

**Washington State Parks**  
**WINTER RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**2022 Winter Meeting**  
**January 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**Minutes**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

John Baranowski (Chair, Area 5)  
Lynn Alderson (Area 2)  
Jim Rhodes (Area 1)  
VACANT (Area 6)  
Bob Seelye (Motorized)  
Tim Penelerick - Absent (Motorized)  
Michael Burns - Absent (Vice Chair, Area 3)  
Emilie Blevins (Area 4)  
Mike Couch (Motorized)  
Joe Chavez (DNR)  
Tony Leonetti (WDFW)  
Rob Jones (Association of Counties)

**Washington State Parks Staff:**

Pamela McConkey (Manager, Winter Recreation Program)  
Jason Goldstein (Winter Recreation Program)  
AJ Parlan (Winter Recreation)  
Travis Larson (Winter Recreation)  
Mike Sternback (Assistant Director of Operations)  
Don Hoch (Director)

**Guests**

Diana Dupuis, Mt. Spokane State Park  
Trevor Wylie, Lake Wenatchee State Park  
John Ernster, Central Cascades Area  
Andrew Kerlee, Lake Easton State Park  
Kyle Capizzi, Kongsbergers  
John O'Brien, SMAC  
Amber Deming, Methow Valley Ranger District  
Lenore Marentette  
Todd Schmutz, Snoqualmie Ranger District  
Rune Harkestad, Kongsbergers  
Keith R, Kongsbergers  
Karen Behm, CCWRC  
Donald James Brooks  
Linda Caputo  
R. Skillman  
Joe McNulty, Kongsbergers

## Saturday January 29, 2022, Agenda

| Item   | Summary  | Action               |
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| <b>Welcome, Intro, New Members</b>               | <p>John Baranowski welcomed everyone to the meeting including and stated he wish we could have met in person but understands why the meeting is happening via zoom. Each member introduced themselves.</p> <p>John then went through each person in attendance and had them introduce themselves.</p>  | No Action            |
| <b>Review Agenda</b>                             | <p>John moved onto reviewing agenda and didn't hear anything about changes.</p>  | No Action            |
| <b>Review and approve summer meeting minutes</b> | <p>John asked if any committee members had any additions to the meeting minutes.</p> <p><b>Mike Couch motioned to approve the minutes as posted.</b></p> <p><b>Lynn Alderson seconded the motion.</b></p> <p><b>John called for a vote.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b></p>   | <b>Motion Passed</b> |
| <b>Committee Members Area Reports</b>            | <p>John moved on to committee member reports and started with Emilie Blevins.</p> <p><b>Emilie Blevins, Area 4</b><br/>Reported that there wasn't much to report but that there was a lot of snow that happened rapidly and knows that Jason and staff have been working to get contracts for that area.</p> <p><b>Lynn Alderson, Area 2</b><br/>Lake Wenatchee did a good job to improve notoriously wet areas and mentioned the number of trees that had fallen. Mentioned the high volumes of snow including 6 feet of snow in 2 days. Mentioned that the equipment breakdowns were minor and minimal. Talked about the attendance at the sno-parks and how the passes closing affected it but was back to normal by MLK weekend. Mentioned the signage was adequate. Mentioned how Amber Denning wanted to give a report on the Methow Valley sno-parks.</p> <p>Amber Deming mentioned that she has 9 sno-parks in the area and that they are doing enforcement and have been doing training, also have two more trainings to do including search and rescue as well as snowmobile.</p> <p>John asked how Loup Loup and Silver Star is doing.</p> <p>Amber stated Loup Loup is doing good and that was where they did some training. She mentioned Silver Star is currently closed due to WSDOT not plowing. She mentioned she was going to go make the outhouse operational so it still could be used.</p> <p><b>Mike C, Motorized</b><br/>stated that they got blasted with snow like everyone else and doesn't have much to report.</p> |                      |

