



## **Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Planning Committee**

November 13, 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
Amy Brockhaus	Ted Jackson	Rebecca Needham	
Jenni Creveling	David Kappler	Thomas O'Keefe	
	Sarah Krueger	Robert Pattie	

#### *DNR and UW staff*

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

**Meeting Purpose:** Meeting purpose: To review second round of planning concepts and discuss topics and issues that are not mapped.

**Welcome:** Laura Cooper reviewed the meeting agenda.

**Committee Meeting Notes** from last meeting reviewed and adopted without changes.

### **Presentation of Concepts D&E:**

Laura explained that concepts D&E were generated out of the discussion of concepts A, B & C from last time. The goal is to refine the concepts into a single map representing committee recommendations which will then need to be prioritized. Laura reviewed four maps: a map of existing conditions (trails, trailheads and access points that are currently managed by DNR), a map that has items that are common to both concepts D & E, and maps of concepts D and E separately.

Doug mentioned that the blue dots along the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River will be studied further to decide what or if amenities are needed.

Laura showed close-ups Concepts D&E side by side for each landscape pointing out similarities and differences between the concepts. The Dirty Harry's trail area for example showed options with different degrees of development to get us thinking about suitability and about our priorities for the planning horizon. Potential new trailhead locations were shown on different maps to get us thinking about which access points are really critical.

Doug reminded the group that these are not either/or decisions but to pick and choose from various options.

## Discussion Questions:

Laura presented a set of discussion questions that are meant to spur conversation:

- Questions to be answered for each landscape: Raging River/Tiger Mountain & Middle Fork/Mt. Si
  - What two ideas do you think are the most important in the concepts and why?
  - What one thing would you change and why?
  - What might be missing from the concepts?
  
- Questions related to overall landscape:
  - What three ideas in the concepts do you think are most important to pursue in the next 10-15 years and why?
  - Which one idea in the concepts do you think is NOT important to pursue in the next 10-15 years and why?

Mire asked about PMO. When you have horse and hike together, how do you handle both uses? Doug responded that the PMO comes first and then other uses as defined are allowed such as trail running or hiking. You would build trails that work for both or build separate trails. It doesn't mean exclusive use.

Doug asked the group to look at the maps for a while then come back for the discussion. Doug reminded the group that out of this discussion we will come up with option F. It won't be the final, but close. Next month we will work on prioritization, partnerships and enforcement.

## Group discussion about concepts D & E:

Bob Pattie: Middle Fork (MF) - the concept of adding the trailheads is important. More parking and more ways to get into the area is good. Education is missing. We need to think more about how to educate more people. Raging (RR) - connecting between Taylor and the Raging is very important. Expanding more horse and bike trails. We need more of what we've got. Overall we need to formalize trailheads so that we can maintain them better. Overall Comment: Connecting and education are important. Doesn't like idea of narrowing concepts to one activity. We have a lot of good areas and we should use it. Driving access to view points for elderly.

Mike Town: Things to Change. Really wants Kerriston to be included in the planning process. Trails coming into the area would be great. He is concerned that area is going to get trashed and it is better for us to formalize it to protect it. The area that is not really important is the Three Lakes area because the time frame is too long. MF - likes the Mailbox to Dirty Harry's and supports idea of expanded ridgeline connections and connection down to Granite Lakes. Overall: most important ideas: Dirty Harry, Teneriffe T.H. and road to trail conversion, Loop trail on Raging with Shaun Falls. Not important: 3-Lakes concept

Ted Jackson: Camping seems to be missing. MF - Likes Dirty Harry, provide more interpretive trails for different ecosystems. Also interpretive trails for Kerriston. Trailheads provide revenue. Focus should be on high volume trails that are sustainable. Need an ADA inventory of roads and trails. Areas to let go - Three Lakes.

Robert Eversole: MF - Love the CCC Trail. RR - the continuity of trails. Likes potential future connection between S. Tiger & Raging. A lot will be dependent on the HWY 18 expansion. TH at Tiger Summit is important for Horse access into Raging; currently most people starting from Taylor only have time to get to the viewpoint and back. Wants camping somewhere in the RR.

