**Washington State Parks**

**SNOWMOBILE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Summer Meeting Minutes**

July 28-29, 2023

Wenatchee WA/ Microsoft Teams Meeting

ATTENDANCE

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Tom Shields (Virtual, Area 1)

 Bob Henrie (Chair, Area 2)

Norris Boyd (Vice Chair, Area 3)

Kurt Millard (Area 4)

Roger Brittain (Area 5)

Steve Riggin (Area 6)

Justin Davis (Non-Motorized)

 John O’Brien (Non-Motorized)

Cindy Hoover (Non-Motorized)

Sam Hensold (DNR)

Rob Jones (Absent, WAOC)

Tony Leonetti (Virtual, WDFW)

**Washington State Parks Staff:**

Corey Tolar (Winter Recreation Program, Manager)

Jason Goldstein (Winter Recreation Program)

Rob Sendak (Washington State Parks)

Travis Larson (Winter Recreation Program)

Montse Walker My (Winter Recreation Program)

Owen Rowe (Washington State Parks)

Peter Herzog (Washington State Parks)

**Guests:**

**Randy Owen (Bolder Enterprises)**

**Shannon Lind (R&R Grooming)**

**Ron Lind (R&R Grooming)**

**Nick Whitman (LandTek)**

**Josh Bell (Washington State Parks)**

**Jason Holmes (Kittitas Grooming Council, WSSA)**

**Mark Tharp (Yakima Grooming Council)**

**Tim Penelerick (Boulder Creek Enterprises)**

**Marilyn Mylius (Lake Wenatchee Rec Club)**

**Billy Burgess (Pacific Mtn. Services)**

**Bill Burgess (Pacific Mtn. Services)**

**Diane James (Lake Wenatchee Rec Club)**

**Josh Wood (Selkirk Grooming)**

**Jared Bowman (USFS – Okanogan-Wenatchee Nation Forest)**

**Randy Skillman (IMS Grooming)**

**Lisa Skillman (IMS Grooming)**

**Glen Wilkinson (Whatcom/Skagit Co.)**

**Sam Peterson (Ferry Co.)**

**Jim Burts (Apple Country)**

**Cal Anderson**

**Jeremy Velazquez (DNR)**

**Austin Rollins (Chewelah Trail Twisters)**

**Karen Behm (CCWRC)**

**Craig Stahl (Methow Valley Snowmobile Association)**

**Lindsey Pruett (USFS – Cle Elum RD)**

**Jared Treser (USFS – Cle Elum RD)**

**Julien Locke (Sled Pulse)**

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| **Friday July 28, 2023, Agenda** |
| **CALL TO ORDER** | Bob called the meeting to order.  | **No Action** |
| **INTRODUCTIONS** | Bob had the committee members introduce themselves as well as the audience. Corey let the audience know that the meeting is being recorded and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. | **Information Only** |
| **ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS** | **Bob Henrie Area 2-** Had a good snow year up in Okanogan County and were able to groom the full year, no major issues to discuss.**Kurt Millard Area 4-** Grooming began December 1st and were able to go until the end of the season. Was able to work with groomer to stretch until end of season. They had an issue with a plowing contractor going out of business but were able to get a replacement contractor with state parks after some time.**Roger Brittain Area 5-** Stated that there wasn’t much snow at the beginning of the season and that he was in Arizona for a couple of months.**Steve Riggin Area 6-** Stated they had a good snow year and don’t have any major issues.**Cindy Hoover Non-Motorized** – Some good skiing throughout the season but doesn’t remember too much about the season.**Justin Davis Non-Motorized**- There was some good early season snow but also didn’t have too much to add. The grooming coordinators will have more to say.**John O’Brien Non-Motorized-** Was able to go out and get on a sled this year and applauded the job done by the contractors and by state parks. **Sam Hensold DNR-** DNR’s Eastern Washington crew was dealing with a lot of snow and were working to get the roads plowed. Nothing much to add.**Jason Holmes Kittitas Grooming Council** –Some of the contractors were able to groom the entire season in district 5. They only had enough funding to get to the end of February. There was some talk on social media but was able to convey that it is a funding issue. He was happy to see some senior Washington State Parks staff and that the program needed some help, and that Corey and Jason can’t do it on their own.**Mark Tharp** **Yakima Grooming Council**– Season went well and didn’t have any major issues with contractors or plowing. Were some minor issues on social media over the Nile lot but were able to let them air their frustrations and move on.Bob thanked everyone for their reports and that there are issues with rising costs, registrations trending downwards cause for difficult decisions. The board is taking the issue seriously. He would like to see the registration numbers go up that they were up to around 30,000 and are now down to 21,000. | **Information Only** |
