

## 12Feb25 pasture walk notes

*I asked Joe to look at the pasture with me before the growing season starts, so that we can consider any rotation adjustments needed for the very dry winter well in advance. We met at the pasture on February 25. EBMUD is expecting us to put in the LSR fence (as explained in the AGP notes and rotation plan), so we looked at the plans for that and I asked him if we could have EBMUD help on the Pear Orchard crossfence as well, should the board decide to do it. I wrote these notes up – Heather will finish the negotiation with EBMUD.*

### 1. LSR fenceline & trough

Larryann will bring the waterline to our fence below Mrs. Long's house; EBMUD will continue the line about 20 ft into the open and plumb a trough with a float valve and cutoff. This will benefit Longs as well – Larryann will move their trough in line with ours; she has almost completed fencing their new section in the old dairy and is restoring the road between our shared fencecorner into the Dairy. Joe and I talked with Larryann today when we happened to meet.

Joe measured the new fenceline with his handy-dandy device – roughly 1000' – we will need to take out some coyote brush at the gate to widen the passage, and cut a fallen tree. The line will go just under the trees and make a small L to rejoin the barbed wire fence behind the pylon – we will include all the grassy areas.

\$1500 1000' fencing @ \$1.50/ft  
280 200' fence prep @ \$1.40/ft (cutting coyote brush & fallen oak)  
150 trough (galvanized trough like the one in the Beer Can)  
25 float valve  
20' PVC pipe  
20' galvanized pipe  
fittings

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Joe asked what we will call the new section, and I suggested "Lower Sullivan." I hope that meets with your approval.

Backup plan on the water trough is to move our Beer Can trough and float valve in, and do the water supply with a hose, if Larryann for some reason hasn't been able to get the plumbing done on her side.

If the plumbing is complete, I suggest we keep the Beer Can trough where it is now, and get an additional one for the LSR.

The plan is to rotate into the new section April 14/15, from the Middle Meadow.

(I will also work up an estimate of our costs for the fencing projects.)

## 2. Pear Orchard crossfence?

If we decide to do the new PO crossfence this year, EBMUD will buy the materials and we will do the labor. Joe agrees that gaining two weeks (or more) of additional rest for existing pastures would be significant and a smart thing to do – especially right at the end of the growing season.

## 3. Numbers on the pasture?

Joe says we should hold off on filling any more spaces – that is, not recruit more people or animals than we already have commitments to. *[I think the understanding is that there are about 5 open spaces belonging to current members, and that we are in the process of filling the last open membership – Heather has a better handle on this.]* He's prepared to work with us on trying to manage without herd reduction. If conditions are really severe, we would have to confine the herd and feed hay. One of EBMUD's cattle ranchers has been asked to pull their stock off. He says cattle ranchers are already in trouble in the valley and the foothills, and hay is very expensive. He is pleased, however, with the current condition of our pastures. With good management and some March rain we might be okay – especially if we add some time in the Pear Orchard. He would not make any projections about August/September.

4. Weed-whack hemlock on the west side of the pond, inside the fence – now and later in spring. (Joe is assigning this.)
5. I asked about Tule control to get better flow from the center of the pond to the outflow because it looks murky at a time of year when it is usually clear – he needs advice on this. The turtles did look cheerful.
6. Successes noted in the condition of both Pond and Plateau pastures re knocking back mustard, milk thistle, teasel and keeping good cover in many places that have been bare in the past. Joe exclaimed several times.
7. Middle Meadow could be improved upon, but there is a fair amount of grass and the SE part is pretty darn good.
8. Forest Meadow shows remarkable improvement in grass coming in where the hemlock used to be solid. I notice that the grass is already higher in the 4 days since I was here last – it's starting to take off. A few of the hemlock plants are starting to grow, and should be spot-treated (weed-eater & grass whip) – it's still too early to mow. Joe will ask Bert about when we will have permission for mowing from fish & game. There are some new mustard plants – ideally we would move in some hooved animals right now for a few days. Joe took pictures and is pleased with the progress after only 1 year of mowing. Our goal is to eradicate the hemlock in this pasture section. The mustard remains a concern.
9. We noted that the horses went up the slope in the Plateau farther than usual, in an area sort of below the burn that came over the ridge. Joe will work on getting

EBMUD to brush cut the coyote bushes in this area to work with the horses to further open it up.

#### 10. Capital Improvements for next year?

I asked Joe what projects would be left for next year, when we will have so many more potential dollars of lease credit available to us. He said there's no end of things we could do. One that he would like is to develop the spring in the (Upper) Sullivan. I agree that this would be beneficial. (Right now I wish we had it to draw the horses over there...)

Joe also supports interest in opening up trail between the lower pastures, the pear orchard and the back section of the old dairy. He says EBMUD could possibly bring in goats to clear brush.

#### FOLLOW-UP NOTES FOR JOE

1. ask Bert about how soon we can mow
2. give Erica the 1995 plant list
3. a couple pounds of grass seed for Neil's project in the Ring Pasture
4. brush cut the coyote bushes in the Plateau
5. advisability of tule control in pond to improve circulation
6. OHA provide completed figures for Lower Sullivan fence & water

-- Erica