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|                        | <p><b>Jim Rhodes, Area 1</b><br/>Stated the news is with everyone is trees down. Didn't have much else to report other than snow and trees now.</p> <p><b>Bob Seelye, Motorized</b><br/>Stated that Table Mtn had 600-800 trees downed and that there was a huge snow dump in Kittitas County and paralyzed most activity. Mentioned that the new contractors in sno-parks and how it was a lot for them and weren't ready for this. Mentioned that there were 4 beacon check stations that were donated at Cabin Creek, Crystal Springs. Kittitas County increased fines and will use it to fund the overtime for law enforcement.</p> <p><b>Joe Chavez, DNR</b><br/>Significant snowfall and had to hire a road grader to help get access to the sno-parks. He mentioned that the sno-parks are now opened and in good shape.</p> <p><b>John Baranowski, Area 5</b><br/>Stated that there are a lot of trees down and that they have had to close a trail due to the number of trees down. Chinook Pass was closed for 2-3 weeks, and DOT has now opened it at Hell's Crossing. Mentioned Goose Egg is luckily lower, so it is in good shape and good to ski.</p> <p>John asked Jim if they were still going to do their ambassador event.</p> <p>Jim said that it would be dependent on Covid.</p> | Information Only. |
| <b>Groomer Reports</b> | <p>John moved on to groomer reports.</p> <p>Amber stated that the grooming in the Methow is currently grooming according to the schedule and is in good shape.</p> <p>John asked if anybody could speak on the new equipment.</p> <p>Trevor Wylie spoke on the new equipment at Lake Wenatchee, saying it is doing good and the only thing they had to do was get adequate brush guards on it. Mentioned how the new one is currently caught up in shipping, so they are still using their 2005. Stated they have 2 new groomers who are currently training on the old groomer. Mentioned how they have opened up Chiwawa to dogs and that has been very popular.</p>   | Information Only  |

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| <p><b>GPS Units and maps</b></p> | <p>Jason Goldstein began his presentation on the GPS Units and maps, stated that they are adding mobile maps every year. He also stated that there is a new snowshoe map for the new permanent park at Easton Reload for non-motorized users. Stated that the grooming map will now work on your phone, and it is now automated on the government server side. Stated that the data is usually grabbed around 5-8 a.m. and it is becoming very popular. Jason also mentioned that TOGO is going to give a presentation in the summer about what they could potentially offer for maps. He also mentioned he had attended a conference at UW earth lab rec use using social media and potentially using that to determine new sno-parks but that state parks is not directly involved. He also mentioned the new GPS Units and how that is what drives the data for the grooming map data. Also mentioned that they are on a lease and can test new equipment.</p> <p>Jim asked where the information is.</p> <p>Jason stated that you don't go to each individual page, but it is on the left-hand side on our main page.</p> <p>Pamela McConkey asked Jason if he would do a walkthrough on how to access the grooming map since there was extra time.</p> <p>Jason began to share his screen and guide the committee from the state parks home page to the winter recreation grooming map.</p> <p>Jim mentioned that there is an issue with the state parks page when you search for sno-parks, and it leads the user to a different spot and mentioned he could talk to staff about it offline.</p> <p>Jason discussed the delay in the grooming data being uploaded with a delay to let the snow settle and prevent people to running into groomers. He also mentioned Jeffrey Holden is a volunteer and helps program the grooming map as well as acting as a backup. He also mentioned the next phase is fine tuning the trails map to make sure the data is accurate.</p> <p>John stated the public having access is an added benefit but the main reason for it was pressure from the state auditor as an added layer of proof that the contractors are doing the work.</p> <p>Jason added that this has helped staff with customer service.</p> <p>John asked Diana Dupuis if she could give an updated on how things are going in the Mt. Spokane area.</p> <p>Diana stated that they got snow a couple weeks late and were able to get it open and groomed before the winter break for schools. Also stated there were a lot of downed trees and applauded the volunteers including Mike Burns. She stated it was a challenge with the vaccine mandate and losing most of their maintenance staff. Stated they did hire a new groomer but are currently 5 positions down. She stated that they have had</p> | <p>Information Only</p> |
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to shift personnel to make sure parking lot access is a priority. She stated that the attendance isn't quite covid levels, but they are still doing good.

Pamela asked Diana to speak on the action of the commission.

Diana stated the Bear Creek Lodge has been for sale and on the list of possible acquisitions of State Parks. She stated that the commission approved to use funds from the sale of a property in Auburn towards the acquisition of the Bear Creek Lodge. She stated that she is hoping with the funds from the sale and an RCO grant that it will be enough to purchase the lodge. She mentioned there are a lot of benefits to state parks acquiring the lodge.

Tony Leonetti stated that he has been really impressed with Diana and staff in what they do.

John asked how trail maintenance works with the state. He stated that in his area they have 3-4 guys that go in with chainsaws and clear trees, and that the forest service is happy.