| **SMAC REVENUE / ACPM** | Corey spoke on snowmobile registration numbers and that last year they were about 1,000 higher than this year and at 25,000 in the 2020-2021 season. Some of the discussions that have been going on include increasing the registration fee, eliminating the free sno-park permit with registration. He mentioned that the WRAC can go through the commission to change their fees, but the SMAC has to go through the legislature. They looked at a special fee sticker comparable to the non-motorized program, but it appears legislation prohibits that.Corey thanked Justin for his work in looking at diesel prices and that every contractor feels the diesel price increases. Everybody has felt the price increases of fuel. Corey went over the average prices of diesel for the past couple of years and how prices have changed. Talked about the decrease in registrations and possible factors that could be causing the number to decrease as significantly as they have since 2002 when there were 38,000 registrations.Jason Holmes- Why the contractors are the only one taking cuts?Corey - In the past the board has done cuts across the board.Jason Holmes- wants to move on from the past and talk about this year. Corey - The board will decide tomorrow what cuts will happen.Jason Holmes- asked Corey if he thought the program was too big?Corey - Thinks it is too big right now.Jason Holmes - Did research with the western states and that Washington has the 2nd most groomed trail miles, 2nd least registrations, and most sno-parks. He stated that Oregon has only 22 sno-parks for comparison and that his county has 17 by itself.Rob Sendak - asked if WSSA knew what snowmobile sales looked like?Jason Holmes - sales are down globally. The program is backwards right now and that his area has increased only 20,000 since 2001 and with inflation that number should more be like 70,000. He challenged the board to make decisions that will help fix the issue today and not 2 years from now. Justin Davis - Understands that the issue is more than one item but is committed to fixing this issue and wants to commit to having a plan by the end of the day tomorrow. Bob - The main objective tomorrow is to get a budget for next year, but if there is time will look at this issue.Jason Goldstein - Could have another meeting figure it out.Justin Davis- asked if they could have a course of action by the end of the weekend. Bob- Easiest solution is to get registrations up.Jason Holmes - The committee has been saying that for 20 years and the people that are being affected most are the groomers. Ron Lind - Law enforcement doesn’t write tickets and only write warnings. Law enforcement needs to write tickets or people will continue to not register their sleds. Has made up stickers to notify users that do not register to register their sleds.Jason Holmes - shared the numbers as far as warnings written (1,132), citations written (273) and that most of the time spent is Monday-Thursday and not on the busiest days. Justin Davis - Is it possible to institute a quota on the LEOs?Bob - The committee in the past has prioritized warnings over citations because the program doesn’t get any money back from the ticket.Jason Goldstein- Scope of work could be changed to put an emphasis on tickets over warnings.Tony Leonetti – Don’t know how many warnings turn into registrations. Some counties the money back into the county from tickets offset the cost of paying overtime to officers.Jason Goldstein- In talking with Cpt. Wickersham in the South Cascades, tickets will be priority due to not having staff time to follow up on warnings. Tony Leonetti – Cannot institute quotas in contracts but can state what days they need to be up there. Sam Hensold – Jeremy Velazquez will be here tomorrow to present from a different area (Ahtanum) and present what they are doing with the warning system and how it is working.Jason Holmes – It isn’t working on a statewide level and must move on to the next strategy. LE needs to be there early in the morning and check registrations and not sno-park permit violations. Rob Sendak – Frustrations with LEOs and citations are not exclusive to snowmobile program, having similar issues with recreational boating.Bob - Some things that Jason stated that he did not consider.Tony - The board can put in the contract about the hours worked during certain days. 36% of the money that is funded to law enforcement agency is taken off the top for admin fees.Jason Holmes - In the contracts it needs to say that they can write citations. Corey - Contracts can tighten up to make it include to work weekends and could write citations.Roger Brittain - The board has taken action; they had a meeting to start the process of a grooming sticker and that the board cannot go to the legislature for changes.Jason Holmes - Asks the board members as individuals to go to their legislatures.Corey – Towards Jason Holmes which of the options (either increasing the registration or removing the sno-park permit from the registration) would he support. Jason Holmes - He would support both. Corey- Towards Jason if he thought WSSA would also support that.Jason Holmes and Ron Lind both said yes.John O’Brien - Would want to see what the board is gong to do with the money if more revenue