**Stemilt-Squilchuck Recreation Planning Process**

**Recreation Committee**

**11/28/2018 Meeting Notes**

**Participants:**

John and Marty Erickson; Apple Country Snowmobile Club

Bruce Merighi; Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishermen

Brian Patnode; WA State Parks

William Moore; WDFW

Pete Lopushinsky; WDFW

Ace Bollinger; Apple Country Snowmobile Club

Travis Hornby; EMBA, TREAD

Josh Jorgensen; Mission Ridge

Kari Johnson; Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce

Ben Alworth; Stemilt Growers

Larry Leach; DNR

James W. Wiggs; Wenatchee Heights Reclamation District

Cody Gillin; WTA

Ariahna Jones; Wenatchee Valley College (with students)

Susan Rosebough; NPS

Jennifer Stein; NPS

Erin McKay; Chelan County

**Meeting Notes:**

1:00-1:15 Welcome and Introductions

Erin welcomed everyone and a round of introductions was made so new and continuing attendees could be introduced

1:15-1:40 Presentation on planning process and happenings since the last meeting

Erin briefly covered the planning process and timeline to date, progress made at the last four recreation committee meetings in March, May, July and September of 2017. She also discussed progress and updates that occurred since the September meeting. More details on this section can be seen in the attached powerpoint.

1:40-1:55 What is monitoring and why monitor?

Jennifer, NPS, introduced the idea of developing a monitoring strategy for the recreation plan. With every type of recreation use comes some level of impact. In order for us to determine the level of acceptable impact associated with recreation and ways to measure and monitor this impact in the Stemilt, we first need to understand what monitoring is and benefits of monitoring.

Monitoring is the process of routinely, systematically, and purposely gathering information or observations to assess how conditions are progressing. The attributes that we track changes in overtime should be tied to our long term goals (desired conditions) so we can tell if we are making progress toward achieving these goals.

Monitoring can help us know if conditions have really changed, and if what we are observing is acceptable. It can also clarify issues of concern and the associated management response. Monitoring can help refine concepts and designs, and information and action from monitoring can help bolster funding requests.

1:55-2:10 What can we monitor related to recreation?

Next, Jennifer explained what types of things the group could consider monitoring related to recreation. She defined and gave examples of indicators, which are specific resource or experiential attributes that can be tracked over time. Committee members tried this idea out in pairs by discussing with a neighbor what specific attributes a doctor uses to track their health over time. Then, Jennifer introduced thresholds, which ensure that conditions remain acceptable for the selected indicators.

Thresholds are minimally acceptable conditions associated with each indicator. Committee members tried this idea out in pairs by identifying two thresholds for their previously mentioned health indicators, and discussing what happens as they approach the threshold. The group confirmed at large, as thresholds are approached more aggressive action may be taken and/or their overall approach may be altered in order to achieve and maintain acceptable health (i.e. their goals).

After getting grounded in the basics of monitoring, the focus was brought back things we need to directly address in the current situation in the Stemilt by reviewing the list of issues and opportunities created by the recreation committee. The group confirmed the list and suggested a few minor edits, captured by the facilitators. Then Jennifer did an example in a table using one of the issues from the list for how to begin turning a broad issue or opportunity in a more specific and tangible topic that could be monitored. An example of this table can be seen in the attached powerpoint.

2:10- 2:20 Break

2:20 -3:20 What can we monitor (continued)

Meeting attendees split into three groups. Each group was given three issues/opportunities from the list of issues and opportunities to draft specific topics for potential social or resource indicators. After drafting things to measure related to each issue or opportunity, each group did a 5 minute report out to the large group. Erin and Susan took brief notes on what each group reported they could consider measuring.

Groups took their notes in tables like what can be seen in the attached powerpoint presentation. These more detailed group notes will be summarized and brought to the recreation committee at a future workshop for review and prioritization.

