

CPPC Meeting Notes 7.27.21

ATTENDEES: Cathy Cook, Melissa Speeg, Patty O'Hearn, Tristyn, Mitch Long, Tonya Morrey, Darcy Batura, Katie Pofahl, Jane Kiker, Phil Hess, Martha Wyckoff, Nicky Pasi, Nancy Lillquist, Jay McGowen, Tom Krippaehne, Andy VanderKlok - Northwest Motorcycle Association (NMA), Kathy Young, Tristan Spencer

Updates and Discussions

Cash Flow Modeling

TNC contracted out to a third party to help the CPPC understand the financial obligations, expenses and revenues that will be involved in managing the community forest. It is in the wrap up phase so Darcy will be able to share it with us soon.

LWCF Funding Update

We had our LWCF for FY22, which included lands near Kachess and the Taneum, was ranked #1 nationally. Have been working hard to push that funding level up. Darcy will share a video that they created to help with advocating for increased funding. The main audience of the video is for congressional sponsors to bump up the amount of funding. Taneum has a nexus with water quality, is critical for forest health management, and has miles of trails (motorized and some non-motorized). A 12,000 acre unit with stream restoration. The Forest Service is already moving ahead with getting an appraisal on this land. TNC is in the process of working with the YN on a Reserved Treaty Rights Lands Project, which will allow them to pilot a program for huckleberry restoration. First time that YN is using that source.

Forest Legacy Funding

We made the list but didn't rank that well. Applying again and trying to help people better understand the project. Organizing a site tour. Commissioner Wright will be present as well as project managers from Olympia, Phil Hess, Larry Leach and others will also be attending. Because of COVID have to keep it small. Vic Monahan will be hosting.

ACTION ITEMS:

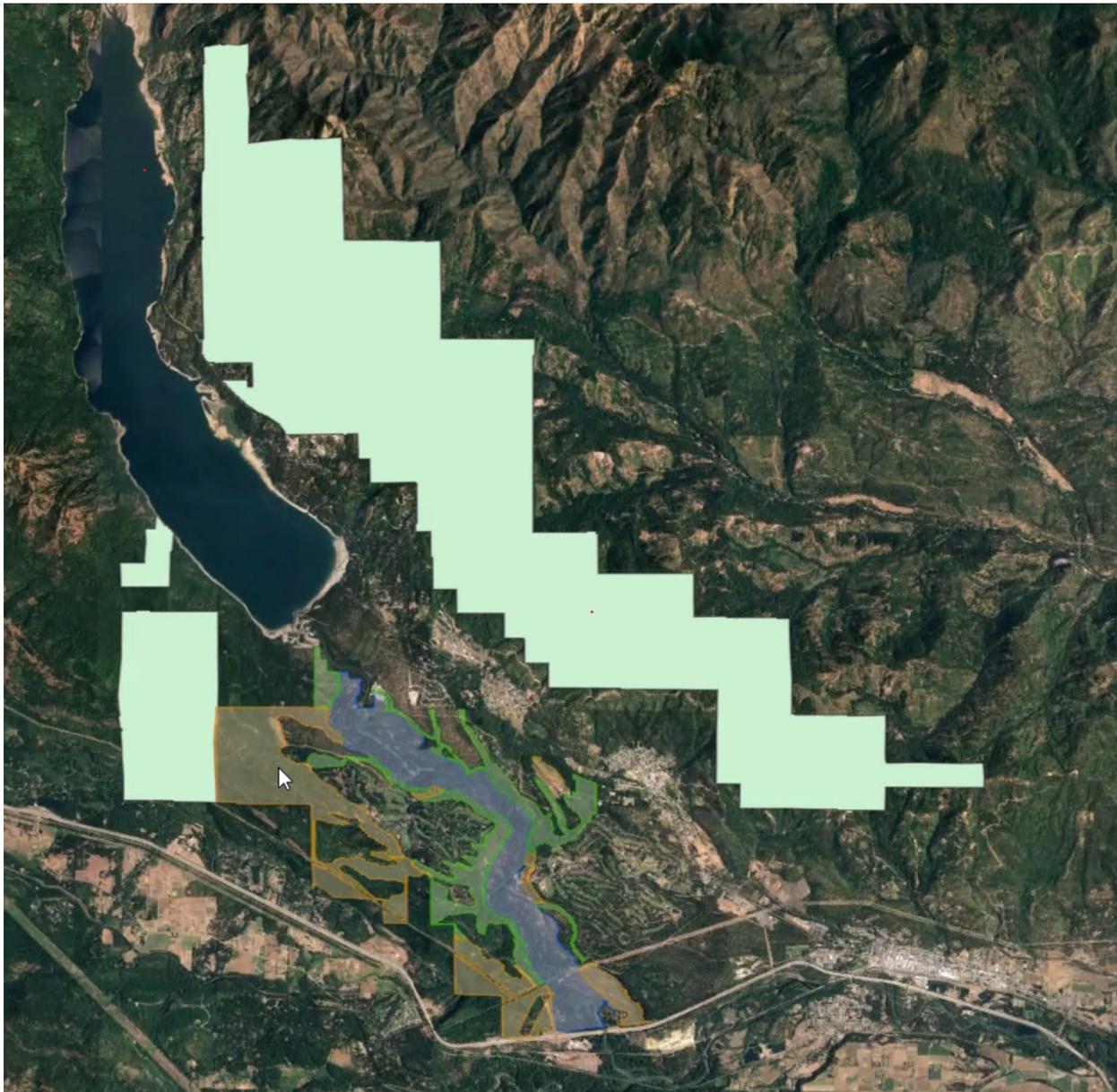
- Melissa will send the video link out to the group. Please provide feedback on what you love and don't love about the video and share with Darcy.
- Katie will dig up and send out the fact sheet for Taneum and share with Melissa. Melissa will send it out to the group.

