

Mt. Emily Recreation Area (MERA)

Joint Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

- **Convene @ 6:00 PM**- Daniel Chaplin Building Conference Room at 1001 4th street –

- **Committee Members:** Sean Lerner, Chris Evans, Jon Paustian, Norm Paullis, Forrest Warren, Ian Caldwell, Tyler Brooks, Bill Gerst, Mark Barber, Aric Johnson

Online: Katrina Gains, Elaine La Rochelle

Staff: Josh Ford

- **Attendees:** none

Public comment- (3 minutes per individual)

- **Approve Minutes of last meeting May 5, 2025 Motion by Tyler, Second by Norm. All in favor.**

- **Parking program update – Josh Ford, Informational** Program is going well. Have made about 16,500. Sales of annual passes has slowed down and day use passes has picked up.

- **Archeology Report – Josh Ford, Informational** Ian and Josh meet with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Substrate Collaborative Anthropological Research (consultants) and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to look at the logging activity on the Owsley/Igo areas. Need to continue working on burn piles. Looked at 3 Jeep Trails: Mainline, Onion Flat and Cutoff. Discussed options for repair of rocking, building rolling grade dips and installing culverts. Will need to dig test pits at sites of disturbance. Can apply for ATV Fund Grants but need 20 percent match.

- **Accepting Red Ledge into the MERA trail system- Josh Ford, Action Item**

Motion by Tyler, Second by Elaine. All in favor

- **Accepting new section of Pebbles into MERA trail system- Josh Ford, Action Item**

Motion by Katrina, Second by Chris. All in favor.

- **Trail adoption update - Josh Ford, Informational**

Have 52 non-motorized trails. 12 have been adopted by Blue Mt Singletrack Club. 7 by other people.

- Trail ratings- Sean Lerner, Discussion

Discussion on ratings of certain trails and how the other bike areas. Some trails have short difficult section (crux) while the rest of the trail is much easier. But need to rate on hardest section. Some areas use a system with a split grade with most the route being the first color and the crux is the second color. There are 5 rates that we could potentially have a split grade.

- Doing Time - Blue/Black
- Upper Hot Shot - Green/Blue
- Skill/Sloman - Blue/Black
- Slammer - Green/Blue
- Depends - Green/Blue

Hard to change on map right now but could do some on the ground sign changes.

Future Business – Forestry Plan

Next meeting- Tuesday, ~~November 18, 2025~~ Move to December 9, 2025 due to hunting season conflicts. Motion by Elaine to move meeting date. Second by Tyler. All in favor

Meeting Schedule; February May, August, November

MERA Adjourned at 7:04pm