

McPolin EcoPartners 2021 Work Plan

Overview

This year's work plan for McPolin will focus on further improving irrigation throughout the established grazing paddocks, ensuring the flow of water to Richards field through the established irrigation ditch, tree planting and deadfall thinning along the Millennium Trail, upgrading/removing derelict wire fences, and mulching fences with wood chips. Partners will also obtain/construct mobile kiosks that can store equipment and house signage to communicate the project to the public, particularly along the trail where construction of retention ponds and irrigation will be highly visible and draw public inquiry.

This plan is a living document and is subject to external pressures that may change it, including weather, funding, staffing, organization changes, etc.

Irrigation Improvements

Three larger seeps in the grazing paddocks just downhill of the Millennium Trail will be converted into ponds that retain water for irrigation. These ponds will be ~3 ft deep and contain 6" irrigation piping that will move water from the pond laterally along the hillside. The pipes contain small sliding gates every 2 feet to allow downhill flow throughout the paddocks (see map for approximate locations). Ponds will remain open for wildlife to utilize throughout the year. One smaller seep closer to the barn will be fenced off from cattle and seeded to establish a healthy riparian area.



Example of a seep retention pond and associated irrigation piping

Coordination with DWR Property Management

There are a few activities happening on the DWR property that have implications for the McPolin project. The wire fence between the DWR property and Richards field will be replaced with 16 ft panels to prevent cattle from accessing McLeod Creek and reduce wildlife impacts from the old barbed wire. The new fence will follow the exact footprint of the old fence. The wire fence between DWR property and the low riparian area on the SE portion of the property will be removed and not replaced. In the summer, the DWR and Wild Utah Project plan to install beaver dam analogs along McLeod Creek to improve aquatic habitat.

Tree Planting and Wood Chip/Windrows

Trees will be planted along the Millennium Trail in the north end of the property. This may occur on the McPolin or Ivers property. Wood chips will be dispersed along fence lines to prevent weed growth. Wood chips are generally deposited on the Ivers property, but it is space-limited. This will necessitate wood chips to be deposited and temporarily stored during the summer on the City property adjacent to the McPolin Barn access road.

Deadfall Removal

Deadfall throughout the aspen groves that border the grazing paddocks represents a fire hazard. While standing dead trees will be left for wildlife to utilize, fallen trees and branches will be removed to prevent catastrophic wildfire risk.

Richards Irrigation Ditch

The ditch that provides water to Richards field is integral for feed production. To guarantee flow, the diversion on McLeod Creek needs to be improved with a modern weir that measures discharge. Water rights for this diversion need to be explicitly delineated through a water attorney to prevent conflict with other water users in the basin.



