

**Washington State Parks
WINTER RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Summer Meeting Minutes**

July 30, 2022
Microsoft TEAMS Virtual Meeting

ATTENDANCE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Jim Rhodes (Area 1)
Lynn Alderson (Area 2)
Michael Burns (Vice Chair, Area 3)
Emily Blevins (Area 4)
John Baranowski (Chair, Area 5)
Mike Couch (Absent, Snowmobiler)
Bob Seelye (Snowmobiler)
Tim Penelerick (Snowmobiler)
Joe Chavez (DNR)
Rob Jones (Absent, WAOC)
Vacant (Area 6)
Tony Leonetti (WDFW)

Washington State Parks Staff:

Corey Tolar (Winter Recreation Program, Acting Manager)
Jason Goldstein (Winter Recreation Program)
Rob Sendak (Washington State Parks)
Travis Larson (Winter Recreation Program)

Guests:

Karen Behm (CCWRC)
Brian McNeil (US Forest Service, Snoqualmie RD)
Todd Schmutz (US Forest Service, Snoqualmie RD)
Tim Becker (Snoqualmie Nordic Club)
Walter Henze (Highlands Nordic Ski Club)
Rosemary Seifried (US Forest Service, Methow Valley RD)
Michael Kovacs
Jack Thurston (Highlands Nordic Ski Club)
Lenore Marentette
Joshua White (Lake Easton State Park)
Bob Weaver (WDFW)
Paul Tomas (Lake Wenatchee State Park)
Jason Holmes (WSSA)
Ralph Leslie (Kahler Glen Community Association)
Joy Cordell (Kongsbergers Ski Club)
Brent Nourse (Loup Loup)
Dave Millard (Kahler Glen Community Association)
Pat Lamie (MTTA)
Gary Schuster (Lake Wenatchee Winter Recreation Association)
Russell Aldrich (Mt. Spokane State Park)
Ken Wenzel (Oregon Nordic Club)
Dennis D'Amico (NWAC)
Michael Fowler (DNR)
Ann Freeman (Fields Spring State Park)
Audra Sims (Fields Spring State Park)
Chris Ensor (Mountaineers)
Keith Ritland
John O'Brien (SMAC)

Saturday July 30, 2022, Agenda

CALL TO ORDER	John B called the meeting to order and turned it over to Corey Tolar for TEAMS Etiquette.	No Action
TEAMS ETIQUETTE	<p>Corey welcomed everyone to the budget meeting. He also stated how he wanted the meeting to be in person, but it didn't work out that way this year and was grateful it was virtual because Covid is going through his house, and he wouldn't be able to attend if it wasn't virtual. He then passed it over to Travis to go over a couple items about TEAMS.</p> <p>Travis proceeded to go over the features of TEAMS for the committee and guests. He asked people to use the raise hand function. He also explained how he would be using the raise hand function with the presentations.</p> <p>Corey noted that the meeting is being recorded so everyone was aware. He then stated how Mike Sternback was supposed to be speaking this morning but couldn't so Rob Sendak will be on behalf of Mike.</p> <p>Travis also stated that there was a time slot for public comments and asked people to please wait until that time for public comment or to use the chat function. He then passed it to Rob.</p>	Information Only
STAFF UPDATE	<p>Rob thanked Corey and Travis. He stated that he had been with State Parks for about 4 years now and just recently when Pamela retired the Winter Recreation Program Manager position came under his supervision. He thanked the advisory committee members for their time and energy on the committee knowing that they are volunteers.</p> <p>He wanted to go over some of the changes that have happened at State Parks over the last couple of months. He explained that Diana Dupuis is the new director of State Parks and has been doing so for about 3 months. He gave some background of Diana's roles in State Parks including Region Manager for the Inland Empire Area.</p> <p>He then stated that once Pamela had retired, they recruited for the program manager position and hired a great candidate in Lara Gricar, and she was such a great candidate that she got Diana's old job as the Region Manager for the Inland Empire Area. He then said he almost immediately made the decision to appoint Corey Tolar as the Acting Winter Recreation Program Manager. He stated that with the budget meetings coming up and Corey's experience with the budget it proved to be an opportune time to have Corey in this role. He stated that the recruitment for the permanent Winter Recreation Manager position was going to close August 1st at 5 p.m. he thought and would have interviews in August. He said his hope was to have a permanent Winter Recreation Manager in mid-</p>	Information Only

	<p>September, or October 1st at the latest.</p> <p>He stated that the committee knows Jason and Travis and that AJ left the agency after 18 years at the end of May. He stated that Travis has been promoted to a Program Specialist 3 and that there is kind of a leadership vacuum right now in State Parks. He stated that Mike Sternback has been appointed as the Deputy Director of the agency. He also asked the committee for a little bit of grace right now in getting these positions figured out. He gave a shoutout to Jason and Travis that are experiencing these changes with the program up front. He stated he would be happy to chat with anybody offline if anybody had any questions and turned it back over to John.</p>	
INTRODUCTIONS	<p>John thanked Rob for the updates and stated it was time for introductions.</p> <p>He then went through the advisory committee members and had them introduce themselves.</p> <p>He then had State Parks staff introduce themselves.</p> <p>Due to a time shortage John stated that the rest of the guests could introduce themselves as they present or speak</p>	No Action
REVIEW/APPROVE WINTER MEETING MINUTES	<p>John moved into the approval of the previous meeting minutes and asked if there were any changes, additions, or subtractions. Hearing nothing John asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.</p> <p>Mike Burns motioned to approve the winter meeting minutes.</p> <p>Tony Leonetti seconded the motion.</p> <p>John then did a roll call vote.</p> <p>Jim – Yes</p> <p>Lyn – Yes</p> <p>Mike – Yes</p> <p>Emilie – Yes</p> <p>John – Yes</p> <p>Joe – Yes</p> <p>Tony – Yes</p> <p>Bob – No answer</p> <p>Tim – Yes</p> <p>Motion Passes.</p>	Motion Passes
FINANCIAL REVIEW OF 2021/2022 SEASON	<p>John then moved into the financial review of the 2021/2022 season and turned it over to Corey.</p> <p>Corey shared his screen and began with the overall</p>	

