



Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Planning Committee

Sept 04, 2012 Meeting Notes
Snoqualmie Fire Department, Snoqualmie, WA

In Attendance:

Committee members

Jim Berry	Robert Eversole	Mire Levy	Ann Shilling
Mark Boyar	Glenn Glover	Rick McGuire	Mike Town
Doug Schindler (for Amy Brockhaus)	Ted Jackson	Rebecca Needham	
Jenni Creveling	David Kappler	Thomas O'Keefe	
Harold Erland	Sarah Krueger	Robert Pattie	

DNR and UW staff

Lisa Anderson	Kelly Heintz	Curt Pavola
Gordon Bradley	Sam Jarrett	Jordan Reeves
Laura Cooper	Doug McClelland	

Meeting Purpose: To review and discuss the survey results and the opportunities and issues we identified on field trips during the summer. We will also begin brainstorming ideas for the plan and discuss what field trips we still need to do.

Welcome: Laura Cooper reviewed the meeting agenda.

Committee Meeting Notes from last meeting: Reviewed and adopted without changes

McClelland- discussed timeline of planning process, plan to finish up large advisory meetings by December. In addition, smaller groups may need to be formed on a landscape/issue level.

- Glover- When will SEPA start? Lisa Anderson: answer- The SEPA review for the plan recommendation we are developing will be a non-project SEPA that is more broad and general for the entire planning area. A site-specific SEPA will be needed for each individual recreation project when it gets implemented. SEPA should start about one month after draft plan is finalized.
- Schindler- Suggested taking preliminary plan recommendations to each representative's user group to receive feedback on initial findings or holding another public meeting. McClelland- There will be opportunities to solicit feedback from your contingency on initial findings/alternatives in the process. Please take that opportunity
- McClelland- Focus over the next four meetings will be on concepts and identifying all alternatives to appropriately select preferred alternatives.
- Mire Levy- Trouble making the field trips this summer. Need to make some larger committee field trips to bring the whole group together before this winter.
- Schindler- Will plan address wildlife corridors? McClelland- more appropriate to include when recreation & wildlife share an access corridor- then there will be more focus.
- Kappler- Network of forest roads in the Raging River State Forest will play a large role in recreation planning. Also need to consider vehicle use on roads serving communication sites, BPA traffic where there are potential recreationists/vehicle conflicts, versus roads that are used mostly by DNR and would therefore have less regular traffic. McClelland- potential conflicts with timber harvesting traffic and forest management activities will be considered.

Survey: Review Results – presented by Laura Cooper

- Several comments from committee on how the survey is not an ideal representation of the outdoor recreation community. For example: if a user group was not represented on the advisory committee, such as ‘outdoor pleasure driving’- the results/feedback from the survey may not actually show accurate use in the corridor- as committee members may disperse the survey to more participants within their group, which would increase feedback from within that group.
- McClelland- Interesting to see the results regarding local community economic impact from recreation related visitation.
- Mire Levy- Noted lack of lodging for visitors to the recreation corridor. Improvement could improve economic vitality of the local communities surrounding the corridor.
- Schindler- Noted a small percentage showed that events would negatively impact their experience. McClelland- noted more approval for events that are hosted by non-profit local clubs/groups versus for-profit non-local event hosts.
- Glover & Schindler– noted that the use of words such as “many” in reference to fill-in responses implied an interpretation of the data that didn’t appear to be supported by the numbers being reported in multiple choice questions. Cooper agreed that the reference to frequency in regards to fill-in responses was creating confusion and that open-ended answers were most useful in providing further details and insight into people’s experience. Cooper and Glover discussed that while only a small percentage of people reported experiencing a conflict with other users, the fill-in response allowed those respondents to provide further details about the types of conflicts they experienced.
- Glover- more trail mileage can reduce trail conflict; segregation of trail use can reduce mileage, but increase trail conflict within the same user group.
- Berry- Important to define trail conflict within a user group versus conflict between user groups. In the Raging River State Forest we may need to create areas for certain user groups to reduce conflict.
- Tom- Be careful to not make quantitative conclusions from open-ended questions. Some of the survey results confirm that the audience has some confusion about the landscapes being considered within the planning process.
- Potter- Parking is lacking. Schindler- we must consider mass transit/shuttle system access, etc...especially in the Mid-Fork Snoqualmie River corridor.
- Glover- Survey does provide good qualitative feedback.
- Audience- appreciated the opportunity to provide feedback in the process as they are not members of the planning committee.

