

Topic: Recreation Forum meeting
Partner Updates
Time: February 20, 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">• Introductions, goal setting
3:25	Legislative Session Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What made it through house-of-origin cutoffs• Budget projections
	French Cabin Creek Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brandon Rossi – Yakama Nation Fisheries• Current designs under consideration
3:35	Group Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• News from members• Potential for new participation
4:10	Land Manager Updates	All
4:30	Adjourn	

Hybrid Information: At this time, we are planning to hold a hybrid meeting at the TNC conference room at 110 East First St, Cle Elum, 98922. Virtual participants may join using the Zoom information below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83052217278?pwd=Z0grc09YbHM0OXkvd0VuVWJydHsUT09>

Meeting ID: 830 5221 7278

Passcode: 481249

Attendance: Suzanne Corkran, Deb Essman, Eva Tyler, Gene Reed, Kevin Clements, Barb Penniston, Wayne Mohler, Doug Kilgore

Land Managers: Deb Kelly, Jared Treser, Kelee Hodges, Holly English, Stephanie Margheim, Heidi Walker

- Project priority conversation
 - THA - Keep
 - With Lindsey moving on, is there a champion for this at USFS?
 - Jared – not a priority at this moment, because it's 5 months down the road, but USFS does plan to continue
 - Holly – WDFW wants to move ahead with a THA program. RFP is still in the contracts office
 - WTA doing this? Depends on if they respond to the RFP
 - Nicky – Greenway looking at our internal capacity now
 - Barb – BCHW may be interested in going forward with helping WDFW here. Don't know yet until RFP drops
 - Manastash Trails Coalition indicated interest in being ambassadors (Wenas wildlife area)
 - Deb K – Conservation NW has expressed interest in working with USFS on this
 - Yes, keep this as a priority
 - Ginko SP access - MONITOR
 - A road that accesses Whiskey Dick wildlife area goes through Ginko SP. Until 2022, you could call SP to get the gate combo for motorized access. This was discontinued after the 2022 fire, due to fire danger/risk to the resource. Several rec groups are concerned about this because Whiskey Dick Wildlife Area and lands north of there don't have great access from the south in general.
 - State land points close Feb 1
 - Wind farm closes Dec 1
 - Ginko is the safest egress point if something goes wrong – lowest elevation, best road base
 - State Parks is supposed to be starting a Classification And Management Plan (CAMP) process by which SP determines appropriate use
 - We don't have regular SP participation in the Forum, but WDFW aware that they were concerned with:
 - Looting of cultural resources
 - Worsening of fire damage
 - How does Rec Forum engage?

- Monitor, especially as CAMP process may get a date on the calendar
 - Wayne – with a new SP Director, can we make sure they're aware the public interest?
 - Deb – she's been made aware, but non responsive
 - May be worth reaching out to Dist 13 elected officials once legislative session wraps
- Whiskey Dick - Monitor
 - Field and stream club has worked closely with WDFW to plant sagebrush plugs. Is Cultural assessment process done, or are there upcoming opportunities to work with WDFW for reveg work?
 - Holly – WDFW needs trained cultural resource monitors onhand when volunteers are in the field. Hoping to be able to ramp this up going into next year. Right now there's a bottleneck, but a lot of volunteer interest to get out into the Whiskey Dick
 - Rec Forum role – Monitor and get ready to recruit!
 - Kevin – a lot of other groups who want to do restoration before the raea is overwhelmed by cheat grass! KEEN, Mule Deer Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk, Field and Stream, etc
 - Might be able to do some boosting this season (2024!)
- Cle Elum Ridge conservation
 - Three major partners (TNC, DNR, County) signed an MOU allowing TNC to go forward with pursuing funds for full transfer of ridge property to DNR management
 - Requesting \$15.3m from Forest Legacy Program Large Landscape fund (IRA funding)
 - Will know by end of February
 - MOU commits to work with County to address ongoing concerns about recreational access, emergency exits from the Teanaway, and buildable land
 - Vince – TNC is currently running a RFP for setting up an endowment that will support ongoing management
- French Cabin Creek
 - Joe Rausch suggested reaching out to Yakama Fisheries about their recommended strategies
 - Cle Elum pool raise continues, water level at campground will rise
 - Campground activities negatively impact endangered sockeye and river restoration actions
 - Need to setback and restrict vehicle access to the river to comply with species recovery guidelines and reservoir safety
- GDR Support – Continue to monitor, support and encourage WDFW

- Successfully got funding last year, got a fair amount of work done!
 - But concerns that it cost a lot to do the 7miles that were accomplished, want to help WDFW find cost savings
 - Holly – was just charged with developing a GDR strategy, so that they are kept up separate from the wildlife area management plans and aren't reliant on those planning processes for work
 - Come up with a set of standards, put out condition survey bids, so each road section's status is known and can be prioritized
 - WDFW needs data!
- USFS
 - Staffing
 - Lindsey returned to BLM in Spokane
 - Joe Rausch moving on, Jared Treser detailed for Lindsey's position at this time
 - Hiring underway for summer season
 - Aiming for 6-person trail crew
 - Able to convert three seasonal employees to permanent positions
 - Snow has arrived and grooming is underway.
 - Salmon la Sac about a week behind on grooming due to mechanical breakdowns but it's back up and running
- Kittitas County
 - Overflow parking at Vantage boat launch complete! 7+ spaces added
 - Will be moving forward on Liberty Rd bridge replacement project
 - In design and environmental review right now
 - There will be a bypass put in place in the fall
- DNR
 - Outdoor Access and Responsible Rec (OARR) meeting at Hal Holmes at 9am
 - Statewide rec strategic plan session
 - RSVP at <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/StateRecPlan>
 - Two in-person and two virtual meetings (in feb)
 - Internal agency staff working on 2024 workplan
 - Prioritizing GDR work w/backlog maintenance money
 - Should have more info on that in February
 - May be mostly in Ahtanum, but good to monitor
 - West Fork Trailhead in permitting w/county
- Rec Forum member updates
 - Suzanne – grooming updates
 - Cabin Creek was groomed in December
 - Parking lots were stuffed over the weekend due to the winter weather system

- Kongsberbers hosting monthly events (ski races) through March
- Wayne – slow season start due to lack of snow
 - Some trees downed by winter storms, but not to the extent of past years
 - Not much of a base for off-trail snowmobiling, mostly limited to groomed areas
 - Several events on the horizon
 - “Snow Jammers” hosting an event at Greenwater
 - WSSA having its annual meeting in Winthrop this year
 - Doug has been seeing some snowmobiling in voluntary closure areas on Jolly Mtn and 29 Pines (fire footprint). Can Wayne communicate with WSSA members about this?
 - Will pass it on to Kittitas grooming council chair.