	<p>expenditures. He explained why the fund balance looks different from the proposed budget from last budget meeting. He stated that the FY22 budget was \$2,659,671 and the expenditures were \$1,685,833 resulting in a remaining budget of \$973,838.</p> <p>He began with priority one stating that there was a budget of \$317,400 and expenditures were \$272,651 with a remaining balance of \$44,749. He explained that there was a buyout when Pamela retired of her remaining sick days and vacation days, but that did not come out of the budget due to Operations of State Parks picking that up. He explained the overage on communications was due to all staff being issued work cell phones. He asked for any questions regarding program administration.</p> <p>He then moved into priority 2 snow removal. There was a total budget of \$302,158 and \$243,208 in expenditures resulting in \$58,950 remaining. He did explain that for some of the line items such as Cabin Creek DOT that there were no services due to staff shortages from DOT.</p> <p>Mike Burns asked if there was any significance in the colorization of the line items in the budget.</p> <p>Corey stated that there was no significant meaning to the coloration of the line items. He stated that it just separates them from different areas. It could be that they are under the same contract.</p> <p>Corey did explain that Hyak/Gold Creek area looked different from the approved budget last season and asked Jason to speak on it.</p> <p>Jason stated that DOT was unable to do snow removal there due to staff shortages which caused State Parks to go with a private contractor.</p> <p>Corey then moved to sanitation that had a total budget of \$72,864 with expenditures of \$58,692 with a remaining budget of \$14,172. He then asked if anybody had any questions.</p> <p>Mike Burns asked if Fields Spring had sent in a bill yet.</p> <p>Jason stated that they may have just absorbed the bill with their E&E or they may have not billed the program yet, but it was getting a little late for that.</p> <p>Tim asked if Crystal Springs added another toilet.</p> <p>Jason said that another toilet was added, but it is still under the total contract limit.</p> <p>John began to ask a question about plowing on Blewett Pass, but said Jason must've gotten someone to do it.</p> <p>Jason stated that he did get someone to do it but has been</p>	<p>Information Only</p>
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	<p>reaching out trying to get logs and billing from the contractor and won't pay unless he has received logs.</p> <p>Corey then moved onto Priority 3. He stated that with trail grooming state owned the budget was \$278,964 with \$259,339 in expenditures resulting in a remaining budget of \$19,625. He then asked if anybody had any questions.</p> <p>John stated the unused funds at Bumping and Naches were a result of the DOT not opening roads.</p> <p>Corey then moved to the private trail grooming where there was a budget of \$216,167 with \$201,101 in expenditures resulting in \$15,066 remaining.</p> <p>He moved on to the emergency reserve. Corey went over the emergency funds that were spent on snow removal. He did highlight that most of the funds went towards Hyak and Gold Creek. There was a budget of \$25,000 with \$79,027 in expenditures.</p> <p>John stated that Parks staff did get approval for an additional \$60,000 in snow removal.</p> <p>Tim Becker asked since DOT is no longer doing the plowing for Gold Creek and Hyak, how long the contracts would now be.</p> <p>Jason stated that the contract is the standard 5-year contract. He stated that DOT and the contractor would have to agree to terminate early.</p> <p>Corey moved onto the sanitation in the emergency reserve. The budget was \$3,000, \$1,113 was spent with \$1,887 remaining.</p> <p>He then moved to major repairs where the budget was \$88,000 with \$18,989 in expenditures with \$69,011 remaining. He highlighted the miscellaneous expenses such as the snowmobile shelter at Pearrygin Lake, the Highland Snowmobile cost overrun and WDFW Naches pilot program.</p> <p>He stated the total for emergency reserves was budgeted \$116,000 with \$99,130 in expenditures resulting in \$16,870 remaining.</p> <p>Joe Chavez asked for clarification on what a snowmobile cost overrun was.</p> <p>Corey stated that it was an overage on the cost to buy the snowmobile and it was put in the budget under emergency reserve.</p> <p>Jim Rhodes commented if snow removal is consistently costing more why wouldn't the amount just be added to the budget.</p>	
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	<p>Jason stated that there are some scenarios that will be seen later that the board can decide on.</p> <p>Corey added that there are some scenarios in the proposed budget that have increases but if the board wants to see increases in specific areas, they can do that.</p> <p>Corey moved onto E&E that had a budget of \$226,931 with \$187,075 in expenditures with \$39,856 remaining. Corey asked if there were any questions and highlighted that the Snoqualmie info center was closed this winter due to covid and that was why there were no expenditures.</p> <p>John stated that he had a comment for someone to think about, he said that 7 years ago the E&E budget was \$120,000 and now it is \$230,000. He stated that maybe it is something to watch.</p> <p>Jason stated that it is the only service that directly brings money back to the program.</p> <p>John noted that most of the increases were more on the education side compared to the enforcement side.</p> <p>Corey moved into priority 4 and noted that there was a snow cat purchased last season.</p> <p>He moved into priority 5 and 6.</p> <p>Joe asked about what happened with the \$150k land.</p> <p>Jason stated that they had gone through project planning and the developer, but the landowner decided not to sell. They had a grant that they were going to go after but that fell through so the money was not spent and not carried through.</p> <p>Lyn asked what area that snowcat was bought went to.</p> <p>Corey stated that he believed it went to Lake Wenatchee and Jason confirmed that.</p> <p>Corey then talked about the onetime expenses from last season and stated that he would have more information on the Lake Easton Hauling Truck. He stated that they found a used hauling truck that is in good shape for a significantly reduced rate.</p> <p>John stated that he knows that the V blade at Naches had been bought.</p> <p>Jason stated that he hadn't seen the billing for it.</p> <p>Jim asked to go back to the section of the equipment. He stated that the old cats were still on the list and was under the impression that they would be gone because they cost too much.</p>	
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	<p>Jason stated that one was traded in.</p> <p>Corey stated that he hadn't taken it off because he was unsure of which one was traded in.</p> <p>Jason asked Paul Tomas from Lake Wenatchee if he knew.</p> <p>Paul stated that he would ask the area manager and get back to them later.</p> <p>Corey then moved on to the priority 5 and 6 ongoing requests.</p> <p>John stated that he noticed that Loup Loup wasn't putting in for a 2nd year request.</p> <p>Jason stated that they had a new manager there and might have missed the deadline and would connect with them.</p> <p>Corey asked if there were any questions with the expenditures.</p> <p>Mike asked what the last day to receive an invoice would be for last years budget.</p> <p>Jason stated that the state fiscal year goes until June 30th but asked for Corey to clarify.</p> <p>Corey stated that the state fiscal year is closed, but transactions can be done through the first week of August.</p> <p>Mike asked if it was a significant amount just to let the committee know before the vote.</p> <p>Corey stated that he believed that there would not be a major amount of billing coming in.</p> <p>Jason stated that he believed there would be maybe \$20,000.</p> <p>Corey concluded the fiscal year review.</p>	
<p>PRIORITY 5 AND 6 PRESENTATIONS</p>	<p>John moved to priority 5 and 6 presentations. He asked if Travis would run that.</p> <p>Snoqualmie Visitor Center Increased Funding (3rd year - \$813) –</p> <p>Brian McNeil presented on behalf of Aleta Eng stating that this was the third year of this partnership and while the visitor center was closed last year due to covid they have full intentions of opening it this winter and has moved across the street. He stated that this funding would help the position that is currently filled that moved from Kittitas County funding to King County funding and would support E&E as well as the ticket machine that they operate in partnership with the program.</p>	<p>Information Only</p>

