

Discussion

Question: is it our vision that all these lands should be under one PDA or a different one for each block of ownership? The management program would be different for each block (Cabin Creek, Taneum, Cle Elum Ridge), should all 3 blocks of forest under one PDA, or each under their own? There could even be possible for separate ownership for each block, while the PDA acts as a separate governing body. There are few local lumber markets, so the PDA should not restrict lumber export. Need to be making enough money to be sustain the effort.

Cabin Creek = timber revenue, splitting could be too difficult. We could set up a non-profit to be the holder of these lands, and they won't be subject to the same laws. Legally accountable to the promises of the charter to the public. Can't go beyond the charter. Having PDA set up to handle acquisition does not prohibit different ownership, it could be owned by someone else, but the PDA would be able to encompass each block. Who's the PDA? Shall it be Appointed by a board (by the county?), as well as staff. Still much more flexibility, as there are no shifting politics. Once it's set up, it's done, though it can be amended. Can be as narrow or broad as possible. PDA board controls the charter. Initially appointed by county commissioners, then the county is little involved. This partnership still connected to the charter.

One entity that holds all three at once. Whatever ownership would not be export restricted because there are no local markets. Otherwise there would be no local net for stumpage. Could we manage this?

We don't have certainty of local markets, but "Larry - No more than 15% of public owned wood can go overseas. Except processed wood (so community owned special products mill would work. Strengthens the bonds of the community, a twist on a community garden." Community owned specialized products local mill?

A PDA could support that, could set up a community counsel to support the forest, at which point the PDA could be dissolved. Comes down to what we want for long-term management.

if we set up PDA is that going to be manager of forest? PDA sounds great, but what does that governance structure look like? We are setting it up to be a holder of money not necessary manager of lands. Would it be beholden to fed laws?

One downside of PDA level of public accountability as say the city of Roslyn, legally liable to the public and running Charter to a "T". Less flexible if something is found to be not working.

are there elected officials/County commissioners? County appointed or seat? County can specify this. And there will be staff, there must be officers; president and secretary at least. More flexibility than local GOV, as not set by changing politics – but MUST be transparent. Though it's not that different than private shareholding or corporations. It's up to us to decide how narrow or not the charter is. It's about how broadly worded Its mission is.

It could be set up to encourage local economy

who controls board? Charter explained the terms, it was initially appointed by county commissioners

county still has jurisdiction and oversight responsibilities such as the board not going outside the charter.

Is there any way this partnership group could have say over this board?

- Yes, it's possible but must communicate with county. Like provide list to county for members of consideration that would give us access to charter

Can the county dissolve the PDA? Probably. What if oversight is not living up to goals? State auditor can audit charter. IF charter isn't managing grants or submitting financial reports which can cause issues. If there was a dissolution, the Charter would have to have a good position on the land. What if in 20 years something happens?

A PDA may be set-up either in perpetuity, or short term. If there was a council that could also include once established PDA charter would dissolve.

Do we want a PDA to manage forests, or something else to manage and the have a PDA manage funds?

What are the possibilities to receive federal money, what might be beyond counties comfort zone?

I think we backed away because we want commissioners to support us, as it must fit their needs, but also work for us. The County isn't necessarily liable but could provide legal resources and staff to make sure PDA is following rules. Also, the "Manastash-Taneum is becoming popular" so they could budget county money to contribute. PDA is non- taxing but could join up with other taxes such as outdoor recreation or products – siphon off funds/ but also apply for bonds. if we were successful in transferring cabin creek to FS, and we transfer a beneficiary to the county, it would be great to see some revenue return to management community service. But it must be acknowledged that things will be different and there will be a change in commissioners at the table in 10-15 years. There are general Kittitas County needs; Parks & Rec program, roads, timber projects, restoration and community, needs currently and future that are unfunded, and this could potentially fund those needs. Though need to keep enough revenue to maintain forest health and management is a priority, we don't want a PDA with a Bank account of millions of dollars while the community has unfunded needs. Long-term Timber harvests are important to manage, but still needs to be workable. How much do we need to manage successfully, anything over certain bracket can go to county? Long term support and pros from the county?

County isn't liable, but they could contribute staff and funding, putting forest management in their budget. If this gets transferred to the county, that's great for revenue. We need funding coming back into the effort to support the forests as well. PDA can decide how much money is diverted for roads, recreation, restoration, etc. as well as the county's needs. Depends on what the community decides. Need to ensure enough of the revenue stream is going back into the forest to keep it sustained. Need to keep as much of the revenue as possible for the forest. Excess money can go to the counties needs after the forest is covered for that year. Endowment from a non-profit, never touch the principle.