Bob stated that the forest service requires someone to take a class to clear trees on Snoqualmie. He stated that they must give the forest service 30 days' notice and must have insurance. He stated that the backcountry horsemen take the lead on that.

Mike C stated that they have a good volunteer community and have been able to do a lot of trail maintenance and doesn't know why it is so different.

Diana stated that Mt. Spokane has a friends group that has an agreement as well as insurance. They also have a volunteer coordinator that does a lot of the chainsaw work and that the volunteers are given the lower risk tasks while state parks staff handles the higher risk staff.

Todd Schmutz stated at Enumclaw they have a good relationship with the Backcountry Horseman as well and they will put on an annual bucking and limbing training. He said they do run on in house, but it does have a limited number of spaces.

Joe Chavez stated that they recognize the certification from the forest service, or they have their own sawyer certification.

Jason stated that is up to the land managers and how they want to handle the volunteer guidelines.

John stated that maybe up on Snoqualmie they need to get certified this summer and get more involved.

Trevor Wylie also talked about how chainsaws are higher risks and not typically a volunteer thing. He also stated that if there is some extra funding they will have WCC come in and clear some of the trees and seem to be very efficient.

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|                     | <p>Jason stated that the groomers are also contracted to remove trees, but having the trails better maintained would help them.</p> <p>John asked the new people that have joined to introduce themselves including new committee member Ron Jones.</p> <p>Rob Jones introduced himself as the new Association of counties rep from Grant County.</p> <p>Tony Leonetti introduced himself and that if there are any issues with enforcement to let him know.</p> <p>Andrew Kerlee stated he wanted to speak on the volunteering and that they coordinate group volunteer efforts and to just reach out to the park.</p> <p>Pamela mentioned that Jason Both left the agency as the central cascades area manager and that John Ernster has taken over.</p>  |                         |
| <p><b>Break</b></p> | <p>John released the group for a break and will return at 10:10.</p>  | <p>Resume at 10:10</p>  |
| <p><b>CCWRC</b></p> | <p>John brought the group back and stated the next item on the agenda is CCWRC.</p> <p>Karen Behm stated the State Parks has been working hard and pointed out Kevin Davis and his work at Crystal Springs as well as Andrew Kerlee. She spoke on the amount of snow levels on Snoqualmie from WSDOTs Data. She stated the holidays were quiet and it was tough to get to ski areas due to high levels of snow. Stated the snow was soft and not easy for skating, but very good for classic. Stated that I-90 corridor is a 24x7 recreational world now. She moved on to Cabin Creek held a successful race 2 weeks ago. She mentioned the tree fall is extensive and grooming will more than likely not last until March 31<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p>She moved on to the Palouse to Cascades trail and shared a picture from the beginning of the season.</p> <p>She shared a picture of the edge of the trails and how dangerous it can be, also shared a picture of a tree on the powerline and shared how a lot of the powerlines would snap.</p> <p>She shared some pictures of what LandTek would see at night.</p> <p>She shared a picture of the sani-cans at Gold Creek to show the snow depth that was at the area.</p> <p>Shared pictures of Asahel Curtis sno-park and the Denny Creek Road area.</p> <p>She gave an update on the Erling Stordahl Wayfinder project including the challenges with the forest service and how supplies were transported, how items were posted.</p> <p>She shared a picture from ski for light.</p> <p>She also shared a picture from the Crystal Springs Dog Trail and how large chunks of trees are in the trails.</p> | <p>Information Only</p> |

