

Indian Creek Community Forest Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

January 17 2018

Camas Center; 1:30 – 4:00

Attendees: Mike Lithgow, Kalispel Tribe; Steph Stroud, National Park Service; Alex Stone, National Park Service; Alex Laughery, WSU; Colleen Rupert, KCTC; Mike Jensen, WSU; Bob Gilrein, Kalispel Tribe; Forrest Ownbey, DNR; Lucas Henderson, Kalispel Tribe; Matthew Berger, Kalispel Tribe; Adam Gebauer, Ray Entz, Kalispel Tribe; Matt Hobbs

Welcome & Introductions

- Everyone shared their name, organization, and one fun fact about themselves
- Steph Stroud from the National Park Service gave a background about the RTCA program and how her and Alex Stone will both be providing technical assistance as part of a grant to the Kalispel Tribe for help with the Indian Creek Community Forest Plan's implementation strategy

Existing Conditions & Orientation (Mike Lithgow)

- Mike led the group through a review of Community Forest map, pictures, and background information
- Mike explained that the Advisory Committee aims to create a detailed document that outlines a strategic way to implement the Indian Creek Community Forest Plan including the following:
 - Timeline
 - Potential Resources
 - Analysis of Proposed Uses to Confirm They are Feasible and Still Desired
 - Identify Existing Features to be Enhanced and New Uses to be developed
 - Refined Project Descriptions (including cost estimates)
 - List of Potential Partners/Stakeholders
 - Organizational capacity

Mike will send out Community Forest Plan

Vision & Mission (Steph Stroud)

MISSION: To develop a strategy to implement the adopted Community Forest Plan through a consensus based process built on existing and new partnerships.

The group was asked, "What is our VISION?" They were tasked with using words, drawings, and other ideas (+ magazine/glue sticks for cut outs) to come up with a "collage"

The group took a few minutes to think individually and then divided into three smaller groups. The small groups took 5 minutes share/discuss their individual ideas and write them on a flipchart sheet; They then took another 5 minutes each to present those ideas to the larger group.

Group 1 Notes:

- Develop an area for education that incorporates the trees of Washington
- Develop education program that incorporates outdoor education
- Develop tools and resources that leads to high public use with outdoor activity centers
- Interactive → doing!!
- Cell phone drop, so you are disconnected (locker, block)
- Destination, overnight facilities for groups, even tent camping; retreat center
- Museum (inspired by High Desert Museum) interactive, trails
- Web-based resources for teachers & leaders in advance for self-guided activities
- Connect with community resources & expertise (birders, climbing instruction, astronomy...)
- Build strong infrastructure to support programs & services & protect visitors & forest
- Inspire partnership & participation (\$, grants, personnel, programs, etc.)

Group 2

- Education, integration, cooperation w/ schools
- Sand table community forest
- Conservation district (overview) Drone, GPS/GIS, Physical Model
- Connecting
- All age education, specific education
- All community stakeholders involved in coordination
- Recruitment in resource mgmt. careers
- Connecting families to the forest, "tradition"
- Plants, special forest products
- Hook to bring people in "ropes"
- Logging rescue, fire dept training

Group 3

- *Hands on* outdoor education
- Outdoor recreation
- Hiking
- Clean air/clean water
- Forest breathing inspired by the book "The Nature Fix"
- Incorporating concepts from other countries about nature as healing, good for mental health
- Positive lifestyle choices

The planning team will take notes generated from this exercise to create a draft vision statement. If anyone would like to volunteer, let Mike know.

Identify Opportunities & Constraints

Alex Stone then led the group in a brainstorming activity to think of any issues and opportunities that may arise on the project. The following were generated:

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Indian Creek itself—fish and habitat w/ potential for restoration (bull trout)
- Forestry education (partners engaged & resources to share; youth & adult). CD, tribal, etc.
- Community expertise (astronomers, birders, foraging, etc.) ready and willing!
- Local and regional groups as partners
- A model for state & nation of community working together
- Space, size of CF offers resource for programs & activities (facilities for eg parking, logistics, host/share, resources, staff/equipment)
- Proximity & seasonal access (off country road, near cities)
- Newport Miner
- Resources on site can be used to raise funds and reinvest in CF site (timber sales) and non-profit
- General education
- Conservation education
- NASP (archery program)
- Proximity to Whitworth college and its outdoor ed program (through conservation district)
- 5 universities within 75-100 miles (12-20 ed)
- Recreation, non-motorized, on adjoining USFS lands
- Relationship with Spokane parks
- Don't have to start from scratch—existing infrastructure
- Native plant nursery—develop & promote for use by restoration/conservation beyond CF & tribal needs
- Ag leased land, water right maintenance (seasonal rec?)
- Service learning (trails, forestry, native plant nursery, plantings)
- CBC (Pend Oreille Co. Bird Count)
- Headquarters for PC Hiking Club
- Community awareness of the forest can be enhanced
- Foundation of non-profit focused on sustaining programs and facilities (eg transportation for schools, public)
- Homeschool groups

CONSTRAINTS

- Wildlife plan
- Camping
- Motorized access
- Compatibility of uses
 - Non-profit community forest
 - Education focus
 - Investment back into community
- Infrastructure
- Transportation from schools
- General public knowledge of CF
- Communications/outreach
- Stream management
- Co\$t (education)

Stakeholder Brainstorm/Analysis: Steph led the group through a brainstorm about other folks that should be involved in the planning process, and who else should be “in the room,” on the Advisory Committee. The following was the list that was brainstormed, with a * next to new members to invite to the Advisory Committee:

- Adjacent landowners
- USFS
- Private timber companies
- **County ***
- School districts—tribal after school programs, Newport school district
- Form a youth advisory board, collegiate advisory board
- **SCC Natural Resources, Newport Branch***
- Community college
- Homeschool groups
- Library
- Grant writers
- Fire departments
- **PORTA***
- Youth coalitions
- Healthcare professionals
- Idaho University
- Outdoor learning center West Valley school district
- Other local community forests
- Representatives—Cathy McMorris Rodgers
- WDFW

Community Engagement: Alex led the group through a brainstorm about potential ways to engage the larger community. The group came up with the following ideas:

- Get people on site
- One-on-one, individual conversations
- Ask key questions of visitors about the future of the forest (short survey for all)—youth, science teachers, alastea group, etc.
- Booth @ County Fair, Big Horn/Spokane (w/ “Sandbox” at table, drone fly-over)
- Competitions @ forest for families and special activities
- Partner w/ WDFW on programs and outreach
- School district events/open houses, assemblies
- School field trips (CLC) “Key is who you know” (\$\$ grants)
- Tribal calendar events
- Outreach to school boards and PTO/As
- Teacher in-service days
 - **Mike to reach out to Selkivito??**
 - **Alex reach out to Cusick**
- Plan to build up to an event, like water festival
- Field day for 4H (Alex)

- Informing/updating community leaders
 - Press releases
 - AC members to reporting to their organizations informed & to look for ways to help
 - PUD Recreation Committee
- Email listserv (digital newsletter; communication between members)
- Celebration of plan completion → BBQ! Music!

Wrap up & next steps: Mike shared closing announcements and thanked the group for their participation.

- February meeting: 21st or 22nd
 - with graphic designer (RTCA virtual)
 - Draft Vision Statement/s: Refine over next few meetings
 - Draft workplan, timeline, priority setting, stakeholder analysis and community engagement
- Meetings will be 3rd week of each month, every other RTCA will be in-person (other month will be virtual)
- March 26-29 for next RTCA in-person meeting
- Products from meeting: rough work plan, rough timeline, priority setting (visioning exercise), stakeholder analysis and community engagement