



Stewardship Report Plateau Mountain Ecological Reserve

Date: August 12, 2023

Time: 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Objective of visit: Observe as much of the area as possible looking for issues of interest of a natural and human nature. The comments below are intended to build on the report of July 11, 2021.

Observers: C.Saunders, D.Earl, S.McLean, G.Hoyn, B.Cline, J.Saunders, L.Jamniczky

Description of route and activities: The group arrived at the secondary gate (the boundary of the reserve) at 11:00 AM. We cycled along the road from the second gate to about halfway to the top of the ridge with a number of stops for short walks off the road, as follows:

- South from first sharp bend (to the left). We walked south to the lip of the Dry Creek canyon.
- North from second sharp bend (to the right). We walked north to the lip of a large canyon

We cycled about 600 metres up the hill from the second bend. We left the bikes at this place and walked up the road to the top after a brief offroad detour.

On reaching the top of the plateau we walked north along the old exploration road. After about 1 kilometre we walked east to the lip of the canyon.

We returned the same way.

Observations of recent human use and any inappropriate activities:

Nothing material noted.

With one exception, we noted no evidence of human-caused landscape erosion off the road. The exception is a badly eroding trail on the south-facing slope, going to the top of the plateau from the Dry Creek well site. The slope here is far too steep for a trail. In general, the landscape, other than road, looks pristine.

At the second bend, 50 metres off the road to the north, there are the remnants of some disused equipment. This material should likely be removed. We did not attempt to do this.

We picked up enough litter to fill a single bag, most of this was found adjacent to the road in the vicinity of where we parked our bikes. Because it was by the side of the road it appears that this litter arose because garbage was thrown from a vehicle travelling along the road. However, although it is not possible to guess how long ago this occurred, it was likely more than 10 years ago.

Observations of plants and animals:

- No large mammals were seen. Pika and chipmunks were seen.
- A number of birds were seen including American Pipit and American Kestrel





- Vegetation – Plants continue to grow on the north road and look denser than those seen on the 2021 visit. Thus, natural reclamation is proceeding slowly. A few endangered whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) were seen as we detoured from the road near the lip of Dry Creek canyon (Figure 1).



Figure 1. At least three whitebark pine, one of which is dead, in a group of trees.

