



Smith River State Park & River Corridor Advisory Council
FWP Region 4 Office, Great Falls
October 20, 2014

Advisory Council Members Present: Jane Kollmeyer, Citizen Member; Triel Culver, Citizen Member; Mike Meloy, Landowner Member; Joe Sowerby, Outfitter Member; John Metrione, USFS; Colin Maas, Smith River State Park Manager

Joe Lamson, Citizen Member (via phone), Mary Sexton, Parks and Recreation Board Member (via phone)

Absent: Grant Grisak, FWP Fisheries Division

Agenda:

1. Welcome, Introduction
2. Review Agenda & Ground Rules
3. Update on Camp Baker & Eden Bridge Host Pad EA's
4. Overview of State Parks Strategic Plan
5. Overview of Proposed Smith River Rule with Focus on Food Storage
6. Record Feedback from Council
7. Public Comment
8. Select Next Meeting Date, Location & Topics

1. Welcome, Introduction, Review Agenda (Colin Maas & All)

Bear Management Committee Members

Dave Cunningham, USFS

Jay Kolbe; Area Regional Biologist

Roger Semler, Assistant Administrator Montana State Parks

John Taillie, Region 4 State Parks Manager

Mike Martin, Region 4 Warden Captain

Member Introductions:

Triel Culver; Citizen Representative, Billings Montana, Private Practice Lawyer

Jane Kollmeyer; Citizen Representative, Retired Forest Service

John Metrione; US Forest Service Representative, Natural Resource Specialist

Colin Maas; Parks Division Representative, Smith River State Park Manager

Mike Malloy; Landowner Representative, lives in Helena, floated river since mid 1960.

Joe Lamson; Citizen Representative, Retired, prior Deputy Director Department of Natural Resources, Land Board member

Joe Sowerby; Outfitter Representative, permitted outfitter since 2000

Public Members Attended Meeting:

Mark Aagenes; Conservation Director for Trout Unlimited

2. Review Agenda & Ground Rules (Colin Maas)

Main purpose of meeting: overview of food storage rule as proposed

Ground Rules

- Start and End on Time
- Stay on Topic
- Always Come Prepared
- Everyone Encouraged To Be Open and Candid
- One Person Speaks at a Time
- Listen Constructively
- Be Critical of Ideas, Concepts, Systems – NOT People
- Respect Others
- Be Open To New Ways & Ideas
- Be Aware of Your Distracting Behaviors
- Cell Phones & Other Devices on Vibrate or OFF, Please

3. Update on Camp Baker & Eden Bridge Host Pad EA's (Colin Maas)

Eden Bridge Project

- Background
 - Project approved 2 years ago, submitted for public comment September 2013, during the public comment period Parks was waiting on permits from county for gray water underground holding tanks; county did not approve permit and required a septic system.
- Up until 2011, we used to utilize short term (week long) volunteers; difficult to train and monitor all complexities of Smith River.
- Host pad project got held up: pads have existed for 20 plus years but lacked the basic amenities of water and sewer for a long term volunteer host. *In 2013, added above-ground water tanks.*
- Project consists of improving existing pad to include all utilities and relocate entrance road.

Camp Baker Host Pad

- New host pad will allow for a full time volunteer host.
- Pad will provide necessary amenities.
- Help River Rangers with all aspects of Camp Baker operations, due to complexity of Smith River.

Comment period ended October 15, 2014: 2 general comments in favor 1 comment against project.
No comments addressed environmental aspects.

Joe Lampson asked what are the costs and source of upgrades.

- Eden Bridge funded at \$17,000
- Camp Baker funded at \$20,000
- Money Source: Parks earned revenue

4. Overview of State Parks Strategic Plan (Roger Semler)

- Parks Division is developing a Strategic Plan
- October 15, 2015 Parks Board approved document to seek 30-day Public Comment
- Quick facts: 55 state parks, 46,500 acres, 7 designated National Historic Land Marks, 4 Recreational Grant Programs, 1st State Park: Lewis and Clark Caverns 1939, 2 million visits a year from public, \$289 million in visitor spending a year.

3 Key Components: Significant, Relevance, Assessable

5 Goals: Manage Significance, Relevance, and Accessible for parks and programs; develop diversified and sustainable funding; provide an enriching recreation experience; foster strategic partnerships; and heighten awareness of recognition

Final Strategic Plan will be presented to Parks Board December 17 for adoption

5. Overview of Proposed Smith River Rule with Focus on Food Storage (Roger Semler)

Document approved at October Parks Board meeting to seek 30-day public comment period

No change to current fees; want council to get established and have chance to look at fees

Went through document to discuss all changes:

- Food Storage; new definitions relate to food storage rule, drafted with US Forest Service
- Removed requirement to pack out waste at Deep Creek Boat Camp
- Public Use Regulations:
 - Rule C: To minimize human-bear and other wildlife conflicts and thereby provide for public safety the following food, garbage and attractant storage regulations are established for Smith River State Park from March 1 to December 1 annually.
 - Attractants (including food, food leftovers, food residue, grease, etc.) shall not be buried, discarded, deposited in pit toilets or burned in the fire grate or open fire. All garbage and refuse must be properly attended or stored as referenced above and must be packed out.
 - Food and attractant storage regulations shall be prominently signed and posted and shall be included in the terms and conditions for Smith River float permits.

Food Storage Proposal (Comments from Council)

Like/Agree With

- Well thought out & clearly defined – All
- Fence – more affordable

- Provide opportunities for private enterprise.

Dislike/Disagree With

- Page 5: Misspell Sunset
- Page 11: deployed and operable per manufactures specifications
- Page 11: concerns re: suspended from tree (i.e. impacts to trees)
- Affordability (fence vs. coolers)?
- Fixed devices? At most pertinent camps?
- Format (ii vs. a,b,c)
- Emphasize education vs. enforcement

6. Record Feedback from Council

- Additional Boat Camps (4 votes)
- Human Waste (4 votes)
- Fee Increases (2 votes)
- Boat Camp Hardening/Rehabilitation (2 votes)
- Privatizing Permit System (0 votes)
- Heritage/Cultural Resource Management (re: Impacts of Pit Toilets) (1 vote)
- Reconfigure Boat Launches (1 vote)
- Super Permit (re: Contributes to Over Crowding – Additional Layer of Use) (1 vote)
- Scheduling of Administrative Trips (ex: Not During Peak Times) (0 votes)
- Tintina Copper Mine (DEQ Representative to Give Us Overview) (3 votes)

7. Public Comment

No public comment.

8. Select next meeting date, location and topics (Colin Maas)

Next meeting: Tuesday January 13, 2015 11:00-3:00pm

Location: MT Wild

Topic: Additional Boat Camps