

East Cascades Recreation Partnership: Operations Plan

10/22/2020

<http://eastcascadesrecpartnership.org>

Purpose

ECRP

The East Cascades Recreation Partnership (ECRP) represents Kittitas County's motorized and non-motorized recreation enthusiasts and managers of lands open to public recreation to engage, coordinate, educate, and collaborate with each other and to develop, support, fund, and implement recreation projects across all lands open to the public in Kittitas County.

Rec Forum

The Kittitas Recreation Forum brings together representatives from our county's outdoor enthusiast communities to seek collaborative solutions to recreational issues facing lands open to the public. By working with public land managers and one another, we assist with access opportunities and recreation needs, facilitate implementation of projects, and champion education and outreach efforts in a manner that sustains the health and resilience of our natural resources.

Organization Structure

The ECRP is comprised of a Recreation Forum and Land Management Consortium.

The Recreation Forum actively seeks to involve representatives of all outdoor recreation in the County, including but not limited to:

- Boating
- Camping
- Cycling
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding

- Hunting
- Motorized Recreation (Winter and Summer)
- Non-Motorized Winter Recreation
- Outdoor Recreation Businesses
- Outfitter/Guides
- Traditional Uses

The Land Management Consortium actively involves a representative from each of the major land managers in Kittitas County;

- Kittitas County
- The Nature Conservancy
- US Bureau of Land Management
- USFS Cle Elum Ranger District
- WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
- WA Department of Natural Resources
- Washington State Parks
- Yakama Nation

Roles

Recreation Forum

We recognize that not all of these roles will be needed at the outset, or may shift as the group narrows down their purpose.

A) Full Group

The full ECRP Recreation Forum includes members who have signed onto the charter, and their appointed alternates. Their responsibilities include participation in meetings and committees, overall collaborative decision-making, and defining strategic priorities. Members regularly participate in forum meetings and are well informed of discussion topics. Members will:

- Sign the ECRP Recreation Forum Charter
- Agree to operate under the guidelines outlined in this Operations Plan
- Actively participate in decision making
- Be well informed of ECRP's activities.

- Provide input from each individual's constituency.
- Report back to their respective constituencies.
- Provide ideas or initiatives.
- Provide technical resources.
- Work towards common ground.
- Communicate with each other regularly.
- Voice concerns respectfully and appropriately.
- Provide local knowledge.
- Participate in selecting new members when needed.
- Maintain proactive communication with the Land Managers.

The general public are welcome to attend ECRP Recreation Forum meetings, but we ask that new participants:

- Listen.
- Share experience or expertise.
- Participate respectfully and appropriately.
- Make efforts to be informed of the ECRP's previous actions and discussion.
- Identify themselves and their interests in the ECRP.

B) Project Committees

The project committees will focus on projects approved by the full group and will provide updates of progress regularly. They may focus on initiatives such as volunteer engagement, specific trail maintenance work, outreach and advocacy, etc, and will form with the consensus of the full group. Project committees will strive to have a diversity of members participate. These committees may include non-Rec Forum members with applicable expertise, but at least one member must be involved and present at each meeting.

Land Management Consortium

The Land Manager Consortium will continue to represent each of the major land owners and managers. They will consider the recommendations of the Recreation Forum in their decision making process, and fully utilize the communication potential of the Full Group. Members will:

- Sign the ECRP Land Manager Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Agree to operate under the guidelines outlined in this Operation Plan
- Each major land manager in Kittitas County provides a non-voting primary and secondary staff member that represents their agency.

- Provides open communication and learning with the Recreation Forum.
- Attend Recreation Forum meetings in an advisory capacity
- Accept quarterly report outs from an appointed Recreation Forum member.
- Actively engage the Recreation Forum in recreation planning processes.
- Actively engage with other agencies to coordinate recreation planning and projects.

Guiding Principles

The work of the ECRP is guided by the following principles:

- **Access for all.**
 - The ECRP works to further sustainable recreation opportunities for everyone who seeks an outdoor experience.
- **Watershed health and resilience.**
 - The ECRP promotes sustainable recreation opportunities that maintain and enhance watershed health and resilience, recognizing that a healthy watershed supports thriving communities.
- **Connectivity.**
 - The ECRP works to ensure connectivity of recreational experiences across the landscape.
 - The ECRP promotes connectivity of landscape itself
- **Driver.**
 - The ECRP seeks to be a driver of community dialogue and conversation across communities in and surrounding Kittitas County.
- **Shared stewardship.**
 - The ECRP embraces the power of citizen engagement and involvement in managing and stewarding our public lands and recreational experiences.
- **Heritage and cultural identity.**
 - The ECRP acknowledges the importance of traditional access, resource uses and cultural practices, as well as historic ties with the landscape that sustain and define regional identity and connection to the region.

