



Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Planning Committee

December 4, 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	Gordon Bradley
Laura Cooper	Doug McClelland	Tyler Traweek
Kelly Heintz	Curt Pavola	

Meeting purpose: To review final concept plan, prioritize projects and discuss partnerships & enforcement. Review what comes next in the planning process.

Welcome: Laura Cooper reviewed the meeting agenda.

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

Schedule: Doug gave an overview about our process to date and where we are going from here. Laura will be working on writing the plan. It will be important for the committee to review the plan and we will need good feedback on the content of the plan, not so much on word-smithing. We will then move into the SEPA process. This will be a non-project specific SEPA. Once environmental review is completed the agency will adopt and implement the plan.

Dave Kappler discussed completing his homework assignment – hiking the Granite Creek Road to Trail Conversion.

Concept F: Laura reviewed the maps and explained that concept F was generated from the discussion about Concepts D&E from our last meeting in November.

The group asked some clarifying questions:

- Kerriston Town Site – we need to do a careful assessment of the cultural resource values before a recommendation can be made. The trail does go right by it, but until we understand the issues, we don't want to highlight it as a destination on the map. Laura will be writing about it in the plan.
- Mire Levy asked about the Granite Creek Trail. The trail from Granite Lakes to Thompson Lake in Alpine Wilderness would be hiking only. At this time we think the trail from Middle Fork Road to Granite Lakes would allow bikes on a trial basis. We will monitor over time and can make adjustments in management strategy. If there are conflicts that cannot be mitigated it will revert to hiking only as the primary management objective.
- Mike Town asked about the Dirty Harry hiking area. Doug explained that the road to trail will occur first and then we will make decisions about other trail segments. Mike recommended changing the map to show an arrow pointing both ways from Dirty Harry's Peak to indicate the

- possibility of high elevation trail connections to be explored but not yet determined.
- Dave Kappler – expansion at Highpoint is very important as the use is increasing and visibility from I-90 makes it popular. Leaving off the trailhead at exit 25 is probably realistic because of the wetland issue. Exit 27 trailhead is a better idea. Exit 27 has better access for transit. The Watershed is right about the high use at the Ledges and it isn't realistic to encourage more hiking on the south end of Rattlesnake Mountain. Shaun Falls is very far down the road for figuring out but important. We are on the right track at Dirty Harry.
 - Mark Boyar – asked about Green Mountain. Because of the difficulty and safety of getting to the summit it is better to end the trail at the last chance promontory.
 - Bob Pattie – we need to make sure we place education as a high priority.
 - Rick McGuire confirmed that the work the group did at Dirty Harry's is not lost, but can still be considered in the future.
 - Mark Boyar – Seasonal closure of parking will affect priority of needs at Mailbox Peak Trailhead; Doug said DNR will work with the county on closure time.
 - Mark Boyar – Seems like an opportunity for transit: reduce CO2, save money on trailheads. How will we address this? Doug—give Laura your comments.
 - Committee – Look at educational users and work with them for access.
 - Mike Town – On the road to Three Lakes there is a flat area with interpretive trail potential: good access for school groups and multiple story options.
 - Overall Group comment – All thumbs up “in general” for Concept F. No thumbs down.

Bessemer: Committee members shared their thoughts on the user built trail system

- Glenn Glover – It is a low visibility trail that does not have a lot of attention from the community. It has three downhill trails. All end at CCC now. The link to river was decommissioned in agreement with DNR and Mark Boyar. Access requires peddle in - about 3,000 ft elevation gain for upper trail. Usually one ride in a day for upper trail, or multiple laps for lower trails. One trail has jumps; one has none; one has a few. All are downhill, and not appropriate for hikers. Survey had 2 comments for biking for every 3 hiking comments. This is a good location on the landscape; no water and good soils. Provides opportunity (with USFS) to manage this recreation. There are more trail miles and four times the number of users at Exit 27 than at Bessemer
- Rick McGuire – Good thing but located in the wrong place. It doesn't fit with management objectives of NRCA. Exit 27 is a better place for this use.
- Mike Town– USFS land there is problematic. Better to build it from scratch in an appropriate location and create protocol for replication throughout DNR – a replicable standard. More opportunities at Exit 27 and the larger area of the Raging River.
- Mark Boyar – If Granite doesn't work for mountain bikes, then the use seems more needed here. In the past, this area was hammered and originally planned for multi-use. It is a natural place for trails. Yes, it would be legitimizing something illegal, but this is similar to Dirty Harry for hiking trails.
- Sarah Krueger– How is it inconsistent with NRCA? Rick – NRCA guidelines call for “low impact uses, where appropriate.” There are better places for this, and for expansion, in other areas.
- Glenn Glover - We are looking for single-track here. The experience cannot be replicated in Raging. This is not a working forest; it is a beautiful environment with older trees and boulders. Doug notes Exit 27 is also second growth that won't be harvested.
- Mire Levy – Conceptually, we should consider current location, especially since resources will be limited for our priorities. Should consider what is there.
- Ted Jackson – voiced his support. No one has offered other location.
- Tom O'Keefe – If this makes sense from an ecological perspective (the right spot) don't discount it because it was user built.