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|   | <p>Karen reports a Sno-Park "attention notice" was given to an individual (no Sno-Park permit was displayed) which was posted on a very large Facebook page with a membership of over 10,000.</p> <p>Todd spoke to that and gave the statistics on how many contacts they have given and stated that it is a project and looking to see what works best.</p> <p>Jason stated that Asahel Curtis is a very popular area and they have doubled the snow removal budget and are hoping that will help with people getting stuck.</p> <p>Andrew Kerlee stated that everything is going smoothly and haven't heard any complaints. They had a couple vehicles go on the trail that caused some damage.</p> <p>John O'Brien gave kudos to Lake Easton State Park staff in selling sno-park permits at Crystal Springs.</p> <p>John stated that this year is the first year that he hasn't heard of too many complaints regarding sno-park permit enforcement.</p>  |                         |
| <p><b>New sno-park and snowshoe trail</b></p>                   | <p>Jason began by showing the new groomed trail etiquette sign. He showed the new snowshoe trail at Easton Reload via an aerial photo. He showed some photos of the trails including some of the creeks as well as steps that were made. Also highlighted the guided snowshoe hikes on Saturdays and Mondays. He shared a photo of Asahel Curtis sno-park. He also showed a photo of a potential land acquisition of some land next to Hyak.</p> <p>He shared some information about Badger Mountain Ski Area and how they have requested funding.</p> <p>Pamela stated that Director Hoch wanted to stop by and say hi and hear some of the presentations. She introduced Don and he said hello and gave a wave to the group.</p> <p>Jason stated that he still wants to look for an additional location for a sledding hill to relieve some of the pressure off Hyak but was very pleased to be able to open a new sno-park and have one of the temporary parks from last year to a new permanent one.</p> | <p>Information Only</p> |
| <p><b>Equipment Repair &amp; Snow Removal Budget Status</b></p> | <p>Jason shared his spreadsheet of snow removal amendments and changes. He shared that he added more money to Asahel Curtis as well as Mt. St. Helens. He also stated that DOT was not able to plow Gold Creek and Hyak, so they went out to bid and LandTek won that bid and was allowed \$53,044 and \$21,600 amended.</p> <p>He stated that there are some that are very close to being to the budget and one big storm could get them there.</p> <p>He stated that the equipment repairs are doing well, and all repairs have been minor totaling \$18,276.49 out of \$88,000.</p> <p>John stated that the Naches track system was a line item and</p>   |                         |

not coming out of the equipment repair fund, so it is more like \$10,000 rather than \$18,000.

John stated the lower repair amounts more than likely reflect the newer equipment that the committee has invested in.

Jason also commented that they still have a groomer that hasn't been received yet.

Joe asked if post-season repairs come in all at once.

Jason stated that they have someone inspect the equipment post-season, but most repairs come during the winter.

Pamela stated that State Parks has staff on call that works with field staff to inspect the equipment and determines what needs to be done. Also stated that inspections try to be done before the fiscal year is over, so it doesn't go on the new budget. Also mentioned that Mt. Spokane's new staff used to work at Prinoth.

Diana stated that they lost that staff member in October. She stated that he got his job back at Prinoth and helping the new groomers.

John wanted to open for discussion on the snow removal status and asked the committee to comment and reminded that the mission is to keep sno-parks open and is more important that trail grooming.

Lynn mentioned the idea of transferring 20% of the equipment replacement budget to go towards snow removal.

Jason stated that they could look at sno-parks that are sharing the same trail system and closing some of the access.

Pamela stated that trail grooming isn't an emergency and in previous years February has shown great amounts of snow.

Jason stated that he hasn't gotten billing yet for January and could easily need another \$60,000 to \$100,000.

**Lynn motioned to allow \$60,000 out of the equipment reserve to go towards snow removal this year.**

**Mike Couch seconded.**

John asked for any discussion.

Jim stated that the committee is put in a tough spot and need to address this in next year's budget.

Pamela stated while having more money for grooming is nice, that the program was getting snow removal done for very cheap from the DOT, but that's not coming back and need to prioritize keeping sno-parks open and the snow removal budget.

She also mentioned that Jason has been working for months to



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|   | <p>try to get snow removal contractors at Mt. Adams and SnowKing isn't going to open this year because the snow got to be too much before finding a contractor.</p> <p>Jim Rhodes stated that they could be looking at 2-4 times the amount of budget for snow removal.</p> <p>John stated that last year they used over 170,000 last year.</p> <p><b>Motion Passed unanimously.</b></p> <p>Jason stated that they aren't alone, and he will also be asking the motorized committee</p>  | <p><b>Amendment Passes<br/>Motion Passes<br/>Staff to use an additional \$60,000 from emergency reserve to continue snow-removal.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Lunch</b></p>                                       | <p>John broke the group for lunch and stated they would reconvene at 12:30</p>   | <p>Resume at 12:30</p>  |
| <p><b>Future of Winter Recreation Program Q&amp;A</b></p> | <p>John welcomed the group back from lunch. John turned it over to Mike.</p> <p>Mike Sternback introduced himself and what he does with State Parks including overseeing the winter recreation program. Mike shared his history with Pamela including how much she loves the program.</p> <p>Mike stated that the recruitment for Pamela's position should be going out next week and doesn't see any major changes to the position other than the person that will be overseeing the position. He stated that the committee will be able to meet Ed Girard later.</p> <p>Mike stated that this will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> manager of the winter rec program he believed and that there has been a lot of evolution with the position despite only having two managers. Mike stated that he would be reaching out to John to see what he would like to see out of the program manager position.</p> <p>John jokingly asked about State Parks buying the committee equipment.</p> <p>Mike stated that they have been pushing the boundaries of buying on the dedicated funding and maybe continuing to help the program so the program isn't having to bear the tough decisions of equipment of such.</p> <p>Mike applauded Jason for the job that he has done in getting contracts and making things work for the program.</p> <p>Mike stated that he would give some information on the broader side of state parks including Director Don Hoch coming back on a temporary basis. He stated that it has been a challenging time for the agency but are once again in the process of hiring a new director and getting a good start to the year. He stated while all of this has been going on state parks has had a bigger budget and has helped the agency get to the point where they want to be.</p> | <p>Information Only</p>   |

