



Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda

January 9, 2020

10 a.m.

Location: SITLA Offices 6th Floor Boardroom
675 East 500 South, SLC UT 84102

1. Welcome

2. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- December 10, 2019

3. Confirmation of Upcoming Meeting Dates

New in 2020: 2nd Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

- February 13th (only if needed)
- March 12th Regular Meeting
- April 9th Regular Meeting
- May 13th – 14th Board Tour and Meeting
- June 11th Regular Meeting
- July 9th (only if needed)

4. County Advisory Committee, Utah Tribes, and Public Comment Period

5. Chair's Report

6. Advocate Report

- Justin Atwater, Director, Trust Lands Protection & Advocacy Office

7. Notification and Discussion Items

- a. Oil & Gas Division Overview
 - Wes Adams, Assistant Director, Oil & Gas
- b. Major Real Estate Projects Report
 - Rodger Mitchell, Assistant Director, Planning & Development
- c. Sell / Lease / Hold Strategy Discussion
 - Tim Donaldson, Assistant Director, Special Projects

8. Closed Session

Pursuant to Section 52-4-204(1)(e) strategy sessions to discuss the sale of real property.

9. Director's Report

- a. Notification of Current Events
 - Dave Ure, Director
- b. WRI Partnership Funding Request
 - Ron Torgerson, Deputy Assistant Director, Surface – Richfield

10. Adjourn

Items may be heard in any order, at any time, at the Board's discretion. Board members may participate in the meeting electronically.

Please be aware that the public portions of this meeting may be broadcast live over the Internet. Also, be aware that an audio recording of the public portions of this meeting, along with any materials presented or distributed in the public portions of this meeting, will be posted on Utah's public notice website. Witnesses with questions, concerns, or handouts should contact staff.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing auxiliary communicative aids and services for this meeting should contact Lisa Jones at 801-538-5110, or by email at lsjones@utah.gov, at least three (3) days in advance.

I, Lisa Jones, SITLA Board of Trustees' Executive Assistant, hereby certify the foregoing agenda was emailed to the Salt Lake Tribune, was posted on the Utah State Public Notice website, <http://pmn.utah.gov>, SITLA's website at <https://trustlands.utah.gov/>, and was posted at SITLA's Offices, 675 East 500 South, Suite 500, SLC, Utah 84102. *Posted and dated on the 26th day of December, 2019.*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 18, 2019

TO: SITLA Board of Trustees

FROM: Ron Torgerson, Deputy Assistant Director – Surface

SUBJECT: Request for Approval of 2019/2020 SITLA Fire Rehabilitation/Habitat Enhancement Expenditures – Stewardship Funding

BENEFICIARIES: Schools

Proposed Action:

SITLA requests the Board's approval of an expenditure of stewardship funds in the amount of \$357,497.00 to the State of Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative ("UWRI") program, which is managed by the Department of Natural Resources. We had a credit from last year's committed expenses in the amount of \$88,658.69 that will be applied to this year. Therefore, our total ask for this year with the credit applied will be \$268,838.31.

This expenditure will fund a portion of two specific UWRI fire rehabilitation projects, multiple rangeland improvement projects, and various stray horse removal projects on trust lands in fiscal year 2020 ("FY2020"). The fire rehabilitation projects focus on seeding areas burned by wildfires in 2019 to stabilize watersheds, decrease erosion and debris flows, increase forage for livestock, restore sage grouse and wildlife habitat, protect against noxious weed invasions, and reduce the threat of subsequent fires on these lands. The range improvement projects focus on improving rangelands to increase forage for livestock and wildlife by removing encroaching vegetation, seeding desirable forage species, increasing water availability, increasing forage availability, and overall creating healthy rangelands. The stray horse gathers will remove trespass horses from SITLA's rangelands.

The beneficiary of the trust lands involved in these projects is Schools. Therefore, it is recommended that stewardship funds attributed to this beneficiary be used accordingly for the expenditure.

Introduction:

The UWRI program receives funding from federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and sportsman groups to restore watersheds throughout Utah. The table below shows the total statewide acreage impacted by wildfire and the associated suppression costs for 2018 and 2019. 2018 was an exceptionally severe year for wildfires, while 2019 had a below average number of wildfires due to a heavy winter and wet spring. SITLA has provided \$200,000.00 each year for the past several years to UWRI to participate in rehabilitating trust lands burned by wildfires and to make sage grouse habitat improvements. However, in fiscal year 2019, SITLA committed \$800,000.00 towards these rehabilitation projects, due to the magnitude of lands impacted by wildfire, particularly on trust lands.

In addition, SITLA has been asked by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources ("UDWR") to participate in a working group for the Books Cliffs area in northeastern Utah that will focus in

part on addressing rangeland degradation issues. The proposed rangeland improvement projects and estray horse gathers that would be funded by this proposed expenditure of stewardship funds will help resolve some of these issues.

Year	Acres Burned	Utah Fire Cost	Federal Fire Cost
2018	485,989	\$35 Million	\$110 Million
2019	88,058	\$11 Million	\$29 Million

Background Information:

This past year there were 15 fires that burned on trust lands. Of these 15 fires, four will be reseeded through coordination and cooperation with UWRI. SITLA will only be asked to help fund two of the four projects. The UDWR will fund the other two projects through the UWRI due their importance for wildlife. The table below shows the total amount of acres burned on trust lands this past year and the rehabilitation costs attributed to those lands. In addition to fire rehabilitation, we are involved in many other projects throughout the state that target habitat improvement for livestock and wildlife. Part of the overall stewardship funding request includes funding for other projects involving sage grouse habitat restoration and estray horse gathering projects. As represented in the table below, SITLA's recommended expenditures towards these projects will be \$110,000.00.

Fire	SITLA Acres	SITLA Costs
Neck	1,953	\$202,057.00
Shelter Pass	1,075	\$45,440.00
Twin Peaks	34	
Needle	46	
Bald Mountain	94	
Goat Canyon	11	
Clay	23	
Goose Point	873	WRI Funded
Pelican	169	
South Timpie Springs	33	
Thompson Rest Area	2,792	
Bomb	40	
Russell	852	
Powerline Flat	28	
Paint Mine	510	WRI Funded
Totals	8,533	\$247,497.00
Water Projects - Bookcliffs		\$30,000.00
Fremont Plateau WRI Project	600	\$65,000.00
Estray Horse Gathers		\$15,000.00
Total Other Projects		\$110,000.00
TOTAL		\$357,497.00
2018 Credit		\$88,658.69
Total 2019/2020 Request		\$268,838.31

Conclusion:

Given the land stewardship responsibility of keeping trust lands productive and protected from negative natural resource consequences, the Trust believes that it is in the best interest of the affected beneficiaries to participate in meaningful ways, including financially, to assist ongoing efforts to rehabilitate wildland fires and improve habitat. Furthermore, the rehabilitation of a portion of this acreage will restore and enhance sage grouse habitat, which is important to preventing the sage grouse from being listed on the endangered species list and the associated negative impact to Trust revenues.

This funding request has been reviewed by the Board's Surface and Water Rights Committee with a favorable recommendation that the request be considered by the full Board of Trustees.

We respectfully request the Board's consideration and approval of this \$268,838.31 expenditure of stewardship funds to leverage help from UWRI to rehabilitate burned trust lands and improve sage grouse habitat throughout the state.