

Topic: Recreation Forum meeting

Time: April 22, 2020 03:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Time	Agenda Item	Desired Outcomes
3:20	Join ZOOM	Join early if possible, so we can troubleshoot any tech issues people may have
3:30 pm	Roll Call	Set expectations and clear goals for teleconference meeting
3:45pm	Purpose Statement	Review draft purpose statements and adopt final version
4:15pm	Charter work	Final review of edited document  Last chance to submit edits – Susan will call on members via roll for additions
4:45pm	COVID-19 update	Update from land managers around campground/facilities closures, enforcement issues, and messages to groups
5:00pm	Land Re-opening Needs	What can the Rec Forum provide to help meet challenges of reopening lands?
5:30	Adjourn	

## Notes:

### Purpose statement edits:

- “Implement recreation projects” is a little vague. Ask land managers if this is specific enough or if we need to rephrase somehow to get at what people will actually be doing
- second sentence suggestion... We assist public land managers to enhance ...
- Is this group one that implements projects? Can we say ‘facilitate implementation of’ projects instead?
  - “By working with public land owners, we assist with...”
- “Offer guidance as users of the resource”
- Swap “outreach” for “messaging”
- champion, facilitate, support
- “By working with public land managers and one another,”
- “Facing LANDS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC”, not just public lands

### Charter edits:

- Made to the document live
- Go through and make sure ‘Operations Plan’ is consistent throughout document. Is singular in some spots, and also called ‘Operations Manual’
- Adjust the bullets on Full Group.
- Question whether we should shift ‘user groups’ term toward ‘recreation enthusiasts’. Do we need to align with land manager terminology?

### Land manager updates:

- DNR
  - Governor’s office wants the three state agencies to be coordinated on reopening (DNR, DFW, State Parks)
  - Phased reopening is likeliest approach
    - Begin with dispersed sites, then trails, then camping (because campsites are a group activity, higher risk of contagion, and keeping hard services clean is difficult with staffing levels)
  - Working on safety protocols for volunteers
    - Asking partners to develop COVID prevention plans and submit them to DNR for approval
  - PPE is limited for staff as-is, volunteers would need to supply their own
  - Likely a great deal of flexibility within the region to synch reopening schedules up with adjacent landowners
    - Helps make sure pressure isn’t being concentrated in the first places to open up
- WDFW
  - Working with other state agencies to coordinate reopening of lands
  - Assumption that May 4 will be when stay at home order relaxed
  - WDFW lands are mostly undeveloped – minimal facilities and infrastructure
  - Discussions around how to safely roll back/open up fishing and hunting seasons
  - Needs:
    - Sign removal
    - Unlocking gates

- Water access sites, which tend to have restroom facilities, will need sanitation. Limited PPE makes this difficult, so vault toilets may be closed.
  - Address dumpsites and trash pickup
- BLM
  - Developed sites closed
  - Trails and trailheads are open
  - Yak canyon sites have seen (mostly) respected closures
  - A lot of use in undeveloped areas, people discovering places they haven't typically gone before
  - Developing a cleaning plan for toilets and hard-surface facilities
  - Cleaning dispersed sites after May 4 reopening date
- USFS
  - Hoping for guidance this week on reopening dates – May 4 deadline is state, but USFS hopes they can align with it
  - Determining the workload will come down to Michelle Capp prioritizing sites
  - Has contracts for cleaning, but contractor is only in 2xweek, so USFS staff will have to supplement
  - Working with Friends of Trails (westside) for largescale dump cleanups
  - PPE is going to be a concern for staff and volunteers
  - Largest campgrounds are under concessionaire, so that's a big infrastructure lift off USFS district. They will get to work once SAH order lifts
- Greenway
  - Field crews on standby
  - All staff hours reduced
  - Stronger focus on communication and advocacy, encouraging the Governor's office to permit fieldwork as an essential activity
- TNC
  - Some reports of tree removals on TNC managed lands
  - Locals are reporting and GPS documenting illegal recreation, theft, vandalism, etc
  - Plan to coordinate with land manager neighbors on reopening dates

#### WHERE TO START?

- DNR
  - Green Dot Roads
- USFS
  - Trail maintenance will be a big priority once this lifts. The most popular trailheads are likely to be hit hard
    - Logging out
      - Teanaway
      - Taneum
      - Beneficial areas because the boundaires for these trails are shared with other agencies
  - Developed Rec
    - Gold Creek
    - Taneum Junction
    - Manastash
    - Areas that melt out earlier and have high OHV use

- BLM
  - Staff likely to come on around May 10/11 to deal with Yakima Canyon sites
    - Big Pines
  - Liberty (shared with USFS) is also a big need, because they do not have dedicated staff for this one
    - BLM can do sanitizing of bathrooms, but needs help with prep

Action Items:

- Nicky to send out updated Purpose Statement and Charter. Return further edits by April 30. Silence is assent!
- Select projects from the Rec Reopening spreadsheet.
  - Note down where/what your org would like to work on by APRIL 30
  - Nicky will share with LMC, who will keep us apprised of reopening and volunteer safety guideline development
- Nicky will also continue to work with landowners to PRIORITIZE sites so we can throw delayed volunteer crews at them immediately. Notify the Rec Forum as soon as possible!

As ECRP participants propose to step up on areas, they 'adopt' those areas temporarily. That way volunteers can be present from the start of reopening.