	<p>Travis stated that there was a question in the chat asking if the building would provide funding for the program.</p> <p>Brian stated that it was a privately owned building on forest service land that is operating through a special use permit. So, it does not directly provide funding to the program.</p> <p>Jason asked if there were meeting opportunities there.</p> <p>Brian stated that there was, and it is amazing what they have done with the building.</p> <p>Bob asked how much was requested.</p> <p>John stated \$813</p> <p>MTTA Grooming (3rd year - \$5,000)</p> <p>Patrick Lamie did a presentation on behalf of MTTA. He included what the funding provides including huts, grooming, snow removal and the increased usage over time. He included that there was an estimated \$55,000 sno-park permit contribution.</p> <p>John asked that they were funded \$5000 last year but only spent \$4000.</p> <p>Patrick stated that they had a reduction in grooming and that mainly had to do with the conditions.</p> <p>Asahel Curtis Sno-Park (2nd year - \$24,449)</p> <p>Brian McNeil presented his request for E&E for Asahel Curtis Sno-Park. He included a graph showing the usage during the week which included majority of use on weekends. He stated it was primarily education in the beginning of the season and as time went on it turned into more enforcement. He stated that it looks like the budget would allow for a new opportunity at Annette Lake that would not need additional funding for E&E but would be a bonus to the funding.</p> <p>John stated as a reminder to the committee that part of the committee's goal was to relieve some pressure on Crystal Springs and Cabin Creek, and so far, Asahel Curtis has been helping.</p> <p>Joe asked if traffic ever backed up to the freeway because of the sno-park.</p> <p>Brian stated that traffic was an issue, but he is hoping that Annette Lake would help with that in opening another trailhead.</p> <p>Tim asked if this was primarily a snow play area with no grooming or set tracks.</p>	<p>Information Only</p>
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	<p>Brian stated that was correct for now, but they do have some visions for the future.</p> <p>Jason stated there are a lot of snowshoers and backcountry skiers that are beginning to use the area.</p> <p>Snoqualmie RD Increased E&E (2nd year - \$6,000)</p> <p>Todd Schmutz presented for additional E&E for the Snoqualmie RD. He stated that this allows E&E on the busy days like Friday-Sunday He stated that the program runs for 16 weeks from December-March. He stated that they wrote 52 citations last year and gave out warnings that would turn into tickets if the user did not buy a sno-park permit which directly turned into \$2500 for the program.</p> <p>Jason stated that he knows that the snow rangers are working hard and that they clear the snow off the cxts and do a lot of work.</p> <p>Methow Valley RD Increased E&E (2nd year - \$7,175)</p> <p>Rosemary Seifried presented on behalf of the Methow Valley RD including that this funding helps staff 6 sno-parks with E&E. She stated the project would help fund safety, sanitation, and maintenance.</p> <p>Mike asked what specific sno-parks this pertains to.</p> <p>Rosemary stated that South Summit and Silver Star are the primary non-motorized and Goat Creek, 8 mile, Yellowjacket and Twisp River.</p> <p>Mt. Spokane Expanded Grooming (2nd year - \$6,400)</p> <p>Russell Aldrich presented on behalf of Mt. Spokane State Park. He stated that the additional funds would provide an additional 20 hours of grooming a week. He stated this would reduce the risk of the beginner and intermediate trails.</p> <p>Mountaineers Grooming P2C to Lodge (2nd year - \$1,364)</p> <p>Jason spoke on behalf of the Mountaineers and stated that he believed they wanted to add more frequency and help in getting to the Mountaineers cabin.</p> <p>Fields Spring Park Aide (2nd year - \$17,905)</p> <p>Ann Freeman presented on behalf of Fields Spring State Park. She mentioned that Fields Spring is the only non-motorized sno-park in Area 6. She stated that the Park Aide would help with consistent weekend office hours, maintain access to clean bathrooms, and educates about the winter recreation program.</p> <p>Joe asked about the spending from last season.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Information Only</p>
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	<p>Ann asked for clarification.</p> <p>Joe stated that according to the budget there was a large amount that was unspent in the money.</p> <p>Audra Sims stated that the money was spent, and that position was filled.</p> <p>Corey stated it could be with the coding of the funds and that could be why it appears to not be spent.</p> <p>NWAC E&E (2nd year - \$10,000)</p> <p>Dennis D'Amico presented on behalf of NWAC showing the areas that NWAC currently covers. He also included data such as website visits and field days.</p> <p>Lake Easton Rollback Truck (Carry-over from previous budget)</p> <p>Josh White spoke on behalf of Lake Easton State Park. He stated that the park was unable to get a rollback truck last season due to supply chain issues and was originally going to request more money due to manufacturer increases but were able to find a used unit that fits their needs well for a significantly reduced price and will not need to request more money.</p> <p>New Lake Wenatchee Ice Skating Rink (\$5,000)</p> <p>Dave Millard presented on behalf of Kahler Glen Community Association stating that the location of the ice-skating rink and that it is currently a free to use skating rink. He explained that the area was kind of absorbed by the sno-park and a sno-park permit is currently required to park where the ice-skating rink is.</p> <p>Paul Tomas stated that there would be no extra money required for law enforcement or sanitation. He also spoke to the activities that would be available in the area such as skijoring, skiing, sledding, snowmobiling and now ice-skating.</p> <p>Jason stated that staff was very excited to add ice-skating to the program.</p> <p>John stated that from a committee perspective he was excited to add ice-skating to the program.</p> <p>New Cabin Creek Gravel (One-time - \$3,454)</p> <p>Jason stated that Kongsbergers has a funding request for some gravel at Cabin Creek and that staff is willing to fund that if they have a grade partnership with the forest service. He stated that is a more long-term solution. So, he would like to fund the proposal with the caveat of getting the road graded and that he would work with Lindsey and the Cle Elum RD to work on that.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Information Only</p>
