

Topic: Recreation Forum meeting
 Partner Updates
 Time: March 15, 3:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Time	Agenda Item	Speakers, and Desired Outcomes
3:00	Join ZOOM and Roll Call Approval of November notes	Set expectations and clear goals for teleconference meeting.
3:10	Legislative Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on state Operating budget • Update from Green Dot Group
3:30	Plan to Play Pact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Anderson, Kittitas Chamber of Commerce • Tourism management strategy
3:50	Checkerboard Partnership Planning Committee update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melissa Speeg, Kittitas Chamber of Commerce • Phase I status
4:15	Land Manager Updates Rec Group Updates	All
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

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Attendance: Eva Tyler, Wayne Mohler, Kevin Clements, Doug Kilgore, Barb Penniston, Bradley Gasawski, Ted Jackson, Eugene Reed, Karen Behm, Crystal Smith, Nancy Lillquist

Land Managers: Stephanie Margheim, Ross Huffman, Heidi Anderson, Deb Davis, Deb Kelly, Jason Goldstein

Guests: Melissa Speeg, Suzanne Corkran, Matt Anderson, Kurt Hellman (CNW), Vince Pruis

- Legislative updates/Green Dot group
 - GDR – maintenance money that was asked for came through, whether due to our lobbying efforts or the joint efforts of others!
 - Funding available for roads, trailheads, water access points, maintenance, outreach, etc
 - Not much funding for enforcement, however
 - New LT Murray manager in communication with Kevin to see how we can engage volunteers with
 - Upcoming GDR meeting: regroup, review, and discuss next practical steps!
 - WDFW
 - Two things going on:
 - 3.ish million, which included the Green Dot and other maintenance
 - 5mil request from WTA for the backlog
 - WTA was funded, other request wasn't, but the language in the 5m was tweaked to allow more applications of the funding
 - Will allow for education position, target shooting management position (Wenas), Manastash Ridge efforts, etc
 - DNR
 - E&E will be pursued under other avenues, because their 5m does not cover this
 - However VERY excited about the 5m ongoing funds!
- Trail options committee
 - Has been in communication with Joe R, Lindsey P, Deb D to review maps for alternate trail options
 - Meeting will occur sometime in April, when Eva returns from Arizona
- Plan to Play Pact
 - A mission/directive from the Board of County Commissioners when Chamber applied for lodging tax funding
 - Acknowledges that tourism has been booming, but comes with its own set of challenges
 - PPP is a messaging campaign to amplify Recreate Responsibly talking points
 - Aims to develop videos and other materials to share with visitors
 - Based on similar models in Outdoor Colorado, known as the Adventure by Nature Pledge
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtgAvO0m6hc>
 - Question for Rec Forum:
 - What are the messages unique to Kittitas that we should project to tourism base?
 - Eva – parking issues need to be addressed. Encouraging people to plan ahead for parking

- Jason – a primer on what permits are needed
 - Kevin – Eastern part of county gets confused and thinks all they need are snowpark passes in winter, but Discover is still required!
 - Nicky – sanitation and trash
 - Bradley – can we encourage people to volunteer?
 - May need to navigate how that can earn you a free Discover Pass
 - The Debs offer to coordinate topics from within USFS to share
 - Ted – can we coordinate with TREAD on implementing a map of where passes are needed?
 - Matt offers to email our group list with follow up and prompts
- CPPC
 - Quick recap – last update from CPPC was over a year ago, so review of origin and goals
 - Effort to permanently protect 48k acres of old checkerboard lands in Kittitas County. 10k acres already divested
 - Some divested using Land and Water Conservation Fund \$\$
 - Some use Forest Legacy Fund \$\$
 - Other acres under exploration for a new community forest
 - Three main segments:
 - Cabin Creek – enmeshed with DNR, high timber production, highest revenue potential
 - Taneum/Manastash – Popular motorized rec spot, enmeshed with USFS. Abuts several HOAs
 - Cle Elum Ridge – Popular rec adjoining communities, important for fire safety and habitat
 - Group made up of local community members, Yakama Nation, and land managers to figure out permanent conservation
 - Community forest model is the current goal, after visiting similar forests around the country
 - Provides local control, many economic and ecological benefits
 - Group conducted a community survey on priorities and concerns for the land. Findings:
 - Fire/Forest Health was the biggest issue of concern for both residents and nonresidents
 - Increased recreational pressure was #2, with nonresidents most concerned about continuing access to the lands
 - Visitors cared more about rec/access, while residents care about habitat at the same degree as recreation and at a higher degree than access
 - Public’s priorities for managing the land differed between residents and visitors:
 - Residents want management focused on forest health, water supply, and habitat, in addition to recreation. Thinking more broadly about the impacts that are seen.
 - CPPC currently determining ownership. Not focused on management, that will be left up to the future owner with community input (one of the sideboards of TNC selling)
 - Huge outreach effort to several dozen local officials, business leaders, clubs, law enforcement and emergency response staff

