May 11, 2017 Meeting Notes

In Attendance:
Committee Members
Jennifer Stephens  Jeri Downs  Martha Wyckoff
Kitty Craig        John Littel       Darcy Batura
Mike Reimer        Andrew Cromarty  Dale Bambrick
Doug Schindler     Kathy Young      Wayne Mohler
Andrea Imler       Scott Gray       Laura Osiadacz

Agency Staff
Doug McClelland    William Moore  Elizabeth Eberle
Mike Livingston    William Meyer  Patricia Jatczak
Larry Leach        Scott Downs   Glenn Glover
Stephanie Margheim Eric Winford
Rick Roeder        Ross Huffman

Meeting Purpose: Review work party/celebration, vision for planning, existing recreation and prepare for a user survey. Review and discuss the first land suitability module – biological criteria – within the planning area.

Welcome: Doug McClelland invited everyone to introduce themselves and reviewed the agenda.

May 6 Work Party & Celebration Review: Darcy Batura gave an overview of the work party. There were around 50 volunteers who installed picnic tables, cleaned fire rings and picked up litter at all three campgrounds. Gary Berndt grilled sausages for everyone and brought Senator Warnick and Representative Dent to enjoy the festivities. There was a tour at Lick Creek given by Larry Leach and William Meyer where they discussed restoration projects.

Vision for Planning: Committee members discussed the four questions and the bulleted items for each in pairs and added what they thought might have been missed. (See handout)

Question 1: What do you most cherish about the lands in the planning area?
The landscape itself
Beauty & scenery
Traditional use – cattle, timber
River use
Access to the National Forest, high country
Geology – rock formations, caves
Vegetation, trees unique to eastern Washington
Opportunity for solitude
Proximity to Ellensburg, Seattle
Family friendly – all ages & skill levels
Question 2: What are the biggest challenges to address as part of the planning effort?
- Funding
- Generations of use vs. need for structure/management
- Incorporate local culture, heritage
- Balancing historic local organic use with refined management plan
- Habitat/wildlife quality
- Invasive species
- Create a “friends of” group to do community outreach and work with agencies
- Embrace community and bring them in
- Day use parking
- Make suggestions to county to allow for people to stay where they don’t have to camp
- Private landowners

Question 3: What are the most important goals to be accomplished?
- Concessions
- Guided hikes with concessionaires
- Conceptualize infrastructure to use forest as a living classroom, outdoor education
- Signage – trails, campgrounds
- Provide recreation opportunities for all to include ADA interpretive trail
- Provide opportunities for people to build connections with nature
- See actual work on the ground within a year of this plan being done
- Kiosk or welcome center to discuss how the TCF came to be, area history, directions
- Plan being respectful to fish and wildlife, and the forest

Question 4: What does the group need to understand and learn about as we begin to make a plan?
- Adding in local culture
- Maps
- Coordinate with USFS
- Understanding and taking advantage of the existing management plan
- Provide clear rules, strong vision, clear communication with local groups - how they can have a stake and contribute

Small Group Mapping Exercise: Map existing recreation, existing key interest points, what’s out there today – is it working or not working? (4 groups/maps)

Committee Member Presentations: June presentations – Scott, Dale, Mike, Kathy

Public Comment: Craig Mabie (Kittitas County Parks and Rec District 1) Update on Towns to Teanaway Corridor Project: Completed RFP, hired a consultant to do the plan starting June 1. Raised $32,000 for design and plan process (half way there). In the last month, there were three public meetings, several city councils, newspaper articles, and lots of public outreach. Darcy is the connection between Towns to Teanaway and the TCF Recreation Planning Committee.
- Lauren, USFS Invasive Plant Technician: Start a conversation for weed management.
Operationalizing the Teanaway: Mike Livingston, Rick Roeder, Larry Leach – With the management plan done, the grazing management plan done and working on the recreation plan, there is a need for more on the ground work so work in the TCF will begin to shift from planning to operational. There will be some restructuring of agency staff as the agencies move to on the ground work.

Biological Land Suitability Module: (PowerPoint & Handout) Doug McClelland, William Meyer, William Moore, Scott Downs
Objective: Identify and map areas with long-term limiting factors that affect recreation planning.
- Review management criteria individually
- Suitability matrix
- Compositions of information by type

Low Suitability (purple), Moderate Suitability (orange), no restrictions (white)
9 Criteria (each mapped for Non-Motorized Trails, Motorized Trails, Winter Non-Motorized Recreation, Winter Motorized Recreation, Facilities)
- Wetlands & Wetland Buffers
- Riparian Areas
- Fish
- Deer & Elk Winter Range
- Deer & Elk Calving/Fawning Range
- Sensitive, Threatened & Endangered Species
- High Quality or Rare Plant Communities
- Northern Spotted Owl/Northern Goshawk
- Large Carnivores – Gray Wolf

User Survey: (Handout) a draft survey was put together based on other surveys that have been used by some committee members and agency communications staff. The final survey will be dispersed on the website, to the email list, and to user groups to distribute. It can also be pushed to local media to capture locals who may not be on the email list.
Committee Comments: Questions 16-20 need to have the same answer options.
Question 13: Pleasure driving is not included.
Include a question about whether or not users are using the TCF as a springboard to adjacent lands or if they stay within the TCF.
Expand options to connections to other lands.

Field Visits: Monday-Thursday are the best days for scheduling. Dates will be set and sent out.
Topics needed for field trips:
- All facilities, access points – winter/summer
- USFS moto trails
- Geology
- Purple areas
- Restoration areas
- Public abuse issues
- Education & enforcement – LEOs
- Locals - what is important to them
The Next Meeting is June 8: The agenda will include an update all forest management goals, a discussion on the Soils/Geology and Management suitability analysis in the planning area and committee member presentations by Scott, Dale, Mike and Kathy.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.