

Topic: Recreation Forum meeting
 Partner Updates
 Time: December 21, 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	News and Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Recreation Messaging • Update from Green Dot group
3:30	Presentation: Monitoring Visitor Use on Public Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emmi Lia, Research Scientist, Outdoor R&D at University of Washington • Spencer Wood, Senior Research Scientist and Affiliate Professor, Outdoor R&D at University of Washington
4:00	Advocacy Opportunity: Palouse-to-Cascades Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred Wert, Palouse to Cascades Trail Coalition
4:15	Land Manager Updates	All <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Recreation • Other
4:30	Adjourn	

Greenway Trust is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: ECRP Recreation Forum

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84759469746?pwd=MjhhVXgzVW9JMFdoS2tDcW9wZ0pLUT09>

Meeting ID: 847 5946 9746

Passcode: 536968

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,84759469746#,,,,*536968# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,84759469746#,,,,*536968# US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 847 5946 9746

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84759469746?pwd=MjhhVXgzVW9JMFdoS2tDcW9wZ0pLUT09>

Attendance: Karen Behm, Kevin Clements, Gene Reed, Eva Tyler, Doug Kilgore, Wayne Mohler, Kathy Young, Ted Jackson, Nancy Lilliquist

Guests: Vince Pruis, Emi Lia, Spencer Wood, Lindsey Pruett, Stephanie Margheim, Larry Leach, Matt Anderson, Kevin Davis, Nicole Ogan, Deb Kelly, Jason Goldstein, Fred Wert

- News and Events update:
 - Notes
 - Winter rec messaging:
 - USDA graphics! Made for FB and Twitter, formatting for Instagram
 - PDF to be shared
 - Deb Kelly – Consider using the topical blurbs as ideas for in-depth videos with rec groups as winter season goes on
 - Update from Green Dot Group:
 - Goals:
 - Road assessments – DNR has some, WDFW does not, as funding for this is typically attached to timber sales
 - Look at E&E ask currently before legislature
 - Identify supportive partners
 - Identify priority repair/maintenance sites
 - Alternative Trails subcommittee
 - Focused within Kittitas Co
 - Eva has some conversations with folks at WTA, would like participants to help as she will be in Arizona over the winter
 - Flags need to talk to Joe Rausch about the USFS perspective on these trails
 - Lindsay Pruett, on detail with CERD, would like to chat with Eva.
 - Karen also interested in participating
 - Eva notes that while she can identify trails, they may not be 100% ready for more use – need to work with USFS/State Parks/others on parking and access
- UW Presentation
 - Spencer Wood, Emi Lia, a team at UW who do research on recreation/tourism, best practices for measuring and mapping rec patterns
 - Also assess motivations for going outside and choosing certain destinations, to better improve rec systems and management
 - Improve opportunities, make sure sites are delivering on their promise
 - Specifically looking at how management impacts recreational use
 - Ex: how did fire closures change use? Did people comply or not?
 - How has COVID impacted use?
 - Estimate site popularity
 - Determine if use has had a negative or positive trend (dropping or rising)
 - Data available through 'Trail Trends' website
 - How to monitor use

- Tap into various data sources, combine into estimates
 - Weekly visitors = social media + weather + calendar (holidays) + trail-level effects
 - Social media is a HUGE driver
 - Combined with on-the-ground counts and site specific data
- Two kinds of data: on-site
 - Onsite – collected at the location
 - People-counters
 - Game counters
 - Vehicle counts
 - Tends to be super accurate, but harder to collect because of demand on manpower
 - Social Media data
 - Flickr, Insta, Twitter, Ebird, Facebook, All Trails, WTA
 - Rich dataset, but has a lot of inherent bias
- How to fill onsite data gaps
 - Community Science Data – collected through an SMS Chatbot, and Visitors Count!
 - Volunteers collect information on site while they're out recreating
 - Great platform for community engagement
 - Tools used by Volunteers:
 - SMS Chatbot = type the number of cars in the parking lot, text to a specific number for collection. Chatbot will respond asking for some additional data about their visit (time, # of people in party, etc)
 - Inexpensive, avoids need for in-person surveys
- UW encourages people to participate in the counts at any trailhead featuring signs
- Questions:
 - How to expand the system to Kittitas? What resources are needed to do this?
 - Available to a certain degree across OWNF
 - Need a land manager partner to help hang signs/process data
 - Summer and winter data?
 - Field crews do a lot of summer data collection. Winter is more reliant on self-reporting. Their data is heavily skewed towards summer.
 - Jason G wants to partner to get some data from the snoparks!
 - Wayne: Any potential to incorporate motorized use?
 - Spencer: this model was developed for nonmotorized use, but they do have a moto model. It has never been applied on the east side, but they sound interested.
 - Eva: is this just on National Forest?
 - They work on a broad variety, have also worked on NPS. USFS has been a funding partner, so they spend a lot of time on their lands and partner with their scientific teams
 - Recently started monitoring use on DNR parcels, looking at how it overlaps with elk habitat