Camping: Committee discussed their ideas about camping being permitted on DNR lands.

- Doug explained that Camping is not DNR's niche but– Event area in the Raging is potentially for overnight use. Camping at Granite Lakes - if it occurs, Kelly will manage it. Camping would not be encouraged and would be subject to maximum group size of 12. USFS is looking at managing camping once the road on Middle Fork is paved. Whether Mine Creek is appropriate or not, DNR should work with USFS on managed camping in the Middle Fork River valley. Concern was that camping is not on the map. Doug says the plan will address it, but not as a place on the map.
- What's the policy for "Primitive Dispersed?" Doug says all of the planning areas are presently day use.
- Regarding Mine Creek: Will we sign for dispersed camping?
- Doug – We'll say it is day use. DNR can't manage the site for camping. Possibly partner with USFS for camping opportunity in this area? Part of a broader dialogue with USFS on the river corridor.
- If designated for camping, it will likely exclude day use
- Mark Boyer – Mixed thoughts on Mine Creek = Only back country site; but slammed for use. Maybe say "no."
- Rick McGuire– Say "dependent on future opportunities and partnerships" instead of "no."

Prioritization: Doug led the group to start the prioritization process. Committee members stuck color coded dots next to projects indicating whether they consider them to be high, medium or low priority. Several projects were organized as package deals, to be done in concert. Committee members commented that many priorities are linked to Highway 18 reconstruction due to access and safety.

Partnerships: Doug talked about partnerships and enforcement and asked the group to provide comments and input. The committee discussed ideas for partnerships to help with development, maintenance, management, and enforcement.

- Amy Brockhaus explained that the Mountains to Sound Greenway is seeking state capital investment in the Snoqualmie Corridor. She handed out a brochure that explains the initiative. This is an effort that is outside the Department of Natural Resources.
- Ted Jackson – when he did the capital request for Reiter, he reached out to County and local officials for support.
- Dave Kappler – In Arcadia National Park, LL Bean runs busses and this seems to be an effective approach.
- Glenn Glover – Important to have the partnerships with local groups to be able to bring volunteer resources for trail maintenance.
- Mire Levy – From the business standpoint it is important to document the benefit to the partners: sponsorships and active involvement and key components.
- Mark Boyer – Federal Highway Administration has a funding source to reduce pollution. We should go to federal highways, the City of North Bend and potentially Nintendo in North Bend.
- Sarah Krueger – Include the tribes and explore opportunities for youth corps and getting them involved.
- Mike Town – kids at his school would like to be involved in the Mitchell Hill area.
- Glenn Glover – Link grants to specific projects and get lots of support from the users. Duthie Hill had lots of Corporate Partnerships.
- Bob Pattie – Groups that are out on the landscape involved in their sport can provide feedback to DNR staff about what they see.

Accessibility: Ted presented the issue of accessibility and encouraged the group to think about ways to improve it. The group gave some suggestions for how to incorporate accessibility into our planning effort.

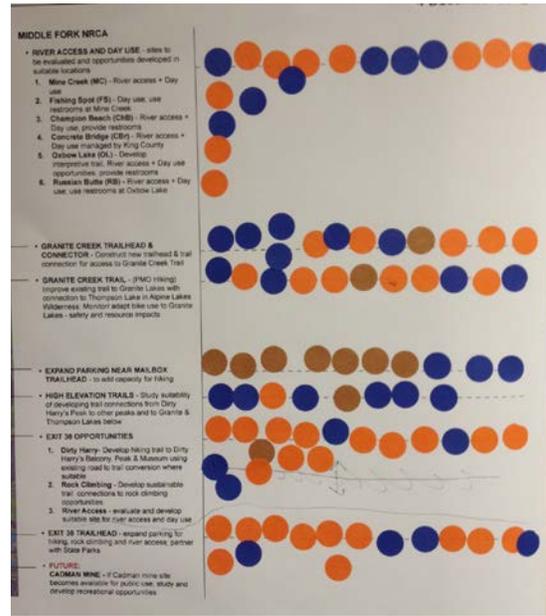
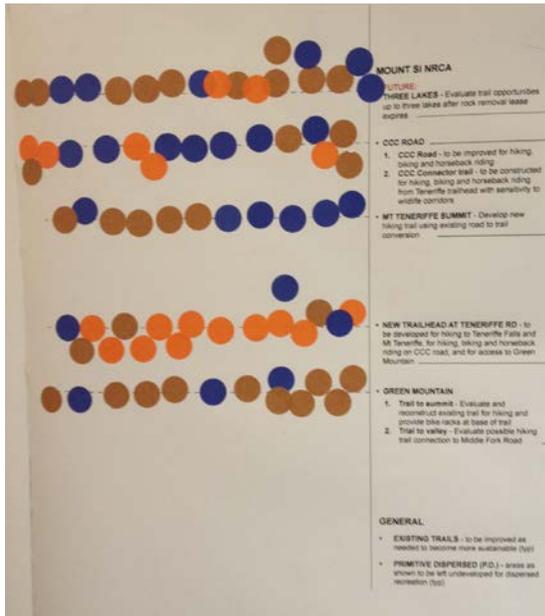
- Middle Fork River access, especially Mine Creek and the Oxbow
- Will there be accessible parking spots along the Middle Fork Road when it is paved?
- Permits for use of logging roads to people who have ADA permit from the State
- Grouse Ridge could have potential
- Ted provided contact information for: Georgena Moran, Access Recreation Project Coordinator: (503) 887-7453.
- Doug suggested we should proactively include ideas of how to incorporate accessibility in the planning area

Enforcement: Doug gave some background information about DNR's current enforcement program including our new enforcement and education staff and asked the committee to provide some suggestions.

