

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

March 24, 2010

140 West Pine Street

10:05 am – 11:00 am

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (Chair), Pan Walzer, Dave Strohmaier, Bob Jaffe, Renee Mitchell, Ed Childers, Jon Wilkins, Lyn Hellegaard, and Roy Houseman, Dick Haines.

Members Absent: Stacy Rye

Others Present: Giles Thelen

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

A. Approve minutes

Minutes of March 17, 2010 were approved as submitted.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: none

IV. REGULAR AGENDA

1. [Discussion Date: 03/24/10] Update from the Mount Jumbo Advisory Committee ([memo](#)).—
Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler and Giles Thelen) (Referred to committee: 03/01/10)
(INFORMATIONAL ITEM, REMOVE FROM AGENDA)

Giles Thelen ([presentation](#)) - The priority objective for Mount Jumbo is to protect Mount Jumbo as a conservation property. The three individual areas are: education, recreation and plant and wildlife.

Education-There has been a big effort to educate the public by posting informational flyers and signs at trail heads. Morgan has put out trail maps and a new map will be available soon. There has been an increase of use on the Cherry Street trail on Mount Jumbo. The use of kiosks is an important addition to the trails for education and descriptions of wildlife and plants as well as maps.

Recreation – The leash program is successful with 700 leashes in use by residents. The mutt mitts are helping with the dog waste. There is a new trail in East Missoula called Hidden Trail Spur. Eventually the trail will do a full circumference around the mountain.

Wildlife - One hundred and ninety acres of pines have been surveyed for pine beetles. The Parks Department will use the survey to focus efforts on reducing the effects of the pine beetle on conservation lands. Various wildlife including Lynx and black bears have been sighted on Mount Jumbo. The winter closure on Mount Jumbo have been effective in protecting the elk.

Plant Life - The aerial view map is used for managing plants in the various areas. There are a variety of methods for handling weed control: herbicides, fire, sheep grazing and weed pulls. There are a number of pros and cons to each control method. Any plant control efforts needs to promote the plants you want, so some reseeding has to occur. Seeding is very important but expensive.

Giles announced the annual Weed Pull is scheduled for May 1st as part of the Bike Walk Bus week. There are many native plants in the designate weed pull zone and hand pulling is the most desirable method. The previous weed pulls have been successful in reducing cheat grass.

Fire - Data on the fire retardant drop showed more exotic plants grow such as cheat grass. The fire retardant helped annuals (unwanted) and did not help the perennials which are wanted. Environmental conditions affect the success of seed growth and more data is needed.

Giles answered the question and concerns by the various committee members related to weed control, wildlife, fire, and dogs on leashes.

V. HELD/REFERRED OR ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS –

1. Review Conservation and Urban Wildlife Subcommittee referrals. ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Marty Rehbein) (Referred to committee: 01/11/10)
2. Budget update on aquatics ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Lyn Hellegaard) (Referred to committee: 12/21/09)

VI. Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

Submitted by:
Paula Fisher