

Topic: Recreation Forum meeting
 Partner Updates
 Time: January 17, 3:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Time	Agenda Item	Speakers, and Desired Outcomes
3:00	Join ZOOM/Conference and Roll Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions, goal setting • Approval of November notes
3:10	Subcommittees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Dot Roads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Legislative Outreach • Trail Option • French Cabin Creek
3:20	Guest Speaker – Dr. Ashley D’Antonio, OSU College of Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating Aspatial and Spatial Data to Improve Visitor Management & Resource Protection
4:10	Land Manager Updates	All
4:30	Adjourn	

Greenway East is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: ECRP Rec Forum

Time: Every month on the Third Tue, 12 occurrence(s)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81401702628?pwd=L21Sd1p2bmZUZ05yNG9HSmQ4TVBXQT09>

Meeting ID: 814 0170 2628

Passcode: 185312

One tap mobile

+12532050468,,81401702628#,,,,*185312# US

+12532158782,,81401702628#,,,,*185312# US (Tacoma)

Attending: Crystal Smith, Ted Jackson, Barb Penniston, Eva Tyler, Kevin Clements, Wayne Mohler, Karen Behm, Suzanne Corkran

Land Managers: Tonya Morrey, Darcy Batura, Kurt Hellman, Ross Huffman, Hannah Bates, Holley English, Lindsey Pruett, Deb Kelly; Kellee Hodges

Guests: Chris Nixon (Cle Elum Motor Toys Rental), Ashley D'Antonio (Oregon State, Rec Ecology)

- Approval of Notes:
 - No objections, okay to post
- Legislative Updates
 - Statewide Community Forest funding
 - DNR/WDFW requested \$2.8 million for O&M funding
 - Governor's budget allocated \$1.5 million, which does not include funding for road access, restoration, or recreation plan implementation
 - Call for assistance
 - Vince has a template letter, requesting calls and emails
 - Template will be sent out tomorrow
 - TNC is putting together a video about managing for the 5 goals of the TCF
 - WDFW Green Dot
 - No new ask for maintenance that he knows of. Budget request had a recreational ask focused on biodiversity decision package (unfunded in Gov request)
 - \$5m from last fiscal year is enough capacity-wise to manage roads
 - Cynthia Wilkerson should have details on how the \$5m has been spent, reach out to her for more!
 - Hiring
 - \$300k dedicated to GDR maintenance in Wenas this year, organizing to roll out post-winter. Engineering crew anticipated to assess/budget next week!
- Providing Quality Visitor Experiences while meeting management goals in protected areas – Dr. Ashley D'Antonio
 - As this group is aware, increased recreation can negatively impact natural systems
 - Recreation Ecology: the study of environmental consequences of outdoor rec/tourism and their effective management
 - Not a lot of people focusing on this
 - Different factors influence rate of disturbance:
 - Ecosystem type
 - Environmental conditions
 - Visitor behavior
 - Timing of use – when during the year/season?
 - Level of use – how many are there?
 - Type of use – what are they doing?
 - Studying behaviors, and then the impacts caused by those:
 - Where people go

- Where do they stop, why are they there?
- How long are they there
- What do they interact with
- How does everyone else's use impact the overall experience (crowding, trail braiding, etc)
- Utilizes GPS
- Case Studies:
 - Grant Tieton NP (Wyoming)
 - Focusing on String and Leah lakes
 - Increased focus on stand up paddle boarding, easy kayaking
 - Family/new user destination
 - Parks asks: how are users visiting, experiencing, and impacting the area? What social/ecological conditions result?
 - Study design:
 - Pre and Post Surveys
 - GPS units
 - Major questions from parks:
 - Can people find 'Escape'?
 - 22% said 'no'
 - Those who did traveled further, stayed longer
 - Those who didn't stayed on shoreline, didn't branch out
 - How does visitor exposure to impacts affect their perceptions?
 - Were visitors overlapping with areas that had been affected by use impacts (loss of vegetation, denuded areas, etc)
 - 90% of shoreline visitors saw resource impact, but most visitors felt it did not affect their experience
 - The time people spent in the impacted areas did NOT affect their opinions
 - Can visitor behavior be changed with education?
 - Behavior: parking overflow causing roadside parking, affecting vegetation and safety
 - Education: put out a sign that parking was full, encouraging people to return at 3pm
 - GPS units mapped whether or not people returned
 - Found that 79-85% of people did find parking
 - Most people who didn't find parking continued to park on the road
 - None returned after 3pm

