

July 19, 2017

Plan Revision IDT Meeting

Discussion of MA 4C – Cultural Corridors

Attendees: William, Jason, Heather, Erik, Logan, Sheryl, Julie, Gisele, Steve, Holly, Alice, Kelsey, Rodney, Susan (phone).

Public observers: Hugh Irwin, Morgan Sommerville

General updates and business

- IDT members should weigh in on what Larry and William are working on to integrate the 25 sections under the three themes. Provide comments on the doc in sharepoint or send note to Michelle, William, or Larry
- William gave an update on the Fire discussion that was had last week. Bill, Gary, Michelle, Steve and William met to discuss plan components for managing fire
- Need to incorporate Regional Guidance for Wildfire Suppression Planning and Operations Guide
- Addressing public comments, due today
 - eco-comments won't be complete until the rearrangement of plan components that Larry is working on
 - many team members still need more time to address these
- Rodney and Heather provided an update on the meeting with EBCI (last Friday). We should have additional feedback from EBCI by Aug 1st.

Plan components for 4C – Trail of Tears, Overmountain Victory Trail and Unicoi Turnpike

(Old Georgia road, old State Road are portions of the Trail of Tears)

- This direction has been reviewed by RO planning staff, as well as 10 federally recognized tribes
- Trail of Tears corridor is identified as a mile-wide sacred site
- Direction has been shared with 3 National Forests – those forests will be amending their forest plans to be consistent with the direction that we use.
- There is a distinction between management actions within the 1500' corridor and the mile wide sacred site
- Within the sacred site (mile wide) – must do formal consultation with EBCI for any and all planned activities
- Is it reasonable to think of the mile wide corridor as an SIA?
- Clarify that it is 750' on either side of the *centerline* of the trail.
- Encampments and forts are included as associated sites and are all within the 750' corridor
- Is there a need to identify the subsets of other roads in the background section – Georgia Rd, old State Road?
- Suggestion to put the more strict standards within the 1500' corridor first followed by the less restrictive in the wider corridor

Recreation

- Make sure it's clear how we address any potential conflicts with existing uses, existing trails (AT) (hierarchy of MAs)
- Managing for a sustainable trail is not always consistent with managing an historic trail.
- Red Flag: First two standards under 'Within Interior Corridor' – concern that there is no opportunity for trail relocation within the corridor.
- Concern that increased interpretation may result in increased public use on trails. Rodney clarified that this interpretation will primarily be on well-developed sections of trail (underlying concern over sedimentation from increased use)
- Any restrictions to maintenance of currently developed areas (eg. boat ramps, Hanging Dog campground)? Just that there would need to be consultation with the Tribe and coordinate with National Park Service (for OVT)
- Any future developments – do they need to have an expressed need for interpretation? Only within the 1500' interior corridor
- All new improvements need to comply with accessibility standards.

Vegetation Mgmt

- What about management for the benefit of the corridor within the 750' interior corridor – would not be consistent with 1st two standards regarding 'no new ground disturbance'. (exception for certain activities is on the next page but it may be clearer to bring the exceptions forward in the standard)
- Need to reword standards to allow for exceptions that are noted in the desired conditions.

Special Uses

- Two marinas, recreation residences are within the interior corridor. There may be exceptions for existing uses. Need to build this into 1st two standards for mgmt. within 1500' corridor
- Third DC – "Tribal members have access...." Do we want to define access? We're not suggesting building new roads. Need to clarify that their access is not impeded.
- Under standards within 1 mile corridor – allow no activities including mineral collection.... Are we looking at a closure order for this corridor?
- Julie will wordsmith the standard pertaining to forest use operations.
- There are rec residences within the 750', so we need to reword to allow for activities with consultation.
- Guidelines – views from the trail should be considered... What are we considering? May need to clarify the need to consider what the visual impact is from preserved sections of the trail?

Wildlife

- Need something to allow for maintenance of existing uses such as stocking native fish. Sheryl will provide some suggested language to include
- Maintenance of existing and creation of new wildlife openings – they should be reflective of the historic significance of the site.

Fire

- What is the interpretation/definition of ground disturbance, particularly in regards to firelines

Roads

- Gisele provided edits to William regarding corridor widths from the trail centerline.
- Need to work on access language – specificity
- How do we define ground disturbance? Replacement of existing culverts would be ok but not addition of new culverts

Next Steps

William made some edits to plan components during our discussion and IDT members should get any additional recommended edits to William.

All edits to these plan components will next be reviewed by the RO and the Tribes