

NAFSR Recreation Committee Meeting 11/14/22

Participants

Gene Blankenbaker
Teri Cleeland
Jane Kollmeyer
Ranotta McNair
Nora Rasure
Jim Upchurch
Tom Wagner

Reunion

The Recreation Panel at the Forest Service Retirees Reunion was well received by participants. We had three engaging and informative speakers presenting information at the national, state and local level. NAFSR received good visibility in the program and during the presentation.

National Museum of Forest Service History Capital Campaign

Jack Troyer is leading the effort to identify and recruit potential recreation sector partners to assist with the funding for the construction of the National Conservation Legacy Center. Susan Weingardt spoke with Jack and provided some ideas about potential leads and approaches. Jane Kollmeyer also talked with Jack and suggested more focus on retirees as potential contributors. Tom Wagner is helping with the timber sector and Jim Upchurch is helping with the wilderness sector.

Forest Service Recreation Strategy and Action Plan

The agency is focused on internal engagement and plans to engage external partners and others after the first of the year. A copy of the internal briefing was shared with committee members. Susan Weingardt and Nora Rasure will stay connected with WO staff so that we can engage in the effort. Several ideas for our participation were identified including: communicating the effort with other retirees and assisting with roundtables.

Legislation

There is an effort underway by some external groups to get the proposed Outdoor Recreation Act (ORA) added to and passed with the National Defense Authorization Act. We have some concerns with some of the provisions in the ORA and declined to sign onto the letter. It was suggested that we could still provide a letter identifying areas we support and note areas of concern - however, it may be too late to be effective.

E-Bikes

Jim Caswell attended the Public Lands Foundation meeting which was focused on e-bikes. He noted that successful BLM efforts included high levels of local community engagement in developing proposals. This aligns with the FS guidance for collaboration and decision-making at the local level when considering e-bikes on non-motorized trails. Information from R6 RO staff indicates that there are a couple of efforts in the early planning stages on the Deschutes and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests. Communities like Helena and Albuquerque are addressing e-bikes too.

Position Paper

There is still support for developing a Recreation Position Paper and the committee will continue to work towards completing it - hopefully to help inform and/or support the agency's recreation strategy effort along with other purposes.

Next Meeting - To be scheduled in early February