

Naneum Ridge to Columbia River Recreation and Access Plan Implementation Meeting

Meeting Summary

February 11, 2016

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Hal Holmes Center, Ellensburg

Objective:

- **Discuss DNR/WDFW Process for Implementing the Naneum Recreation Plan; Two agencies, two processes for implementation - equal commitment to the Rec Plan**

Agenda

- 6:00 Welcome & Introductions (Mike Livingston, WDFW, & Todd Welker, DNR)
- 6:10 Meeting Overview (Melinda Posner, WDFW)
- 6:20 History of the Plan (Mike Williams, DNR)
- 6:30 Process for Implementation
 - Wildlife Area Advisory Committee roles (Scott McCorquodale, WDFW)
 - Implementation in the Naneum Ridge State Forest (Larry Leach, DNR)
- Next Steps (Scott McCorquodale & Alan Lawson, DNR)
- 7:00 Comments from Sign-up Sheet (Melinda Posner)
- 7:30 Green Dot Map Updates (Larry Leach)
- 7:35 Breakout for Informal Feedback
- 8:00 Adjourn

Meeting Summary

Melinda Posner, WDFW opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda and meeting ground rules. She asked agency staff to introduce themselves. Agency staff included: Scott McCorquodale, Region 3 Wildlife Program Manager, Shana Winegeart, LT Murray Wildlife Area Manager, Pete Lopushinsky, Colockum Wildlife Area Manager, Mike Williams, DNR Recreation Forester, Larry Leach, DNR Assistant Region Manager, Jeanne Demorest, WDFW Planner, Alan Lawson DNR Recreation and Conservation District Manager, Ken McNamee, DNR

Mike Livingston, WDFW Regional Director, and Todd Welker, DNR Region Manager, welcomed the attendees and shared their support for the Plan and interagency cooperation throughout implementation. They thanked those who had been on the Plan advisory committee for their hard work during the planning process.

Mike Williams reviewed the history of the Plan.

- The Plan was developed by WDFW & WDNR to manage recreation on 229,000 acres
- It is a 10-15 year Plan that took 2 years to develop and was adopted in January 2015
- The planning process included an extensive public process with a diverse 15 member advisory committee
- The Plan
 - Addresses public road access/Green Dot system and dispersed recreation
 - Discusses facility-oriented recreation and environmental restoration
 - Encourages partnerships, education and enforcement
 - Considers wildlife and habitat

Scott McCorquodale explained the process for implementation and role that the Wildlife Area Advisory Committees will play during implementation.

- WDFW & WDNR are the lead agencies for implementing the plan
- An intergovernmental interdisciplinary team is being developed that will scope initial project alternatives
- New funding will be needed to implement many of the projects outlined in the Plan
- The Plan calls for:
 - Net increase in Green Dot roads
 - Motorized and non-motorized access
 - Summer and winter access
 - Road Management and Abandonment Planning (RMAP) - like process to address environmental issues with shrub-steppe roads
- Road work requires prioritization
- Wildlife Area Advisory Committees will play a key role in WDFW's implementation process
- WDFW will also hold project-specific public meetings as needed and will engage in project level State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review where required

Larry Leach described how the Plan would be implemented in the Naneum Ridge State Forest

- The DNR welcomes comments & input from the public throughout implementation of the Plan
- We want to keep the groups that were represented on the planning committee informed on our progress, because we owe it to them.
- There is no "standing committee" for implementation.

- While we will always listen to questions and comments from the public, it will be rare when we deviate from what the completed plan prescribes.
- DNR plans on having annual meetings to update progress, invite public participation, and review the plan

Next Steps (Scott McCorquodale & Alan Lawson)

- Project concepts are described in the Plan in the form of objectives & strategies
- Some projects have defined design elements, whereas others are only concepts
- The Plan includes priorities developed by the Planning Committee
- For WDFW lands, projects include Skookumchuck Roads, Green Gate, RMAP-like process for shrub-steppe roads, Whiskey Dick Winter Closure
- DNR is implementing priorities as funding allows
 - Exploring options for public road access from the south into the Naneum Ridge State Forest
 - Pursuing, as part of Phase 1 project implementation, a planning grant related to non-motorized winter recreation.
 - Established 2 ADA hunter access sites in the Naneum Ridge State Forest as part of Phase 1 project implementation
 - Working with volunteers to maintain green dot signs

Larry reviewed the process for Green Dot Map updates

- The agencies met in December and updated the maps to reflect current conditions
 - They established an annual process to review the maps and make revisions that will maintain map accuracy; updated maps will be available by May 1st each year
- The agencies will be working towards making the maps available online and for smart phones

Melinda facilitated formal comments for those who had signed up to speak. Comments are summarized on page 4. Following the formal comments the group broke out into small groups for informal discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Naneum Public Meeting comments
February 11, 2016

Formal Comment Period after Rec Plan Implementation Presentation

Name	Comment
Max Tilton	Re: Pettit Rd closure; process hasn't been transparent; this area is the busiest during hunting season; been going there for many years; if closed, can't use it in the same way; goes against Plan objectives of making recreation more accessible; hunters have been left out of process
Bill Tilton	Thanks for Rec Plan Committee for its effort; also concerned about Pettit Rd. closure; some folks tear up the meadow; this closure hurts the hunters who are good stewards; we have a 60-yr history; will be more difficult for some users if not able to drive in; mandate of WDFW and the Commission: maximize recreation opportunities for all; Page 19 of the Rec Plan says "...reduce impacts to meadows...", it doesn't say "close"; please reconsider how to address and look at other ways to manage it
Gus Bekker	Was a Rec Plan Committee member; don't want to rehash the decisions made by the committee after two years of public meetings; please don't go back and do it all over again; it's unclear if that is what's being considered with the WLA advisory committee process; ready to partner with you and seek funds; let's keep going
Norm Gutzweiler	Surprised to learn that there have been discussions about projects in the Stemilt Basin; expected to be involved and be lead entity; need to follow up with what is discussed in the Plan and work with the Stemilt Partnership
Mike Kaputa	Chelan County helped facilitate the Plan and is interested in the Stemilt; have been working with Jim Brown and believe we have an agreement to implement the Plan with the Stemilt Partnership; lots of other recreation projects going on including Mission Ridge Ski Area expansion; Evergreen mountain bike alliance folks and others; support previous comments by Norm
Other Comments	Would like to understand the status of funding; interested in mountain biking trails; what level of impact to wildlife; important to do full-scale SEPA to address impacts (e.g. orchards/elk in the Stemilt)
	Plan ahead; use of SEPA
	Any plans to integrate both agencies' lands on the Green Dot Road maps?