Mike stated that he sees good things coming and was happy to see that recreation is still an important part of Washington.

Pamela asked Mike to describe the hiring process that will be going on for the position.

Mike said the recruitment part will be standard on the state website. He stated that there won't be a hard closing date but will more than likely pull names after two weeks. He mentioned some new tools that they could use including SparkHire which allows people to interview over a webcam and can be done on their own time.

Pamela asked Mike if some of the committee or at least the chair would be a part of process.

Mike said that is what he wants to talk to the chairs about and he is flexible on making that decision.

John joked that for now he is just the placeholder of the chair and elections could change that.

Pamela stated that she wanted people to have the opportunity to ask questions.

John asked Mike if it is possible maybe sometime down the road maybe changing the RCW with representation of the board.

Mike said that he would be open to those conversations and there could be opportunity in even the next legislation session but doesn't know if that is on anybody's radar but said that those are the things that conversations need to happen.

Mike stated that getting involvement is getting harder and harder but likes this type of governance that the program has and sees it as effective.

Bob Seelye asked if is possible that Pamela could come back like Wayne McLaughlin did.

Mike said that is a possibility and doesn't know with the retirement restrictions, but that Pamela won't be far away.

Pamela stated that at the moment she has no plans of coming back.

Mike Couch joked stating that Pam should stay to make it an even 20 years.

Pamela stated that she has put in over 40 years with Parks and that she is ready to move on.

Mike Couch stated that he has had a lot of fun getting to know the program and wishes that the meeting could have been in person but thanked Pamela for her time with the winter recreation program.

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|   | <p>Karen Behm stated that she has been appreciative of Pamela's communication with the land managers and shareholders. She hopes that the next person in that position will value that as well.</p> <p>Mike reiterated that this program manager position is all about the relationships and passes that on to anybody that is interested in the program. He stated that will continue to be a major focus.</p> <p>John thanked Mike for his comments.</p>  |                         |
| <p><b>Sno Park Permit Sales</b></p>                             | <p>Travis gave his presentation on the permit sales including the numbers from this current season compared to 2020-2021 and 2019-2020. He showed a graphic comparing the dollar figures from each type of permit. He stated that the reasons for possible decline in permit numbers including more stuff being open from covid this year, fee pushback and historic snowfall resulting in passes being closed for a weekend.</p> <p>John stated he was pleasantly surprised by the numbers and was expecting more of a setback due to the price increases.</p> <p>Joe asked if Travis knew about what percentage of permits were from online sales.</p> <p>Travis said there wasn't an exact answer, but in his estimation it would be somewhere in the 50-60% range.</p>  | <p>Information Only</p> |
| <p><b>Public Notification post summer meeting</b></p>           | <p>Pamela spoke about the public notification after the summer meeting and realized that she hadn't ever been asked that and wanted to address that.</p> <p>She stated that after the meeting she will go into the office and write letters to those that submitted funding applications stating if they have received funding. She said that it goes out via the mail due to emails possibly going into junk folders or what not, so to make sure it is done the old-fashioned way. She stated that she leaves it to the project sponsor to distribute the information. She stated that the draft meeting minutes on the website as well as the draft budget. She also stated that putting pre meeting items such as the zoom link or where the meeting will be on our website to notify people. Social media such as twitter and Facebook to get the word out. She stated that she could be wrong but believes that this meeting was the most attended winter meeting that she has had and encouraged the committee to continue to at least do a hybrid style meeting to allow those to join online.</p> <p>John said the website additions are in thanks to Rune Harkestad and Chris Ensor asking for this information.</p> <p>Pamela stated that staff was asked about how to get these and realized that it was the right thing to allow access to these things and public comments are always welcomed.</p> | <p>Information Only</p> |
| <p><b>LE Snowmobile Rider, rescue &amp; avalanche class</b></p> | <p>Jason mentioned that it had been a vision of Pamela and his with the increased amount of law enforcement officers to offer a safety class for those that are new to the mountains and</p>  |                         |

