

Lower Deschutes River IIT Meeting

February 10, 2023

10 AM – 1 PM

**In person: Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises
5180 Jackson Trail Rd.
Warm Springs, Or.**

ZOOM – Meeting ID: 812 5909 6405

Password: 835455

Chair – Confederated Tribe of Warm Springs

*** Note to public participates. If you could please refrain from asking questions or comments until the public comment period, unless the IIT or Managers request input from you prior to making a decision on something. This would be most useful/helpful for the process of the meeting as well as useful for the note taker. Also, when you do comment, if you would please state your name and any affiliations. Please mute your phone or video to avoid disruptions with background noise. Thank you. Mary/facilitator.

10:00 AM **Welcome and introductions:** Steve Rogers (Wasco Sheriff's Office); Matthew Newby (Oregon State Police) Craig Gunderson (Oregon State Police); Mike Millay (Bureau of Land Management); Chase Brown (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife); Scott Green (Oregon Park and Recreation Department); Jason Seals(Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife); Steve Memminger (OPRD); Josh Mulhollen (Oregon State Marine Board); Brenda Bremner (Bureau of Indian Affairs); Mary Fleischmann (Facilitator – and ran the meeting today as no chair was available); MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Keith Christiansen (Lower Deschutes Landowner)

Review /Additions to agenda/ Approval of agenda and meeting minutes. (Approval of minutes from October 14, 2022)

- Motion made to approve agenda with no additions made by Jason, 2nd by Mike. Motion Passed
- Motion made to approve minutes from October 14th, 2022, made by Jason and 2nd by Matthew. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Charter Review group will meet Feb. 16th. Revisions will be sent to IIT and Managers group prior to next meetings. At next IIT meeting will make recommendations to the Managers group
- Continued conversation regarding transfer of permits from Segment 4 to Segment - At this time there will be no major changes regarding the transferring of permits – Discussion regarding the hurdles of making any changes. Fish closures have happened only once historically on the Lower Deschutes River.

New Business:

- New chair from CTWS – Jen or Brad? – Not sure who is representing the tribes for IIT meetings. No one showed.
- Presentation from Ben Kirsch, Attorney for Deschutes River Alliance – Did not show or make contact.
- Ecommerce solutions options – “Electronic payment methods” for drive-in campgrounds – Mike Millay gave a report out BLM trying to go cashless for drive-in campsites. How it works is that people can download an app on their phone (Prior to arriving for camping) which then utilizes a QR code so can pay for campsite. This would be sites on segments 1 through 3. There has been continued issues with broken fee boxes. Utilizing this tool does cost users a \$1 fee. BLM will meet with the State office next week to review the request to go this direction. Also looking into remote ATM's and slots for credit card machines. Looking to do this on the Crooked River as well. Mike put in 25 requests but at this point only got one. The hope is that this scanning capacity could be set up by spring with a pilot planned at Trout Creek. There is the ability to move these stations to sites along the river as it is being tested out. Again, goal is to utilize this tool in the future. Mike shared with this kind of system, compliance rates for people actually paying for their sites goes up 40 %. Phase 2 of the Business Plan will be to work on walk-in camps and utilizing a credit card machine.

Round Table Discussions and Updates

- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs – No report as no representative.

- OSMP / Oregon State Marine Board –No report; Glad to hear that OSP has a new raft to add to their equipment.
- OSP/ Oregon State Police –Sgt. Gunderson introduced to the group. Sgt. Gunderson is new to this position but has been with the Dalles office for 24 years. OSP is fully staffed this year. They have new rafts, drift boats, jet boats and a plane available to check for campfires after closures (they utilized this last year). They have 5 fish and wildlife officers and 2 additional officers out of the Madras office. They work closely with the Wasco Sheriff's department.
- ODFW/ Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife – Chase had no specific updates. They have recruited seasonal staff that will work from July until the end of the year. Working on cooperative weed control with Sherman County. Jason shared that the forecast for summer steelhead to Bonneville Dam this year is not good. There could be wide spread closures, staff will be following the Deschutes River Steelhead Management Framework. Spring Chinook there will be no season and nothing at Sherars Bridge. They will be monitoring trout from North Junction to Trout Creek. E-Bikes: There is signage at the 2 mile point but people simply are not reading the signage. There have been instances where people are coming in early in the morning, maybe hoping not to be detected? Could use more signage down below prior to getting to the trail.
- Wasco Co. Sheriff Dept. – Rodger had nothing to report as he has been gone for several months and is just not returning, but not seeing a lot of activity at this time.
- OPRD/ Oregon Park and Recreation Department –Steve shared that he will be having a day off at the next Managers meeting but Scott will be in attendance. Steve introduced Scott Green who is replacing David Spangler and he will be attending the IIT meetings. Scott is very familiar with the area but is hitting the ground running as far as knowing what the IIT and Managers do. Welcome Scott. Steve is retiring March 31st after 37 years with OPRD (Congratulations!). Until his position is filled, Susan Bethers will be the go to person for OPRD. She will attend the Managers meeting along with Scott. Steve shared that prior to David moving to a different position, he had been working on the Deschutes River Usage Study. Question is agencies want to get this project completed/continued and looking at the cost and funds. Will send to Managers group. Replacing 2 toilets at Mason Flats (?)Need to

have the Rod and Gun Club work on getting old ones out. Steve also shared that they are extending Mary' contract for another 2 years and that process should be completed this month. Scott will be putting information for meetings, agenda's and approved minutes on the OPRD website. Scott shared that OPRD has new boat and will be drafting a float plan soon.

