

**Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative
Recreation Committee Trails Meeting**

November, 11th 2018, 3:00 – 4:30

“Coming together for healthy forests and communities”

Participants: Susan K-O, Loren H., Jim C., Linda W., Becky H., Omero T., Mark, Michelle E., Chloe G-H, Ed B., Molly J.

Staff: Sarah A-P., Trisha M.

Middle Fork Willamette Trails Plan process update & next steps

- **PPT of process:** The trails plan will be a blueprint of a community-proposed and vetted trails projects. It will be a living document, the district ranger makes final project decisions. The framework & the timeline: 1. Public input 10/1/18 – 2/1/19. 2. Technical committees working on researching, editing, etc. on proposals. 2/1/19-12/31/19. 3. Plan is written and published 12/2019-4/2020. Technical committees will ground-truth, flag, gps, proposed projects. Filter projects using land use laws, natural resource info, etc. – half day training required. Create complete projects proposals. More info and power points at <https://southwillamette.wixsite.com/swfc/trailsplan>
- **Review of online survey:** Showed the webpage on SWFC website where people can find the survey if they didn't get time to finish at the meeting or had any after thoughts.
- **How will committee engage:** The recreation committee should participate as individuals in the process and the committee might have a role down the road as a multi-party voice in promoting/ prioritizing projects within the final plan.

Discussion: Are there any other Districts that are working on collaborative trails planning? Yes, this is a national effort and forests are taking it on at different paces and times. Omero shared an example of a multi-party effort in Arizona. Not sure if other efforts are starting in R6, maybe on the Siuslaw.

- Technical committees will be broken down into different trail areas, spending time on those trails – each committee will take up a fair amount of time.
- The steering committee is the coordinating body for the project: Kevin Rowell, Jim Coey, Kathy Holston, Michelle Emmons. They will guide the technical committees and final report.

How is the Rec. committee different/ separate? The Rec committee is considering all types of recreation on the Middle Fork. Looking at priorities in general, with interests beyond trails – finding more ways to connect the community with the forest, volunteer engagement, etc. The final product will be a Middle Fork sustainable recreation plan and the trails plan will be resource to guide implementation for trails.

- For example, on the Prescott NF, the forest came up with a sustainable rec plan and a collaborative committee came up with a separate sustainable rec plan, the two groups came together and discussed their interests.
- Initially, the Rec committee identified four theme areas: Trails, Touring (road access), Water and Snow. We might need to reconsider the approach now that trails will be more thoroughly covered, but there might still be a need for the committee to engage in the trail planning process. Education, events, economic impacts and volunteerism will be integrated

into each of the areas – but looking at additional themes may be necessary as we move forward because there are many different aspects to each recreation activity.

- o There may be a need for a separate special permit use workshop. Finding a way to get special use permit holders to engage more, not just paying the fee, but getting volunteers engaged and understanding common challenges and needs and how to better coordinate.
- o Could we create a check-list for each area, what amenities, how does it get used, etc. looking at all the different dynamics of an area? It's difficult to share a lot of information in groups, may need to find a process for disseminating information. Thinking through the best way to revisit information as we tackle different topics.
- This next year may be a lot of learning and discussion, there may be no specific on the ground outcomes, but planning forward to future outcomes.
- The committee agreed to focus on touring during the first quarter. Snow and Water will come after. The goal will be to do a SWOT analysis of each area: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. ID common challenges and opportunities for all recreation on the District and identify where to focus investment to improve outcomes.

Crowdsourcing map

Ocala National Forest trash hound map [link](#) – example of how the Forest Service is using crowdsourcing. A crowdsourcing map could be an option for tracking FS trail work and project needs for the partners that do the work. It could be internal, certain partners would be able to go in and mark off what they've accomplished. Riverkeep is another crowdsource map example for issues along the river. This ask needs to come from the partners. High Cascade volunteers are currently working on a project to trail work and will take this back to their partners to consider.

Updates

- **Side by sides (SXS):** The City of Oakridge tried to get approval for road access from the County but the dealbreaker is additional funding for the sheriff's office. Right now, the City allows access, but there is approximately 22 miles of county road that access various forest service roads. Registering the SXS would allow access to the roads and would create revenue for the state. The City is starting to prepare the staging area at the industrial park – the plan is to make it easier for people to recreate, without having to park a vehicle and trailer on FS roads causing potential interference for other recreation activities.
 - o Forest service did a mixed-use analysis on what hazards exist with increased SXS use and will move forward with allowing access to roads 2117 & 2118
- **Events:** Middle Fork Willamette Trails Survey open until February 2019 [link](#)
- **Workshops/ Conferences:** A few people attended the Bend trails meeting. The Back Country Horsemen newsletter includes information from the meeting.

Next Meeting: January 31, 2019

Adjourn