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|  | <p>being on snowmobiles. Jason stated that the cost was very minimal and had to pay for 2 days of use of the Lake Wenatchee club and is waiting upon course evaluations to help improve the class. Also stated he is hoping to offer this course every year.</p> <p>Tony stated that the training of snowmobiles is very minimal in the past. He said the feedback that he has heard so far is very positive and thanked State Parks for getting the class going and said the knowledge was invaluable. Stated that the instructors were very professional and hopes to continue to offer the class.</p> <p>Pamela gave kudos to Tony, Jason and NWAC for getting this put together and has heard nothing but good things.</p> <p>Tony stated that they are given the tools but knowing how the tools are used has been very important.</p> <p>Jason stated that this will more than likely be a line item on next year's budget.</p> <p>Tony stated that he expects this to increase in popularity of this class and expects more to take the class.</p>   | Information Only     |
| <p><b>Next Meeting, date, time, location</b></p> | <p>John stated the next line item was a break but wanted to know if they could take care of the next meeting, date, location before break.</p> <p>Pamela stated that she recommends after the weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup> to give time for fiscal staff to get the numbers.</p> <p>Bob Seelye recommends the 29<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Rob Jones stated in the summer he is very busy in the summer and can't commit to an in-person meeting.</p> <p>AJ asked if Wenatchee would work for an in-person meeting.</p> <p>Everyone responded that Wenatchee would work.</p> <p><b>Bob Seelye motioned to meet on July 29<sup>th</sup> in Wenatchee for the summer budget meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Mike Couch seconded.</b></p> <p>John opened for discussion.</p> <p>John called a vote.</p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p>Pamela stated that AJ will look to a meeting room in Wenatchee and recommended that the committee get a larger meeting room in case social distancing is still recommended. She also stated that staff learned from last year and staff will bring their own computer.</p> | Summer meeting to be |

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|  | <p>John endorsed the hybrid meeting because some groups are asking for so little to drive all the way to Wenatchee for small amounts.</p> <p>Pamela asked Karen if Chris would mind his letter being read before the open comment/public discussion.</p> <p>Karen said that he just wants to be heard.<br/>John read the letter from Chris Ensor.</p>  | <p><b>held July 29-30 in Wenatchee, WA. Arrangements to be made by Staff.</b></p> |
| <p><b>Break</b></p>                                | <p>John broke the committee for break and stated they would reconvene at 2:00.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>Open Discussion/<br/>Public Comments</b></p> | <p>John brought the group back from break and stated the next item was open discussion/public comments.</p> <p>He stated that he had received a second letter from Chris Ensor discussing the availability of public comment and the only current way is via evaluation form. He stated Chris asked about the use of QR codes for public comments and John stated that in his area a lot of the parks do not have cell service. He mentioned that Chris also wanted the public to be able to comment on the evaluation of new projects.</p> <p>John stated he didn't know how to do the public comments part.</p> <p>Pamela asked people for comments to raise their hand via zoom.</p> <p>Rune Harkestad stated that he has asked the WRAC to consider the funding request for emergency grooming at Cabin Creek. He stated while he understands that fallen trees is a statewide issue, but that Cabin Creek and Erling Stordahl has been some of the worst hit areas. He stated that removal of fallen trees has consumed about 120 of the allotted grooming hours in addition to an additional 50-100 volunteer grooming hours. He said he wanted the committee to look at this request with some context. He stated that last season they ran out of funds early but were able to save the season by a fundraiser. He stated that it was disappointing to see with a budget nearly doubled, their request for additional funding was denied while just about ever other request was approved. He stated that with the increased revenue from last season he would hope this type of emergency could be funded and the funds requested at the summer meeting would have helped act as a buffer in this situation.</p> <p>John stated that he has heard from the public that have sent in a similar request for additional grooming at Cabin Creek.</p> <p>John O'Brien stated that he had a couple of questions for the committee.<br/>He started with the sno-park permit sales numbers and if the skew was going more towards online sales.</p> <p>John stated that he has looked at trend of sales and stated it is</p> |   |