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	<p>Karen Behm said she would not speak on it now that Jason has spoken on the article.</p> <p>New Cabin Creek Increased Grooming (\$33,440)</p> <p>Joy Cordell volunteered to speak on behalf on the Kongsbergers and spoke to how the area was unbelievably popular. She stated that the season ended two weeks early due to budget shortfalls and have asked for an increase in funds to help finish the season.</p> <p>Tim Becker asked if staff if they had any more on the gravel situation and it being dealt with in house.</p> <p>Jason said that they would talk more about that but were currently only talking about grooming.</p> <p>Joy stated that this would allow them to adjust to weather events and come out good on all sides.</p> <p>Tim Penelerick asked if the area is groomed 5-6 times a week and said other programs will back off on frequency to make the season last until the end and asked if that had been tried. He stated that the budget it is the largest in the state and might be the busiest in the state, but it is almost double or triple than what other programs get.</p> <p>Joy stated that the last two years that have reduced the frequency and have gone to 3 days a week. She stated there were a lot of unhappy people due to the conditions. She also stated that there are races hosted at Cabin Creek and Kongsbergers pitches in the money for the extra grooming.</p> <p>Tim P stated that after President's Day the usage starts to slow down, and he drove by consistently to see the usage and that it did slow down.</p> <p>Jason stated from a staff perspective it was disappointing to not see the season finished and would like to see reduced days to finish the season.</p> <p>Joy stated that they did reduce days and that resulted in a lot of unhappy people.</p> <p>Mike Burns asked how they came up with the number of \$33,000 for additional grooming.</p> <p>Joy stated that she wasn't the agent and didn't work with the groomer to figure out that number. She was just stepping in to speak.</p> <p>Mike stated that at Mt. Spokane they run into a lot of similar issues and his club has purchased a snowmobile to help with grooming and would recommend the club consider that to help.</p>	<p>Information Only</p>
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	<p>Joy stated that Mt. Spokane is on State Parks land and on forest service land they are not allowed to groom as soon as the contracts start.</p> <p>Jason stated that the program could work with the club on that.</p> <p>John stated that he worked with Rune to come up with a number by using an estimated trail miles and days groomed over the season for each area to get a defensible cost. In talking with Rune, he also wanted Rune to confirm that LandTek had the ability to physically provide the possible additional grooming hours. He stated that Rune had estimated a cost of around \$200,000 for 7 days grooming of the whole system. John asked that staff and the committee ponder the question of “fully groomed” between now and the winter meeting so that we can provide guidance to clubs regarding the maximum the program would be willing to fund.</p> <p>New Cle Elum RD Snow Ranger Staffing (\$7,500)</p> <p>Lindsey Pruett presented on behalf of the Cle Elum RD requesting additional funds for an additional snow ranger. She showed the increased usage for the area in the last 2 seasons. She also stated that they will have additional officers that will be able to write citations this upcoming season.</p> <p>John commented that in the funding application it stated that the area had receiving about the same amount since 2014, but in 2014 they received \$16,500 and last year they received \$35,300</p> <p>Lindsey replied that she was new to the program and isn't fully familiar with previous funding and that she is requesting an additional ranger this year.</p> <p>Joe asked if they currently have 3 snow rangers, if this would put it to 4, or would this be 2 to 3.</p> <p>Lindsey stated it would be putting the number at 4.</p> <p>New WDFW Yakima Naches E&E (\$3,000)</p> <p>Bob Weaver presented on behalf of WDFW Naches District and stated that would cover sno-parks such as Bumping Lake, Hells Crossing, Crow Lake Way, Pleasant Valley, and Union Creek. He stated this was a pilot program last season and at the beginning of the season compliance was low but increased throughout the season.</p> <p>John stated that a long time ago there was WDFW</p>	<p>Information Only</p>
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	<p>enforcement maybe 25 years ago, but currently forest service only does enforcement on weekdays, and it would be a welcomed addition.</p> <p>Bob stated that he was very pleased with how the pilot project went last season and that the community was pleased to see a law enforcement presence.</p> <p>New 92 Road Refresh Parking Lot (\$11,000)</p> <p>Michael Fowler presented on behalf of DNR. He showed the goals of the project which included reclaiming 20 parking spaces and improving the gravel surfacing. It would restore signage, install a new gate at 92 road end and block vehicle access to Overlook Trail. He also included that this project would build to the future including a north district, raise parking elevation to help with climate change and help the demand of increase user growth.</p> <p>Travis stated that ended the priority 5 and 6 presentations and passed it back to John for public comments.</p>	<p>Information Only</p>
<p>PUBLIC COMMENTS</p>	<p>Tim Becker wanted to give kudos to Parks Staff at Lake Easton State Park for keeping the trails open while probably having 500 trees down. He stated that they also had to deal with the trees going down on the power lines and he believed they handled it fantastically.</p> <p>Josh White commented on that and gave kudos to John “Boone” Badda. He stated that they had two new hires and as a crew they perform flawlessly.</p> <p>John O’Brien wanted to also shout out Lake Easton for having someone in the parking lot selling permits.</p> <p>Travis stated there is a comment in the chat about the permit sales from the previous season.</p> <p>Corey stated that would be a part of the proposed budget.</p> <p>Corey reminded the committee to be working on their scoring for the priority 5 and 6 presentations.</p> <p>Tim Penelerick asked if the committee was going to talk about Tim Becker’s emails regarding emergency reserves for grooming.</p> <p>Corey stated that would be talked about in the proposed budget for the new fiscal year.</p> <p>Tim stated that with that some areas might already be seeing huge increases to their budget.</p> <p>John stated his preference would be to fund the priority 5 request for Cabin Creek and to not do an across-the-board increase. He reiterated that was just a suggestion.</p> <p>Jason commented on emergency grooming and stating in the</p>	<p>Information Only</p>

