

“Kiskatinaw Ecological Society holds Successful AGM on August 1st followed by another enjoyable Memorial Trail Ride for Mark E Nimitz in the Scenic Kiskatinaw River Valley”



A group of Kiskatinaw Ecological Society AGM attendees. Directors for 2015 are: Sandra Burton, Farmington; Bob Nielsen, Standard, Alberta; Kimberly Nielsen, Medicine Hat, Alberta; Laura Nielsen, Edmonton; Joanne, Ernest and Michael Nimitz, Sunrise Valley; Alexandra Ratzke, Sunrise Valley. Society Ex Officio Directors for the coming year are Rachel Bunnett, Sunrise Valley; Fred Burres, Farmington; Pat Gerlinsky, Pouce Coupe; Glenn Hogberg (Peace River Forage Association of BC), Progress.

The Society’s Working Group Activities

For the past year the working group have been pursuing several projects. The Peace River Forage Association of BC has taken an interest in some of these projects; and, most specifically measuring and monitoring the soil and water management and forage production of the **23 pasture grazing cell** setup on 473 acres (Day Place) for the yearling heifer herd at Kiskatinaw River Ranch during the spring, summer and fall growing and breeding season. A portable solar wagon provides the water from three locations. This grazing call also includes 10 Ranch Maxi Ecosites. Intensive management and controlled grazing is utilized whereby a large cattle herd is moved rapidly thru small pastures. A field day/workshop which was a great success was held in early June at the center of the grazing cell.

Members of the working group are: Sandra Burton, Fred Burres, Connor Dixon, Calgary, Glenn Hogberg, Michael Nimitz, Ernest Nimitz and Julie Robinson, Tower Lake.

Other working group projects (all at the Kiskatinaw River Ranch Currently):

Canada Thistle eating weevils Curently Canada Thistle is controlled and eradicated by mechanical means (Schulte 15 foot rotary mower, Stihl power slashers, hand held weed slasher and periodic cattle and horse grazing. No herbicides! Thistle eating weevils were not available this September due to forest fires and rivers flooding in Montana. Hence, 2016 September we expect to get our first weevils to chew up our Canada Thistle!

Dead Dawg Coulee Rehab. A lot remains to be done here. At this stage this is being done in small increments annually; and is likely to remain thus. Grazing on the RME enclosure of 8 acres was conducted in June for a few days (for the first time in years) to reduce fire hazard and provide beneficial herd effect to both vegetation and soil.



Ranch Maxi Ecosites so named because they usually include a water hole, asymmetrical shape high tensile electric fence and require maximum management to utilize properly. This concept provides additional habitat for small and medium size mammals, birds, soil organisms, insects, spiders, amphibians and vegetation at really no additional cost while still at the same time providing healthy livestock water. In 2014 we had 30 of these RME, identified and in use thru July 31st 16 more RME sites have been identified and some completed. The RME concept allows us to make use of small dugouts for a long period of time and provide useful habitat too at a very economical cost.

Folks fresh from attending the AGM of the Kiskatinaw Ecological Society crossing the Kiskatinaw River at speed during the memorial Trail Ride for Mark E. Nimitz