Ownership and Management Models

YBIP Lands Subcommittee/Domerie Parcels

The lands subcommittee meeting was cancelled last month. Looking at a meeting the first week of August. We will be tackling this issue in that meeting. In terms of the meetings between the CCF LLC, KCT, DNR and WDFW, the last one was cancelled so not much to support.

There is land owned by the CFF on the opposite side of Cle Elum Lank referred to as the Domerie Parcels since they are primarily located in the Domerie Watershed. Domerie provides water for Roslyn, Ronald and the Cle Elum Roslyn School District. The map shows that these lands abut conservation easement lands that KCT holds in Suncadia. In the lands subcommittee meetings, the question has arisen whether the lands fit within the goals of YBIP. It isn't as clear cut as you would think. The inclusion of these lands would help with the discussions at the lands subcommittee meetings. Will also help provide adequate stewardship and management because they will have a higher timber return. Could provide a source of revenue to help pay for management of the whole community forest. Lands will also be managed for the water supply that it provides.



Are the Domerie Parcels owned by the Forest Service currently? No, they are owned by the LLC. There is a large section of land that is on the other side of the lake with trails on it. His family enjoys running and recreating on it. It is planned for development. Phil - what does the public access look like the Domerie Parcels? The main point is through Easton. There is a road with FS easement to a trailhead. Thought that access is no longer allowed to the trailhead (is a motorcycle trail). Mitch isn't sure. The goal of Domerie will be watershed protection because if Roslyn loses it, they will have no water.

Cathy said the City of Roslyn is putting in for funding to repair that section of pipeline so this would really support that effort. Phil - what other ownership options are being looked at for these lands? KCT was part of initial conversations with TNC about ownership. We would have board support for taking on these lands. But if it creates a better tie with YBIP that is advantageous as well. TNC also talked to the City of Roslyn. The City applied for a loan with KCT's help a couple of years ago along with a grant that would get them a lot closer to owning it. It was a significant loan and it was going to be difficult for the City to service that kind of debt.

Jane has talked with Washington Land Trust and Dept. of Ecology about the need for a better means than debt for acquiring and protecting those lands. Makes sense for KCT or the City to own these lands. The community forest might work well as long as the objectives are clear. As far as garnering more YBIP support, the Domerie parcels could be a key piece to getting Suncadia to support the effort more financially.

Mitch would like to see if the CPPC supports adding the Domerie parcels. KCT ownership makes sense, but it's difficult to see it as part of the community forest. As far as recreation, there isn't good access from Easton and it might create a conflict with the Tumblecreek Resort. The recreation goals would be so different so it doesn't seem like a good fit. A community forest serves a variety of different benefits, and recreation is just one of them. Recreation would likely be more restricted because of those goals. Would focus recreation on the ridge. The messaging just needs to get better and better honed to express the many assets of a community forest. Enforcement is important. Watershed lands are so important and the messaging will be important so it doesn't come off as project expansion.

Patty agrees. Thinks that community forest services include protecting watersheds in addition to recreation. The messaging has to be really clear. Nicky agrees and we need to think about using the term watershed. Taking on the education piece if we do take this in. Tryten said that Cory Wright said some things have to be met by 2024. Have no problem with the proposed lands with the exception of a trail that goes through the top of one of the parcels. If that cuts off the trail then he doesn't support it. Not looking at eliminating uses allowed on the property now, but would be concerned about making it so we aren't increasing recreation pressure in this watershed. Most of the watershed has not been logged - FS lands to the west. It is one of the cleanest surface water sources in the state. There is a lot of motorized access coming through that is impacting KCT's easement lands. There isn't much development, but getting a lot of motorized pressure.