	<p>eyes of the state, emergency is life safety and there isn't an emergency when it comes to grooming.</p> <p>John stated that the program has a reserve for snow removal and sanitation. He said that the emergency wouldn't be for grooming, but it would be for maintenance.</p> <p>Jason stated that there is a process for getting more funding for grooming. He stated that staff is working on getting people certified for tree removal and working with the forest service in getting that training.</p>	<p>Information Only</p>
<p>BREAK</p>	<p>John released the meeting to a break and would return at 11:05 a.m.</p>	<p>No action</p>
<p>BUDGET REVIEW</p>	<p>John and Corey brought the meeting back from the break and Corey began presenting the proposed budget.</p> <p>Corey stated that staff has created some scenarios for the committee and reminded the committee that the fund balance is not technically final. He shared the permits sold which were 25,059 daily, 17,750 and 8,308 special groomed permits.</p> <p>John commented on the permit sales and stated that the permits were up 25-40% from two years ago.</p> <p>Corey moved into program administration. He explained why there were no changes with the salary & benefits including the vacant Administrative Assistant position. A decrease in office supplies was recommended while an increase in communications was proposed. The vehicle maintenance & fuel was proposed with the higher fuel prices.</p> <p>He then moved to priority 2 and explained that staff had created 4 different scenarios. Corey moved to the scenario page and explained each of the scenarios and what the numbers represented in each scenario.</p> <p>Jim stated that with the amount of snow removal money used in the emergency reserve if it would be better to increase some of the areas rather than doing an across-the-board increase.</p> <p>Corey stated that the board could consider that and there is no way of telling what the snowfall will be like the next season.</p> <p>Jason stated that he had believed they had done an increase in one of the areas.</p> <p>Tim Penelerick asked if they were going to do an overview and go back to it.</p> <p>Corey said he was just doing an overview and could go back to it.</p> <p>Corey moved to priority 3 and explained that the special</p>	

