

TWG

Bill Persons

From: Bill Persons
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 1999 10:55 AM
To: 'wildland@infomagic.com'
Subject: RE: prospectus and changes to the memo

Kelly,
Got it, will photocopy, distribute to TWG, and see if TWG wishes to draft a letter, or if individual TWG members wish to send a letter of support.

Bill

Bill Persons
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-----Original Message-----

From: Kelly Burke [SMTP:wildland@infomagic.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 1999 10:46 AM
To: bill persons
Subject: prospectus and changes to the memo

Hi Bill,
Here's the best I can get you at this point. I did manage to talk to Frank Hays. His title is actually "Grand Canyon National Park Restoration Biologist.
Also he said to add 'pending NEPA and NHPA compliance' somewhere in the memo. I did put it in the prospectus so maybe that's enough. Just don't want everyone to wig out.
Please let me know if you have any other suggested changes.

thanks again,
Kelly << File: AWPf Lees Ferry Restoration.doc >>

LAST MINUTE
REQUEST FOR TWG
SUPPORT (Proposal due AUG 2).

BP

TWG 7/20/99

Date: July 20, 1999
To: Members of the Technical Work Group
From: Grand Canyon Wildlands Council and Grand Canyon National Park Revegetation Program
Subject: Proposal to Restore Native Vegetation at Lees Ferry and selected Colorado River tributaries in Grand Canyon National Park.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the attached brief prospectus for a proposal to:
1) analyze tamarisk distribution in lowermost Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Grand Canyon National Park; 2) synthesize tamarisk ecology in the Grand Canyon; 3) conduct a pilot project involving tamarisk removal and cottonwood/willow habitat restoration at Lees Ferry, Arizona, and 4) conduct a tamarisk removal project in selected tributaries downstream in Marble and Grand Canyons. This proposal is being submitted to the Arizona Water Protection Fund, which offers substantial funding for up to three years, for stream and riparian protection and restoration projects. By completing the pilot restoration at Lees Ferry and the control efforts in the tributaries, we hope to demonstrate the feasibility of recovery of willow/cottonwood stands at other sites within Grand Canyon National Park. This should ultimately benefit imperiled native species, such as the Southwestern willow flycatcher.

The AWPf proposal is due August 2nd. With such a nearby deadline, we are initially asking the TWG to consider drafting a letter of support. AWPf proposals stand a much better chance of succeeding if there is matching funding available. The matching funding can come in the form of actual funds allocated or in-kind services. The project at Lees Ferry will require soil moisture and pH testing, and depth to water table measurements. It will also include avian surveys, tamarisk removal, and planting of native stocks of Fremont cottonwood and Goodding willow. Contributions of employee or contractor time to any of these tasks can be considered an in-kind contribution from the Adaptive Management Program. In addition, we would like to submit a proposal to the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Program to help cover some of the costs of the planning and restoration efforts in Grand Canyon. A letter from the TWG in support of the project will be a significant help in getting this project funded. If the TWG can also include language indicating intent to consider in-kind services and/or willingness to have GCMRC review the proposal for potential funding, our AWPf proposal would be greatly benefitted.

Thanks again for discussing this proposal. We will be available to answer questions at the number listed below.

Kelly Burke, Director, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, (520) 556-9306
Frank Hays, Grand Canyon National Park Restoration Biologist

A PROPOSAL TO THE ARIZONA WATER PROTECTION FUND (AWPF) TO RESTORE NATIVE
VEGETATION AT LEES FERRY AND SELECTED COLORADO RIVER
TRIBUTARIES IN GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

We propose to conduct a native riparian restoration planning and pilot recovery project in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Grand Canyon National Park. This land is administered by the National Park Service and prior to the introduction of tamarisk (ca. 1929), Colorado River tributaries were free of tamarisk and the Lees Ferry area was dominated by cottonwood and Gooding willow, with riverside coyote willow. A series of historic photographs of the Lees Ferry area since the 1890's clearly demonstrates the change in dominance (e.g., Turner and Karpiscak 1980, Webb 1996).

Grand Canyon National Park has begun assessing the distribution of tamarisk seedlings and established tamarisk in perennial and ephemeral/intermittent tributaries throughout Grand Canyon. The AWPF proposal includes completing the assessment, compiling transect data, graphing and statistically analyzing the data, and prioritizing tributaries for tamarisk removal. In addition, information on tamarisk ecology in Grand Canyon will be synthesized. After prioritization, planning, and NEPA and NHPA compliance, the tamarisk removal phase of the project will be undertaken in selected tributaries using a Garlon™ capsule injection technique.

The pilot project at Lees Ferry will be a two-phase effort, also pending NEPA and NHPA compliance, to restore native cottonwood and willow vegetation in the vicinity of Lees Ferry and the mouth of the Paria River. Phase I of this project is to substantially reduce tamarisk cover on a ten acre area downstream from the Lees Ferry launch ramp by:

- in Year 1 - (1) removal of tamarisk using Garlon™ capsule injection, followed by control burning and Garlon™ treatment of new sprouts (2) establishing an irrigation system
- in Year 2 - (3) planting 200 rooted cottonwood poles and 200 Gooding willow saplings, which will be individually protected from beaver using cyclone fencing
- in Year 2-4 - (4) monitoring stem growth rates and avian use for 3 yr post-treatment, and improving site conditions and replacing plant mortalities.

Phase II of the pilot project will be to perform the same suite of activities on other individual stands of tamarisk if feasibility is shown. This includes prioritizing sites and proceeding after NEPA and NHPA compliance.

The estimated budget for this project is: tamarisk control (\$8k), irrigation (\$8k), tree purchase (\$9k), tree planting (\$5k), fencing (\$2k), P.I. salary (\$15k), travel for 3 yr (\$5k), monitoring and reporting (\$20k), maintenance (\$5k), overhead (5% = \$6k), river trips to remove tamarisk from 25-30 tribs (\$40,000). Total budget = \$124,000.

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Grand Canyon National Park have expressed strong support for this project. Grand Canyon National Park is a partner in the project. Partnership with Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is pending.

Kelly Burke, Director, Grand Canyon Wildlands Council
Frank Hays, Grand Canyon National Park Restoration Biologist