

CATTLE GRAZING UPDATE

Per a conversation with Eric Pronold of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on 03.16.22, here's what we know about grazing this year on the Cline Buttes:

Cow Arrival Date. The plan this year is for 30 cow-calf pairs to be released to graze on the Cline Buttes for 30 days. The scheduled date when cattle will be placed on the allotment is April 15th. The limited time period was designated in part because forage is adequate in some areas but not in others.

Water Source. Forage in the northwestern part of the allotment (behind Creekside and Scenic Ridge) is limited so the water source behind the horse corral in Creekside will NOT be turned on. Instead water will be provided on the south side of the grazing allotment to encourage cattle to graze that area.

Personnel. The BLM has hired a seasonal ranger technician to monitor the area. We hope to learn more about this means at a later time.

Fencing. Fencing is to be rebuilt where needed. This includes the northern boundary. Fencing that runs west behind Scenic Ridge will also be improved before the cattle arrive. The BLM has spoken to the rancher about this and she understands this is a condition she must meet. A RECOA Board member will review the fencing before the 15th to verify it is secure.

Who To Call. This year every Board member will have the telephone information for the rancher so she can be contacted if cows get onto RECOA or the private property of RECOA owners. We are waiting to receive this information from Eagle Crest Management.

If you as an owner discover cows in your yard or on common area, please call or email ECM. Whether it's a call or email, be sure to email the entire Board so we know what's happening. This will help us coordinate a timely response, especially if it's after normal business hours.

Public review. We asked the BLM if there is any kind of public review process each year with respect to forage or how many cattle the terrain can support; apparently, there is not. Generally, public comment is only taken every 10 years when the grazing permit comes up for renewal. However, anyone who wants to know about activities on an allotment may send a letter to the BLM in Prineville requesting to be added to the list of "interested parties". We have been told you will then receive information that is shared with the public. Here's a link to the BLM web site: <https://www.blm.gov/office/prineville-district-office>.

Paying your RECOA bill. A few owners have asked about the best way to pay their RECOA bill. There are three options: 1) authorize your bank to make automatic payments monthly or authorize payments from your account as you go; 2) pay through the ECM web portal; and 3) pay with a check via regular mail using the envelope provided with your assessment.

Some owners have told us of delays in mailing payments. These go to a clearing house in Las Vegas. If the mail is late or clearing house does not process your payment in a timely manner, you may incur late fees. This happened recently to one owner and despite her efforts to get everything straightened out, she ran into repeated problems getting late fees waived.

We haven't heard of problems paying by going through your own bank so that may be the best and easiest option. It also gives owners more control since you can verify the transaction. Whatever method you choose, if you make a payment and run into problems please let the Board know so we can make sure your problem is addressed.

That Creekside Bridge. Are you among those wondering why it has taken so long to fix the bridge in Creekside that is near the Lakeside Sports Center? It's a long story but the short version is there have been efforts to get the bridge fixed since last Summer. Recently, President Skaggs intervened and coordinated to have the bridge fixed by the vendor who originally installed it. However, ECM had another vendor make "temporary" repairs instead. This is why the bridge looks unfinished. At this writing we have asked ECM to hire the vendor we selected and have the permanent repairs made. We know this has been frustrating and are relying on ECM to get this done.

Minutes, Long Board Meetings, and ECM Service Issues. If you've attended Board meetings you know RECOA is dealing with a wide variety of issues. In addition to routine activities we are also working on improving the minutes review process, improving the web site, revising our Committee Policy (not reviewed since 04/2019), managing the roofing project in Forest Ridge, coordinating with Deschutes County for stormwater retention on the west ridge, installing new mailboxes at Coopers Hawk, repairing asphalt "upheavals" in managed neighborhoods where they pose a safety hazard, overseeing the replacement of decks in Forest Greens, overseeing the 2020 audit, creating a Grounds Maintenance Committee to research a new landscape contract and make recommendations for managing landscape needs, developing campaign rules, and monitoring activities associated with Thornburg Resort.

We also have many projects and challenges that are carryovers from 2021.

At the same time, staffing, and performance issues with ECM have limited RECOA's ability to respond to many association needs. Some issues aren't new but in the past they were not addressed. This is why President Skaggs and Vice President Sharpe are meeting regularly with ECM management to work toward improvement. However, in the mean time we must rely on the Board and other volunteers to get specific things done which is why we are appointing Board members to oversee some action items and seeking more owners on committees.

We appreciate your patience as we keep the wheels turning!

E-Bikes:

There have been some recent social media postings suggesting that Eagle Crest was about to ban the use of e-bikes. Eagle Crest has no intention to ban the use of e-bikes. This article shares what Directors and Committee members have learned.

One source of information is current Oregon laws related to e-bikes. People often ask if e-bikes are legal to ride like bicycles (those that are unassisted). The answer is 'yes', but with some important limitations. Under [ORS 801.258](#) the electric assisted cycle must:

1. Be designed to be operated on the ground with wheels;
2. Have a seat or saddle;
3. Have no more than three wheels;
4. Have BOTH fully operative pedals for human propulsion AND an ELECTRIC motor; AND
5. That electric motor cannot have an output above 1,000 watts AND it cannot be capable of propelling the vehicle at a speed greater than 20 MPH on level ground.

Oregon State Parks have their own regulations on e-bike usage and currently they consider electric assisted cycles as motor vehicles. As such, e-bikes are not allowed to be ridden off roads in the parks.

At a recent meeting of the Rules Review Committee a comment was made that at some time in the future the committee might want to consider the use of e-bikes on Eagle Crest bike paths. In the discussion that followed it was clearly stated that the intention of that review would be to consider if we wanted to avoid the use of electric motorcycles on our bike paths amongst the walkers and cyclists. Electric motorcycles are becoming more common and are vehicles that have no pedals, have powerful motors and are easily capable of highway speeds.

E-bikes have brought incredible benefits of mobility to many people and no e-bike users should be concerned that any ban in Eagle Crest is planned.