

**Washington State Parks  
SNOWMOBILE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Winter Meeting Minutes**

**January 11, 2025  
Virtual Meeting**

**ATTENDANCE**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Bob Henrie (Chair, Area 2)  
Norris Boyd (Vice Chair, Area 3)  
Kurt Millard (Area 4)  
John O'Brien (Non-Motorized)  
Cindy Hoover (Non-Motorized)  
Justin Davis (Non-Motorized)  
Sam Hensold (DNR)  
Tony Leonetti (WDFW)

**Washington State Parks Staff:**

Corey Tolar (Winter Recreation Program, Manager)  
Travis Larson (Winter Recreation Program)  
Kari McNay (Winter Recreation Program)

**Guest Attendees:**

Tim Penelerick  
Ty Locke  
William Rutherford  
MTGA Grooming  
Lake Wenatchee Rec Club  
Christopher Riedinger  
Jason Holmes  
Jim Burts  
Max Rochester  
Glen Markovits  
Jeremy Valazquez (DNR)  
Andrew Kerlee (WSPRC)  
Jeff Jones (DNR)  
Wayne Mohler  
Bob Seelye  
Bill Burgess/Pacific Mountain Services  
Franny Castrilli

<b>Saturday, January 11, 2025, Agenda</b>		
<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Bob calls the meeting to order.	<b>No Action</b>
<b>INTRODUCTIONS</b>	Bob has the committee members introduce themselves as well as the audience.	<b>Information Only</b>
<b>AGENDA REVIEW</b>	Bob calls for any additions or corrections to the agenda.  No additions or corrections made.	<b>No Action</b>
<b>TEAMS ETIQUETTE</b>	Kari reviews Teams etiquette with attendees.	<b>Information Only</b>
<b>AGENDA REVIEW</b>	Bob reviews the agenda with the committee and calls for any additions or revisions.  No revisions made.	<b>No Action</b>
<b>MINUTES REVIEW &amp; APPROVAL</b>	Justin notes that minutes were sent late. WSPRC offers to move minutes review to a later meeting.  Bob asks the committee if they are comfortable proceeding with minutes approval at a later date.  The committee agrees.	<b>Minutes set to be approved at a later date.</b>
<b>PROGRAM MANAGER UPDATE</b>	Corey begins program manager update.  Better snowfall this year than last and increase in registrations for November as a result.  DOL website updates pushed December registrations back to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> week of the month. Will pull December numbers hopefully sometime next week.  USFS hiring freeze put in place. Should be able to get by for remainder of this season but based on anticipated hiring practices, this could have large impact on next season. Services provided by USFS, may need to be moved to other contractors &/or go private.  Winter Rec location will be moving to Lacey in May.  Multiple vehicles reported going across berms and getting stuck early in the season.  Worked with some newspapers and radio stations heading into the season to get the word out about temporary sno-park closures.  Corey calls for questions from the committee.  John: In the past there would be costs to program when things are moved around, will there be any charge to the program?  Corey: To my knowledge, no. This is an agency directed move.	<b>Information Only</b>
<b>CONTRACTOR/AGREEMENTS UPDATE</b>	Travis begins contractor agreement update.  Mt Adams SR under new contract as well with WCW trucking.	<b>Information Only</b>

