

Tushar Allotments Collaboration

Report submitted by John Heyneman, Manager, North Rim Ranch

Here is my recollection of changes/improvements of water distribution during the October 7-8 tour of the Tushar Allotments. Most of the definitive conversations took place during the first day.

Participants in two-day tour: John Heyneman, Wyatt Barnson (Ten Mile), Joe Yardley (Pine Creek), Doug Sorensen (USFS), John Keeler (UT Farm Bureau)

Pine Creek / Sulphurbeds

Sulphurbeds Pasture – All assembled agreed that the pasture was overused. We discussed the merits (and ownership questions) of accessing the nearby pipeline to provide stock water across the fence into the Cove Creek pasture. This would help mitigate livestock's desire to return to Sulphurbeds for water.

Cove Creek Pasture – Spent a fair amount of time discussing logistics and agreed on the importance of fencing out Dipping Vat spring and the downstream wetlands/riparian area and piping stock water into a drinking trough away from the wetlands/riparian.

Pine Creek Pasture – Aside from noting the difficulty of managing the riparian areas, we discussed potential of expanding the network of grazing exclosures, so that livestock had access to less of the creek. Discussed potential benefit of a volunteer effort to both create public goodwill and decrease expense.

Ten Mile

Price/Cougar Pasture – Briefly discussed opportunity to fence aspen grove at head of spring that runs by new corral. Further into the pasture, the riparian meadow was clearly over used, but we did not come to any obvious water manipulation solutions to the erosion and channeling taking place along the stream. We did discuss ways to mitigate overall grazing pressure throughout the allotment by changing cattle numbers and/or time of use.

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