Rick McGuire - MF - Dirty Harry & ridgeline opportunities are top priority. Disappointed none of the options include Mailbox to Dirty Harry's as a possibility for the future. Wants to keep that on the map. RR - echo what Mike said about Kerriston. The stream has some unique features and would like to see River access here. A grand loop between Hwy 18 & Ledges would be nice. Three Lakes is a very low priority. Better to wait for an acquisition opportunity from the Hancock side because that will always be the most logical access point. Wants a mega trailhead near the substation at Raging.

Ann: MF – Likes the Teneriffe Road trailhead to connect to the CCC trail. Designated parking for river access to prevent random parking. Clear designation of what areas are open for horse and bike use. RR – All the trailheads and trails associated with the HWY should be included and communicated to WDOT so it is on their radar. Both trailheads along 18 are important. Access from winery is a really steep start. Leave SE corner dispersed for hunting. RR has been popular for hunting.

Jenni: MF – River access point at South Fork is good to provide a diversity of experiences. Camping is occurring, need to focus use. Hike and Bike on Granite Creek. Trail connection to CCC good. RR – connection from hwy 18 to the hiking trails in E Tiger is good and would be valuable to people. Likes idea of looking for connections for Horse between Tiger, Taylor & Raging. Kerriston element is missing. It needs a lot of discussion. Not sure what the solution is. Likes dispersed areas, possibly increase. Overall – elevate the discussion about river access and combine this with education about riparian areas. Anything dependant on hwy 18 expansion should be put on the back burner.

Mark Boyar: MF – Dirty Harry/Mailbox Peak/Granite connections are important. River access sites are important to handle and determine need for facilities. Need to deal with camping that keeps boaters out. Wants a trail to the pass of Three Lakes. Need to solve the mountain bike as part of this. The mining operation is not such a problem because they only work the mine four months of the year. What is missing – the notion of seamless management with forest service and king county. The issue of day use vs. camping is important to figure out. Grouse Ridge is also important. RR – likes the connections north/south. Overall – Dirty/Mailbox/Granite connection. Dealing with river access issues. Need to address these issues as an integrated entity with other agencies and develop vision for overall landscape – public transit, wildlife corridors, “Nappa of Recreation”

Dave Kappler: MF – two trailheads along the river corridor. Expansion of Dirty Harry’s with potential river access. Granite Lakes needs to be hiker only on weekends because there will be conflicts between bikes and hikers. Connection to Ira Spring and other forest service opportunities to the east and northeast. RR – hiking opportunities in RR on the north slope of Taylor with viewpoint and Shaun falls are really important. Tiger Likes connection to Preston – high route for bikes, low route for hiking. Steep slopes at headwaters of RR need study and may need to be protected. Connection from Taylor to South Tiger would give so many more opportunities to the horse people and would benefit wildlife. Overall – trailheads on hwy 18 are important. Appropriate river access points are important. Missing is access to Green Mt and Three Lakes using existing roads. Public transit to access points.

Glen: MF – mulit use and mountain bike specific trails in the Bessemer area with connection up to the saddle of three lakes. Trail connection to CCC road and Dirty Harry & Rock Climbing development at Exit 38 are good. Granite Creek Road – thinks it can be shared use for hiking and biking. Missing – smaller dispersed parking spaces along road when the road gets paved. RR – elevated connection from Tiger to Preston is a good idea. Also connecting Mitchell Hill with Grand ridge and Preston. Mountain bike PMO is good. RR needs low elevation family friendly access right away. Access from Exit 27 is very steep – need to look at access around Echo Lake side if Mainline access is not available until Hwy-18 expansion in future. Three concepts most important – trail development especially for mountain bikes is really important. Tiger-Preston-Grand Ridge-Mitchell Hill connection. Connections with communities so you don’t always have to drive. One idea that isn’t important is the Highpoint Trailhead expansion. Those trails are already getting a lot of use, instead focus on creating new trails in other areas.

Rebecca: Rural - Ambivalent about developing Mitchell Hill trails given sensitivity of private homes surrounding it. RR: Likes idea of keeping Kerriston a little creepy “unknown” ghost town in the woods, but management issue needs to be resolved. Missing: family-friendly and accessible trails. Overall: Connections are good when possible, also with public transport in mind. Thinks idea of time use restrictions as way to reduce conflicts between users while still providing access can be good solution. Likes interpretive trails for kids.

