

Topic: Recreation Forum meeting

Time: May 18, 3:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Time	Agenda Item	Desired Outcomes
3:00	Join ZOOM and Roll Call Approval of April notes Introduction of new members	Set expectations and clear goals for teleconference meeting. Review member comments during last discussion, and incorporate any new thoughts
3:15	LMC Engagement and Long-Term Planning	Land Managers response to engagement suggestions Scheduling in-depth presentations on constraints Establish quarterly strategic meetings.
3:30	TREAD Update	Madison Ford, Mat Lyons – implementation with Kittitas County
3:45	User impacts and conflicts near Liberty	Overview of issue Current response by land managers and law enforcement Discussion: opportunity for Rec Forum to engage with damage control
4:15	Land Manager Updates	USFS, BLM, DNR, WDFW, State Parks, TNC, Kittitas County
4:30	Adjourn	

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/842158553?pwd=a1VwS3dyaUesySkIpc3hhS2cyMDJ4QT09>

Meeting ID: 842 158 553

Password: 848859

One tap mobile

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In attendance: Gene Reed, Eva Tyler, Wayne Mohler, Kathy Young, Kevin Clements, Karen Behm, Bradley Gasawski, Tristyn Duerr

Guests: Richard Maxey (NWUTV Association, standing in for Ted Jackson today), Madison Ford, Christine Heimbigner-Simpson,

- Adoption of last month's meeting notes
 - Karen has a few clarifications to how we captured her comments – will email, Nicky to incorporate
- Introduction of new members
 - Tristyn Duerr, Northwest Motorcycle Association, subbing in for Bryan Petersen. Bryan works at the state/legislative level and isn't very able to engage in our ground-level solutions.
 - Also enjoys rock climbing, skiing, snowshoes, anything that requires skill
- LMC Engagement and Long-Term Planning
 - In response to requests for additional channels of engagement, LMC suggests:
 - Building in in-depth presentations on agency constraints, and 'what's eating their lunch'
 - In response to questions about how to balance short term and long term:
 - Every 4 months (3 times per year) strategic longterm thinking meetings
 - Look at how the short term work has been building towards our overall mission, course correct
 - June, Oct, January are the suggested months
 - Bracket fire season
 - Group response to these suggestions:
 - Karen – likes the constraint deep dives
 - Kevin – going forward, having a little more in depth information will be really helpful
 - "let us in on what the larger needs are"
 - Eva – yes, and thinks we should consider creating a subcommittee to focus on strategic planning once we have all those presentations under our belts
 - Gene – will agendas on these topics be sent out ahead of time?
 - Susan – yes, and we would like the group to respond to those draft agendas with specific questions
 - Wayne – If we can get face-to-face in June, could it be a hybrid meeting?
 - Nicky – will work on that!
 - Kathy – With the number of different rec organizations represented here, a subcommittee on strategic planning should take direction from the entire group. Nothing against subcommittees, but will need to do regular report-outs to the larger group to keep all interests balanced
 - Bradley – Likes the plan for quarterly strategic planning meetings. Also requests a hybrid model, since Cle Elum may be difficult to achieve
- TREAD Update:
 - Madison Ford, Mat Lyons

- WA Tourism Alliance has entered into a contract with Tread for 5 counties: Okanogan, Grant, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas.
 - They have funds to promote outdoor Washington as a tourist destination.
 - State divided into 11 regions. Ours is 'Trails and Lakes'
 - TREAD was asked to apply their map app to Trails and Lakes
- Why TREAD?
 - Other apps don't necessarily collect the information from land managers – display unsanctioned trails
 - Other apps tend to cater to just one rec group
 - TREAD designed to 'give back' by including a mass community calendar, advertising from businesses that support outdoor rec
 - Provides users with the ability to flag conditions as they are on the ground recreating
 - "Real information all the time, supported by locals"
- UPDATE:
 - WTourismA funds have gone to hiring 14 app developers, working around the clock to take the app, proof trail information supplied by land managers, and expand the app to overlay Trails and Lakes
 - WILL LAUNCH MEMORIAL DAY
- Rec Forum Role:
 - Suggest businesses who may want to sign up for the app as advertisers
 - Utilize the app, encourage others to do so
 - WTA will put out a toolkit, share that as widely as possible
 - Submit images
- COMMENTS:
 - Land managers are concerned that county made this decision about implementing an info source regarding their lands, without telling them
 - If mistakes pop up in the app, how can edits be submitted to TREAD?
 - Concerns that the county may not have infrastructure in place for increased tourism
- Liberty UTV
 - Christine flagged issues during Memorial Day and summer with illegal UTV and other disruptive recreational use
 - Liberty is off the map, enforcement wasn't too much of an issue, but in the last 3 years things have exploded. Thousands of people
 - Speed limits ignored
 - Human feces
 - Firearms discharged near homes/unauthorized shooting in general
 - UTV use is technically illegal on forest service roads because there's no travel plan – however, no enforcement
 - Fires
 - Campground is right at the mouth of the only road into/out of town, so if a fire gets out of control, there's no exit

- Christine has been shot at, had property stolen, had her vehicle run into by UTVs
 - After working to bring this to attention of land managers, what have they been able to do?
 - USFS:
 - This year should be very different from last year, when rangers were not on the ground because of COVID
 - Mikki & Co are deployed for Memorial Day weekend with education/enforcement trailer
 - Also coordinating with jeep clubs to log out trails and spread messaging about good behavior
 - Clubs rented 6 portable toilets for dispersed campers to use
 - Putting up more signs, working on education piece
 - Enforcement: two USFS rangers, BLM ranger, county sheriff's deputy
 - BLM
 - Manages the campground
 - They have 3 park rangers on for memorial day weekend. Will be splitting their time between campgrounds in Yakima River Canyon and Liberty.
 - County
 - Working on enforcing speeding tickets on the non-USFS roads
 - One of the sheriff's corporals is very interested in making sure they're playing an active role
 - Public Works will be working on placing signs, adding messaging to
 - NW UTV Association
 - Education piece is crucial – it's so easy to buy the machines without participating in any sort of group that teaches the rules or explains where you can or can't go
 - Cleanups are a perfect opportunity for education – get an army together to come out and visit Liberty and do a tour of where they can/can't go as part of the effort
 - What can Rec Forum do?
 - Come through mon/tues after Memorial Day to do a cleanup
 - Attend public works study sessions on the new WATV Enforcement Fund
 - Bradley – can we engage the retail outfits selling UTVs to do more to advocate and educate users?

Pertinent contact details from this meeting:

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