	<p>groomed areas were highlighted for clarification. He also spoke that staff was recommending an increase in the emergency reserve snow removal budget due to the major overage from last season. He also stated that staff was recommending lowering the equipment repair budget due to the new equipment in the program.</p> <p>John stated that the snow removal wasn't going to emergency reserve money now because it was a 5-year contract and would be ongoing.</p> <p>Jason stated that it was an overage from the contract amount.</p> <p>John stated that it is known that the money is going to be needed and should move those funds to priority 2.</p> <p>Corey stated that the board could consider doing that.</p> <p>Corey then moved to E&E and showed the scenarios. He then explained that anything else that was not budgeted would go into priority 4 the equipment replacement fund. He then moved to priority 5 and 6 and showed the scoring of the projects. He reminded the committee that whatever was not funded, the money would roll into the equipment replacement fund.</p> <p>Mike asked if the scoresheets could be emailed.</p> <p>Corey stated it would take a couple of minutes, but he could.</p> <p>Jason stated that they could always come back to the scoresheet.</p> <p>Corey stated that he would follow where the board wanted to go with the budget whether it was starting with priority 5 and 6 or somewhere else.</p> <p>Emilie had a question with the gps/mapping in priority 1 and asked if it would be possible to explore something with the real time mapping e.g., Nordic Pulse</p> <p>Jason stated that they could explore it but believed it would not fit into the \$10,000 amount for a statewide program.</p> <p>Emilie stated that she thinks it would be a big benefit to the program even if it increased the cost.</p> <p>Jason stated that it could be a big benefit and would investigate it.</p> <p>Tim asked if it would make sense to make a motion to approve priority 1 and move on or to approve them all at once.</p> <p>John stated he thought it would be easiest to do it that way.</p> <p>Tim Penelerick motioned to approve the priority 1 budget as proposed by staff.</p>	<p>Motion Passed –</p>
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	<p>Mike Burns seconded.</p> <p>John asked for any comments.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>The committee moved onto priority 2.</p> <p>John asked brought up what Jim had said earlier and was wondering if it makes more sense to do increases to certain areas rather than across the board when most didn't use all their money.</p> <p>Jason said there isn't a way of knowing where the snow will go and last season the cascades got a heavy amount of snow, but east of the cascades didn't get as much.</p> <p>Mike and John stated that they were received heavy amounts of snow, but the access roads were not being plowed.</p> <p>Jason stated that he would like to increase the budget of Pineside by 30% to entice a contractor.</p> <p>John stated again if it would make more sense to do increases to areas compared to across-the-board increases.</p> <p>Mike asked if they increased the areas wouldn't they more than likely just use the extra funds anyways even if it wasn't needed.</p> <p>Jason replied that they must meet the plowing standards and can't just plow if there are only a couple inches as an example.</p> <p>Ken Wenzel commented on Pineside and that it had active logging last season, and that contractor was doing the plowing.</p> <p>Jason corrected him and said he had found a contractor to do it, but there are things that come up during the season.</p> <p>Tim Becker asked if staff had any clue what the cost increases would be with the increase in fuel prices.</p> <p>Jason stated that most are locked in with a 5-year contract with a fixed rate so they would not be able to increase the costs, but he said it would add a challenge to getting contractors. He also stated that is why staff proposed an increase in the emergency reserve snow removal budget.</p> <p>Jim asked staff what percentage increase they believed they would need to attract contractors.</p> <p>Jason stated that he would recommend increasing Pineside by 30% and that was the area where they didn't have a contractor.</p> <p>Tim Penelerick asked if Salmon La Sac should see an</p>	<p>Priority 1 approved as proposed by staff.</p>
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	<p>increase in percentage from the non-motorized fund since there is an increase in non-motorized activity.</p> <p>Jason asked if Tim had a recommended amount.</p> <p>Tim stated he would like to see the non-motorized go up to \$7500 rather than \$2500.</p> <p>John stated that if it was a 50-50 split it would make it \$5000.</p> <p>Tim said that was fine with him. He also recommended an increase to the Hyak/Gold Creek budget. He said he would like to see an increase of \$25,000 to Hyak/Gold Creek.</p> <p>Joe asked about Annette Lake and if it was going to be in the budget regardless of what the increases would be.</p> <p>Jason stated that he believed \$10,000 was a good starting point and he likes to see for 3 years what the budget looks like and readdress it since it did not go through a new funding request.</p> <p>Emilie wanted to look at Marble Mountain and address the split of funds.</p> <p>Jason stated that when he had visited that there were more non-motorized users.</p> <p>John asked if there were any more changes to the base snow removal budgets. Hearing none he asked if staff had any recommendations on increases.</p> <p>Corey said he would at least recommend an 8% increase with inflation.</p> <p>Jason stated that he would at least also recommend an 8% increase.</p> <p>Jason Holmes reminded the committee that the state is facing a mandatory statewide increase in fuel tax starting January 1st right when grooming is set to begin.</p> <p>Mike Burns motioned for a 10% increase across the board to the proposed base budget.</p> <p>Tim Penelerick seconded.</p> <p>Emilie voted yes</p> <p>John voted yes</p> <p>Joe voted yes</p> <p>Tim didn't answer</p> <p>Bob didn't answer</p>	<p>Motion Passed – Snow Removal budget 10% increase from last season</p>
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	<p>Tony voted yes</p> <p>Jim voted yes</p> <p>Lyn voted yes</p> <p>Mike voted yes</p> <p>Motion passes unanimously.</p> <p>John moved to the sanitation budget. He also asked if staff had any areas that would need a specific increase in budget.</p> <p>Jason stated that instead of moving a toilet from Chiwawa to the ice-skating rink if funded another toilet could be added.</p> <p>Lyn asked what exactly was going on with Crystal Springs and the 40% behind the name.</p> <p>Jason stated that was the split between the motorized and non-motorized program. He also stated that he believed a toilet had been added in the overnight lot.</p> <p>John clarified that the numbers shown were just the non-motorized programs obligation.</p> <p>Jason stated that Crystal Springs should get a bump to what the expenses were because that was going to be the new standard.</p> <p>John stated that Salmon La Sac should get a higher share of the sanitation budget if there was an increase to the snow removal budget. He also stated that maybe the forest service should be talked to about at a CXT at Blewett Pass.</p> <p>John stated that Lake Easton didn't use a lot of their money.</p> <p>Jason stated that he believed it was a coding issue.</p> <p>Corey believed it was similar probably with Fields Spring.</p> <p>Mike Burns motioned to have an across the board increase of 10% to the proposed sanitation budget.</p> <p>Lyn Alderson seconded</p> <p>John called for a vote</p> <p>Tim voted yes</p> <p>Bob voted yes</p> <p>Tony voted yes</p> <p>Joe voted yes</p> <p>Emilie voted yes</p>	<p>Motion Passed – Sanitation budget 10% increase from last season</p>
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	<p>Mike voted yes</p> <p>Lyn voted yes</p> <p>Jim voted yes</p> <p>John voted yes</p> <p>Motion passes unanimously</p> <p>John moved on to the trail grooming state owned budget.</p> <p>Mike Burns motioned to approve scenario B which is 10% increase to trail grooming with a 15% increase to special groomed areas for state owned trail grooming.</p> <p>Bob Seelye seconded</p> <p>John asked if there were any comments or discussion.</p> <p>Travis asked for clarification on the motion.</p> <p>Mike corrected his motion and stated that it was for both state owned and private grooming a 10% increase to trail grooming and a 15% increase to special groomed areas.</p> <p>John stated that his only concern would be regarding the proposed new funding of Cabin Creek and would prefer to approve the 33,000 compared to any new funding so it could be reviewed for 3 years.</p> <p>Ken asked at Mt. Adams the forest service was not going to be grooming Atkisson this year because they had to give up their snowmobile and was wondering if Mt. Adams could see an increase to allow the groomer to groom Atkisson.</p> <p>Jason said he had not heard that from the forest service and that there is an inter-agency agreement with them so they would have to do it. He said he would work with them.</p> <p>Jim stated that Cabin Creek already takes up a large portion of the budget and was rated by far last on the scoring for the priority 5 and 6 presentations and believed that they should just live with the \$18,000 increase.</p> <p>Mike seconded Jim's comments and said that the Kongsbergers are always going to request more and should find a way to get a snowmobile and supplement the grooming.</p> <p>Joy stated that she believed that there is a public perception right now and thought the offer to wait and how the \$33,000 was fair. She also stated that if everyone else thought more money was needed for grooming that they would request the funds, so she didn't believe it was fair.</p> <p>John stated a lot of people don't attend the meeting for the</p>	
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length of the meeting and when he started Cabin Creek got \$79,000 for grooming and last year it got \$120,000.