McLeod Creek/Richards ditch diversion

Information Kiosks

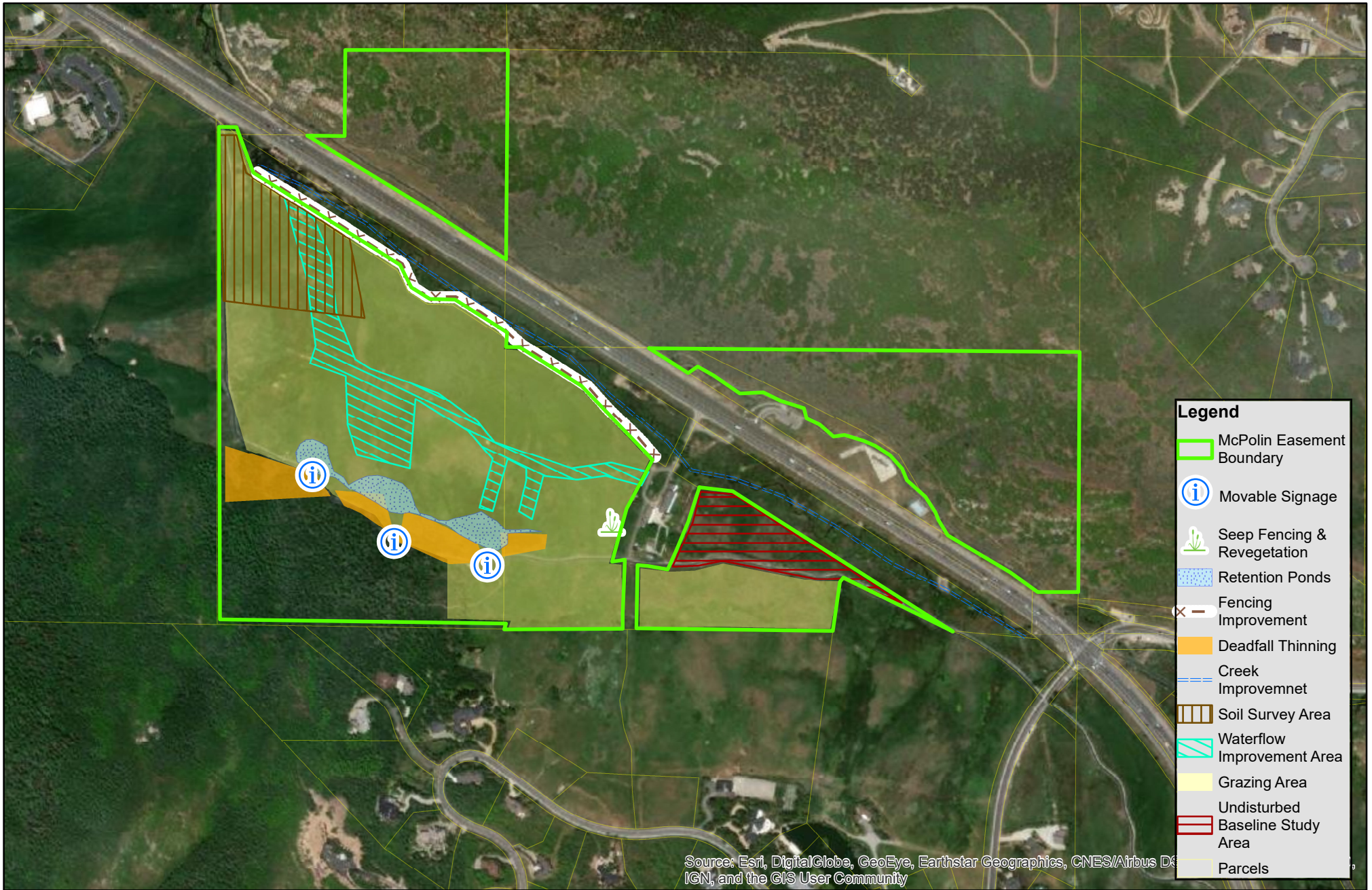
The visibility of the project will necessitate kiosks to inform the public on the purpose and progress of this project. BWF will obtain/construct these kiosks (with added equipment storage for their operations) and SLC will develop the signs and information to be contained in the kiosks for public view.

Agricultural Operations










Cattle will graze the paddocks above the irrigation ditch with a targeted approach (high intensity, fast rotation) using hot wires, similar to previous summers. Richards Field will be planted at the end of May using a no-till drill to minimize soil disturbance. Once it is cut in mid-July, cattle will be moved onto the field to graze the remaining forage before a second crop can be harvested.

Timeline and Budget

	May	June	July	August	September	Cost
DWR-Richards Fencing Upgrade		BWF, DWR	BWF, DWR			
Diversion Weir Upgrade	BWF, PC	BWF, PC				
Seep Retention Ponds	BWF	BWF				
Flood Irrigation Pipes from Retention Ponds	BWF	BWF	BWF			
Deadfall Clean-up	BWF	BWF	BWF	BWF	BWF	
Wood Chips	BWF	BWF	BWF	BWF	BWF	
Grazing	BWF	BWF	BWF	BWF	BWF	
Richards Field - Planting/Cutting	BWF		BWF		BWF	
Information kiosks - content	SLC	SLC				
Information kiosks - construction	BWF	BWF				

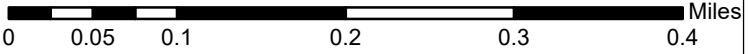


Legend

-  McPolin Easement Boundary
-  Movable Signage
-  Seep Fencing & Revegetation
-  Retention Ponds
-  Fencing Improvement
-  Deadfall Thinning
-  Creek Improvement
-  Soil Survey Area
-  Waterflow Improvement Area
-  Grazing Area
-  Undisturbed Area
-  Baseline Study Area
-  Parcels

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, IGN, and the GIS User Community

McPolin Grazing Management Map 2021



Cartographer: Brett Denney, Land Protection Specialist, Summit Land Conservancy.
Date: 5/13/2021

