

Meeting Notes

Non-commercially Guided Snowmobile Access Program (N-CGSAP) Working Group

February 20, 2014

Present:

Bruce Austin
Scott Christensen, GYC
Christine Jourdain, ACSA
Kay Lloyd
Bart Melton, NPCA
Bert Miller, WY SMA
Alicia Murphy, NPS

George Pryich
Kim Raap, Trails Work Consulting
Wade Vagias, NPS
Jack Welch, Blue Ribbon Coalition

Not Present:

Dave Hodges
Jeremiah Rieman, WY Gov Office

Notes:

1. Introduction of new members
2. The group accepted meeting notes from the January 2014 meeting.
3. Update on funding progress
 - a. Alicia updated the group on progress securing funding to develop the Yellowstone Snowmobile Education Certification (YSEC) course. Wyoming State Trails has awarded an RTP grant to Yellowstone to develop the course. Alicia is working with Kim Raap to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the park and the state. Kim has been instrumental in this effort.
4. **Discussion Topic: Metrics of success for the N-CGSAP —what do we monitor and how?**
 - a. The group reviewed the document sent out with the agenda, titled “N-CGSAP Metrics of Success Background Info_with averages.pdf,” which includes law enforcement citation information for oversnow vehicles from 2002-2010. At the request of the group, Alicia provided the breakout between before and after commercial guiding was required and Kim went another step and broke the numbers down to yearly averages.
 - i. The group affirmed that in looking over all the citations, they could be lumped under 6 different broad headings:
 1. Speeding
 2. Careless Operation
 3. Leaving designated roads
 4. Permit violations
 5. Impaired driving
 6. Wildlife interactions
 - ii. The group agreed that in looking forward, there should be a subset of violations that go with each of the broad headings and that when analyzing data, the previous year would provide baseline data between commercial and non-commercial impacts.

Action: Alicia will write a white paper, explaining how monitoring will work, and take a first stab at identifying which citations will be used for monitoring

the program. This paper will be available to the group at least one and a half weeks before the next meeting.

5. Discussion Topic: What should be included in the YSEC course?

- a. Participants reviewed the document, "Yellowstone Shot List.pdf," which was provided with the agenda.
 - i. Other suggestions for the course and/or shot list included:
 1. Ravens trying to get into backpacks
 2. Appealing landscape and wildlife shots
 3. Good riding behavior, including snowmobiles lined up correctly
 4. Hand signals (Alicia has spoken with NPS staff and in the future, all park staff and commercial guides will use uniform hand signals)
 5. Parking at Old Faithful
 6. Extreme weather dress
 7. Park signage
 - ii. Jack mentioned that there is confusion among commercial guides on how to behave at stop signs—whether to stop as a group or if each machine will stop. Alicia will work with park staff to ensure consistency between commercial, admin, and non-commercial groups.
 - iii. Alicia asked for continued feedback on course information.
6. Closing and next meeting:
- a. Wade reiterated the park's gratitude for Kim Raap's assistance throughout this project.
 - b. Alicia will post a Doodle poll for March's meeting and email invitations to the group.
 - c. The next meeting will focus on aspects of the lottery and follow-up to the action items from this meeting.

Action Items

- Alicia will:
 - Create a Doodle poll and email out invites by 2/20/2014.
 - Send meeting notes to the Group by 3/16/2014.
 - By 1.5 weeks before the next meeting, Alicia will;
 - Provide the white paper explaining metrics of success for the group's review
 - Send an agenda for the next meeting
 - Talk to NPS personnel regarding stop sign protocols and will include this information in the course
- The Group members will:
 - Complete the doodle poll for March's meeting by 2/27/2014
 - Read over the material Alicia sends out before the next meeting

Working Group Operating Principles

- The National Park Service is the final decision-making body for all aspects of the Non-commercially Guided Snowmobile Access Program (the Program)
- The Program will be consistent with the framework contained within Appendix C of the final Plan/SEIS, the Record of Decision, and the Final Rule
- This Group is a portal to encourage creative ideas and insight on how to best develop the Program

- We will be respectful of all ideas and each other and will entertain new possibilities and consider how they might work
- We'll ask tough questions