

Topic: Recreation Forum meeting

Partner Updates

Time: July 20, 3:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Time	Agenda Item	Speakers, and Desired Outcomes
3:00	Join ZOOM and Roll Call Approval of April notes	Set expectations and clear goals for teleconference meeting.
3:10	KSF update	Bradley & Nicky
3:15	Parks, Rec, and Open Spaces (PROS) plan update	Mark Cook & Nicole Ogan
3:30	WDFW Deep Dive	Ross Huffman <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Management goals• Recreational programs• Resources and Capacity• Management issues
4:00	Land Manager Updates	All <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staffing• Fire dispatch/burn bans• Kachess request
4:30	Adjourn	

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/842158553?pwd=a1VwS3dyaUsySkIpc3hhS2cyMDJ4QT09>

Meeting ID: 842 158 553

Password: 848859

One tap mobile

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Present: Gene Reed, Eva Tyler, Crystal Smith, Wayne Mohler, Bradley Gasawski, Doug Kilgore, John O'Brien, Kevin Clements, Tristyn Duerr

Guests: Nicole Ogan, Emily Smith

- Changes to June's meeting notes
 - No changes
- Kittitas Stewardship Fund update – Bradley Gasawski and Nicky Pasi
 - Goal: charitable stewardship bucket we can draw from to meet maintenance and management gaps for rec in our county
 - Kick off with 1% donation, added on to end of bill when customer purchases from participating business
 - Convened steering committee 2 months ago
 - Last meeting
 - Who will handle the accounts – agreement language being reviewed by Kittitas Chamber of Commerce
 - Half a dozen anchor businesses, the first to test out the point of sales system to collect donation (Basecamp Books as well as Outfitters, Hotel Windrow, Rustic Roots Catering, and more in the process)
 - Looking at broader launch in October
 - Pursuing a small grant to help with website and other marketing needs
 - Meeting next Thursday to work towards charter next and application process for using funds
- Parks, Rec, and Open Spaces – Nicole Ogan
 - Now the Recreation and Tourism plan
 - Adopted July 7th
 - Working towards funding mechanisms
 - REET 2, meeting September 21st
 - Real-estate excise tax
 - Bradley: how much could this generate? Is there a strategic plan? Does plan include hiring people for these programs? How does county determine what is important for spending money?
 - A: County estimates it will be over \$1 mil/year. Working on Capital Facilities Plan now (no release date now). Not sure about hiring people. Several elements and priorities determined by previously conducted workshops.
 - Action item: prioritize list of projects that could use this funding
 - Commissioner Wright held an OHV meeting to gauge needs there, talked about Beverly trail near Vantage highway to go to Gingko Petrified Forest
 - Participation in forums is helpful to surfacing needs in county
 - Meeting info on Board of Commissioners Facebook, possibly on public works website in the future
- WDFW Statewide Recreation Strategy Overview Deep Dive – Ross Huffman (regional lands public manager)
 - Department acquires land generally for habitat and species conservation, allows compatible recreation
 - Generally, hands off management. User-generated recreation
 - Unmanaged rec can degrade habitat, but is met with limited funding and staffing capacity

- Purpose and scope of strategy: structure to managing rec, equip staff to mitigate impacts, build capacity for collaboration, demonstrate leadership, increase sense of welcome
- Goals: protection of natural and cultural resources, enhance recreation, strengthen relationships
- Strategic Initiatives
 - Data development and management
 - Information to help with decision making
 - Statewide and local rule making
 - Ensure behavior that supports health of environment and people
 - Some focuses include: pack goats, dog training, e-bikes, informal roads/trails, streambank easement, camping, drones
 - Site-based, local rule-making protocol
 - Regional & local planning
 - Land classification system
 - Buffer for sensitive areas
 - Develop Water Access Area Plans
 - Integrate rec planning module into wildlife area planning
 - Establish planning process for signs, shooting ranges, campground, etc.
 - Travel management
 - Inventory roads, motorized trails, and non-motorized trails
 - Develop maintenance schedules
 - Kevin: isn't your road maintenance budget effectively \$0? When classifying trails, how do you account for off-trail use (i.e. hunting)?
 - A: basically yes, we get a little NOVA money each year. Have not solved off-trail/hunting use management issue
 - Education & Engagement
 - Retain, reactivate, and recruit for fishing and hunting
 - Develop interpretive program
 - Establish local conflict management process
 - Develop volunteer stewardship program
 - Communication
 - Standardizing signage
 - Inform user of new and existing rules
 - Increase public awareness and strengthen WDFW brand
 - Capacity & funding
 - Fill operation and management gaps for Water Access Areas
 - Develop sustainable funding streams
- Timeline
 - Have much of it already written
 - Trying to roll out by fall 2021
 - Open for public comment soon
- Questions
 - Eva: how does legislature determine what funding you get?
 - A: we get very little general fund money, most of it is through federal grants or agreements (like excise tax on hunting and ammo) other federal contracts like

leasing between Wenas and BPA, hunting and fishing license sales, a little from Discover Pass and leasing

- Eva: is it state's responsibility to fund plan?
 - A: yes, trying to build their case to get support from state now
 - John: Use on the ground is changing away from hunting and fishing, how is that reflected in the culture in the agency?
 - A: from the director down, they'd like to stick to wildlife reliant rec, but still supports other rec that is compatible. Trying to get more people to try hunting
 - Kevin: with drastic increase of non-wildlife dependent rec further east in KittCo, what are the priorities? How can volunteers help?
 - A: no good answer at this time, we realize the problem. First attempt is creating this process that can be used locally to work with groups to create a plan
- Land manager updates
 - WDFW – Ross Huffman
 - Going to day use only after July 23rd
 - Losing manager Melissa Babak on the LT Murray Wildlife Area
 - DNR – Stephanie Margheim
 - Commissioner of public lands announced temporary closure of DNR lands in Eastern WA starting at 12:01 AM on Friday July 23rd
 - No public access on any lands, including Teanaway Community Forest
 - Will last until conditions change
 - FS – Jared Treser
 - No update on closure
 - Cle Elum does not have much upper level management in recreation, which may impact closure decision
 - Eva: what are smart sheets?
 - A: project management software to assist with trail maintenance reporting
 - TNC – Darcy Batura
 - Please welcome Katie Pofahl! Finished her masters in Environmental Management. From Wisconsin, did conservation work for 10 years in California. Her focus is on working with communities. Working remotely for the next month or so. Excited to meet you all and get outside! Likes to cycle, snowboard, and hike
 - We will be closing Central Cascades Forest lands later this week
 - Mastication units are complete on the Cle Elum Ridge!
 - How-go unit thinning project has began
 - Title II grant fully funded to improve motorized trails in the Taneum. Will be partnering with Northwest Youth Corp and Northwest Motorcycle Association on project
 - MTSGT – Nicky Pasi
 - Easton has asked for help dealing with issues/trash around reservoir
 - Community needs help with disposal and/or fees
 - Ask: anyone willing to volunteer to transport trash from Easton to Cle Elum Forest Service dumpster?
 - Kevin Clements volunteers
 - Community motorized use meeting
 - Put on by Cory Wright
 - Chance for land managers to talk about what they need

- Gave ORV community chance to hear directly from land managers
 - Hopefully beginning of a good connection, had good attendance
 - Next steps: continue to have meetings, but details not decided
- Emily Smith – Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
 - Has front country rangers available to help out where needed