

Topic: Recreation Forum meeting

Time: July 28, 3:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Time	Agenda Item	Desired Outcomes
3:00	Join ZOOM and Roll Call Approval of June notes	Set expectations and clear goals for teleconference meeting. Join a little early if possible, so we can troubleshoot any tech issues people may have
3:15pm	Updates on Projects discussed at prior meeting	French Cabin Creek – July 29 Five Fingers Kachess Campground Establishing a regular agenda item for updates from subgroups
3:45	Discussion: Volunteer engagement and sign ups	Steps to utilizing Volgistics. Options to explore in the meantime (website updates, newsletter)
4:05	Fire restriction updates	Land managers on current burn bans
4:15	General updates from land managers	Land managers on current activities, meetings, COVID status, etc Q&A between RF and LMC GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT!
4:30	Adjourn	

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/842158553?pwd=a1VwS3dyaUesySk1pc3hhS2cyMDJ4QT09>

Meeting ID: 842 158 553

Password: 848859

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,842158553#,,#848859# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,842158553#,,#848859# US (Houston)

NOTES:

Attendance: Karen Behm, Kristin Ashley, Wayne Mohler, Darcy Batura, Doug Kilgore, Eva Tyler, Ken Austin, Ted Jackson, Brian Speeg, Deb Essman, Ellie Belew, Erica Taecker, Larry Leach, Michelle Capp, Nancy Lillquist, Madison Ford, Nicky Pasi, Susan Thomas, Gene Reed

- Approval of Notes
 - Edits or clarifications:
 - Ellie – a lot of acronyms, ask to move away from those in future note taking
 - Clarification that LEO – ‘Law Enforcement Officer’
 - Wayne – Was there some discussion of trails designations in Cle Elum valley?
Not captured in the minutes, if so
 - This may have been an aside connected to French Cabin Creek use overview. Michelle clarifies that the Cle Elum River and its tributaries are being pursued for Wild and Scenic River designation through the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan
 - In the event of designation, a management plan would be developed to protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values of that river corridor. Has to be established with community input
 - Not yet immediate though
 - ^^^ these will be added to the June notes for distribution through the website
- Review of projects discussed at previous meeting
 - French Cabin Creek
 - Area in need of attention, lots of dispersed camping impacts
 - Creation of a subgroup: Doug Kilgore, Kevin Clements, Karen Behm
 - New addition: Eva Tyler
 - Group to meet Wednesday July 29 for site visit
 - Will be joined by Jamey Basye, NEPA coordinator
 - Group will review:
 - The use under COVID19
 - Avenues to engage on the ground
 - Delivering Leave No Trace/fire control/sanitation messaging
 - Hopes for the team:
 - Come up with a model for the area that could be applied in other high use areas in Kittitas County
 - Rec Forum members to organize other groups and volunteers
 - Questions:
 - Is it the long term thought to continue utilizing the area for dispersed camping? There’s such density it almost does not count as ‘dispersed’ instead of looking at directly developing it!
 - Michelle: yes, the area’s capacity is exceeded. With all the investments in the Cle Elum reservoir and potential Wild and Scenic designation, the adjacent riparian area needs to be in good working order
 - Ideally develop a ‘state park like’ area, limit vehicular use to campsites, provide restrooms etc
 - This vision has NOT YET BEEN VETTED by public, just pie in the sky at the district office – need to focus on keeping people and the environment safe under the use the area is currently seeing
 - Is this group more organization/education, or physical labor work?

- Both are needed
- Five Fingers
 - This team: Kevin Clements, Deb Essman, Brian Peterson, Gene Reed
 - Add Ted Jackson (see below)
 - Date to meet with Mikki Douglas at the site:
 - Kevin and Mikki checked it out on July 20
 - Work needed
 - Watershed protection to address flow issues in the valley
 - Want to create a technically difficult hillclimb for Jeepers that addresses the erosion/silt issues
 - Develop those standards of technical difficulty
 - Determine who it is being developed for
 - Jeepers displaced from other parts of the forest
 - Develop resources and funding to hire trail designer
 - Next steps here:
 - Link Mikki with the identified Rec Forum members – Nicky to set up
 - Keep Michelle linked with them
 - Suggestion from Ted that this group set up a Zoom to discuss funding
 - Ted is involved with RCO, aware of funding shortfalls through NOVA and other RCO programs this year. That information is valuable here. – Nicky and Michelle will help set up post-site visit
- Kachess Campground
 - Did not end up happening – two folks signed up, but ended up not being able to attend. USFS staff has taken on picnic table work
- Rachel Lake:
 - BCHW may be working on this in September with Angela McPhee. Right now there's so much use on the trail that it's not possible to brush it! Have to wait for the season to end
 - USFS also working with BCHW on Table Mountain – August/September
- Ruffled Grouse society and some Kittitas Field and Stream members worked on removing old barbed wire fencing from the LT Murray
 - Deb has some photos and will send to Nicky for FB distribution
- WTA has a few multi-day maintenance trips on the CE Ranger District coming up in August. Currently celebrating WA Trails Day on August 1, running a digital campaign featuring community voices about why we need trails.
 - Check WTA Instagram for details and submission guidelines
 - Continue to support #RecreateResponsibly
- Volunteering
 - Steps to utilizing Volgistics
 - Who is in charge of the volunteers once we get events set up?
 - The individual land managers
 - Would need a standardized volunteer agreement

