

Grazing Committee Meeting Minutes
Sept. 27, 2023, 5:30 p.m. at the MOC

The meeting was called to order by Marty Pachelli, Chair. The committee member attendees were:

1. Marty Pachelli
2. Tim Nash
3. Carolyn Dillow Phillips
4. Charles (Tim) Story

Committee members unable to attend:

1. Jack Wiseman
2. Christa Perkinson
3. Donnie Perkinson
4. Tom Roelofs

Other attendees were:

1. Ken Dixon (Board Member/Observer)
2. Bill Nielsen (Board Member/Observer).

There was much discussion regarding the purpose of allowing cattle to graze SFTR. Main points captured were:

- 1) The advantages of allowing cattle on the ranch are:
 - a. Minimal forest mitigation (see 3 below for further explanation).
 - b. Clearing out the undergrowth for better regeneration of the grasses for wildlife.
- 2) The disadvantages of having cattle on the ranch are:
 - a. Overgrazing.
 - b. Spreading of noxious weed seeds via the cattle's "elimination" process.
 - c. Property damage caused by the cattle.
- 3) Marty has experience as both a wildland firefighter and as ranch manager. Residents need to understand that grazing cattle on the grasses represent a small percentage in overall mitigation efforts but will not keep a wildfire from entering the canyons and mountainous areas fueled by the junipers, bushes, trees and wind. Each SFTR resident must take responsibility for continued mitigation of their land to protect their habitat from forest fires. Do not depend on the cattle to mitigate your property!

A majority vote by those present was to allow cattle back on the ranch in 2024 with the following stipulations:

- 1) The Grazing Committee will present a Cattle Lease Agreement to the Board before their December 2023 meeting with the following restrictions:
 - a. A maximum of 40-60 animal units (AU) will be allowed from May 1 to August 31 (4 months) in 2024. Animal Units (AU) are defined to be:
 1. Cow/Calf Pair = 1 AU
 2. One Bull = 1 AU
 3. Yearling Steer/Heifer = 0.75 AU
 - b. The rate is \$15/AU per month. So, if 60 AU are brought in by the cattle rancher, this would equate to \$900/month.
 - c. The terms, durations, rent, payment schedule, and penalties for noncompliance of the lease will be strictly addressed in the Lease Agreement.
- 2) The Lease will be presented for the 2024 season only as the Grazing Committee would like to re-evaluate the conditions and the lease at the end of the 2024 season.
- 3) The Lease Terms are not negotiable. If SFTR is unable to obtain a Rancher who will abide by the Lease in 2024, then we'll continue to rest our SFTR land for another year.
- 4) The Grazing Committee will present a finalized Cattle Lease Agreement to the Board. We recommend that the Board get legal advice to finalize this lease agreement presented by the committee.

Finally, it is the desire of the Grazing Committee to protect the SFTR landowners with a restrictive Grazing Lease such that we all can enjoy the beauty of the land and wildlife while still protecting our investment by being good land stewards.