	<p>Notes Fatty K's giving a one-year bid, will go out again next year.</p> <p>5-year contracts for Touchet Corral, I-90, White Pass after bids.</p> <p>Mt St Helens went out to bid twice with no solicitations, WSPRC was able to do direct buy for area as result.</p> <p>Lake Chelan, Mt Baker NRA, Marble Mtn/Wakepish, some sanitation contracts, Lake Wenatchee, Chinook Pass, &amp; Greenwater snow removal contracts all going out to bid next year.</p> <p>Delays with finalizing closures caused contracts to go out later than normal. Contracts will go out sooner next season.</p> <p>Chelan PW suspended contract, Apple Country Snowmobile Club took up Lily Lake snow removal to assist.</p> <p>Antilon Lake moved to a private contract as well. New contractor. Feedback should be constructive to best serve this area.</p> <p>GPS Units just went over the threshold of direct buy limit due to fee increases. Will go out for bid next season. Contractors must pull units from cats and return them at the end of the season.</p> <p>The committee discusses the decrease in bid submissions for the 24-25 season. Recent budget issues are noted as a major contributing factor. This season's struggles will likely indicate how the contracting process will look the next 3-5 years.</p> <p>Bob calls for additional questions. No questions.</p>	
<b>AREA REPORTS</b>	<p><b>Bob Henrie (Area 2)</b> Having decent snow year in Okanogan County. Big issue currently is that hauling truck is down and will be expensive to fix. Currently leaving cat in sno-park between uses due to lack of options. Piston Bully requires an expensive fix, been using Tucker in the meantime. Grooming has occurred since before Christmas.</p> <p><b>Norris Boyd (Area 3)</b> Season off to a slow start. Good snow up high initially but now snow is a bit better. Spending significant amount of grooming time cutting up trees which are rotting following a fire a while back. Went around near warming hut recently and less than half of sleds were registered. Trying to figure out how to make the remainder of Kings Lake contract last.</p> <p><b>Kurt Millard (Area 4)</b> New contractor has been doing good job clearing parks. Trout Lake area has been getting better snow, but anything below 3,000 ft has little to no snow. No snow at Mt St Helens, so no plowing. Quiet in Area 4.</p> <p><b>Justin Davis (Non-motorized)</b> Salmon La Sac and Crystal Springs have received a lot of use despite fairly thin snowpack.</p> <p><b>John O'Brien (Non-motorized)</b> Dogsled trails at Crystal started grooming around 1<sup>st</sup> of month. Very little snow but have been able to go out on trails multiple times a week for non-motorized activity.</p>	<b>Information Only</b>

	<p><b>Cindy (Non-motorized)</b> Skied Methow and snow was fabulous there.</p> <p><b>Sam Hensold (DNR)</b> Burning through plowing budget in Ahtanum due to heavy snowfall. May need to discuss with WSPRC what to do with those sno-parks. DNR money is restricted and cannot be used for designated sno-parks. When building '25-26 budget, need to make better considerations for plowing.</p> <p>No LEO for Yakima County at the moment, difficult to maintain safety. E&amp;E not currently funded by Winter Rec but is focusing about 50% of time to Winter Rec. Over 100 contacts, 15 warnings, 6 citations.</p> <p><b>Tony Leonetti (WDFW)</b> SW region snow hasn't been great. NW region snow has been better. Down to 1 staffer in Yakima. SE region is fully staffed. NE region staff member broke leg and will be out about 6 weeks, will move staff around to get coverage in area. No presence/activity in Okanogan yet.</p>	
<b>GROOMER REPORTS</b>	<p>Bob asks those with grooming reports to use hand-raise function in Teams. Will work through these in order.</p> <p><b>MTGA</b> A lot of snow this year. Dealing with a budget cut that is not sustainable. Machine is going to wear out. Grooming 2 days a week. Hwy 20 is wall to wall moguls. 75 sleds parked in area Tuesday morning. No LEOs there. Machines not licensed; no sno-park permits. Free-for-all in area. Not going to be able to continue when contract expires. Slowly going to go out, despite having a brand new \$300k machine.</p> <p>Bob: Struggle with enforcement is any increase to that fund comes out of grooming. All comes from same pool.</p> <p>Discussion of budget vs. service quality follows.</p> <p><b>Jim Burts, ACSC</b> Burned through 75% of money in two weeks and will run out. Cooperation with riders has been remarkable. Had one LEO so far. No riders allowed in club unless registered.</p> <p><b>Tim Penelerick, Boulder Creek Enterprises</b> Started out of Salmon La Sac 12/21 &amp; Last Resort 12/27. High holiday visitation. Trying to groom where people are riding. Haven't had those cold nights to freeze in trail system. First few miles thin, can't groom much. Foot of snow and rain on top of it. Hoping to make it through President's Day. Dropping days where possible in order to make it through.</p> <p><b>Bill Burgess (PMS/LWRC)</b> Roughly 30" of snow in Lake Wenatchee area. 6' in areas above 4,000 ft elevation. Started about 12/14 and had steady grooming. A lot of riders on Christmas and New Year's Day.</p> <p>Club did fundraiser and raised about \$23,000. Got one note from LEO with concerns. Sleds are registered but don't have sno-park permits.</p>	<b>Information Only</b>

