

Rocky Reach Meeting Minutes

To: Distribution List
From: Michelle Smith
Date: June 26, 2002
Subject: Rocky Reach Social Resources Issues
Attendees: Refer to Sign-Up Sheet
Location: Bureau of Land Management Conference Room, Wenatchee, WA
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Purpose

To discuss mandatory conditioning agencies anticipated issues, identify protection, mitigation & enhancement (PME) measures and receive an overview of current PUD park monitoring methods.

Mandatory Conditions

The Social Sciences working group last met on May 15 and began discussing protection, mitigation and enhancement (PME) measures. One concern was what items the mandatory conditioning agencies would be requesting.

Karin Whitehall, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), stated that at this time she does not anticipate any mandatory conditioning items that would be requested by the USFS. Gregg Carrington, Chelan PUD (PUD), asked how much USFS land is within the project boundary. Karin (USFS) responded that there are 40 acres within the project boundary. Neither Jim Eychaner, Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC), nor Susan Rosebrough, National Park Service (NPS), foresee any items either. Gregg (PUD) mentioned that discussions are occurring with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) whether they have mandatory conditioning authority.

Park Monitoring

Jim Fisher (BLM) raised a question at the May 15 working group meeting regarding recreation monitoring. His concern was that dispersed recreation is occurring in some areas and wondered if anyone is currently monitoring. Greg Jones (PUD) provided an overview of current Chelan PUD monitoring methods. He said that the PUD collects information from all PUD parks on the reservoir. The PUD also asks other managing agencies to provide visitor counts. Greg (PUD) explained that the PUD has activity information on day use, campers, boat use as well as special events, ballpark and shelter use at PUD parks. Greg (PUD) said that as for dispersed recreation, the PUD is not required to record dispersed activity. However, dispersed recreation is monitored. He also said that some of the monitoring methods have improved over the years; car counting remains the primary method because trends or changes can be monitored consistently.

Relicensing Schedule

Michelle (PUD) reviewed the tentative timeline for Rocky Reach Relicensing:

May - Nov. 2002 ...Identify and analyze PME's
Nov. 27, 2002Complete first draft Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment (PDEA) and License Application (LA)
Jan. 26, 2003Issue first draft LA and PDEA for review and comment
Oct. 21, 2003Issue second draft LA and PDEA for review and comment
June 20, 2004Submit final copy of LA and PDEA

Michelle (PUD) mentioned that while the LA and PDEA are being developed she would also be drafting the Rocky Reach Recreation Plan.

PME Development (see handout)

The group reviewed the issues that were identified from the March and April 1999 issue identification meetings as well as the protection, mitigation and enhancement (PME) list developed by the working group.

Gregg (PUD) explained that the term PME would be interchangeable. He explained that in other relicensing processes, more time has been spent on talking about what PME means rather than using the effort to develop them. Gregg (PUD) said that if there is an ongoing Project-related impact, those are the "need to do" items that the PUD will address through relicensing. He continued by saying that once the "need to do" items are addressed and there are funds available, then the PUD can address some of the "nice to do" or enhancement items. Gregg (PUD) explained PMEs would be evaluated based on whether the project is the PUD's responsibility, within PUD legal authority, and is consistent with the Needs Analysis. He then reviewed further evaluation of PMEs. Jim (IAC) suggested using the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NRSE) to project supply and demand.

Keith Vradenburg, Entiat Focus Group (Entiat), commented that the Fire District has difficulty accessing the Columbia River above Entiat and this is a problem during river rescues. He continued by saying that there is only one public launch and there is a need for additional public access from mile marker 207 1/2 to the end of Stayman Flats. Keith (Entiat) said that the Fire District has approached 10 private landowners to request permission for access and only one may allow access. Greg (PUD) asked if Douglas County helps with rescue. Keith (Entiat) responded by saying that Douglas County is training and there is a lack of manpower to help. Jim (IAC) suggested to reserve land as it becomes available that could be used for access. Bob Whitehall, City of Entiat (City), pointed out that if access were provided then garbage and restroom facilities may be needed.

Mayor Wendell Black, City of Entiat (Entiat), said that Entiat would not be ready to discuss PMEs until August. Susan Knipfer, Entiat School District (Entiat), asked about an endowment fund concept. Kris Pomianek (PUD) explained the PUD is looking into a countywide fund and over the next several months the PUD will be developing a business plan and will begin talking to the communities. Gregg (PUD) added that there would be stipulations and that if the fund is developed the money would be for projects associated with Project lands and waters.

Other Issues

Entiat

Mayor Black (Entiat) stated that the city is still interested in meeting with a consultant to develop an overall city plan. Bob (City) commented he would like to develop the shoreline corridor. Gregg (PUD) stated that a plan proposal could be developed by a consultant that would concentrate on the river corridor. Michelle (PUD) suggested talking with J.T. Atkins who is the consultant working on the Upper Valley plan. The group discussed the idea of working with J.T. Atkins and having him help develop the outline for the shoreline plan. Michelle and Kris (PUD) will coordinate a meeting with the Entiat Focus Group, PUD and J.T. Atkins.

Next Meeting

August 28

Action Items

- ✓ Kris and Michelle will set up a meeting with Entiat Focus Group and J.T. Atkins
- ✓ Michelle will begin developing the Recreation Plan

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

- ✓ Sign-up Sheet
- ✓ Distribution List
- ✓ Social Sciences PME Proposal Development Worksheet 1
- ✓ Social Sciences PME Proposal Development Worksheet 2
- ✓ Considerations for Evaluating PME Measures
- ✓ Preliminary Issue Identification List, March 25, 1999 and April 27, 1999