



Southern Rocky Mountain Bioregion
1732 Wazee Street, Suite 209
Denver, CO 80202
303 477-0660 303 477-4648 fax
www.biohabitats.com

**LEFT HAND CREEK CANYON RESTORATION PROJECT
DRAFT DESIGN-BUILD PLAN REVIEW MEETING
DECEMBER 4th, 2018, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Left Hand Fire Station 4 (7300 Lefthand Canyon Drive)**

MEETINGS NOTES

Attending:

Jessie Olson and Yana Sorokin (LWOG); Scott Aschenbrenner (Left Hand Excavating, LHE); Vince Sortman, Claudia Browne, and Susan Sherrod (Biohabitats); Scott Schreiber (Wright Water Engineers); David & Sue Kyser (#5); Chris Cook (#2); Stephen Strand; Kirk Jones; Wolf Lutton (#6); Becky Martinek; Chris Carroll (USFS); Jean-Pierre Georges (WRV); Sue Schauffler (LWOG Board); Marianne Giolitto (OSMP); Jeff Crane (DOLA); Russell Laudingham (LH Fire District)

Introductions and Project Summary

Attendees introduced themselves and their roles, and LWOG (Yana) reviewed project goals and process since October meeting. At this meeting we will review design plans that will be submitted to permitting agencies after we received/incorporate landowner feedback.

Updated Timeline & Permitting Update

Yana provided the following updates:

- LWOG has requested an extension for Reach 2 construction until after August to accommodate an occupied Bald Eagle nest. This will likely impact planting at all reaches, so that it can all be done at once at a desirable time of year.
- Permit schedule is on track, with permit submittal occurring near mid-December, followed by bit of a quiet period while permits are in review.

Overview of Draft Design-Build Plan

Vince Sortman, with Biohabitats, discussed the following main points:

- The draft design plans are the same as the concept plans that the property owners have previously reviewed. The only changes are where homeowner may have asked for slight modifications to the concepts.
- This draft design was prepared primarily for permit submittal purposes and in CAD format to be in keeping with requirements of Boulder County.
- The lists of plants (“plant schedules”) for the two riparian zones – upper and lower-- are provided on the last page of the plans and will be incorporated into the final version of the plans.
- There will be future opportunities to review construction plans prior to construction on the property. Trees to be saved and grading limits will be marked prior to construction starting and reviewed/approved by the property owner.

- Copies of photographs of design elements, the concept plans, and previous landowner comment logs are provided on the tables to assist with current review. And, Biohabitats is here to discuss the design with each landowner.

Overview of Construction Phase

- Construction Participation Agreements – Yana explained the Construction Agreement forms that LWOG is requesting, and she noted they include a provision to allow LWOG to come onsite post-construction for maintenance.
 - Agreements should be signed and returned to LWOG by January 8 because they are required for our Floodplain Development Permit however agreements include a final sign off clause at the bottom which will be signed after a pre-construction site visit occurs with each landowners (see handout for details).

Question from Wolf Lutton, property owner—Can you talk more about the Agreement and the Operation and Maintenance portion?

- Yana explained the adaptive management approach LWOG has to address changing conditions following restoration – such as to treat weeds. This helps us assess whether the projects are meeting their goals and making corrections if necessary. She clarified that the permission is just for LWOG, and that LWOG would still provide request and notification as usual - not just come anytime or bring equipment onsite. She further noted that the agreements are voluntary (we can remove this clause) and not binding if property is sold for example.
- Revegetation – Susan Sherrod, Ecologist with Biohabitats, reviewed the overall design approach.
 - The upper and lower riparian zones include plants in 3 strata – upper canopy, subcanopy and herbaceous layer. The plants listed for each zone are based on suitability of moisture regime.
 - It is intended that all of the species are native to Boulder County.
 - Detailed layout of individual plants will not be included in the design plan, rather LWOG and Biohabitats will visit with landowners individually prior to planting to discuss any preferences (e.g. areas where trees or shrubs may not be desired to keep views or access open).
 - Note that the initial planting may be a bit underwhelming, as plants are small and it takes a while for them to grow in.
 - Also note that weeds are expected to come in and weed control will be very important to help native plants compete. LWOG has some capacity to do this but best results occur when landowners pitch in and stay on top of it. LWOG will target the most invasive species at key times during the growing season as needed/appropriate.

Question from Becky Martinek, property owner—If property owner is willing to pay for additional plants, is that an option and can crew help to plant them?

- Scott Aschenbrenner of LHE noted that while possible, it would require a separate agreement with the planting crew. He also noted that they have received several initial qualification submittals from planting subcontractors and have narrowed it down to 2 firms.

- Jessie Olson of LWOG clarified that their grant scope was specific and couldn't cover additions such as that, but a landowner could look into a separate contract with the planting crew.
- Next Meetings – Yana explained no more full-group meetings are planned from this point forward. Upcoming meetings will be onsite and one-on-one.
- Construction Protocol
 - When discussions happen without LWOG staff on site make sure that everything is transmitted back to LWOG, in writing.
 - Notification will be provided prior to utility locate at start of construction, but after that the crew may be coming and going from a property at different times within the overall 2-3 month period. (In other words, daily permissions will not be requested so that construction schedule and crews have some flexibility to keep the project moving efficiently and accommodate changes based on conditions and crews etc.) At this time, Left Hand Excavating is planning on having 2-3 crews working in the canyon at any one time.
 - Scott Aschenbrenner emphasized that when the crew is onsite, property owners should please be cautious when approaching operating equipment and be sure to make eye contact with the excavator and wait for their signal.
 - Yana reiterated that there will be a separate walk-through for planting.
 - Yana reiterated to please mark property pin markers at corners if you have them and make us aware of them. They need to be highly visible because they are expensive to replace and we do not want to damage them.

Question from Becky Martinek, property owner —How will traffic control be managed with the multiple crews and sites?

- Scott Aschenbrenner explained that LHE is probably going to have two of their crew members trained as flaggers. This way they will already be on site and can assist with traffic control, rather than trying to precisely schedule when a flagger will be needed and potentially be held up waiting for their arrival.

Workshop/Individual Questions

- Reviewed individual reach plans at tables
- Property owner comments were collected on the plans themselves, on the comment logs (attached) and verbally. All property owners were happy with the design plans.