was generated. He said that the program is focused on growing, but he hasn’t seen anything on scaling down the program.Mark Tharp - Wanted to see the numbers on conversions from warnings to registrations from the law enforcement officers. Cindy Hoover – Towards Corey if they could increase the fees or remove the sno-park permit with the registration without going to the legislature.Corey - They cannot.Cindy - Towards Jason if there was any update on DNR using cell phone data and tracking usage to possibly downsize the program.Jason G - The contractors know the usage well and that he just got information from Cle Elum Ranger District yesterday. He also recommended conducting a survey with the clubs to ask some hard questions like should the fee increase or should the trails decrease.Jason Holmes - You can look at the E&E numbers to figure out where the people are.Bob – Thought about looking at sled registrations but that those don’t tell the full story as people from out of county come to his sno-parks.Mark - The infrared data can’t be used for his side as it is inaccurate. He is on a different committee, and they conducted the survey to figure out the course of action and because they were transparent with the reasoning and prevented people from blowing up. John O’Brien - The vast majority of the users are not club members and would not see the survey.Jason Holmes - The three largest counties as far as registrations (King, Pierce, Snohomish) only have 2 clubs. Also asked when the last time the fees went up.Owen Rowe - The fee change was approved in 2014 and took effect in 2015.John O’Brien - Would like to see the program have automatic fee increases every 3 years so users just know it is coming.Bob - If they did have more money the first thing that they want to add is more grooming miles.Jason Holmes - Would like to see everything increase including the funding for equipment.Bob - Was talking more about the whole program. He also stated that State Parks staff works to decrease their admin budget as well.Ron Lind - When the program started it was focused on play areas, but a lot of those areas are not maintained and overrun by trees now. John O’Brien – Towards Ron, shouldn’t that be being done by the grooming councils?Ron Lind - Board needs to attend those grooming council meetings where the council has those conversations. Bob – In his time as a grooming coordinator and spoke on how they would plan out the season but wouldn’t look at the plan once the season started and would work with the groomer to figure out what needs groomed.Jason Holmes – Could State Parks could get the budget to the groomers sooner so the contractors could know what they are working with for the funding application.Bob - State Parks barely gets the balance in time for the meeting this weekend.Bob - The meeting tomorrow’s main priority is the budget for the upcoming season.Justin Davis- could the committee commit to a timeline on having a roadmap of how to fix this plan.Bob – A zoom meeting could be scheduled.Jason Holmes – Could the board to have information that he could pass to WSSA for their August 19th meeting.Bob - They would work to get something figured out before them.Jason Goldstein then moved on to the average cost per mile. They had 9 expired contracts last season and revisited the cost per mile and came up with the number that is a rough estimate to essentially act as a benchmark to calculate how many groomed miles should be performed by the contractor.Justin Davis - asked if that figure was tied to the GPS.Jason Goldstein - it is just based on the hourly rate of the groomers. It isn’t tied to the GPS or the map.Randy Owen - There are a lot of unknowns of a 5-year lock in would cause his rate to go way higher because he doesn’t know what will happen in 5 years and has to prepare for that. Bob - He feels for the contractors and knows that they ultimately take the hit.Tim Penelerick - Back in the day that they would make cuts by contract areas and that doing across the board cuts aren’t necessarily fair.Bob - There isn’t a great way to do cuts.Bob asked the committee if anybody wanted to make a motion on the average cost per mile.Kurt Millard - motioned to move average cost per mile for both public and private contractors from 31.75 to 44.69.Justin Davis seconded.Motion passed unanimously.Bob asked staff if Tuesday evening of August 15th would work for staff.Staff stated that should work.Bob stated that unfortunately WSSA doesn’t have a legislative representative. Jason H stated it shouldn’t be all on WSSA.  | **Information Only****Information Only****Information Only****Information Only****Motion Passes to change average cost per mile from 31.75 to 44.69 for private contractors and public contractors.** |
| **RECESS FOR EVENING** | John O’Brien - motioned to recess the meeting.Justin Davis seconded.Motion passes unanimously.Meeting recessed. | **Motion Passes to recess meeting for the evening.** |

