

Rocky Reach Meeting Minutes

To: Distribution List
From: Michelle Smith
Date: May 15, 2001
Subject: Rocky Reach Social Sciences Issues
Attendees: Refer to Sign-Up Sheet
Location: Chelan PUD Retail Operations Conference Room, Wenatchee, Washington

Meeting Purpose

- 1) Review and discuss Recreation Inventory Summary and first draft Recreation Needs Forecast and Analysis.
- 2) Continue discussion of cumulative impacts.

Working Group Status Report (see handout)

Michelle Smith, Chelan PUD (PUD), distributed a status report that included a review of the issues covered at the March 20 meeting and a schedule for the 2001 studies. She pointed out that the second draft Project Lands Management Report is due May 30 and would be reviewed at the next meeting.

Study Reports

Recreation Inventory Report

Debby Howe, Howe Consulting, (via teleconference) reviewed the revisions that were made to the first draft, dated April 6, based on the comments and discussion from the March 30 meeting. Michelle (PUD) mentioned that there were no formal comments received. In addition to the revisions, Figure 5-1, Public Recreation Sites and Designated Wildlife Recreation Lands and Figure 10-1, Chelan PUD-Owned Property were added.

Debby, Howe Consulting (Howe), pointed out that she obtained some information regarding U.S. Bureau of Land Management lands and, therefore, was able to improve Section 9.2. She explained the information was based on the 1987 plan because that was all she could find. Greg Jones (PUD) mentioned there was a more recent plan and offered to forward the updated information to her.

Michelle (PUD) mentioned that she, Greg Jones and Debby discussed park maintenance and, because some facilities were aging, they thought there was a need to add an addendum to the report that summarized the park manager's anticipated future maintenance for the public facilities. Gregg Carrington's (PUD) recommendation was to leave the inventory as a summary and include park maintenance in the Recreation Plan. After further discussion, it was agreed to include it as an addendum to the Recreation Inventory Report because it could be used as a working document for all managing agencies and would be more easily referenced there in the future.

Jim Eychaner (IAC) explained that he would have updated information associated with Section 9.3.2, An Assessment of Recreation on Public Land, once the updated data was completed. He felt that there would be significant change in some of the numbers and, therefore, recommended that information contained in Section 9.3.2 be removed and replaced with the new tables he will provide to Debby.

In conclusion, Michelle (PUD) stated that first draft comments and the missing data will be included in the second draft, which is scheduled for distribution by the end of May.

Recreation Needs Forecast and Analysis

Because the report contained so much data, the working group reviewed the conclusions and discussed some of the supporting data. Debby (Howe) mentioned that the needs identified were from sources available and may not show all of the needs and that the report was open to any additional input.

One conclusion discussed was the need for cleaner and better-maintained bathroom and shower facilities at some of the parks. Gregg (PUD) pointed out that the facilities may not be the issue but, instead, the need for additional funding to provide the staffing necessary to maintain them. Greg Jones (PUD) agreed and added that park employees were being asked to do more with less funding.

The group also discussed the need for additional camp and RV sites within the Project area to accommodate peak-season demands. It was suggested that instead of adding additional camp and RV sites, an option would be to extend the season at the parks. Dave Schwab (PUD) responded that state park schedules are very rigid, and it would be difficult to extend their season. Wendell Black, city of Entiat, also responded that it would be difficult to extend the Entiat Park season due to staffing. Jim (IAC) mentioned that national research showed that RV campers were looking for places to camp in the off-season. Dave (PUD) stated that, based on Beebe Bridge Park manager, off-season campers tend to be older, and there was usually little maintenance associated with them.

Orondo Park was identified as needing additional improvements, but Greg Jones (PUD) pointed out that the issues with Orondo Park were being addressed in the Orondo Plan. The plan should be completed by the end of May, and he will send Debby a copy.

The final topic discussed was trails. Bill Fraser, State Parks, commented that additional information should be added to the report regarding the Rocky Reach Trail and Interpretive Center. Gregg (PUD) also referred to the idea of developing nature/interpretive trails on the mitigation lands. Jim (IAC) felt that tourist and local visitors would use the trail. Arnie Arneson, Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center Foundation, informed the group that the Trail, Forest and Fire trail is located on the north end of Entiat and would request that it be recognized and included in the report. Gregg (PUD) verified with him that it was a nonprofit trail. The working group agreed to add it to the inventory and Arnie would provide the information to Debby.

Concluding the working group discussion, Greg Jones (PUD) said he had a concern regarding the timing of the surveys (between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.) and that not all types of activities would have been considered. He continued by saying that there are specific activities occurring in late afternoons and early evenings. The main purpose for including those activities was that the people using the park during those hours have different recreational needs than campers. Debby stated she would note this in the report.

Action Items

Recreation Inventory Report

Jim Eychaner will provide Debby/Michelle with new SCORP data as soon as it's available

Remove Section 9.3.2 and replace with tables (provided by Jim Eychaner)

Karin Whitehall will follow up with Barb Jackson to provide Debby with the updated Entiat River Valley site information

Debby will add Assessment of Conditions as an addendum in the inventory report by June 30

Greg Jones will provide Debby with updated BLM data to include in Section 9.2

Debby/Michelle will incorporate comments into the next draft of Recreation Inventory Report

Needs Assessment

Michelle/Greg Jones will get a copy of the Orondo Park Master Plan and send to Debby
Debby/Michelle will add more information on the Rocky Reach Trail (State Parks)
Debby will talk to Arnie Arneson and include information on the Trail, Forest & Fire trail
Debby/Michelle will add additional information to "Day Use" during the evening hours
Working group members will submit comments by May 30

Cumulative Impacts

Discussion was postponed until the July meeting. Gregg (PUD) pointed out that handouts regarding cumulative impacts were provided and urged working group members to review them prior to the discussion at the next meeting.

Other Business

John Huselton, Entiat Focus Group, announced that an Economic Summit, hosted by Chelan and Douglas Chambers, would be held at the Wenatchee Center on May 31.

Next Meeting

To be determined.

Reference materials are posted on the Web site, www.chelanpud.org/rr_relicense. Please contact Rosana Sokolowski, (888)663-8121, Ext. 6371, if hard copies are required.

- Sign-up Sheet
- Distribution List
- Working Group Status Report
- Recreation Needs Forecast and Analysis, first draft
- Cumulative Impact Scoping and Assessment Procedures
- Cumulative Impact Considerations
- Overview of the Leaburg/Waltermville Project