

# VALLEY COUNTY GROOMER ADVISORY BOARD

## February 8, 2024

Chairman Ron Platt called the meeting to order at the Valley County Road and Recreation Department. Present were Ron Platt, Mark Wood, Larry Meredith, Vic Greenfield, Larry Laxson, Mark Sabin, Ron Thiessen, and Terri Klanderud. Also present was Neil Thompson, Valley County Commissioner; Faye Thompson, Idaho Legislature candidate; Savannah Steele, US Forest Service; Jay Jacques, McCall Snowmobile Club; John McClain, President McCall Snowmobile Club.

Introductions were made.

**January Minutes** - Mark Wood motioned that the minutes be approved as presented; seconded by Vic Greenfield. Motion carried.

### USFS

**Payette Forest** – Savannah Steele talked about the over snow ranger program – they have two rangers. They count cars in the parking lot and engage with forest visitors. They have two mountain sleds on order for next year. The counters haven't been working, so they have been hand counting. Discussion took place regarding process and options to collect data. They are considering aerial imagery and drone use.

Neal Thompson asked what they were trying to accomplish. Mark Wood commented that it would be ideal if we could see how many were on the trails every day to help give a good idea of traffic. Gordon Titus was full today, even though the weather was marginal.

Savannah spoke regarding the West Face and Gordon Titus parking lots. They were trying to get the cones in the right spot. She wondered if there could be some communication and help from the snow removal employees.

She has the two special use permits. It states that the holder should maintain the toilets. There are two toilets that they would like help with. Larry Laxson pointed out that the agreement was dated 2010, and had never been updated. Danny Amen, Groomer Coordinator will assist in this.

**Boise Forest** – Larry Laxson reported that there is no new recreation on the Boise. Please comment on the fact that there is no new recreation. The Commissioners have commented. The Office of Species Conservation made excellent comments.

**Sheriff's Report** – Mark Wood shared Kevin Turner's report. They were in the parking lots, and sent the side by side up the trail at the Fun Run. They only found one sticker

non-compliant. There were 125 vehicles in the Francis Wallace parking lot. Larry Laxson shared that the Sheriff's were up at Warm Lake today, and they sent six sleds back to North Shore Lodge to get stickers.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**USFS Wolverine Response** – Larry Laxson informed everyone that the State of Idaho and the State of Montana have both filed their intent to sue. Leadership at ISSA has indicated that they intend to join in the suit as well.

**New MOG (Mature and Old Growth) Timber Plan** – Larry Laxson spoke that the Forest Service received a letter (MOG) they are supposed to inventory the old growth timber; they are trying to do it on a national EIS. This is an issue due to the difference in "old and mature" in different areas. Ron Platt commented that this will eventually take care of itself due to the fires and diseased trees.

John McClain played a video from a "researcher" wanting to collaborate with the McCall Snowmobile Club. Larry Laxson will visit and send on the information to Sandra Mitchell, and will then be addressed by ISSA if needed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Francis Wallace Parking Lot** – Mark Wood talked about the parking lots and how much educating they've taken on. The possibility of getting a grant to have a couple paid individuals in the parking lots to assist in getting the rigs parked efficiently. Larry Laxson suggested a possibility that we could hire a couple people under the grooming program to do this.

Jim Fronk is now back to work and contacted Mark yesterday. The preliminary decision is being worked out, depending on the required delineation. If it's less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> of acre, it doesn't need to be addressed. Mark sent them mapping. It's now been put into motion.

Gordon Titus parking lot; they applied for the grant. Adam's County is providing a letter of commitment for the match. The letter of approval from Danna Harris, the New Meadows District Ranger, had to be amended due to the Wolverine issue. There is a pending evaluation that will need to be done.

**Granite Goose Update** – Larry Laxson reported that the comment period is over and we are waiting for the decision from the Forest Supervisor.

**Marked truck out of Francis Wallace parking lot** – Terri Klanderud questioned if they had put more markers on the truck off of the trail before Sescesh. Larry Laxson and Mark Sabin reported that it had additional markings now.

**GROOMER COORDINATOR** – Danny Amen reported the groomer out of Titus had to have a wiper replaced, and the finishers had to be replaced on both CATS (Piston Bully's). Titus Cat has a line that needed replaced yesterday. There are three groomers out right now, and everybody will be out tomorrow night.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Larry Laxson noted that one else is joining the Boise and Payette Forest Collaborations. They are done on zoom, so you can easily join. It is imperative that motorized recreation users are involved.

### **AREA REPORTS** –

**Smith's Ferry** – The Fun Run was a great success even with the extreme cold temperatures. Lori Ellis is the new President of Cougar Mountain Club.

**West Mountain** – Larry Meredith has nothing to report.

**Warm Lake** – Ron Thiessen informed everyone that they had to postpone their Family Event this weekend due to low snow levels. The guys from Elko said the trail only has 2 – 4 feet; it should have a minimum of 8 feet.

**Donnelly Club** – Vic Greenwood stated that they had to cancel a Club ride due to rain and no snow.

**McCall Area** – Mark Wood went through his list. They took snow poles out to the Lake Creek Campground by Burgdorff and marked any issues. Mark asked Neal Thompson where they were at on the FAA road. He responded that he didn't think the attorneys had sent out the letters yet. There is no cell reception out at Francis Wallace. Discussion took place regarding Starlink and different options to get cell phone service into Francis Wallace.

Larry Meredith motioned that the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Ron Platt. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

# VOLUNTEER HOURS

Mark Wood	McCall Area	Groomer Meeting	3 hours
		Meetings	6 hours
		Parking Lot Plow	7 hours
		Firewood/Shack	16 hours
		Signs & Avi Beacon test	16 hours
Mark Sabin		Groomer Meeting	3 hours
John McClain		Groomer Meeting	3 hours
John Hicks		Financials	8 hours
Mark Sabin			
Jay Jacques		Groomer Meeting	3 hours
		Trail/Meetings	5 hours
Ron Platt	Donnelly	Groomer Meeting	6 hours
		Grooming	12 hours
		Meetings	8 hours
Vic Greenfield		Groomer Meeting	6 hours
		Trail/Warming Hut	8 hours
Ron Thiessen	Warm Lake	Groomer Meeting	4 hours
		Research/Meetins	12 hours
Larry Meredith	West Mtn	Groomer Meeting	4 hours
		Meetings/phone calls	4 hours
Terri Klanderud	Smith's Ferry	Groomer Meeting	4 hours
		Minutes/emails	2 hours
		Misc paperwork	2 hours