Use currently is dedicated to watching trees grow. There may be management in the future by TNC, but no imminent plans. Folding the Domerie Creek lands into the project makes it more attractive to the YBIP folks since their goals are water supply. Some pushback because they don't feel that these lands provide the level of benefit that the Teanaway and other lands do. If we can say they are protecting the water supply of the City of Roslyn, etc. Plans to harvest are further out.

Fundraising Account

Mitch spoke with the KCT board about opening up a bank account to receive donations for the community forest. They approved. Mitch has been working with Tom and the funding committee to set up the account. Will likely be a joint savings/checking account. Melissa has been working to find a fundraising platform that can support this effort as well. Tom, Mitch and KCT's accountant will meet next week to go over how to set up the account. This will move us towards being able to fundraising. Need to look at marketing.

Would be good to have the Cost Analysis look at how much the fundraising effort will cost. Mitch is looking to develop a business plan. Tom said there are a few pertinent costs that we will need to think about: donor management software and the accountant. What is the timeframe for being able to take the first donor dollars? Mitch said KCT will need to get the account set up, which will probably be this week. Can take dollars as soon as the account is set up. Mitch has someone that really wants to be the first donor so Mitch is going to provide them that opportunity. Patty asked if KCT needs all this infrastructure now? Mitch said KCT already accepts donations. KCT will have a more robust one that will take some time to put in place, but can track it now in a spreadsheet and transfer the information later.

What happens if the community forest doesn't take place? Do we explain to people that there is a risk, or is there a backup way to use it for the rim in the interim. If it is donor restricted, it is going to be used for those purposes. If for any reason we are unable to complete this project, we will have to go back and ask if they want their money back or if KCT can use it for another purpose. If KCT isn't the long term owner and manager, then these funds can be rolled over to a Friends group. Funding may not be sitting there waiting until the actual purchase takes place. There will be many things for these funds to support as the purchase takes place.

Is there a link in the bucket that is going to be created between the Kittitas Stewardship Fund? The Kittitas Stewardship Fund (KSF) has verbal permission to stand as the fiscal sponsor for the 1% donation and the funding that will be distributed through the fund itself. The agreement will be signed soon by the Chamber Board. KSF shaping how the funds will be distributed. The 1% is a big effort to enlist county-wide support. As the sponsor, the Chamber will be taking 10% in overhead. Tom said that 10% makes me wince a little bit. In the future, do we know where Friends of the Ridge is going to be established? Don't think we do. Tom thinks we need to be able to use the money as we see fit. Mitch sees the KSF as separate thing to support broader efforts in the county. Stemmed from ECRP. May go to them for funding.

Mitch suggested the outreach group look see if more members are interested in helping. If KCT is the guardian of donations for the future community forest, Patty feels very comfortable with that since she knows KCT and their reputation in the community.

Task Group Report Out

Draft Board

Nothing to report.

Future Funding

Covered most of it in the discussion. We did not meet in July because of the holiday and vacation. We are sending questions up the flagpole at TNC to the steering committee to see what kind of formal response and support we can get from them. Jane is on point for that. TNC doesn't have anything to report currently. Trying to get more philanthropy representation on the stewardship committee, which has been challenging. Been exploring fundraising, connections to the outreach committee, and fundraising software. Will need to figure out who these donors are going to be and get their contact information. Know there are people in the fishing community that are interested in supporting the project. These are conversations to come.

Outreach and Engagement

Already updated on how we are experiencing a chicken and egg on how to talk about the project when we don't know who will own it despite having the money that everyone knows about. We are looking at launching a roll out on the survey findings in October as a 1 year anniversary. These are the tasks we hope to accomplish and your dollars will support x, y, and z. Also reached out to Hannah on where we are at with the other 3 videos. Curious to touch base with the TNC folks if you have any updates on the contract status with Hannah. Darcy doesn't but happy to check in with her. This is the perfect timing to associate these with an ask.

Governance

Nothing to report.

Action Items, Final Thoughts, and Adjourn

Is there anything that the group would like Nicky or Mitch to take to the group? Would the group like YBIP if they would be willing to do a recap of YBIP and clarify the connection to our project. Mitch thinks it's more important to understand the lands subcommittee and the 10 year plan they are working on currently. Understanding their strategic plan is key. Have included forest lands in their portfolio. YBIP is held up as an innovative plan for collaboration and trade offs in a sensitive basin, but we all recognize that there is a missing link, which is protecting forest lands and forest health.

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

- Darcy will send strategic plan to Melissa, who will share with group