Tim Becker that it used to be that the Kongsbergers used to groom the system until the state system took over. He also stated the forest service has put a lot of restrictions on the Kongsbergers and would be happy to groom if some type of agreement could be made.

Jason stated that now there is a gate there maybe the land manager would be more willing and would work with the landowner.

Joy stated that they were ready to groom December 1st, but the forest service would not allow them.

John stated that he didn't understand how they could begin grooming December 1st because his district won't close the roads to wheeled vehicles until late season elk hunting is done and that isn't until December 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th.

Jason added that there is Christmas tree harvesting that happens as well.

Tim Penelerick asked if there was a motion on the table.

Mike Burns stated his motion was still to increase the trail grooming by 10% and the special groomed areas by 15% for both state-owned and private trail grooming.

Tim Penelerick seconded that motion

John asked for discussion.

Lyn stated that she believed that the amount of \$33,000 was a bit excessive for an increase for Cabin Creek.

Tim stated that two years ago put in for \$18,000 to extend their season, and with the increase would be the money they had requested.

Emilie asked that John had asked with Rune to get the number and how that process worked.

John stated that he had talked with Rune if it was additional grooming miles or hours and Rune had worked with a spreadsheet to find out how much it would cost to get 6 days a week at Cabin Creek, 4 at Erling Stordahl and 2 at a smaller area and came up with the \$33,000 as the funds needed to do that.

Emilie stated that she visited the area late in the season after grooming ceased, saw the trails, and understood the want for additional funds.

Joe added for folks' knowledge that the increase that they received last year was \$13,000.

Bob voted yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

John moved onto E&E.

John stated that it looks like staff didn't have any areas with any major increases.

Joy asked for clarification on the emergency reserve if it was for motorized or non-motorized funding.

Jason stated that he answered her question in the chat and everything was for non-motorized funding.

Mike asked John what the number was for E&E when he started.

John stated 6 years ago it was \$120,000.

Jason added that some areas that have added enforcement in areas that previously didn't have it.

Mike asked if there is any way to see how much money E&E is bringing back to the program.

Jason said some places like WDFW will include it in their logs but can't give a number off the top of his head.

Jim added that he looked at this as primarily enforcement, but Jason is right that they do a lot more than just enforcement.

Jason stated that they clear the toilets off even if they don't have to and are not lazy.

Mike agreed and said he has cut down trees with them.

Mike Burns motioned to use the expense from last season and add 10%.

Bob Seelye seconded

John asked if there was any discussion.

Tim stated that in his opinion a ticket is education.

John stated that when Kittitas County Sheriff writes a ticket the money goes back to the county and when a US forest service ranger writes a ticket it goes back to the US Treasury.

Tim asked for clarification on what Mike Burns' motion was and if it was from the expenditures or budget.

Mike stated it was from the expenditures.

Tony stated from the law enforcement perspective that they are wanting the money to go back to the program and giving