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| **Saturday July 29, 2023, Agenda** |
| CALL TO ORDER | Bob called the meeting back from recess. | Information Only |
| TEAMS ETIQUETTE | Travis gave some instructions on Microsoft Teams etiquette. | Information Only |
| INTRODUCTIONS | Bob had everyone in the room introduce themselves.  | Information Only |
| REVIEW/APPROVE WINTER MEETING MINUTES | Bob moved to approving the winter meeting minutes.Justin Davis - Proposed changes to the final paragraph from RCO grants to RTP.Montse - RCO is the office that distributes the grants that are called RTP grants.Justin - Thanked Montse for the clarification. In the last paragraph that if the grants aren’t received, they won’t be able to fund area 5 and 6, and wanted to clarify that meant priority 5 and 6. Travis - That change can be made.John O’Brien motioned to approve the minutes with the previous change listed.Justin secondedMotion passed unanimously. | **Motion Passes unanimously.**  |
| FINANCIAL REVIEW OF 2022/2023 SEASON | Bob moved to the financial review of the season and handed it over to Montse.Montse started presenting the expenditures from the previous season beginning with priority 1.Corey - There were left over funds from the salary and benefits but that won’t always be the case as the admin assistant position was vacant for a good portion of the year.Monste showed priority 2 of equipment repairs and priority 3 (sanitation, snow removal, E&E, and trail grooming)The board asked questions on areas and why areas had balances left over.Randy Owen and Ron Lind commented on the public agencies doing snow removal and them having to clear the roads themselves to get in to groom and that costing grooming dollars. Montse moved to emergency reserve, and then priority 5 and 6 presentations.  | Information Only. |
| PRIORITY 5 AND 6 PRESENTATIONS | **3rd year Increased Grooming Glacier Canyon Creek** – Glen Wilkinson stated that they are requesting the same amount as last season and are hoping to get funded again.**3rd year USFS Methow Valley RD E&E –**Jared Bowman presented on behalf of USFS Methow Valley RD. This grant compliments a non-motorized grant. The funding pays for a Forest Protection Officer for 22 days. Jason Holmes – Asked Jared if they are on average giving out less than one citation a day.Jared – That would be correct. The emphasis has been more on education rather than enforcement, but feedback could be provided to the program.Justin Davis – Asked if it would be reasonable to restrict the funding to those that can write citations.Jared – In the case of this funding, 100% goes to someone that can write citations. Justin Davis – Asked for clarification on policy regarding forest service officers being required to go out in pairs.Jared – Policy states that officers required to go out in pairs. Bob reminded the crowd that audience that these presentations are intended for the committee.**3rd year Hanks Butte –** Norris presented on behalf of Bryan Ford for Hanks Butte. This sno-park is a replacement for a previous sno-park that they had lost previously. It has been utilized a great amount. John O’Brien – How many miles of trails would be lost if this wasn’t funded?Jason Goldstein – It is a part of an interconnected trail system, so 0, but would lose access to parking. **3rd year increased Ahtanum Grooming -** Mark Tharp presented and there is a noticeable difference with this additional funding. More usage has eaten up the trail and requires more grooming to keep the trail in good condition. Ron Lind – Reminded the committee that when helped change the requirements from both the discover pass and sno-park permit that the area saw a lot more usage because of people not wanting to have to buy both permits. Sam Hensold – Asked if this is addition to the 83,000 that is currently in the budget and if this is new trails or existing trails.Mark – This is in addition to the base budget and increases the frequency on trails.Justin – About how many users is the area seeing?Mark – We sometimes see up to 200 vehicles in the lot.**3rd year Methow Valley Trail enhancements** – Craig Stahl presented on the warming huts and stated that value that the huts provide to the community. He shared the costs of the huts which include insurance, permits, annual maintenance and fuel to transport them. Justin Davis - What would happen if the funding was not there.Craig Stahl – The huts have evolved from being self-funded through fundraisers and donations to allowing more maintenance of the huts. If the huts weren’t funded, they would do what they can try to do.