	<p>Committee notes that this has been a reported issue in various areas around the state. WSPRC will reach out to offices to address this.</p> <p>John O'Brien: Had afternoon where groomer went to Chiwawa area. Had about 30 people show up to ask questions and explained grooming to people. Went well, will do this next year. Outreach is important. Snowmobile program is invisible to many users as there is very little personnel on ground/LEOs, etc. Meet and Greets are important. It would be good to have these with groomers, state parks, and area reps all present.</p> <p><b>Ty Locke</b> (mic not working)</p>	
<b>BREAK</b>	Committee breaks for 10 minutes	<b>No Action</b>
<b>GROOMER REPORTS CONTINUED</b>	<p><b>Ty Locke</b> (Report delivered by Travis) Crystal Springs started grooming 12/20. Will go as long as possible, but difficult with budget cuts. Biggest issue is lack of LEO presence during week between Christmas and New Year. Had about 15 phone calls, people out on quads at sno-parks. Amazed no major injuries at Crystal during this time. Need to be creative with how to staff/enforce this area.</p> <p>(Ty approved this message with a thumbs up.)</p>	<b>Information Only</b>
<b>LEGISLATIVE UPDATE</b>	<p>Draft legislation was submitted for session to increase snowmobile registration cost from \$50-\$75. Not everyone supported, but good majority did. Worked with SMAC and WSSA on this. Still looking for a private sponsor for this bill and will know once legislative session opens.</p> <p>Owen Rowe (legislative director) is leaving the agency this week upon taking a job with the governor's office. Peter Herzog will temporarily fill in for Owen until replacement is found. Legislation will still be moving forward as planned.</p>	<b>Information Only</b>
<b>STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE</b>	<p>Corey begins discussion on strategic planning.</p> <p>Looking at a strategic update to the snowmobile program. Still in early stages of what this looks like. Hoping to create a steering committee. We don't need committee to be established today but will be putting this together soon.</p> <p>Norris: From strategic planning standpoint, first task is to get registration fees increased. Next topic should be unregistered sleds. Spending money required to get thorough LEO coverage on trails is an unreasonable expectation. Need to get people to the point where they are addressing unregistered sleds with their peers. Part of the strategic plan needs to be implementing a program to somehow police ourselves.</p> <p>Sam: Steering committee should consider trailhead ambassador program. May be an affordable way to have consistent presence at trailheads.</p> <p>Justin: 15 years' worth of issues that need to be fixed. What to work on first? Out of state sleds, enforcement, potential for private/public partnership. If we get a homerun with legislative session, we'll be caught up to where we should have been 5 years ago. Looking at budget, things won't get better for a while, and that's being hopeful.</p>	<b>No Action</b>