Summary of Issues & Opportunities: presented by Laura Cooper- briefed the group on some findings from the summer field-trips to the Mt Si/Middle Fork NRCA, Raging River State Forest and rural forestlands surrounding the community of Preston.

Middle-Fork NRCA:

- Cooper - Major considerations: NRCA status and protecting the landscape, parking availability, private in holdings, mining, sustainability of user-built trails, access points for the public. Identified some of the potential trail connections and trailhead locations along the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River such as Mine Creek, Russian Butte View, Bessemer Rd., Granite Creek, etc. as well as some of the opportunities that were investigated off of exit 38.
- Needham- What’s a ‘user-built trail?’ Lisa Anderson: this means that the department has not designated the trail, so the trail would be defined as ‘undesignated.’
- Kappler- Need to work with State Parks to manage rock-climbing at Exit #38.
- McGuire- Explore access/potential trailhead near Dirty Harry to provide hiking opportunities that could also connect to Mid-Fork valley trails. Potential major I-90 trailhead off of exit 38 with better vehicle access.
- Boyar- Every new recreation/access site needs to provide human waste management facilities. Potential to provide by teaming with other adjacent landowners (USFS, State Parks, etc.).

- Schindler- Camping is a heavy need, suggests this be explored in the Middle-Fork (walk-in camping?)
- Heintz/McClelland- Must first meet the environmental needs of the landscape NRCA land status (protection first then consider recreation).
- Schindler- It would be helpful for DNR to show what landscape areas are off-limits to recreation in the NRCA and should not be considered further for recreation.
- Ted Jackson- suggested seasonal trail closures to allow the landscape to recover.

Raging River State Forest:

- Cooper- Summarized the field trips, interesting topography of the area, trip to Kerriston, discussed potential conceptual long distance trail connections, surprising beauty of the Raging River, and identified need for whole planning group field trip in this area.
- Town- Discussed potential for Raging River trail with Kerriston as the destination.
- Erland- Pointed out that Raging River is an active salmon spawning stream; need to protect it via trail design.
- McClelland- Kerriston will require cultural analysis before figuring out management plan/protection needs, etc.
- Glover/Schindler- Access points need to be identified to figure out trailhead development.
- Cooper- Tiger Summit may provide access when DOT expands Hwy 18 with interchange.
- Shilling- Consider forest roads as part of recreational loop opportunities, but consider how forest management activities may alter forest road inventory over time.
- Schindler- Must consider watershed issues with potential access over to Rattlesnake Ledge Trail.

Rural Lands:

- Cooper- Potential connection between Grand Ridge and Mitchell Hill with purchase of private land from willing sellers.
- Needham- Potential for multiple connections between all landscapes: West Tiger to Grand Ridge to Mitchell Hill to East Tiger, etc.
- McClelland- Few key acquisitions from willing sellers - in order to connect neighborhood trails with regional connections.
- Schindler- Important to partner with other agencies to purchase isolated parcels in order to make potential trail connections to other agency trail systems.
- Pattie: Need to consider educational opportunities and pleasure driving.
- Needham: Trail development needs to consider impact to adjacent landowners in rural communities, may need to promote long distance trail access to reduce overall trail system visitation.

Brainstorm: Doug introduced the group brainstorm exercise at three different workstations representing each landscape. Groups were asked to depict general concept ideas on maps such as bubbles representing zones for certain types of recreation, conceptual trails and trailhead locations. Doug explained that this is the first of many opportunities to provide input regarding potential trail locations and where primary recreational management objectives may be needed in certain areas.

The committee divided into three groups rotating between three stations: The Mt. Si / Middle Fork NRCA, the Raging River State Forest and the rural forestlands surrounding the community of Preston. They spent approximately 15 minutes at each station drawing conceptual ideas on maps.

The committee gathered back together at the end to discuss the process, next things to accomplish/challenges:

- Glover- Still need to conduct further Raging River field meetings
- Boyar- Connections need to be focused on especially across highways (how does DOT planning impact)?

- Berry- Need to plan as if highway improvements will be completed- have details in plan to proceed if Highway 18 is widened.
- Mire- Access in the Raging is difficult- middle hill could be good beginner/intermediate skill level trail area, but access is tough- which could exclude less fit visitors.
- Ann- Need to get realistic DOT answers on highway improvement timelines to plan better. Also need to know what sorts of requirements BPA has regarding public use near the substation.

Debrief

- Group- Discussed that Fri/Sat/Sun- best for field trip planning
- DNR- Will work on gathering/processing the information from brainstorm to present at next meeting.
- Next Meeting –Oct 2