

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

Passcode: 536968

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



- 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 14<sup>th</sup> is now on the City's website.