

Topic: Recreation Forum meeting  
Partner Updates  
Time: November 21, 3:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Time	Agenda Item	Speakers, and Desired Outcomes
3:00	Join Teams, and Roll Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions, goal setting</li></ul>
3:15	Subcommittees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Green Dot Roads</li><li>• Trail Option</li></ul>
3:25	WDFW Wenas Roadwork 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of accomplishments with past session funding</li></ul>
3:35	Rec Forum Priority projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Revisit original list<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Update projects</li></ul></li><li>• New going into 2024</li></ul>
4:10	Land Manager Updates	All
4:30	Adjourn	

**PLEASE NOTE:** This meeting will be ONLINE ONLY via Microsoft Teams:

## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 240 025 146 587

Passcode: 4inGKD

Attendees: Gene Reed, Doug Kilgore, Suzanne Corkran, Barbara Penniston, Deb Essman, Karen Behm, Kurt Hellman, Kevin Clements

Land Managers: Hannah Bates, Tonya Morrey,

- WDFW Wenas
  - Implementing the \$5m to WDFW from state legislature
    - 300k budgeted for this past year
    - 100k supplemental requested by Hannah
    - Total 400k funds implemented
  - Funding was devoted to Wenas area because road mapping was already complete and cultural resources were at a point where they could enact work
  - 38 immediate priority miles identified, 31 of which are necessary, 6.5 are admin use
  - Completed 7 miles of work in 2023
    - Roza Creek, Hessler Flats, and part of Kelley Hollow
    - Mostly addressing drainage issues
      - Added rolling dips, water bars, ditch outs to channel runoff
    - Ruts reworked and smoothed out to make road more driveable
    - Issue going forward is ability to maintain on regular basis – new roads are being built next to existing ones rather than trying to rework areas that are too badly eroded
  - Priority roads for 2024, beginning April:
    - Durr Rd
    - Bell Tel Rd
    - Kelley Hollow
    - Buffalo Ridge
    - Buffalo Pasture
  - WDFW has another \$300k coming in next year
    - “Money doesn’t go very far, so our strategy is to concentrate funds in one area and accomplish as much there as possible before moving on”
    - Will be trying to stretch money by contracting local vendor for roadwork, instead of relying on WDFW crews dispatched from Olympia. Has to coordinate with union contracts though
  - Notes from Melinda Hughes:
    - *\$400,000 in total was spent on the Wenas Wildlife Area to complete necessary road work. About 7 miles of road was redone including the Roza Creek Rd, Hessler Flat’s, part of Kelly Hollow Rd., and part of Durr Road on the south end of the wildlife area. Areas prioritized for roadwork were to address major erosion issues we had due to spring runoff and not having proper drainage in our roads. Rolling dips and proper ditch outs were put into these roads and the ruts that were feet deep were reworked as well to*

*make the road surface drivable. Roads were also angled where needed to allow for water to run off them and not straight down them. A significant issue with greendot roads when they don't have proper maintenance are new roads being built next to them from the public in order to pass through the area. You will see in one of my photos a secondary road that was ripped out and blocked off after the main green dot road was reworked with proper drainages put in for the public to drive through.*

- *Majority of our roads still need maintenance. I labeled roads on the map that are really bad as an immediate priority (including 38 miles of road for this), roadwork needed will be spotty on these roads and will not be the entire stretch of road however just due to the roadbed and conditions we have to work with. I also have included a section labeled "necessary" of 31.5 miles of road. These roads need maintenance and have never had maintenance done to them, however they are more of a secondary priority to the roads I mentioned above.*
- Melinda's map of roadwork: <http://eastcascadesrecpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Roadpriorities-and-pictures.pdf>
- Priority Projects selection
  - <https://jamboard.google.com/d/10vQ7Yg1JdpC0Od49XdJa8tq1f-1FpWqumXHhp1gMQil/edit?usp=sharing>
- Land Manager Updates
  - WDFW
    - ORV Education specialist position (funded through rec) vacated in July. Has been reposted and is out on WA Careers page. Hannah will share link
    - [https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/4280518/motorized-recreation-education-specialist-natural-resource-specialist-2-seaso?department\[0\]=Dept.%20of%20Fish%20and%20Wildlife&sort=PostingDate%7CDescending&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/4280518/motorized-recreation-education-specialist-natural-resource-specialist-2-seaso?department[0]=Dept.%20of%20Fish%20and%20Wildlife&sort=PostingDate%7CDescending&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs)
    - Winter closure season for elk goes into effect Dec 15 for LT Murray, Wenas
    - Motorized vehicle closure on Whiskey Dick in February
    - Will be inventorying roads and trails on LT Murray, checking electronic inventory against field apps.
      - An RFP for a contractor or nonprofit to continue inventorying on the other six districts (Wenas and Colockum to start) will go out soon
    - Replanting on Whiskey Dick began a few weeks ago! 35,000 Plugs (!) and reseeding before snow falls
      - Field and Stream and RGS both volunteering to help
      - F&S notes that they have \$600 of bitterbrush seed leftover from the reseeding on Durr Rd, happy to bring that to the effort

- Hannah to connect Sean with F&S to work on developing more plugs. Noelle Winegert aware.
  - USFS
    - Lindsey returning to BLM
      - Comment from Suzanne Corkran: so sad to see Lindsey go, she's been a huge advocate for winter rec, which is at a crisis point. Nonmotorized snoparks are packed to capacity, trails overrun. Hard to address when USFS staff is in flux
  - TNC
    - Cle Elum Ridge has been conducting a logging project that goes up Alliance Rd to Main Ridge Rd, has been closed to grooming/snowmobiles for last few years
      - Reopening this year!
    - Land Transfers
      - LWCF funds will be transferring parcels from Taneum and LWCF
  - County
    - Looking at the volume of rec tourism, working with the Chamber to look at how tourism info is shared with the public
    - Encouraging more use of sno parks in Blewett area
- Comments and Questions:
  - 2024 Speakers or topics:
    - Anacortes Community Forest Lands – similar to RUF. Kevin has found it to be really well run! Curious how
      - What's funding source – city owned