	John: Strategic plan needs to incorporate club involvement.	
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	<p>Bob directs audience to hand raise function on Teams and opens the floor for public comment.</p> <p>Glen Markovits: Would like the committee to think about purpose. Are you all effective? May be disconnect between representatives here and reality of clubs. Would like to see more club representation involved in this committee. Need reps to be in more frequent contact with clubs, grooming councils, and groomers.</p> <p>Bob: Agree that there needs to be better communication. Be sure to contact area reps with your concerns. Reps can do better at being involved with local clubs. Need everyone's cooperative involvement to tackle these issues.</p> <p>Marilyn Mylius: Plan to include Bob in monthly meeting invites and meeting minutes moving forward to keep SMAC up to date on local issues and happenings.</p> <p>Tim Penelerick: Local clubs aren't making it a priority to make sure everyone is registered in their club rides in area. Many local events don't require this. Local clubs condoning not paying into program.</p> <p>Justin: We should add commercial rentals to list of things to talk about moving forward. Corey: Acknowledged.</p> <p>Bob: So the public knows, this committee has been meeting about every other month virtually to share information amongst committee. SMAC has stepped up involvement from where it was. The program is set up in statute, so changes are slow and go through legislature, but we are working to get out more information than in years past.</p> <p>Bob calls for additional public comment. No further comments.</p>	<b>Discussion Only</b>
<b>ELECTION TERMS</b>	<p>Travis: State Parks is going through a transitional phase regarding how committee appointments are made. 7 reps are either past or approaching the end of their term. Currently waiting for guidance from State Parks as to how to proceed.</p> <p>Currently, the plan is to stagger appointments to avoid simultaneous turnover. Want to handle this in a way where we don't drop 7 new people into this ongoing situation.</p> <p>Mark Gallatin is set to replace Tom Shields. Otherwise, it looks like this current committee will be the one heading into the summer budget meeting. Hoping that everyone is willing to stick with us for the moment.</p> <p>Justin: Saw in Kittitas County Tribune that SMAC is looking to replace area reps and at-large reps. Was this an error? Travis: Not an error but was prior to getting guidance about these processes changing.</p>	

	<p>Justin: To clarify, if someone approaches us asking to be on committee, how do we proceed?</p> <p>Travis: People should still apply, application will be filed and processed once guidance is received. People should still apply though.</p> <p>Norris: What is the governance regarding members of committee?</p> <p>Corey: Committee makeup is in statute. Details are in By-Laws..</p> <p>Kurt: Feedback on adding WSSA member to board?</p> <p>Corey: Nothing so far. WSSA member could likely be area rep, but designated WSSA position not currently provided by statute.</p> <p>Bob: This was looked at a few years back and no hindrance in having WSSA rep on committee back then.</p> <p>Corey: Will look into this.</p> <hr/> <p>Kari calls for nominations for SMAC Chair</p> <p>Kurt asks if Justin is interested in chair position.</p> <p>Justin: I feel like elections are premature given upcoming turnover. Would be appropriate to have chair be a motorized rep.</p> <p>Bob: If it helps, I will not turn down a nomination but think it's time for someone new to do this.</p> <p>Kurt states that he would nominate Bob or Norris.</p> <p>Norris: More than willing to do job temporarily.</p> <p><b>Norris nominates Bob Henrie for Chair.</b></p> <p><b>Justin seconds.</b></p> <p><b>Vote is called.</b></p> <p><b>Motion to approve Bob Henrie as Chair passes 7-1.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Kurt nominates Norris for Vice Chair.</b></p> <p><b>John seconds.</b></p> <p><b>Vote is called.</b></p> <p><b>Motion to approve Norris Boyd as Vice Chair passes unanimously.</b></p>	<p><b>Motion to approve Bob Henrie as Chair passes 7-1.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Motion to approve Norris Boyd as Vice Chair passes unanimously.</b></p>
<b>UPCOMING MEETING REVIEW</b>	<p>Next meeting tentatively scheduled for 4/30/25.</p> <p>Summer Budget Meeting tentatively scheduled for 8/8-8/9/25.</p> <p>Norris proposed Wenatchee for Summer Budget meeting.</p> <p>Committee agrees.</p>	<b>Summer Budget Meeting to be held in Wenatchee.</b>

<b>MEETING ADJOURNS</b>	<p>Norris moves to adjourn the meeting Justin seconds.</p> <p>Bob calls for a vote. Motion passes unanimously to adjourn meeting.</p>	<p>Motion passes unanimously to adjourn meeting.</p>
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