**3rd year NWAC E&E** – Dennis D’Amico presented on behalf on NWAC and shared the funding history of NWAC with Washington State Parks. He shared that they cover the cascades and are not able to cover the whole state. He shared how they are currently funded. He shared the number of days on the snow for staff which included 300 days this past season with 9 employees and one that got injured part way through the year. He stated that NWAC is a regional resource and that they are working with search and rescue. Roger Brittain - What number would roll into the budget if approved the 10,000 or 5,000?Bob clarified that they are requesting 10,000 but only 5,000 was funded last season. Whatever number if approved this year would roll into the permanent budget.Justin - What the motorized community represents to the NWAC budget?Dennis - Most of the money that comes from the motorized is from this committee.**2nd year Chewelah Additional Grooming** – Austin Rollins presented on behalf of the Chewelah trail twisters. He stated that the additional amount allows the grooming to go until the end of the season and has been a successful program since the additional funding was approved. **2nd year DNR Expanded E&E Ahtanum** – Jeremy Velazquez presented on behalf of DNR. He stated that the funding primarily focuses on busy weekends and holidays. He stated that the trailhead previously required the discover pass, but now requires the sno-park pass, which requires education to the user group. He stated that 79% of correction notices resulted in compliance. Norris - Does a citation issued go back to the program?Jeremy - Doesn’t know where the citation money goes, but most will get their snowmobile registered and that money does go back to the program. Norris - Is the forest service is using ArcGIS to track citations.Jeremy and Sam Hensold stated that other agencies could use the program, but DNR has customized another app to work with ArcGIS. Cindy asked how the traffic counters work for DNR.Jeremy - They put a counter on the main road of the Ahtanum as well as the three parking lots to determine usage in each of the parking lots. He stated that the counter has a magnetic detection that counts the vehicles. Justin - It looks like that there is a positive return on investment if those correction requests all turn into registrations.Jeremy - That would be correct.**2nd Cle Elum RD Snow Ranger Staffing** – Lindsey Pruett presented on behalf of the Cle Elum Ranger District on additional ranger staffing. She stated that they have around 30,000 visitors during the winter months and 500 miles of groomed snowmobile trails. She stated that they were able to have a permanent staff addition last year and are planning on having another permanent staff member added that will assist with winter recreation. She stated that the additional funding allows them to have pairs that can cover more ground when doing enforcement. She stated that policy change has made it that seasonal employees are not able to write tickets but is working with local law enforcement to make sure tickets can be issued when necessary. She stated that their primary focus is Friday – Monday. Roger - Towards Lindsey if there is any documentation on if they are registering their sleds or if it is just sno-park permits. Lindsey - That it is a combination of warning for snowmobile registration and purchasing of sno-park permits. Jared Treser - Shared a spreadsheet that showed the number of contacts throughout the season.Justin Davis – Asked if they have any data on conversion rate. Jared - Doesn’t have exact data, but he would estimate about 95% compliance with requesting proof of registration. Justin – Is there a plan to increase compliance and get snowmobile registrations up?Lindsey - That’s what they are currently doing and maybe could include conversion data next year.Jason Goldstein - It would be nice to get the conversion data. Justin - He would like to see the data and know how many additional registrations come from those contacts.Travis - He had heard from Kittitas County that they had written over $100,000 in citations this season. This concludes priority 5 and 6 presentations.  | Information Only.Information Only.Information Only.Information Only. |