Communication

Discussion Guidelines

- Listen actively
- Be curious: suspend judgment and consider others' perspectives and ideas. Keep an open

mind.

- Be present and engaged: silence phone.
- Focus on finding solutions: concentrate on interests, not positions.
- Be civil. OK to critique ideas, not individuals.
- Stay on topic and follow the agenda.
- Respect time limits.
- Accept ambiguity at times.
- Add a little humor when appropriate.

Record Keeping

- Meeting notes will be taken at each meeting and shared with members who are on the listserv.
 - The Co-facilitator will take the notes, which will be approved by a Recreation Forum member before distribution to the full group
- Meeting notes from the prior meeting will be reviewed at the beginning of the next meeting and any issues (clarifications) or errors will be discussed and approved.
- Meetings may be electronically recorded.

Decision Making

- **When considering a proposed action:** an action may be proposed by a Recreation Forum charter member (or approved alternate). Discussion will follow, with the facilitator reiterating amendments and alterations to the original proposed action as needed. Meeting participants will be asked to indicate their final support by show of hand or verbal confirmation.
- The goal of the ECRP Recreation Forum is to reach consensus. If consensus is not reached, the forum will make decisions by modified consensus. Modified consensus is defined as decisions that all parties can support, or at a minimum, agree to live with. If the members are unable to reach consensus, areas of agreement and disagreement will be recorded in writing.
- Each member has the ability to disagree with elements of decisions as they are being developed, but must offer a constructive alternative that seeks to meet the needs of all participants involved. We will continue to use constructive input to reach a consensus that all can live with.
- If an individual is not able to support the decision in public, then we will ask:
 - What will it take to gain your support?
 - What can we expect from you in public?

- Is there a way to modify the proposal to gain consensus?
- Will you actively work against the decision or acquiesce to the decision of the group?

● Because consensus is the decision making goal, the Recreation Forum does not require a quorum. Rather, the consensus or modified consensus of those members present at any given meeting is sufficient to reach an outcome. Members are responsible for their own attendance, or that of an alternate, to ensure their perspective is adequately represented.

Meetings

- As a general rule, ECRP meetings will be scheduled monthly.
 - 3rd Tuesday of the month, 3:00- 5:00pm
- Meetings will be announced via email and available on the ECRP websites. Please note that, during COVID, meetings occur via ZOOM as opposed to in person.
 - <http://eastcascadesrecpartnership.org/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/EastCascadesRecreationPartnership/>
- Meeting agendas will be sent approximately one week prior to the meeting to allow for group input and suggestions.

ECRP Recreation Forum Member Charter

7/28/2020

I have read and understand the Operations Manual for the East Cascade Recreation Partnership (ECRP) and agree to adhere to the parameters set forth in it. Further, I agree to work with other members of the forum and Land Manager Consortium in a positive manner and strive to advance sustainable recreation in Kittitas County.

Each individual may choose to designate a proxy that can vote for them when they are not able to attend in person. Each Recreation Forum Member agrees to serve on the Recreation Forum for a term of one year. If a position is vacated or at the conclusion of a term, the Forum Members will nominate and vote on a replacement.

2019/20 Recreation Forum Member Nominations

| Name | Affiliation | Alternate | Email |
|----------------|--|---------------|--|
| Gene Reed | Wenatchee Valley ATV/Snowmobile Club | | Reed.eugene@gmail.com |
| Eva Tyler | WTA Ambassador | | tylerpawjesse@hotmail.com |
| Crystal Smith | Kittitas County Field and Stream/Equestrian/Hiker | | autumnrostudio@yahoo.com |
| Deb Essman | Kittitas County Field and Stream/KEEN/Native Plant Society | Jill Scheffer | essman@fairpoint.net |
| Wayne Mohler | Washington State Snowmobile Association | | wfmohler@msn.com |
| Kristin Ashley | Rafting/Climbing/Yakima Mushroom Society | | Kristin.ashley26@gmail.com |
| Kathy Young | Back Country Horsemen of WA | | Kyoung1735@gmail.com |

| | | | |
|------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Ellie Belew | Upper County non-motorized rec/resident | | |
| Doug Kilgore | Upper County resident/conservation | | douglaskilgore@outlook.com |
| Kevin Clements | Ruffed Grouse Society | | kevin@clementsgeneral.com |
| Bryan Peterson | Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance | | bryan@wohva.org |
| Karen Behm | Central Cascades Winter Recreation Council | John O'Brien | klbehm@comcast.net |
| Bradley Gasawski | CWU Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals | | Bradley.gasawski@cwu.edu |
| Ted Jackson | WA ATV Association | | tedsbiz@gmail.com |
| Ken Austin | Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance | | gpsser@gmail.com |
| Mary Morgan | City of Ellensburg | Nancy Lillquist | morganm@ci.ellensburg.wa.us |
| Ninon Wheatley | Rill Adventures Rafting | | rills@fairpoint.net |