

OHV TRAIL PLANNING MEETING OCTOBER 28, 2002

ATTENDANCE

Lawrence Huntley, Barrett Brown, Tom Niemela, Roger Christal, Neal Ice, Julie Barrell, Joe Barrell, Dale Walker

Ian Caldwell, Randy Peterson, Doug Decker, Susan Nicholas,

UPDATES

- ?? Reviewed last months meeting and handed out information.
- ?? November 25th meeting topic: Clyde and Randy will review the Non-Motorized Trail Plan and how it relates to the motorized trail system.
- ?? No December meeting.
- ?? Campgrounds closing soon. BC/Jordan closing December 2nd They will re-open the beginning of March. Gales Creek and Elk Creek will close November 4th. Jones Creek and Nehalem closing October 30th.
- ?? South Fork Trail bridge is complete.
- ?? Power poles near chute trail need identification ribbon – Ian will contact BPA to get yellow cable straps around guy wire cables.
- ?? Seasonal trail closures: University FirePower and Cedar Tree Trail will be closed when rain starts.
- ?? Events complete for the season.
- ?? Forestry's website is being revamped.
- ?? Purchased excavator – It has been working for about a month.
- ?? Hunting seasons – Deer season through November 6th; Elk season November 16th – 22.
- ?? Firewood permits to go on sale Friday November 1st, 2002.
- ?? Trails between Cedar Creek Road and the Creek, are still being closed and rehabilitated to protect the water quality to this fish-bearing creek. A new trail above and parallel to the road is planned.

INTEPRETIVE CENTER PRESENTATION by Doug Decker

Doug Decker, Project leader for the Tillamook Forest Interpretive Center, provided a briefing and update on plans for the center. Here are some key points from that presentation and questions that were asked by members of the trail planning committee:

1. The 13,500-square foot center will be located on Cedar Creek Flat, the property that is downstream from the Jones Creek Bridge and currently bisected by powerlines.

2. In the last two years, the non-profit Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust has raised \$6 million toward construction of the center. Donations have come from a wide variety of foundations, organizations, individuals, companies and governmental agencies.
3. Final design of the center is about to get underway. Groundbreaking is planned for June 2003. The center will open to the public in 2005.
4. The center will be a place that helps visitors understand about the past, present and future of the Tillamook State Forest, and that helps visitors by providing orientation information on all varieties of forest recreation.
5. Doug also provided a one-page handout on the project's timeline and a backgrounder that summarizes the center.

Comments and Questions:

Question: After it opens, how will it be maintained?

ODF will fund center operations from the Forest Development Fund. Revenue generating functions at the center (café, gift shop, facility rental, etc.) can help defray cost. Annual operations cost is estimated at \$600,000 per year.

Comment: Concerns were raised about the amount of analysis done relative to the impacts the interpretive center might have on OHV use. Concern about OHV use in proximity with other uses in the center vicinity. Not the best mix of uses. Concern that the center will reduce area available for OHV use.

ODF Response: Strong desire to help share with the visiting public the tradition, values and longstanding OHV use of the forest. Center can help show the public responsible OHV use. Center can serve as a venue for some OHV-related programs or activities. Commitment to work with the OHV community and ODF recreation planners to provide trail linkage from Diamond Mill to Cedar Creek Road and to help facilitate highway crossing at Jones Creek Road for Parking Lot West trail.

Tom N. – Whole IC concept good but surrounds the DM area and encourages visitation by people from the city who might not be supportive of OHV use. Wilson River Trail is a bad idea. Tom can give a number of examples where mixing uses has led to a reduction of OHV opportunities - happening in Hood River now. Gales Creek Overlook: need to fix map to include Diamond Mill in motorized trail zone.

Tom N. continued – Things to do to make OHV users feel better: how about a commitment from ODF to providing OHV opportunities in the future. Barrett pointed out that the commitment has already been made in writing in *the Northwest Oregon State Forest Management Plan, Tillamook State Forest Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan 1993* and the *Tillamook State Forest Recreation Action Plan 2000*.

Doug expressed a strong interest in gathering stories, photos and personal memories about the history of OHV use in the Tillamook State Forest. Roger and Tom will provide Doug with names of people who may have pictures, home movies, stories, etc.

The messages from the displays should cover history of OHV use, stories, volunteer contribution, connection w/forest, family element, tradition, the ongoing financial contribution of the ATV fund; impact mitigation work; and include an old motorcycle 30-50 year old (*space limitations*).

We will also include OHV Trail plans in with Interpretive Center drawings. Ian pointed out that ODF is focusing on trail upgrades and new trail development. The OHV bypass routes around Interpretive Center may displace other trail projects.

Doug will return to the trail planning meeting on November 25th to follow-up with the group.

OTHER ISSUES

Request of OHV trail planning meeting minutes. *We will email to list and post on the web.*

Concern with pace of new trail development. Neal & Joe
Not adequately taking care of existing trails and are continuing to lose existing trails.
How can we address these concerns.

Neal – has a small excavator and loader and he would be willing to building and rock \$75/hr. Willing to cut it in half

Losing trails faster than gaining.

ODF has motorized trail plans throughout the forest. Priorities are set for each trail system. New trails are planned but we are only able to accomplish so much each year.

The highest priority is maintenance and upgrade of the existing trail system. We are working on new trails but must be balanced with the needs of the existing trails.

Currently ODF contracts some trail work and must go through state purchasing process for this.

NEXT MEETING

November 25th

?? Doug Decker will attend to follow up.

?? Clyde and Randy will review the Non-Motorized Trail Plan and how it relates to the motorized trail system.