- Most people indicated they were not upset about parking – so a management issue, not an experience issue
 - Outcomes:
 - Resource impacts AND visitor experiences are focused on eastern shore, near parking areas.
 - Park focused on making ‘social trails’ in those impacted zones made official/restored
 - Encourage visitors looking for solitude to avoid shoreline area
 - Nature Reserve of Orange County
 - Managed by City, State, and private conservation orgs, who had not assessed recreation
 - Method:
 - Map impact zones
 - GPS tracking
 - Pre-post surveys
 - Wanted to learn:
 - What's driving where people go?
 - Biking and hiking were two main rec uses
 - Both groups had two main motivations: fitness opportunities, and nature experiences
 - What drives behaviors?
 - Did nature group behave differently than fitness group?
 - Fitness covered more ground, faster
 - Nature seekers stopped more often
 - What impacts does this cause?
 - Ex: slower moving rec disturbs birds less
 - Trail use similarities varied between groups by areas
 - Concluded: we need more research on why recreators do what they do
- How is Visitor Use Monitoring helpful for land managers?
 - Integrating social and ecological sciences helps better manage rec
 - Increasing interdisciplinary relationships
 - Monitoring is a major part of proactive and adaptive management
 - Leveraging community science to help managers monitor
 - Develop protocols for parks to use Conservation Crew members to map impact areas and count visitors, instead of just doing trail work
 - Rocky Mtn NP has a community led effort to map social trails and impact zones – trainings online!
 - USFS working with volunteers for ‘Wilderness Character Monitoring’
 - Specific apps to record sightings of native/non native animals, which can be overlaid with rec user data
 - Oregon Natural Desert Association has applied a new app, RIMS (rec information monitoring system) to monitor impacts
- Questions:

- Wayne: do you see this kind of information being used to establish 'carrying capacity' of parks and areas, or otherwise used to establish/support limitation of visitor numbers?
 - It could. If parks (especially NPS) wants to establish carrying capacity, they have to link impacts to numbers. A lot of Dr. A's research looks not just at numbers, but at behavior. If people stay on trail, more people may be feasible.
 - Also important to distinguish between the entire park, and the handful of places that see intense use – it may not be fair to limit user numbers across entire park, so much as addressing a spatial issue
- Eva: Thoughts about whether the 'come back after 3pm' signs may have been more useful if they were paired with enforcement?
 - Yes, education and enforcement pairing is important
- Holly: clarification on the seeking-escape vs finding-escape. How was 'escape' defined? Did everyone need solitude to find escape?
 - There were a battery of questions that narrowed down into 'escape', and they tended to lean into solitude thematically. Phrases like 'disconnect'
- Karen: Is there interest in a social media component?
 - Wasn't part of this study, but is being explored at Joshua Tree
- Suzanne: How do managers separate out the nature-seekers vs the fitness seekers? This is a definite user split in the Nordic community!
 - Mostly focusing on how to have conversations about being respectful of one another – the fast goers
- Land Managers Updates
 - WDFW
 - Hannah is backfilling Ross' position! We'll be interfacing more with her going forward
 - In addition to \$300k for roads, hired a ORV education specialist who came on in Oct. Patrolled with wildlife area managers, made contacts, will hit the ground running again in Spring.
 - Hired a position on the Wenas focused on implementing Manastash Ridge Trails management plan
 - Bringing on someone to maintain water access sites
 - Hannah – each management area is in the process of planning recreational needs for the next year
 - Is there a public input piece?
 - Ex: GDR map proposal
 - Different wildlife advisory committee groups
 - USFS
 - NW Forest Plan is forming an Advisory Committee for updates. Applications close today, reach out if strongly interested
 - USFS has some GAOA funding for new signage, working to move that into an agreement with the Greenway to bring in a 3rd party subcontractor

- In the middle of winter rec season under new manager, Jared Tresser:
 - Trail logout on Table Mtn
 - Received extra trail funding to help EMBA clean up Paris Creek Trail, so that may be reopening this summer
 - Five Fingers update:
 - Issues with water quality and silt caused by trails. USFS has proposed a fix, waiting to see if it clears hurdles before it's brought out for review
 - Hope to have NEPA update available re: creekbed crossings to discuss at next Rec Forum
- DNR
 - GDR map update meeting aimed for late Feb/early March
 - West Fork Trails Plan public meeting likely to be late Jan/early Feb
 - Naneum State Forest access was not in the budget, but Judy Warnick and Tom Dent are pursuing
- TNC
 - Grooming is in full-swing on open roads
 - Alliance Rd to Ridge Rd is closed due to logging trucks
 - New route up Patrick Mine to Ridge Rd instead – Upper County Recreation Association helped to clear this last season
 - <https://wa-stateparks.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=8203a133191e4b3ba1bb081e939881f4>
 - Over the last 7 months, trail restoration work in Taneum has gone ahead! Video share
- WOHVA has a two-track excavator crew, looking for some volunteers to help with ATV, Side by Side and jeep trails in partnership w/managers. Contact below if people have projects
 - Byron Stuck, WOHVA Grant Manager - 206 399 9641
 - NOVA 22-2200, 2 Track Heavy Maint. Crew - 22-2201 2 track Volunteer Support