

Mt. Emily Recreation Area (MERA)
Joint Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Agenda

- **Convene @ 6:00 PM**- Daniel Chaplin Building Conference Room at 1001 4th street –
- **Committee Members:** Forrest Warren, Ian Caldwell, Tyler Brooks, Aric Johnson, Chris Evans, Jon Paustian, Mark Barber, Bill Gerst, Jordan Ray (Jordan’s last meeting)
- Online:** Katrina Gains, Sean Leaner, Elaine La Rochelle
- Staff:** Josh Ford
- **Attendees:** Ivan Hartert (State Parks), Ron Osterlow
- Public comment- (3 minutes per individual)** None
- **Motion by Tyler to approve minutes of Feb 6, 2024. Second by Jon. All in favor.**
- **Motion by Tyler to approve minutes of May 7, 2024. Second by Chris. All in favor.**

Topics

Logging Update- Josh Ford - Informational: Barr Trucking came in and chipped three piles. Will burn the rest. Working on getting remaining log decks out. At highest level of fire danger right now. Motorized use of trails is prohibited from noon to 8pm. Other times must be on roads or trails free from vegetation. Gas powered chain saws are not allowed, but electric saws are allowed. Will not completely close MERA unless Oregon Department of Forestry says it needs to be closed. Jon said many ODF&W lands are closed. Camping is still allowed but no campfires.

Parking Program – Josh – Has written up a MERA Parking Permit Proposal. There is money set aside to fund the setup until the end of the year. Hood River has a similar program. Some people will park outside zone to avoid paying. Need to think about no parking signs

outside parking zone. Will be a hangtag to put on mirror, like State Parks, Hood River and USFS uses. Group generally likes the \$5/\$30 fee, especially for the first several years. Would like to see discount for veterans. Elaine wants to make sure that money is tracked and goes back to MERA for trails. **Tyler made motion to approve Parking Permit Proposal. Jordan seconded the motion. All in favor.**

Trail Projects – Bart is working on Upper Igo project and has 2/3 of it done. Rest should be done by the fall. Josh and Mitch have been working on Mainline and Easy Out. Mostly drainage of big mud holes. This fall will start working on logging repairs around Owsley and Apple Drop. BMSTC will be constructing intermediate jump line just below Honor Roll and final part of Red Ledge. Got a bunch of new hand tools. Got a new mini excavator Cat 301.7 (1.7 ton). Will have prison crew finish last piece of Dead Bull. BMSTC is starting to focus more maintenance on existing trails and only do 1 new trail a year. Upper Red Ledge will be a new connection. Mark is focusing more on maintenance also. A lot of single-track needs brushing. People are more excited to work on new trails instead of maintenance. ATV Funds can be used fund trail brushing. Josh can work with some of the youth crews. Josh is doing some spraying for weeds on the Motocross track. Also have a masticator for the skid steer. Weed eaters work well with steel blades for brush. Sting for grass. Have also tried some electric loppers.

Master Plan – When Trail 202 is mentioned, it will be changed to Mt Emily Road. Josh will put it out for public comment. Have approved all the plans individually and have new ODF Fire Plan. It will be on the MeetMERA website. Need 45 days for comments. **Jon made motion to accept master plan with the 2 changes of Mt Emily Road term instead of Trail 202 and to include new ODF Fire Plan. Second by Elaine. All in favor**

Sean – At next meeting, wanted to talk about bike parking at trailhead for people who want to ride up to MERA and walk around.

Next Meeting. November 5 is Elk hunting season. November 19 looks good for everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54pm