

May 11, 2017 Meeting Notes

In Attendance:

Committee Members

Jennifer Stephens
Kitty Craig
Mike Reimer
Doug Schindler
Andrea Imler

Jeri Downs
John Littel
Andrew Cromarty
Kathy Young
Scott Gray

Martha Wyckoff
Darcy Batura
Dale Bambrick
Wayne Mohler
Laura Osiadacz

Agency Staff

Doug McClelland
Mike Livingston
Larry Leach
Stephanie Margheim
Rick Roeder

William Moore
William Meyer
Scott Downs
Eric Winford
Ross Huffman

Elizabeth Eberle
Patricia Jatzcak
Glenn Glover

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

TEANAWAY COMMUNITY FOREST RECREATION PLAN

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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.

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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

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**FISH
and
WILDLIFE**

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.

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