

Red Hill Council Meeting: March 17, 2005 6:45 - 8:15

6:45 Call to order

Present: Dave, Dorothy, Davis, Jim Breasted, Mike, Mike Shook, Brian Hopkins, Jim Neu

Dave made a motion to approve minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Guest: Mike Shook

Mike Shook called Davis asking about creating a guide map for trails in the valley. Mike is doing a waterproof, tearproof, 3D shaded-relief topo map from Aspen to Rifle. He has a small publishing business and has been doing river maps for years. Website: shook@flyfishguide.com.

Dorothy: There was a community planning process done in '99/00 for Red Hill. It was recognized early on that the size of the area cannot accommodate infinite use. The solution was to keep Red Hill as a backyard area for people in Carbondale. Because of parking problems, wildlife problems, private property problems, etc. It was decided that Red Hill would not be marketed and advertised.

Brian: We have management objectives & marketing strategies. We don't want to confuse this community area with destination areas. BLM feels that there are already plenty of destination spots that Red Hill should be kept a backyard community area. Red Hill recreational area has actually caused some changes all the way back to Washington and has changed some policies. Brian has fought to change some BLM policies with regards to preserving backyard areas.

Davis: Redhill is a destination for a certain category of mtn. Bikers. Vail people, people from just outside of area, because it is the first area to melt off.

Jim B: maybe this an opportunity to advertise this a special limited use area.

Mike Shook: Plan is to only create verbage for the whole Red Hill area, not trail by trail. Currently, Red Hill is on the latitude 40 map, but just a squigly line.

Mike Shook: I wouldn't get into route descriptions, just a general description about the place being a technical area. Brian: There is a process coming up with classifying BLM Rec areas into specific strategies. Davis: Dilema that he sees how do we manage it for what we want it to be? I believe its just a matter of time before Red Hill shows up in a book in detail.

Mike Shook: I'm doing that right now.

Jim B: This is an opportunity for him to just mention it, but nothing more.

Mike: I would like the council's help in writing the verbage that will go on the map.

Davis: Question for the council: How do we deal with this?

Brian: He has very good responses from just about everyone when he explains that this area is a "locals area." And, if the area ends up in a book he will ask the bike stores to not carry the book.

Brian: just put a boundary on the map with a label BLM/special use area.

Dorothy: just label it as BLM/Red Hill. Davis: Take our input and fiddle with it on your map and bring it back for us to review. Mike will scan that section of the map and will email everyone.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Item 5, Budget: Davis: we should all have a budget we can agree upon. Table to next meeting.

Agenda Item No.6, Committees: Let's find out who's interested in what.

Survey Committee: Davis,

Workday Committee: Mike,

Membership Committee: Davis,

Website Committee: Greg, Davis

Davis: keep on agenda, due to lack of attendance tonight.

Brian: From the BLM's standpoint, the council is very valuable, keeping some kind of citizens group is very important. Don't feel bad if we are just doing maintenance, it may be more important than new trails.

We may meet less next year, and just take on maintenance projects. Dorothy: Use the Roaring Fork Outdoor Vols. as a role model. We need someone to be in charge of the volunteer projects.

Jim: That is exactly what we need. He would help in a membership drive.

Dorothy: Membership should be free because people are giving their time.

Davis: I think we have a need for money, but we don't know how much. There is a need for membership at some level and we need a committee to make a proposal to the rest of the council to get this accomplished.

Guest: Brian Hopkins

Survey Issue:

Davis: survey should not be longer than one legal page front/back.

Brian: There are different ways to do a survey. Give people something to take with them when they are done or talk with people on site. BLM does not want to hold people on site, goes against their policies.

Key point: express why we are asking for them to fill out a survey. Important: They have to be finished with the recreation. A survey has to be designed for a specific trip. 2 types: Community & visitor surveys. Visitor survey has to have the context of the trip they just finished. Community survey: more broad and you would get it from bike shops, etc. You have to set the context of the survey.

Jim: can you mix it up, front/back? Yes, but you need to have a break and be very clear that you are shifting the context of the survey questions.

Davis: How will we use the survey results? Davis wants to look at bigger picture things. Davis's spin is a community survey approach. How will we utilize the results of the survey? Use it to create a need for money solicitation. Look at where people are coming from. Is the use changing from local to more global? Brian: If you want to know how people feel, the best thing is to create a meeting where you invite people, design a script for a facilitator. Design a script around the answers you need.

Davis: if you have people that want to give their name you can build a user base which would lead to membership expansion.

Dave: Use the survey as a measuring stick to see how we are doing. See how answers change from the last survey?

Davis: Start with the most important questions first.

Brian: you don't need a survey. We can save a lot of grief by a going with a focus group. One or two nights with a facilitator. It's qualitative not quantitative. Question is what are your objectives? The council needs to make a decision about our objectives so we can effectively evaluate our survey results.

We have to choose what we want to manage for up there. Ex: we are going to manage for the extreme trail rider. It's a black diamond for biking. We are never going to manage a public area for experts/dbl black diamond. Davis: Quantification is important, because the focus group may get a special interest crowd. Davis wants quantitative to defend our decisions. People/groups that give grants like to see numbers.

Brian: Come with our questions and decide if we really need a hard number. When you want numbers its a lot harder to do right, we need to decide if we want to take that on.

Davis: My experience is you use a focus group if you are starting from scratch. We are not starting from scratch, we have an old survey, master plan, etc. But this survey is too much the way it is.

Brian: A survey does not necessarily change your management plan. It's an information tool.

Jim: It's like landing on the deck of a carrier in a flight suit and declaring that the war's over. What??

Item 7, Trail Counters:

General concensus is to get them.

Brian: the most important monitoring tool, is to monitor the number of groups you encounter. We can hire BLM seasonals to hike a loop to write down how many groups they ran into on a certain trail. Groups of people will effect someone's experience a lot more than individuals, which is what a trail counter will count, not the groups.

Dave: Motion to buy 2 counters w/ loggers

Davis: 2 counters w/data loggers and another data logger for existing counter, motion amended.

Jim B. seconded.

Motion passed, 5 votes.

Item 10. Items for next agenda:

Committee appointments.

Budget.

Survey.

Item 8. Rocky mtn. Youth corps. Davis read his letter to everyone. Everyone approved the letter. Davis will send Shetty the letter and will contact him for a meeting.

Item 9. Web site status report.

Date: 4/21

9:00 Meeting Adjourned.