	<p>people tickets doesn't go back to the program. He stated that he would like to see the funding at least back to the previous seasons amount and not the expenditure amount.</p> <p>Corey added that there also could have been coding issues with some of the expenditures for the E&E and the expenditures could be changing.</p> <p>Jim stated that there are some big areas that didn't have any expenditures marked and he was sure they spent some money.</p> <p>Corey explained that when Eastern Region sends in their billing it isn't broken out by area and is just a general expense.</p> <p>Josh White asked for clarification on if the E&E funding also funded the park aides and not just the park rangers.</p> <p>Jason said that is correct.</p> <p>Josh White stated since covid started they have been struggling with staffing issues and that could impact the number on the expenses.</p> <p>Tim Penelerick thanked Tony and his staff for all that they do and know that with the warning system they have it works, and his ticket is education policy is just a personal preference.</p> <p>Tim Penelerick motioned priority 3 E&E with a 10% increase off the budgeted amount last year.</p> <p>Bob Seelye asked if Mike had rescinded his motion.</p> <p>Mike Burns stated he would withdraw his motion.</p> <p>Jim Rhodes seconded.</p> <p>John asked if there was any more discussion.</p> <p>John called for a vote.</p> <p>Mike voted no</p> <p>Emilie voted yes</p> <p>John voted yes</p> <p>Joe voted yes</p> <p>Tim voted yes</p> <p>Bob voted yes</p> <p>Tony voted yes</p> <p>Jim voted yes</p>	<p>Motion withdrawn for 10% increase from last year's expenditures for E&E</p> <p>Motion Passed – E&E 10% increase from last season</p>
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	<p>Lyn voted no</p> <p>Motion passes 7-2</p> <p>Corey suggested moving onto priority 5 and 6 rather than priority 4 due to everything left over going into priority 4. He also added that he would need a couple minutes to adjust the scenarios to accurately reflect what has been approved so far.</p>	
BREAK	John released the group for break to return at 1:10 p.m.	No action
BUDGET REVIEW CONTINUED	<p>Corey brought the group back from break and showed the updated scenarios.</p> <p>Mike Burns asked how much funds were left between priority 4, 5, and 6.</p> <p>Corey stated that there was a little over \$750,000 left.</p> <p>Tony asked if it would be better to do priority 4 before 5 and 6.</p> <p>Corey stated that anything left over would go into priority 4 so he thought it would be better to do 5 and 6 first.</p> <p>Mike asked if John thought they needed to match last years amount in the equipment replacement fund.</p> <p>John stated that he thought so because the committee knew there was going to be a surplus of funds because they hadn't raised their fees in so long.</p> <p>Tim stated that he thought it was huge that they had that much money in the equipment replacement fund.</p> <p>John stated that he thinks the minimum would need to be \$300,000 and that would be enough to fund a new snow cat and a couple of snowmobiles.</p> <p>Jason said he was excited because there could be some cool projects they could fund.</p> <p>Tim Becker stated that looking at some of the previous budgets there was around \$300,000 in the equipment replacement and last year was higher than normal.</p> <p>Jason stated that is in part due to Washington State Parks investing in the program and buying equipment.</p> <p>John stated that he believed the difference of the needed of \$300,000 versus what they have currently at \$500,000 is going to get smaller over time.</p> <p>Mike asked Corey to see what the budget would look like if they decreased Cabin Creek's grooming to 15,000 since they have already given them 18,000 in a percentage increase.</p>	

	<p>Corey adjusted the numbers and that left \$522,477 left in the equipment reserve.</p> <p>Tim asked if the Kongsbergers could come and request funds for a snowmobile to supplement the current grooming.</p> <p>Jason stated that they would have to request funds at the next budget meeting.</p> <p>Tim asked how that would work with it being on forest service land.</p> <p>Jason stated they would have to have an agreement with the forest service.</p> <p>Tony commented that he thought that the request for Fields Spring being \$17,905 was a little high for how small the area is.</p> <p>Mike stated he thought the same thing but made a trip down there and found it was awesome. He stated that he thought the park aides and grooming would be necessary.</p> <p>Jason stated that they are also increasing the snowshoe trails.</p> <p>Tim Becker added that the state requires two people for grooming due to safety concerns and that's why it was requested.</p> <p>Joe wondered if the perception could be singling out Cabin Creek again since theirs was the only one reduced.</p> <p>Tim Becker asked if he understood correctly that the committee would buy the gravel if the forest service would do the work.</p> <p>Jason stated that they would buy the gravel if the forest service agreed to grade the road.</p> <p>Tim asked Corey what the increase given to Cabin Creek was with the percentage increase.</p> <p>Corey showed Tim that it was \$18,000.</p> <p>Tony motioned to approve the budget as is (Funding all priority 5 and 6 with Cabin Creek Grooming at a reduced rate of \$15,000).</p> <p>Bob Seelye seconded</p> <p>John asked for any additional discussion.</p> <p>John called for a vote.</p> <p>Tim voted yes</p> <p>Joe voted no</p>	
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	<p>John voted yes</p> <p>Emilie voted yes</p> <p>Mike voted yes</p> <p>Lyn voted yes</p> <p>Jim voted no</p> <p>Tony voted yes</p> <p>Bob voted yes</p> <p>Motion passed 7-2</p> <p>John concluded the budget review.</p>	<p>Motion passed – All priority 5 and 6 funded with Cabin Creek Additional Grooming reduced to \$15,000.</p>
<p>NEXT MEETING</p>	<p>John moved to the next meeting location and stated that he thought it would be beneficial to visit the parks on Snoqualmie.</p> <p>Tim stated that he thinks it will ultimately come down to if staff can get rooms at government rate.</p> <p>Rob stated that when the program gets a new manager on board there may be an opportunity to meet the new staff in a centrally located place to meet the new staff. He also stated that maybe State Parks could help with accommodations.</p> <p>Travis stated if everyone was good with Snoqualmie the next item would be the date and traditionally, they have done late January or early February with trying to avoid Martin Luther King Jr holiday weekend.</p> <p>Multiple members stated the 28th of January would work.</p> <p>Travis moved to advisory committee members terms and that it was Lyn and Bob’s last meeting.</p> <p>John thanked the snowmobile committee members for all that they do and thought their perspective is valuable.</p> <p>Mike Burns motioned to adjourn</p> <p>All signified by saying aye.</p>	<p>Staff to provide accommodations for Cle Elum/Snoqualmie Area for weekend of January 27-28.</p>
<p>ADJOURN</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 1:51</p>	