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|  | <p>more going towards online sales.</p> <p>John O'Brien asked about the fees of permits and doing slight increases rather than large fee hits. He stated that maybe smaller increments would be easier for the consumer to digest.</p> <p>John stated that there is a sub committee that looks at that and that there is no perfect answer. He stated that the subcommittee looked at it more long-term.</p> <p>Travis stated that the subcommittee is supposed to look at the permit fees every 3 years.</p> <p>John O'Brien asked about strategic planning and asked if there is any long-term strategic planning that is occurring.</p> <p>John stated that there is a 10-year plan, and that staff could talk more about it. He also said that he doesn't believe staff talks about what is going on that 10-year plan enough.</p> <p>Pamela stated the 10-year plan is online and can be accessed. She mentioned the additional sno-parks as part of the 10-year plan as well as the GPS data being a part of the 10-year plan. She stated that she is guilty of not checking it daily or monthly but does look at it every year and sees where the program is at.</p> <p>John O'Brien stated that he would look at it and hoped the advisory committee would use that to guide them.</p> <p>John asked if there was any other public comment.</p> <p>Joe stated that someone had put a question in the chat.</p> <p>John read the comment from Kyle Capizzi regarding projections of budget.</p> <p>Pamela stated that the program is unique in the sense that it doesn't work on projections, but rather works on the previous budgets. She stated that the purpose of the delay in sno-park permit fees was to educate users on the fee increase and not have the shock of the fees. She stated that the program was able to do things it has never done such as put money aside for a land acquisition. She also mentioned that the money would roll over if there was a no snow year and helps balance things out.</p> <p>Jason stated that the passes didn't affect the budget this year, but it will depend on what happens in February.</p> <p>Kyle Capizzi stated that he felt like his money was swept this year and how could the users in the future help this not happen.</p> <p>Jason stated that the special fee areas got a higher increase in percentage than the other non-special fee areas due to the increased usage.</p> |  |
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|  | <p>John stated that he did a quick study of the distribution of the permit sales and felt like the funds were being distributed appropriately and doesn't feel like the I-90 corridor funds the whole program.</p> <p>Rune stated that 12% increase shouldn't be applauded for a 75% increase in the fees. He stated that he went to Lake Wenatchee and that there is no way they even do a fraction of the revenue generated at Cabin Creek, He also stated that he felt there is a lack of representation for the greater Seattle area.</p> <p>Karen stated that there are a lot of people that are new to the program and was hoping to share the history of the program and prevent a rollercoaster of funding.</p> <p>John stated that unlike their counterparts with the snowmobile committee, this committee hasn't needed to cut established programs and has been conservative and helping keep the program sustainable.</p> <p>Jim stated that the people at Lake Easton had been trying to get a truck for years and finally were able to get one due to the budget surplus.</p> <p>Jason stated that Cabin Creek gets more money than any other sno-park in the program.</p> <p>Rune stated that the statement is misleading because Cabin Creek needs to pay for the private groomer where Mt. Spokane is state owned equipment.</p> <p>Pamela stated that the contractors incorporate the equipment and other business fees into their bid. She also stated that the 12% is there and won't need to come back next year.</p> <p>Rune stated that he would like to have a count system to be able to track the traffic at every park.</p> <p>John listed some questions that were in the chat.</p> <p>Jason spoke to fallen trees and how it is incorporated into the budget and that it has been a terrible winter for trees and there are other trail systems that aren't even open because of trees.</p> <p>Mike C stated that in the past he has had to have a chainsaw on the back of the snowmobile, but the non-motorized users don't have that luxury.</p> <p>Kyle stated that Cabin Creek is unique and that they have plenty of people that are wanting to help but can't get that certification to be able to volunteer.</p> <p>Jason stated that maybe that they could work with the forest service and help people get certified.</p> <p>Pamela asked for Todd's opinion but thought that they only need to certify if they are cutting down a tree.</p> |  |
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|                        | <p>Todd stated that the policy if someone is cutting a tree on forest service land that they need to be certified. He said that they have a certification course coming up in April and welcome all various types of users.</p> <p>Jason asked Todd to keep in touch so they could pass that information on to the clubs.</p> <p>Joe wanted to comment on what Pamela had said regarding the program revenue being swept. He stated that when the budget is tight on the statewide budget, and see the non-motorized program has a pile of money, they will take it. He stated that the private contractors have to make a competitive bid which means that their margins are tight. He also reiterated that the budget for this season didn't reflect the increase of sno-park fees as they are working off of last years fees. He also stated that he believes that the committee should work next year to see the allocation of fees and how the money is distributed between special groomed areas and non-special groomed areas.</p> <p>John stated that he did a study and saw that the allocation was appropriate, but that could change with the fee increase.</p> <p>John asked the committee to address Rune's request for funding.</p> <p>Jim stated that as Pamela had said that keeping sno-parks opened and didn't see where the funds would come from when adding as much as they did for snow removal.</p> <p>Jason added that the special groomed sticker funds increase all services and not just grooming.</p> <p>Pamela stated that the committee has been hesitant and never has approved emergency funding for grooming because this would not be the last request.</p> <p>Bob stated that everyone is facing this issue across the state. He stated that not wanting to have to approve future requests.</p> <p><b>Bob motioned to deny any additional funding for grooming at Cabin Creek.</b></p> <p><b>Mike Couch seconded the grooming</b></p> <p>Mike C stated that Pamela is correct and believed that additional funding needs to go through the proper channels.</p> <p>John B called for a vote.</p> <p><b>Motion Passed unanimously.</b></p> <p>John ended public comments</p> | <p><b>Motion Passes unanimously to deny any additional funding for grooming at Cabin Creek.</b></p> |
| <b>Terms/Elections</b> | <p>John stated that AJ would lead terms and elections. He stated that covid has put a wrench into the plans of succession.</p>  |   |