- What about HEM?
 - The folks who designed HEM are collaborators with UW, but they do work semi-independently, since they are looking at different snapshots. HEM is a bit more qualitative, narrative about the place and how people connect to it.
 - Kevin: This would have been invaluable information to have had on the Green Dot Road conversation. We may have missed the boat on capturing that increase, but this tool sounds really useful
 - Ranger Davis says State Parks has some infrared counters on the PTC, would be willing to share with Emi and Spencer
 - Ted: Has RCO worked with this dataset?
 - Spencer has had conversations with them, but they have had no direct input. Indirectly, they have supplied data to managers for applications. Ted encourages they provide a presentation to the Outdoor Rec Caucus
- PTC
 - State Parks currently developing 2023-35 biennium capital budget
 - 16 member orgs of the PTC coalition are strongly advocating for renovation of the Kittitas Depot
 - Located at the Kittitas trailhead, right by downtown. It needs:
 - A new foundation (115 years old)
 - New roof
 - Redo internal plumbing
 - Redo electrical systems
 - Historic preservation considerations
 - Hope to see:
 - Restroom facilities
 - Showers
 - Refreshments/passes retails
 - Not just meant for trail users, could also be for community events
 - Requesting letters of support. State Parks collects ideas from staff, which are then submitted to management → commissioners → legislators
 - Direct letters to Don Hoch, State Parks Acting Director
 - No budget currently exists, but a past estimate was somewhere around \$820k.
 - We just need to get it on the list, as State Parks is narrowing down their priority projects. They will then figure out the price tag.
 - Also helpful to write for Sen. Warnick and Rep. Dent, who will vote on State Parks' budget
 - PTCT Coalition ranked this project HIGHEST along all 280+ miles of the trail
 - Questions:
 - Nancy: What is the plan for long-term operations if the structure is renovated?
 - Part of the capital project proposal process is to ask this question. "If we do this, what's our op impact?"
 - South Cle Elum depot is currently leased to a restaurant and the South Cascade Rail Foundation, so there are various models

- Former Mayor of Kittitas is very supportive of this project
 - We need to demonstrate support outside of the small town
 - Ted: Suggests that we write a SINGLE letter on behalf of the Rec Forum, collect signatures, submit to State Parks
 - NO OBJECTIONS
 - No current deadline on when these letters need to be submitted, but Nicky will work on drafting one before next Rec Forum Meeting
 - Gene: other update, what's the situation with Beverly Bridge and Boyleston Tunnel?
 - Beverly Bridge likely to open in Dec, will be a general announcement
 - B Tunnel is in Yakima Training facility, permanently closed. But PTCT is working to approach the army via congress
- Land Manager Updates
 - State Parks
 - DOT and Cle Elum Ranger District are not able to plow snowparks this year.
 - Parks is currently signing on private contractors to get this done.
 - Competitive bid out for Hyak and Gold Creek
 - SLS and French Cabin about to sign an agreement, but need USFS to regrade the sites
 - STILL NEED contractors for:
 - Taneum
 - Blewett Pass
 - Franklin Falls
 - Easton Reload will be a permanent motorized and nonmotorized snopark. New snowshoe trail will be laid out, provide access to groomed trail system
 - USFS
 - Snoqualmie Pass visitors center is starting the season closed, but MAY reopen going into the New Year.
 - Unsure if there will be snowshoe tours
 - Winter Rec funding is in hand, but codes to charge will not be up until Dec 5.
 - Lindsey meeting with staff on Thursday to coordinate winter crews
 - Will have at least 5 snow rangers on E&E and grooming
 - Likely to be a snowshoe trail laid out at Crystal Springs
 - DNR
 - Getting ready for winter, contacting groomers and setting them up for access before the gates get buried
 - Seasonal closures on roads and rec sites (the ones that become groomed routes) will begin on Dec 9
 - Ahtanum State Forest will be an official snowpark, will need a permit!
 - Kittitas County
 - NA
 - Ellensburg
 - Sunday, Ellensburg Rotary added boulders commemorating different branches of military service to the 'Circle the City' piece of PTC

- Design for the section connecting the Events Center to 14th is now on the City's website.