Sarah: MF - Big fan of Exit 38 development with Dirty Harry, rock climbing and ridgeline connections. Also river access points. Likes the Teneriffe trailhead. Social trails in the middle fork need to be addressed. RR – underpass at Soderman Creek for wildlife and recreational activity is good but may be pie in the sky. Pursuing

local access from North Bend is good. Most important – social trails and problems before we develop a lot more trails. Prioritize river access point improvements.

Amy: MF - big fan of trailhead at Tenneriffe, access to CCC and Dirty Harry connections to middle fork valley and forest service. Likes more parking at beginning of Valley to take pressure off farther up road. Missing – public transit. RR – connections between Raging-Tiger-Taylor are good. Likes the concept of expanding from ledge trail. Missing – connections to regional trails. Overall –trailheads with easy access from I-90 are important; interface with WDOT on Hwy-18 expansion. Not Priority: question – is low elevation trail connection on Tiger to Preston expensive?

Jim: MF: River and Dirty Harry Development important. RR: Likes connection from Snoqualmie Point & into Tiger. Likes ledges/Raging/Kerriston connection. Overall: Most important-Snoqualmie Pt. /Tiger Route, Bike trails in Raging, Horse connections. What is missing – camping, transportation - what if we had a few mega parking areas in the valley and then have shuttles that transport people to trailheads? Low Priority – Three Lakes.

Tom: MF - River access points very important. They are in the right place, have been correctly identified. Focus needs to be on day use because campers exclude day use. Primitive dispersed recreation is good to keep some blank spaces on the map as alternative to enhanced recreational areas. Likes idea of connecting Mailbox, Dirty Harry's, Granite Creek. Missing – trail along the valley so you don't have to walk along the road. RR: Likes recognition of the balance of different uses & connections - thinking about it as an integrated system. Overall: primitive dispersed is important concept.

Mire: MF: Need to address Bessemer & connection to three lakes. Likes bike access to Granite Lake. Missing - Use trail into Dirty Harry. We should really use the existing trails and improve them. RR – Early access for events without having to wait for trailhead is important. Kerriston needs to be addressed one way or the other. Exit 27 is critical. Parking at Tiger summit – critical that it is coordinated with other agencies. The hiker only area in the raging less important – doesn't go anywhere and will require lot of resources. Only have this if Kerriston is an active destination.

Doug reminded the group that this is not a closed process and that we won't get everything on the map but we will do the best we can.

Mark – how do we include in the plan a strong enough visionary statement that we need to work with other entities. How do we get enough detail in the plan so that it gives us enough backing to work with other entities going forward.

Mike – is the final endpoint a map? Or is it going to be a report? Doug says both. With Reiter they were able to locate trails on the ground...are we going to be able to do this with this plan? Doug says he will try. We won't have that level of specificity. Lisa says we will be looking at trail systems and connections between them.

### **Discussion of Items not on the Maps:**

User-built trails – how do you handle this? Rick McGuire stated clearly that we can't ratify and accept these. Mark says education is critical because the people that build them don't realize how much damage they are doing. Also, law enforcement is important. Mike Town suggested creating some signs that show the contrast of how the Middle Fork used to look and how it looks now. This could help with educating folks. Doug suggested we use this process to define how we deal with user-built trails. Ted suggested that if the trail is decent, let it stay. Glen – for the stuff that is already on the ground we should assess it and only keep it if it is good.

Events – Seems like more are happening these days. Ted thinks they tend to foster more user-built trails. If you have events, access needs to be well designated and controlled. Jenni – it seems like the raging is a good place for events. Glenn – events provide a good community experience and opportunity to get together. Others said event field could be used by school groups. Raging is good location for events because it is not in a residential area. Events need to have an established trail system in place to work.

Group size – Granite Lakes. The wilderness has an event size of 12. Working forests allows 25 as maximum group size. The group agreed that we should keep this.

Camping – Mark Boyar talked about camping at Granite Lakes. We should ban it from the lake shore but allow it on the landing that is near by the lake. We want all the day use areas along the road to not be camping and need USFS to support and enforce this as well. As a compromise we could offer a few designated walk-in camping spots at Mine Creek (separate from day use areas). Mire – future options of bringing public transit to the MF valley would be great but it would be better to allow for more than a one-day event. Camping could provide overnight options for this. Robert – likes the idea of a campground in the middle of the Raging with drive-in spots.

Kerriston – we need to have a strategy and a plan. This will be an early action priority in the plan.

Managed road access and ADA access is something we need to figure out as well.