| BREAK | The meeting to return at 10:45. | Information Only. |
| SNOW PULSE | Bob then turned the meeting to Julien from Nordic Pulse.Julien thanked the group and introduced himself. He began sharing how Nordic Pulse works or what will be called Sled Pulse for the snowmobile application. He stated that the trails are color coded to signal when they were most recently groomed. He showed how it works from the perspective of the groomer including the trail updates you can do by the trail or just pressing a start and stop button. He showed that pictures can be added to show the conditions of the trail through images. Corey stated that he wanted Julien to present as the snowmobile program worked with a couple of areas as a pilot program to see if it could benefit the snowmobile program in the future. Cindy asked if it could replace the grooming logs in the future.Corey said that now it isn’t going to replace logs, but the program will evaluate to what extent they can use it in the future.  | Information Only. |
| PUBLIC COMMENTS | Bob opened to up public comments.Ron Lind – Commented on Nordic Pulse and stated that with spotty cell service it was difficult to use due to having to go back in and try to download the areas that were missed and it either wouldn’t work or didn’t have the time. Justin - Is the committee supposed to decide what technology to use in the future?Corey – Presentation was more to just inform the committee of what avenues the program was pursuing.Ron Skillman - The proposed budget stated that in the past they have always done across the board cuts and not just to grooming, it isn’t fair to just do cuts to private contractors and not across the board.  | Information Only. |
| BUDGET REVIEW AND APPROVAL FOR 2023/2024 SEASON | Bob moved to the proposed budget and looks at it as a starting point that staff has presented.Montse gave a brief overview of the 4 scenarios presented by State Parks. Corey stated that from the perspective of the program manager, he doesn’t want to see cuts to sanitation or snow removal.Roger - the scenarios that a 14% cut have but have priority 5 and 6 funded, does that cut also affect the priority 5 and 6?Corey - The priority 5 and 6 that were apart of the scenario as funded did not include cuts.Cindy - Is NWAC was included in the priority 5 and 6 funded?Corey - That was not including NWAC. Norris - Wants to start with the 75,000 dollars and where that is located.Montse - It is in the equipment replacement fund. Bob - Would like to see the equipment replacement fund not be touchable by the board and not be able to be spent with just a vote of the board. Norris - Wanted clarification if 75,000 is added to the budget this season in the equipment reserve, wouldn’t the budget go up to 150,000.Corey - There are scenarios that include adding 75,000 to the equipment replacement and there are scenarios where there is no money added to the equipment replacement. John O’Brien - believes making it so the board cannot touch the equipment replacement is a slippery slope and could result in staff’s hands being tied on how money can be spent. Corey - If the money is the equipment replacement fund, staff will not touch the funding. Norris - Requested clarification on the scenarios that scenario A-C are not adding funds to the equipment replacement, scenario D is adding 75,000.Corey - That is correct. Sam Hensold - How much would need to meet the total required to replace the equipment?Montse showed the equipment on the budget and the date and useful life cycle of those pieces of equipment.Justin - Wants to choose a number to add and move on to most of the budget.Bob - Wanted to start here to see how much in cuts are needed for the rest of the program.Norris – There is 80,000 in the equipment repair.Norris motioned to not add to the equipment replacement fund and keep it 75,000.Justin seconded the motion.Bob opened to comment.Cindy - Acknowledged she doesn’t have a great knowledge of heavy equipment but doesn’t like the idea of not adding to the fund for equipment. Bob stated that he hasn’t seen cuts this large since he has been in the program and hasn’t looked at cuts this large. Bob called for a vote. Motion passes by a vote of 7 to 2.Montse moved onto priority 1. Corey - Employee salary and benefits and with changes voted in by the state including salary increases and retention bonuses did not want to increase the budget due to not having an admin assistant