

**Date: 2/1/2016**  
**Conservation Lands Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Headwaters Meeting Room**  
**4:00 to 6:00pm**

**Attended by:** Aaron Olsen, Bert Lindler, Chris Ryan, Giles Thelen, Kevin Verlanic, Terry Carlson

**Absent:** Beverly Dupree, Carol Fischer, Jennifer Hensiek, John Pierce, Kathleen Kennedy, Liz Bradley

**Staff:** Morgan Valliant, Chris Carlson, Meranda Sikes

**Public:** Kale Becker, John Stegmaier, Jim Habeck, Peter Daniels

**Public Comments:**

- Jim Habeck – Raised concerns about the Barmeyer property access and how residents will be impacted by hikers, bikers, and other recreational users. CLAC will be spending time next year discussing access concerns.

**Minutes** – Kevin Verlanic moved to approve the December minutes, Bert Lindler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion Items:**

- Presentation of 2015 Seasonal Maintenance Activities: a presentation by Morgan Valliant, the Conservation Lands Manager outlining major maintenance activities and other accomplishments across Conservation Lands in 2015. Presentation included a summary of the 2015 trails inventory; update of the Clark Fork River access project; herptile monitoring program; and implementation of the MT. Jumbo Forest Thinning in Critical Elk Winter Range Plan (adopted in 2014).
  - In 2015 there was an increase in the number of conservation acres mowed as well as an increase in seed, native trees, shrubs, and herbs planted. In addition to increased planting, 2015 saw the smallest amount of herbicides sprayed.
  - Over the last seven years, the Conservation Lands Management program has been steadily growing. From 2014 to 2015 there was a substantial increase in the number of volunteer hours and grants awarded.
  - In 2015, CLM mapped system and non-system trail mileage and features. This mapping identified 2.5 miles of system trails above appropriate slope percentage. Some of the biggest challenge areas for increasing user-made trails include Tower Street, Lincoln Hills, and Mt. Jumbo. Some of these user-made non-system trails will be adopted (those that make sense for the system), but most will be closed. There is a growing need to develop education to decrease unsanctioned usage of conservation lands.
  - The herptile monitoring program has found a number of reptiles and amphibians including some invasive species. There are plans to expand this program in the future.
- Presentation of 2015 Research and Monitoring Program: a presentation by Chris Carlson, the Conservation Lands Research Program Specialist outlining 2015 research and monitoring activities. Among other things, the presentation included information about research on sheep grazing/knapweed control; smooth brome control; floristic surveys on the Tower St. Conservation Area; and several wildlife monitoring programs.
  - Discussed herptile and plant surveys and their results.
  - Forest thinning on Mt. Jumbo did not decrease elk usage
  - Set up game cameras to monitor and identify different species of wildlife in conservation areas.
  - Mapped Smooth Brome in order to identify the spread of the species and look at how it effects native species. Will continue to study this species and try to find the most effective way to combat it.
  - Mt. Jumbo - Grazing has decreased knapweed seedlings. Spraying reduced knapweed as well, but also impacted natives. There are six bio-control species present combating knapweed.
  - Mt. Sentinel- Introducing a new bio-herbicide for Cheatgrass. Will be monitoring in the future to see effects.