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|  | <p>AJ added that people have left positions and has had people join midterm. He stated with a new manager it could be difficult to add 3 new people and a manager.</p> <p>AJ stated that no person that is not present can be elected. He stated that Mike Burns was contacted and would accept nomination for vice chair but doesn't have the bandwidth to be chair.</p> <p>AJ stated that John's, Lynn's, and Bob's positions would be open in October.</p> <p>John asked how the committee gets back on track.</p> <p>Pamela stated that someone can take over and finish someone's term, start their term and reup.</p> <p>Emilie stated that she is fine with whatever allows her to be apart of the committee longer.</p> <p>AJ stated that John could reup and it would only be Lynn and Bob Seelye done in October.</p> <p>Pamela stated that there has been interest from Peter Vallas to join the committee. She also stated that they will of course put it out there for the public and continue to try to find someone in area 6. She also stated that she has had some interest in a snowmobiler replacing Bob but has been down with covid since September.</p> <p>AJ also stated that state agencies and Association of counties are here until they are told otherwise.</p> <p><b>AJ opened nominations for Vice Chair.</b></p> <p><b>Mike Couch nominated Mike Burns for Vice Chair.</b></p> <p><b>AJ accepted the nomination on behalf of Mike Burns.</b></p> <p>AJ asked for any other nominations.</p> <p>AJ asked for any discussion.</p> <p>AJ called for a vote.</p> <p><b>Mike Burns elected Vice Chair unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>AJ opened nominations for Chair.</b></p> <p><b>Jim Rhodes nominated John B.</b></p> <p><b>Bob Seelye seconded.</b></p> <p><b>John B accepted the nomination.</b></p> <p>AJ asked for additional nominations.</p> <p>AJ opened for discussion.</p> | <p><b>Mike Burns Re-Elected Vice Chair</b></p> |
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|                       | <p>AJ called for a vote.</p> <p><b>John B elected Chair unanimously.</b></p> <p>John B asked for any other business from the committee.</p> <p>John B stated that there were some items from the summer meeting that staff was supposed to work on, but it sounds like it is not complete.</p> <p>Pamela stated that there has been preliminary work on the cost per mile grooming but would like to polish it up for the summer meeting.</p> <p>AJ stated that he could the preliminary work to the committee.</p> <p>John stated that the second item was the share of fund in non-motorized and motorized area.</p> <p>Pamela stated that there are some areas that have more non-motorized use compared to motorized use in areas and pointed out Marble Mountain.</p> <p>John stated that he believed that Marble Mountain spurred the discussion because of Mike Ainslee had brought up that non-motorized using of the warming hut that the SMAC funded.</p> <p>Pamela thanked the committee for helping her learn a lot and grow and hoped to see people on the snow.</p> | <p><b>John Baranowski Re-Elected Chair</b></p> |
| <p><b>Adjourn</b></p> | <p>John closed the meeting and thanked everyone.</p>  |  |

