

# SPBRT/MRT Environmental and Recreation Meeting Summary

11/30/22

3:00-4:00 PM

## **Attendees:**

David Nickum, Larry Rogstad, Kirk Vincent, Robin Knox, Diane Kielty

## **Agenda Topics:** Gravel Pond Conversions

### **3:00 – Introductions**

There were no requested changes to the agenda.

#### 1. Presentation on gravel ponds/conversion and implications for riparian habitat – Larry Rogstad

Low elevation, below 5,000 feet, Cottonwood Willow riparian habitat is most susceptible to conversion by human activities. When willow habitats are gone there is no place for them to be. Showed aerials of gravel pit accumulation along the St. Vrain in the vicinity of the confluence with Boulder and Illinois Creek, the South Platte River from Platteville to Brighton, and other locations. Reviewed impacts on the environment. This is a complex issue with many agencies involved.

Next actions were discussed.

- Survey current extent of gravel ponds
  - % of lined vs unlined ponds
- Gravel reserves – indicating future mining activity
- Literature research on similar studies and projects
- Survey of potential fishery management options benefitting sport fish, nongame, and T&E management
- Review of dry up covenants/statutory mandates that may be detrimental to BMPs
- Develop BMPs to minimize riparian habitat loss and mitigate land use activities
- How to incentivize gravel pond conversions

First step is to determine if this is something worth pursuing in the South Platte Basin.

1. Reach out to academic institutions requesting a student project (lead could be a local municipality or county) to conduct a survey in the SPB determining the extent of gravel ponds and locating similar studies and projects complete or underway.
  - a. This may involve applying for a small WSRF research grant.
2. Go to the Gravel/Aggregate Industry Association to present the idea.
  - a. Do they have an annual conference? Yes
    1. What are the obstacles to implementing this type of restoration?

#### 3. New business

- Reach out to Westervelt requesting a tour of Big Thompson project site tour in the spring. The Poudre Learning Center could host the start of meeting prior to the tour.
- The December meeting is cancelled. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## **4:11 pm - Adjourn**