Going to be at least 10 year still any revenue comes off the plum creek property. It's been heavily logged. Charitable donations for endowment fund so not to touch principal. From my understanding of Plum Creek land, it's going to be at least 10 years before significant timber comes off land. Likely on Cabin creek first; Cabin creek will probably be the most profitable.

There's a need to go for a lot of restoration and funding on annual basis. Set-up so that each year PDA applies for grant funds. It all depends on who is responsible for managing it and how that's done. How

are the roads and forest practices? Is plum creek still liable to the timber road management laws? Seems like yes. FS has maintenance agreements. we looked at the needs and we think that the PDA will address those needs. Is everyone okay that we proceed with these conversations? The PDA should be able to make sure things like that are taken care of. Should we go ahead with these talks?

No one was against moving forward.

back to Larry's question. We need to figure out some answers because this affect show we go to the public and what we say. This is a way to develop a nimble way for a charter to be created. Should be transparent, but we need to focus more on the big picture. This is kind of under the hood, a mechanism to help things move. As we are talking to folks, we should talk about PDA, but we need to focus on bigger vision. We found a mechanism to function without taxing public. Important convo, but also in the weeds. but if we write a charter then what's point of going out to community. I think you're right, but the PDA is created to facilitate. And embodying the broad objectives to support the community visions. Charter must explicitly state what it will and will not do. How do we go to community and say "..."/>

I would like to see us begin drafting a charter.

Thumbs up for moving forward on Drafting a charter with the PDA idea.

this doesn't take any options off the table; it only adds an opportunity. There's a certain staffing level required, does county need to provide that upfront? The board is volunteer, staff are not. Might be done by city or county staff members. There must be officers: President, Secretary and probably a treasurer. The board is typically volunteer with lots of talent that could help the staff. we don't really have anyone to fund this right now but there could be a law firm (in particular) that's done a lot of work on PDAs who might be willing to spend a couple of hours with us

Breakout Groups to think about:

- Timber revenue
- Christmas trees
- Fire Permits
- Outfitter guides
- Events

-Races

-Specialty sawmill

-Non-timber forest products (foraging)

-Pulp

-Film -can cause damage to land occupied for film productions such as trampling, cutting, heavy traffic, etc.

How can people make revenue in relation to the, and how can they not?

-Any interest in an economic benefit sub team?

-No confidence on moving forward with governance without the County involved.

We can work on more basic management plan, there's no reason not to draft up ideas, as it can show county examples of charters and ordinances and the can ask if CPPC can get started on draft? It's good to have ideas and prompts of direct (Example: timber), and indirect (Example: outdoor businesses). economic benefits. Objectives to convey for the community to think about; he survey could be a part of the development. Maybe we don't need a sub-committee but just a new task?

Action Item

Checkerboard Partnership Planning Committee to update and compile master contact list

Chasing Money

Tiffany (TNC) made a list of money pots. PDA concept has been focus and how to develop a charter. March Friday 13th, KCT to draw polygons on different land blocks for values etc..

Support language in budget for draft proposal. Larry DNR RCO Community Forest?

Community economic benefit sub-team?

-outfitter guides, timber harvest/firewood, events, races, special sawmill, foraging/mushrooms/berries, Christmas trees

- Event ideas: Bioblitz, dog day, birding, foraging tours, native plant tour, bike race,

-specific economic benefits

Action item: Compile contact list for checkerboard partnership and send it out to everyone

Research Funding for Cabin Creek complete by May 26th 2020

Check to see if Grange is available for the morning of the 23rd of March vs 24th

Chasing money:

- Tiffany with TNC has put together a table of all possible funding, criteria, deadlines, etc.
- Making a chart for grants we're going for
- next meeting thinking about where funding is needed on the map, and which grants to use.
- need time during April meeting to go over all that.
- plan to go for the forest legacy program again

Public engagement:

- Cards to carry with the elevator pitch on them
- Starting to list out events we can table at for surveys, as well as places with our information, surveys, one pager, etc.
- What the event on earth day will look like

Action item: Bullet the code of conduct and have it present at every meeting. Need ground rules.

Action item: Express the groups "must-haves and no-go's" for the public. Print them out. Send the list to Jane.

Action item: Send rules and regulations to Jane for printing as well.