now. The percentage of indirect increased. There is an increase in the travel budget and that is due to the possibility of having a park ranger be able to go out of the state park to possibly enforcement registrations and sno-park permits in other sno-parks, but that discussion is ongoing and will continue in September. There are some areas are decreased in the budget to help offset that. Justin - Asked if the total of line items 17 and 18 (maps update/grooming map and GPS bulk Purchase) were to go to 0. Corey - There were some things that wouldn’t be there such as a grooming map.Travis clarified that Justin was including the GPS bulk purchase line item.Justin - Yes.Corey - The program is in a contract with AtlasTrax and that is fixed.Bob - He would like to see the administration stay the same without increases since the budget is not in great shape.Kurt – Asked about the salary and benefits and the percentage that is displayed (63%) and what the non-motorized pays. Corey - The non-motorized program pays the other 37%.Kurt - Maybe that could be closer to 50-50 since their budget is in better shape.Bob - He would like to see the travel dropped and the maps update to zero since it is more of a luxury than a necessity and cuts are.Steve Riggin motioned to set the priority 1 budget at 410,500.Justin seconded.Bob opened to discussion.Tom Shields - Reiterated what Bob was saying that seeing an increase in administration is something he wouldn’t like to see since there was so much left on the table.Cindy - She would like to not see the program micromanaged and that the amount be set and not exactly sure where.Travis clarified that Steve’s motion was to set the priority 1 budget at a set amount and not in certain areas.Bob called for a vote.Motion passes 8-1.  | **Motion Passes 7-2 Equipment Replacement fund remains at $75,000.****Motions Passes 8-1 Priority 1 budget set at $410,500.** |
| LUNCH | Bob broke the meeting for lunch to return at 1:30 | Information Only |
| CONTINUE BUDGET REVIEW AND APPROVAL | Bob welcomed the meeting back from lunch and moved to Montse to discuss priority 2.Montse - The proposed budget is 80,000 for equipment repair fund.Norris - With no additional funding to the equipment replacement that he would like to see the equipment repair left alone.Roger motioned to approve the equipment repair at 80,000. Norris seconded.Bob called for a vote.Motion passed unanimously. Bob asked if the committee could skip to priority 5 and 6.Montse - Showed the rankings of the priority 5 and 6 presentations.Bob - He would like to see the priority 5 and 6 funding applications be put on hold for a year, so they do not lose their status.Sam Hensold – Has concerns with having no E&E in certain areas such as the Ahtanum and going backwards from what the board has said in the meeting about return on investment. Norris asked if it would be funding just 3rd years in this scenario.Bob - There would be nothing funded from priority 5 and 6, but they would be put on hold.Justin - Raises a concern and how E&E is essentially a wash from how much money they bring back into the program.Sam Hensold - If there is no enforcement generally land is more abused and cause question to the value in keeping that land open. Bob asked for Montse to show the rankings of the priority 5 and 6 again.Bob - The options to fund all the options, nothing at all or something in the middle. Justin motioned to only approve the DNR E&E in Ahtanum.No one seconded.Motion does not move on to vote.Norris asked if they could proportionally distribute the funds throughout priority 5 and 6.Montse clarified that that already accounts for a 14% cut to trail grooming. Justin asked Montse if she could tally the total of what has been approved so far.Montse updated the totals on the spreadsheet and updated to show a total of each priority. Norris asked if the board is satisfied with the rankings of the priority 5 and 6.Bob - He goes back to the belief that none of the priority 5 and 6 should be funded. Norris - Can the board assume that all E&E pays for itself?Justin - No based on the presentation. Montse adjusted the numbers to show that the lowest cut without funding priority 5 and 6 can be to just trail grooming would be 12%.Tom - He believes the groomers are taking the biggest cut and trying to minimize that cut is a priority.Justin - He doesn’t believe it is a good idea to cut funding for something that pays for