3:20 - 3:40 Desired Conditions: Review changes and confirm

Erin reviewed progress made to date on desired conditions statements (long term goals). Brian Patnode, WA State Parks, made general comments how it would benefit all parties if language allowed a bit more flexibility especially in regards to facilities and other partners zoning. He made specific references that other committee members agreed with. Recreation committee members agreed by consensus to confirm all desired condition statements if Erin makes the suggested changes. Members said they do not need to see the revised statements, since changes were minor.

3:40 - 4:00 Wrap-up and Next Steps

* Jen to groups’ ideas about monitoring into potential indicators. In a future meeting we will be prioritizing potential indicators to see what is feasible to monitor.
* Preferred Alternative, review by WDFW, for compatibility with Section 6 monies, the Colockum Elk Plan, and the Naneum Plan. A revised version of the preferred alternative will be sent ahead of the January meeting.
* Erin to give update the Stemilt Partnership (December 6)
* Chelan County and NPS will be working on a Community Outreach Strategy.
* Share site designs for Clear Lake and Steffen’s Meadow with this group.
* Erin to send out the roads recommendations to date and notes from the road committee. And will share our road recommendations with the agency green-dot road committee when they are ready.
* Group review the recreation alternatives and identify any areas where more details are desired and can be added ahead of our next meeting.
* Next meeting (January)

**Brainstorming ideas about monitoring based on key issues and opportunities**

**Continue to provide opportunities for traditional uses such as hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling.**

* Hunting –
  + No change in regulations
  + Increase or decrease in hunting use and access
  + Increase and decrease in non-hunting use
* Fishing –
  + Water quality good
  + Number of fish caught – gather from the cards that people fill out associated with their license
  + Amount of garbage picked up each spring
  + Increase or decrease in fishing access and use
* Snowmobile –
  + Number of groomed trails
  + Number of parking spaces in the sno parks
  + Increase of decrease in the number of snowmobilers

**Create desired new types of non-motorized recreation opportunities.**

* Winter use: fat tire bike, skiing, Snowshoe; Summer use: hiking, running, biking
  + Number of vehicles in parking lots
  + Number of trail miles
  + Number of users: Have cards people fill out at trailheads

**Build on partnerships for implementation and management of recreation use.**

* Number of things built
* Number of meetings with landowners
* Number of agreements
* Number of partnerships and plans that are produced
* Interagency cooperation
* Long-term management

**Perceived changes in types and amounts of recreational use.**

Remove perceived change and just say change

* Trailhead self-registration cards – identify use type
* Traffic counters – amount of use
* User surveys

**Potential conflicts between recreation users.**

* Wheeled vehicles vs. snowmobiles
* Skiers vs. snowmobiles
* Equestrian vs. mountain biking and hiking
* Target shooters vs. other users
* Hunting vs. other users
* Indicators could be law enforcement citations and user surveys

**Lack of agency resources to conduct adequate backcountry enforcement of illegal recreation uses.**

* Litter – amount of trash at high use areas
* If access improved, social pressure to resolve that issue.
* Driving on closed roads – affects wildlife and damages road
  + Education
  + Nova grant
* Adequate signage needed to address this issue
* Wood-cutting, illegal camping, illegal dumping, Poaching
  + idea behind green dot roads was to help reduce poaching; lots of entrances and exits make the problem worst.

**Intentional and unintentional motorized use of non-green dot road system due to the lack of information and enforcement**

Change to lawful and unlawful instead of intentional and unintentional?

* Gates of the green dot roads. – car counters to see if they are on the road; gates on one and not the other – see what happens with counters? Does gate keep it away?
* Winter recreation – not damaging anything
* Reduction in wildlife impact

**Intentional and unintentional recreation use of private lands.**

Change to lawful and unlawful?

* Reduction in motorized use at the reservoirs
  + Irrigation users don’t mind people recreating; but motorized use is seen as incompatible
* Input from private landowners

**Impacts of current and future recreation use on wildlife, water, and natural resources.**

* Monitor vandalism, trash
* Water quality
* Seasonal closure – based on rain or snow
* Number of signs/kiosks with the rules entering and leaving these lands
* Game camera – takes picture – your license is monitored and recorded?
* Control the access points – keep to one or two access points- easier for patrolling