

VALLEY COUNTY GROOMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APRIL 13, 2023

Chairman Ron Platt called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 pm at the Lake Fork Road and Recreation Building. Present were Ron Platt, Mark Wood, Mark Sabin, Larry Meredith, Larry Laxson, Sharon Bixler, Rick Dolphus, and Vic Greenfield .

Mark Wood motioned that the minutes be approved as presented; Mark Sabin seconded Motion carried.

Public Comment - None

USFS presentation – Savannah Steel Payette National Forest Service

- Trent Stone – 3 years returning ranger
- The Snow Rangers concentrated their season training and building snowmobile operating skills, re-placing route junction signs, patrolling groomed trails, and educating the public.
- Cautioned to stay off the “closed to snowmobile traffic” like the backside of Brundage
- Law enforcement officers also teamed up with the Snow Rangers on multiple occasions.
- Residents in the Wallace Lane area reported shots being fired in the parking lot. One of the rangers reported the Wallace Lake Snowmobile Parking sign was shot up and will need replaced.
- Illegal tenants are now starting to camp/live in the snowmobile parking lot. They are aggressive to anyone who approaches their campers. They caused a lot of sanitation issues around their campers and vehicles and in the vault toilets. To evict squatters from the snowmobile parking lots, there must be a homeless shelter with the same number of beds as the number of squatters.

- Vandalism reported – Groomer and signs.
- Request to the snowmobile clubs to help in the parking lots and to please help keep the restrooms clean and stocked. The forest service does help, but the clubs need to help as well.
- Titus Trailhead – The clubs are helping with parking as much as they can, cones will help as well to help define the parking spaces. Suggestions – bigger brighter parking signs. The forest service thought that there should be slated for 2024.
- The Rangers counted vehicles in some of the parking lots
 - Bush Creek – 205 vehicles counted in 6 visits – 139 Idaho, 38 WA, 169 others.
 - G. T. – 423 Vehicles, 271 – Idaho, 162 – WA
 - West Face – 196 vehicles in 14 visits –
 - Green Gate – 82 vehicles in 11 visits – 74 – Idaho, 8 – Other
 - Francie – 525 vehicles in 11 visits – 331 – Idaho, 88 – WA, 106 others.
- Larry Laxson – Can there be more enforcement at the Trail Heads for the speed limits. There are more families and kids now.
- Ron Platt asked if we could get a grant to buy the flashing speed limits. Larry Laxson will check into that.

Sheriff's Department – None in attendance

Eddie Donica sent info, that he felt that the season went very well because they were visible in the parking lots and out on the trail.

New Business

- Ben has asked for some reimbursement from grooming Red Ridge, he will present to the board next month. Please be thinking of reimbursement and how much. Buy his fuel? How much reimbursement?
- Challenger – blew a high-pressure hose around \$6,000.
- 2022 new lights on the new cat
- Hydraulic fluid, o rings and seal on one of the groomers
- Semi-trailer will need to go to Boise this summer to be fixed

- Larry Laxson will be sending 3 guys to Boise for training on maintenance.
- Larry would like to have a grant so that they can have a truck with spare parts and tools for a quicker response down time on the groomers.
- This fall the clubs need to help out marking trails and trail maintenance.
- The new 400 will most likely go to Cascade, and the Cascade groomer will go to Smiths Ferry.
- Larry Laxson has applied/going to apply for grants for
 - Clear Creek RV Parking Lot \$300,00
 - Little Lake?? - \$200,000
 - Turkey Track Boulder Lake - \$325,000
 - PB100 match grant, Warm Lake Area \$280,000
 Seasonal Shelter for the groomer (Warm Lake Riders applying for a grant) possible locations North Shore Lodge or the Forest Service Area at Paradise Valley.
 Fuel will have to be trucked in for the groomer.

Club News

- Smith's Ferry – Trails are in good condition, the roof on the warming hut needs repair, the parking lot is bare.
- West Mountain – Nothing to report.
- McCall – the new warming hut is doing very well, they would like to apply for one more new hut

Francie Wallis – getting repairs done in the last 2 weeks of June.
 Thank you, Franklin Building Supply!

- Donnelly – Nothing new
- Warm Lake – Still good enough snow to snowmobile but the numbers are slowing down. Clear Creek would like to have more grooming done next year to Warm Lake. Warm Lake Riders Association is having stickers made that advertise the Warm Lake Area 43C is the designated area for the tags.

West Mountain made a motion to adjourn at 9:00, Mark Woods 2nd.
Ron Platt adjourned the meeting.

Sharon Bixler