- BLM/Bureau of Land Management –Mike reported out that the Bake Oven Project is pretty much completed and they will be moving into it very soon – no exact date yet. There are 9 rooms, kitchen and shop area. This project has been costly and has cost twice as much than expected. There will be a grand opening and many officials will be invited, not specific date yet. Staffing there is Sunny ground manager in Maupin, and Katy as lead river ranger as well as JD. There are a total 6 river ranges and 3 land-based rangers. Staffing wise they are looking good and hope to get rangers on all the various segments this year. Replacing pit toilets has been a huge NEPA process. In segment 1 there is a need to replace 9 toilets. Looking at BIL funding for toilets as going to also add ADA accessible toilets despite fact that folks do float in. In segment 4 had archeologist come in to check sites. The footprint for some of these locations will be bigger. Should have NEPA process completed in next few months. BLM office is 40% staffed. There will be no toilets at Davidson as couldn't include work with OPRD to button up contracts. Funding designs with campgrounds with Kiosks that show river maps through-out the corridor at drive-in sites. Everything is in pretty poor shape and not public friendly. Also looking at ways to replace many picnic tables which are falling apart and replace with cement ones.
- Local Government – No report, no representation
- BIA/ Bureau of Indian Affairs – Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is working on an Emergency Action Plan. Brenda shared that she is not sure what role this group or the Managers play for these kinds of situations. She has a meeting March 22nd and would invite agency personnel to attend regarding this action plan. The plan is regarding the Happy Valley Dam which flows by the Kah-nee-ta Village Resort and flows into the Deschutes. It is old and primarily used for irrigation. The reason for the action plan is in case there needs to be notification of an emergency and who should be contacted. The potential to effect the Deschutes does

exist. Will have Brenda report out to the Managers as no one was aware of the dam, let alone the process for this action plan.

Public Comment

- Keith raised issue about landowners having free floating permits and that the statute is not useful for who qualifies for these permits. People he knows who are landowners on the river are 70 years old or older. He thinks this needs to be redefined of who qualifies – is non-motorized boaters. He shared if you have parents or grandparents who qualify for these permits at this time, but family members do not live in the home then they don't qualify for these permits. If grandkids who are visiting or their parents are visiting, they are unable to use the resource. He believes things should be set up similar to how families get ODFW hunter tags, which means the whole family can hunt together no matter where they live. Keith has a house on the lower access road across from Boxcar rapid. Landowners have preference for these free passes but to use them you have to reside with the landowner. Mike not clear about this statute but will look into it. Advised Keith to present his case at the next Managers meeting and Mike will also work with him to find out more. Mary chimed in that she was not familiar with this as well.

Final Discussion, Follow Up, Action Items

- Sgt. Gunderson asked about communication when there is an incident on the river that everyone should know about. Example of a boat crash at Washout rapid and people had ropes out all over the place, which if another group came down could of gotten all caught up in that incident and there would have been more than one emergency. Wants everyone to be on the same page with notification. Mike shared that sometimes he gets notified if there is a situation either from someone on the river or rangers but there could be better communication. There is an alert put out when incidents happen but not everyone knows where that is or checks it out. Can create a phone tree to disperse information.
- Question also about river salvage. Rob Miles with Imperial is currently doing that on a case by case situation. He has to work with BLM to get a letter of authorization to do the salvage work. BLM has to initiate the agreement, but again more discussion about communication as sometimes Rob gets the call before anyone else.

- Another comment brought up about when jet boats breakdown in the lower segment 4 and people wanting to drive up at Heritage to retrieve their boat. ODFW needs to know when this happens, they need notification so either they or possibly OSP can escort folks to get their boats.
- **ACTION ITEMS: reports to Managers group**
 1. Brenda will report to Managers about the Emergency Action Plan
 2. Mike will discuss the Ecommerce solution options for drive-in campgrounds.
 3. Follow up on Keith's questions regarding free passes on the river for landowners but not family members who don't live in those homes.
 4. Deschutes River Usage Study

Next Meeting

- Managers February 24th 10 – 1 pm Prineville , BLM
- IIT May 15th 10 – 1 pm The Dalles, ODFW Office

Meeting adjourned.