itself.Norris - You can argue that trail grooming also brings in money to the program too.Bob went back to Jason Holmes statement last night that the program may be too big and may need to think about cutting some of the sno-parks. Tom Shields motioned to not approve any of the priority 5 and 6 applications but put them on hold for a year.Norris seconded.Bob called for a vote.Motion passes 6-3.Montse moved onto priority 3. She stated at a 11% cut that an additional 6,000 would need to be cut from somewhere else.John discussed the idea of funding snow removal, E&E, and sanitation at the level in which their expenditures were last year. Bob - The user has an expectation when getting a sno-park permit that there will be access through March. John - The main program goal to provide access to users.Tom motioned to reduce the emergency reserve to 30,000.No one seconded.Motion does not move to vote.Norris motioned to move the emergency reserve to 25,000.Tom seconded.Bob opened to discussion. Sam - Would like to see what the actual budget would look like before moving to emergency reserve. Kurt - What .5% would look like to a cut to snow removal, sanitation, and E&E as far as the budget.Montse showed .5% and it wasn’t enough to cover the 6,000. Bob called for a vote.Motion failed 2-7.Roger stated that he would like to see the emergency reserve left alone and take cuts to the actual snow removal core budget. Bob - Would like to see what it looks like for 10% cut to trail grooming, 5% to E&E, 5% to law enforcement, 5% to snow removal. Montse updated the spreadsheet and showed it as 509 left over. Sam asked the committee and even the audience what the impacts of reducing grooming more compared to other services.Tim Penelerick - It affects mostly the users.Marilyn Mylius - It results in complaints to groomers, state parks and local groups. John - Maybe the idea should be cutting the program back to maybe an 8-week program.Ron Lind - Making the users feel their lack of registrations and cutting back the season will do it. Jason Holmes - An aspect that hasn’t been brought up is the technology of sleds and how that damages the trails with new sleds.Randy Skillman emphasized that every area is different. Roger motioned to a reduction of 10% to trail grooming, 5% to E&E, snow removal, and sanitation. Kurt seconded.Bob opened for discussion.Justin - He would like to see more line by line the expenditures for each year. Bob called for a vote.Motion tied 5-5 and does not pass.Bob called back to Justin wanting to see snow removal back to expenditures for previous season.Norris clarified that is also to E&E. Montse updated the budget and showed an increase of $50,000 available when updating to the actual expenditures.Justin asked to see that additional funds go back to grooming. Montse clarified that the current shown is 8% cut to trail grooming, funding for snow removal and sanitation at FY 23 expenditures and 5% cut to E&E.Norris motioned to cut trail grooming by 8%, fund E&E and snow removal at FY 23, E&E at 5%, and upping the emergency reserve to 50,000. Cindy seconded.Bob called for a vote.Motion passed unanimously.  | **Motion Passes Unanimously. Equipment Repair fund at $80,000.** **Motion not seconded.****Motion Passes 6-3Priority 5 and 6 funding applications not funded and put on hold for a year.****Motion not seconded.****Motion to move emergency reserve to $25,000 fails by a vote of 2-7.****Motion does not pass to reduce trail grooming by 10%, E&E, snow removal, and sanitation by 5% by a vote of 5-5.****Motion Passes Unanimously Trail Grooming cut 8%, E&E and snow removal funded at FY 23 expenditures and emergency reserve at $50,000.** |
| VOTE ON 2023/2024 BUDGET | Bob thanked the committee for their work. Justin brought up his concerns with the program and that the public grooming has machines that wont work and taking cuts to private contractors that will no longer take contracts because of cuts. Jason Holmes stated that the committee committed to giving him data to present to WSSA.Corey stated that Jason will have his data. | Information Only |
| NEXT MEETING | The committee agreed to meet January 26-27 either on the I90 Corridor or Mt. Baker.  | Staff to make accommodations for winter meeting in either Mt. Baker or I-90 corridor.  |
| ADJOURN | Cindy motioned to adjourn.Sam seconded.Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.  | Motion Passes Unanimously Meeting adjourned. |