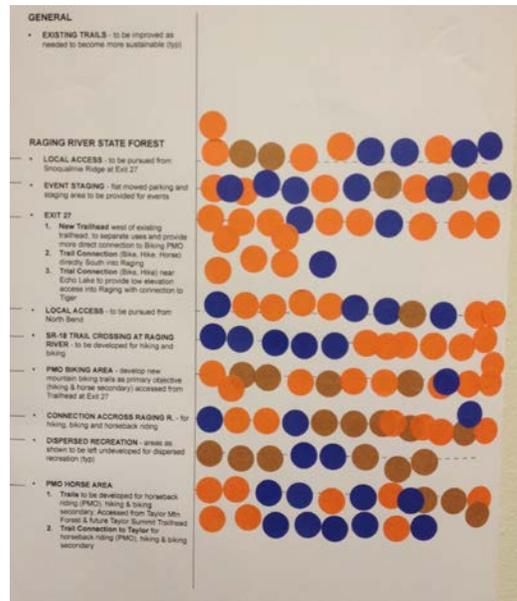
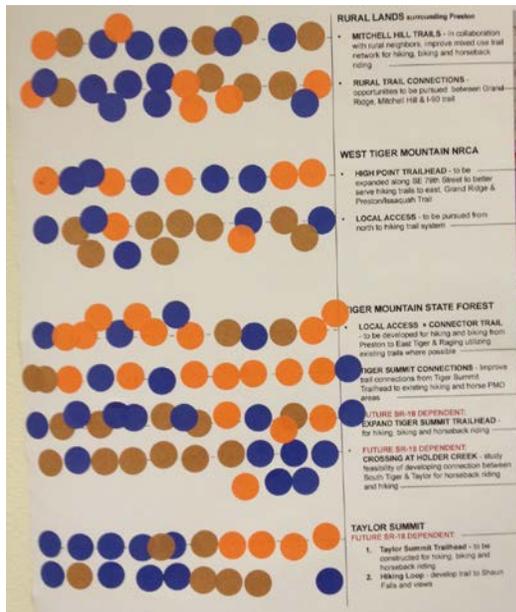
- Rebecca Needham – suggested that DNR needs a tool set to connect to adjacent communities so they can provide eyes and ears to the ground and report back to DNR.
- Jim Berry– Reminded the group about the bunker. He suggested that if there was a good way for people to report negative activity.
- Glenn Glover – attention to the trailheads is important because of all the break-ins.
- It would be good to have cell coverage up the Middle Fork valley for safety.
- Dave Kappler – DNR has far too few law enforcement officers.
- Mark Boyar – bootleg trail issues. We should come out with a statement to people that explains our stance on bootleg trails. Webcams at trailheads might be helpful.

Debrief: Doug and Laura lead the group in a debrief to hear from the group about our process.

- Dave Kappler – it would have been helpful for the committee to have interfaced with the landowners.
- Ann Shilling - More field trips.
- Mire Levy - really enjoyed the field trips and found them very informative.
- Jenni Creveling – the overview at the beginning was good but thought we could repeat some of that information and revisit as we got further into the process. Maybe the planning area is too big.
- Mike Town – really enjoyed the process. He suggests that it would have been really helpful to have been able to take home the maps so that he could really study them.
- Tom O'Keefe – he found the field trips very helpful. There was a benefit of having the agency staff working hard to understand the issues on the ground. Also, in the beginning when each person explained their particular recreation activity was great that DNR staff listened and learned from that.
- Dave Kappler – appreciated the ability to get out and look at things.
- Rick McGuire – Pleased that DNR listened to the committee and the maps do reflect what committee members suggested.
- Glenn Glover – field trips were good. We may have been able to get more attendance if they weren't during the summer.
- Jim Berry – diversity of the group was really good. We all learned more because of it.
- Sarah Krueger – appreciated the documents that Laura put together and the transparency of DNR staff throughout the process.
- Mire Levy – Wishes there was better ethnic diversity on the committee particularly because the people that use public lands is becoming more diverse.



A) Eastern Half: Mt. Si NRCA, Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCA



B) Western Half: West Tiger Mountain NRCA, Tiger Mountain State Forest, Raging River State Forest, Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area, Rural Lands surrounding Preston

Fig. 1. Record photos of committee prioritization exercise: The planning area was divided into an eastern and western half. Committee members were asked to assign a priority to the different proposed projects by using color coded dots:

- Orange = Critical
- Blue = Next to do
- Brown = Can wait