, OEP

Tom Beck, NRCS

Paul Finnicum, NRCS

Myrna Walking Eagle, Natural Resources

Hank Flynn, FPIP

George Redstone, Fort Peck Landowners Association

Tori Matejousky, FPCC

- Discussed adding to the Land Use Policy a part addressing water delivery on the Fort Peck Irrigation Project.
  - Set up a program for operating water every year. This helps with obtaining funding.
- Discussed taking out “Indian owned economic enterprise....has to be determined by the board.”
- Introduction – 2 definitions added
  - Indian owned economic enterprises
  - Modification to the AUM Table (changed cow calf pair from 1 AUM to 1.2 AUMs (NRCS and BIA standard))
    - Stocking rate increase discussed to offset AUM change
    - Discussed the repercussions of the increase – concern amongst permittees
    - Subleasing – discussed the issue of subleasing and tribal enforcement
- Ag. leasing and permitting – adding the full grazing resolution and timber permits/policy
  - Wild crafting – root digging not addressed but will be added
  - Timber policy – updated with modifications
  - Timber resolution includes harvesting trees and trust and tribal acres
    - Need definition of harvest added
    - Free use permit includes firewood
    - Permits online (suggested)
    - Need to identify what a lease covers
    - Notification to grass lease holder needs to be added (suggested)
    - Permits are used for tracking purposes
    - Discussion of who should issue permits
    - Range staff has ability to issue permits on site (add to policy)
  - Enforcement, putting procedures in place, and competitive bid process still need to be worked on within the Policy
  - Increase in maximum acres held by an application changed from 1,920 to 2,560
  - Subleasing readdressed as a class A offense
  - Changing the use of land on a current lease

- Outlined the requirements to do that
  - Permission from 51% (majority)
  - Development of a management plan for the tract approved by Natural Resources and Executive Committee
- Added beginning farmer and beginning rancher reduced rates
- Grazing variance allowing for early turn-in and late turn-outs added. There will have to be a variance request to department. Decisions made on a case-by-case basis.
- Range improvements-availability of permittee to apply to use range improvement funds as a match for EQUIP funds
- Change in hay and pasture unit leases to a minimum of a 5 yr term. No longer a year to year lease
  - Discussion on the hay permits and whether or not that will work
  - Modify to irrigable and non-irrigable lands (suggested)with land on Fort Peck Irrigation Project leased on a 1-yr term.
  - Discussion on change of use
  - Limit the potential to hay pasture land
- Wetland Areas – establishes a process
- Business Leasing – left to the CCOJ
- Homesites – not many modifications. Modified the rates. Instead of paying yearly, you will pay 5 years in advance
  - Discussion on promoting pod site development and not scattered housing but left out of Policy at committee request.
- Mineral Leasing – added development restrictions and requirements to the Policy for surface owner/lessee protection.
- Water Rights – added in Tribal Water Code and text for the Drought Contingency Plan
- Final draft to be presented August 9<sup>th</sup> to Steering Committee and Land Committee