- Land managers can “figure out how to push the info from this program to the agency, we can use it as the sign up to cover the volunteers under our L&I”
 - How to coordinate?
 - Establish point people who are authorized to set up sites and events in Volgistics
 - The system allows a sliding number of operators who can do this (ex: Nicky, Brian Speeg, Diane Priebe, etc) so it isn’t all on one person
 - What about geospatial tagging?
 - Susan and Michelle will check in with Mount Baker Snoqualmie/Wenatchee, who have been looking into something like that. Not currently a part of Volgistics, though
 - Liability concerns?
 - Doug - Some legal advice would be helpful here-especially with respect to learning how various entities liability insurance do or do not dovetail. Liability insurance is cheap until the day you make a claim.
 - We need to tally which groups have liability insurance and which do not
 - Nicky to gather via email
 - Options to explore while Volgistics is under construction (website updates, newsletter)
 - Ellie has suggested setting up a listserv – she has done research into some options. Ellie and Nicky to discuss on the side to present at August Meeting
 - Sounds like we need an offline team to discuss information distribution. Names?
 - Ellie, Karen, Nicky, Kristin
- Land Managers Updates:
 - Fire Restrictions:
 - Commissioner of Public Lands has set annual burn ban in place for all DNR, DFW, state parks, and private properties (ie all non federal lands)
 - No campfires as of today (July 28)
 - Larry – there are a lot of first time users visiting the forest this summer, who may not understand restrictions. Encourage us to approach people with fires and gently educate them, as the forecast is hot, dry, windy, and has heat lightning
 - Deb – can we get some information to distribute? Guidance on how to approach people? Groups can distribute that through their FB pages and newsletters
 - DNR:
 - Recent win at Manastash Ridge trail! Wooden plank canal crossing has been replaced with a big culvert. Huge safety improvement
 - Signed a master agreement with EMBA, followed by work on Cookie Cutter trail system
 - BLM:
 - Erica Taecker, Assistant Field Manager at BLM in Wenatchee (previously with USFS in Gifford Pinchot National Forest)
 - Also responsible for fire response on Bureau of Reclamation lands (ie all the federally managed and maintained canals and reservoirs)
 - TNC

- 63 contracts moving forward statewide for forest health projects!
 - Will be ongoing mastication work on Cle Elum Ridge in the Ewok/Fourth of July area – about 130 acres
 - USFS
 - Michelle trying to set up a Town Hall Meeting to introduce the USFS employees, volunteers, etc, to ask for support as CE Ranger District tries to manage increased COVID recreation impacts
 - Establishing a fee-use area at Speelyi Beach
 - So crowded now that emergency vehicles cannot get in if needed
 - USFS wants to establish a system where locals get a \$10 fee per year, and out-of-town zipcodes pay per-day or higher per-year pass cost
 - Chew on for now, discuss at later meeting!
 - GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT was passed by Senate and House, awaiting presidential signature
 - Will fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund
 - Big focus on funding federal agencies to address deferred maintenance backlog
 - The Land Managers Consortium members have priority lists that should be able to quickly take advantage of this funding if/when it becomes available
 - TNC is looking at how this funding may affect management and protection of their Checkerboard lands.
- Other:
 - Karen – when visiting the website, she is warned that it is ‘not secure’
 - Nicky to look into the backend of the website to see what’s up with that and take steps to improve security
 - Ted – a little concerned that there’s no travel management plan in place for OkaWen National Forest. There’s a lot of abuse and lack of enforcement (as there is no rule to enforce). Discussion for next meeting?
 - Wayne – can we discuss how the LWCF authorization and funding will be affected by attempts to scale down offshore drilling