- “Development on the ridge would not be safe, because it increases the risk of fire and expands the Wildland-Urban Interface. The cost of protecting the ridge lands is already high, and would grow with valuable homes on the land”
 - Current situation:
 - Grants pursued to purchase the property
 - \$14million via LWCF to transfer Taneum lands to USFS (waiting for results)
 - \$6million via Forest Legacy Program to transfer Cabin Creek to DNR (waiting for results)
 - \$3million RCO to transfer first Phase of Cle Elum lands
 - Asks and Next Steps
 - Participation in CPPC is open! Contact Melissa (mspeeg@kittitasconservationtrust.org) or Nicky (nicky.pasi@mtsgreenway.org)
 - Communication resuming now that COVID restrictions are relaxed
 - Advocating for DNR ownership – supporting local staff in asking Olympia leadership
 - Questions:
 - Can CPPC present to Field and Stream?
 - YES
- Land Manager Updates
 - State Parks
 - Busy winter! A lot of snowfall (went over snow removal budget)
 - New program manager was just hired for winter program, will be introduced at a future Rec Forum meeting
 - New Statewide Trails manager, Lisa Anderson, Jason willing to connect with Forum
 - lisa.anderson@parks.wa.gov
 - DNR
 - Got the Education and Enforcement warden up on March 1! Currently training in Yakima, will be up in Kittitas and looking to introduce to the Rec Forum. On Weds-Sat.
 - Green Dot Rd update meeting dates TBD, but the publication should be out sometime this month
 - Rec Forum will share when it goes live
 - Down a few maintenance folks between Yakima and Kittitas, trying to ensure things will open on time
 - One position open on DNR website now, closes end of next week
 - Second position has yet to be posted (this one spends half time in TCF)
 - USFS
 - Northern districts developing a list for prescribed burn projects
 - Mushroom season opening in May, watch out for alerts
 - Ditto fire gathering opportunities
 - Rec staff transitioning from winter to summer, gearing up summer planning to open campgrounds and clear trails
 - All seasonal workers hired, coming onboard in May
 - GAOA projects taking place in campgrounds this summer
 - Installing bear boxes

- New fire rings
 - Picnic tables
 - Trailwork still being figured out due to Congressional budget only coming out last week
 - 5-year planning for trails to replace failing bridges and coordinate partner work for maintenance
- WDFW
 - Draft Green Dot Rd signs are being approved by staff
 - New wildlife area management planner being hired! They will be overseeing recreation in Kittitas area – Holly English
 - Working on completing LT murray plan
 - Also bringing on a rec planner
 - 10 year rec strategy comment window closed this week
 - Kittitas submitted majority of comments
 - Joel Sisolak compiling
 - Public process on Ebike policy is beginning – Triangle Consulting facilitating for DNR and WDFW
 - Town hall meetings will be scheduled, Heide will announce.
 - Final report w/recommendations going to legislature in Sept
 - DURR ROAD CLEANUP ON APRIL 16
- TNC
 - Taneum single-track trails being planned with USFS and NMA
 - Have received funding for forest health work on the Cle Elum ridge!
 - Will be effecting Ewok and Never-Ending Hill Climb trail
 - Mechanical thinning and prescribed burns
- Greenway
 - NHA plan will go public mid-April. Available for comment and asking for support
 - In-person board meeting at Teanaway Grange, April 27
 - Volunteer opportunities:
 - GAOA picnic tables
 - Trail brushing (hopefully a Women in the Woods event)
 - Teanaway Love Day – May 21 (Saturday before Memorial Day weekend)
 - Campground cleanup
 - Fencing at Indian Camp
 - Weed hand-pulling
 - T2T projects for this year focused on the TCF links – pursuing funding
 - KSF anticipated to launch early April!
- Other:
 - BCHW Rendezvous Fri-Sun at Kittitas Co fairgrounds
 - Land managers available to answer questions
 - Mostly in the Teanaway Hall