

Notes from Summer Interlocal Meeting

July 8, 2020

Compiled by Irv Heitz

Tone of meeting set by Bill Walker, President of NFLA and Trails Assoc.

Lois Walker parked this morning at Camas Bridge from 8 am to noon to count vehicle traffic. Her results:

Northbound vehicles:	<u>394</u>
From GNP northbound	256
From C Falls northbound	138
Towing raft trailers or boats	15 + raft co. bus
Southbound vehicles:	<u>183</u>
Towing raft trailers or boats	3
Total vehicles 4 hour period	<u>577</u>

Debo Powers: NF Preservation Assoc.: Plea for crackdown on illegal motorized use of trails, gated roads, bermed roads. Appealing to USFS and Law enforcement??

Bill Walker: NF Trails Assoc. Reported girdling of large live larch at trailheads and ATV tracks on trails. Again, pleas for enforcement. (Zoe Zardis, Kenna Halsey showed Rob Davies of USFS pics of sign at Huntsberger Lake trail authorizing motorized use of this trail July and August of each year. They claim it should not be so and will look into it.)

Amanda Rollwage, Silviculturist / Sarah Canepa, USFS lead on Frozen Moose: will talk with landowners in parking lot re this proposal and to get current email addresses if not being notified. Seemed to be lots of interest later. Also described marking of trees for that project: orange bands on trees indicate the trees that will be left so one can get a feel for the project's impact.

Rob Davies, Hungry Horse/Glacier View district Ranger, USFS: All road blading by crews will be south this year due to heavier than expected road damage from storms.

Ford Schoolhouse project still on, probably in late Aug or Sept.

River Management Planning still working behind the scenes. All data from river cameras is now compiled and Environmental Assessment has been done. Look for data on website in late summer. Ten will probably have meetings with public again after that.

No ATV permits will be issued this summer on special use permits. Hiking and biking are ok, but probably fewer participants this summer due to Covid 19.

Shuttle permit: nothing USFS can do, since it is only operating on county roads (?) and has been operating a couple of years already. Discussion about amount of ATV traffic and enforcement of rental

company use: not educating their renters on where they can and can't go. Others felt too much traffic, but can't do anything about it since they have license plates on vehicles and therefore, can drive all roads legally anyway. Davies said he has talked to NW Adventure Rentals in Olney about educating his renters, even though they operate, for purpose of renting only, in Tally Lake district. Will talk to West Glacier rental agency if still there about same.

Touted Flathead River Alliance as example of collaborative group USFS looking forward to having on board, providing funding for education, perhaps volunteer information specialists at put-ins, etc.

Looks like USFS may get property north of Ben Rover cabin. Appraisal in August, and if it will sell for appraisal, could be on federal rolls as early as 6 months from now. South parcel has a conflict with owner having connection to government and therefore, USFS cannot buy it. If a conservation agency buys it to transfer to feds, might happen, but for now, that option is dead.

Status of Polebridge launch site: becoming a parking lot!!! Will work on enforcement, but most people are skeptical. (In later note, Jim Dahlstrom, GNP, says hiker cars are piling up heavily on west side of bridge because they are being allowed into Park if they are walking – no restrictions per day. No wonder launch site is crowded with parking!)

Jim Dahlstrom, Glacier National Park west ranger district: Going-to-the-Sun road should open next week, but how it will look with east side of park closed at Blackfoot Res. Boundary is question. For now, cars must turn around at Rising Sun.

No idea when lakes will open to use. Only Lake McDonald right now, and few inspections being offered there only due to lack of personnel.

Biologists and roads people are looking at Inside road ingress/egress at this time to see if feasible to repair or gate. He says that in an emergency situation, the road could allow traffic to escape fire, etc.

DNRC: Bill W. read statement for them (attached). Will finish last 20 acres near Moran Ck this summer. Could have some logging activity on state land furthest north near Kelly's this summer or fall as sale has been let.

Dave Prunty, Flathead County: Test wells done on last 5 miles of NF road and sent to Feds for analysis. This project should start next summer (2021)

Have found that the road passing through the state land mentioned above has no written easement since 1930's. He and Phil Mitchell will negotiate the price with them (estimates \$25K)

Road itself in that area will be 18 feet wide with pullouts. Glacier Drive from Merc to bridge: will stay same as now, but will pull heavier fill from sides to provide lift above river level during flood stages, with gravel overlay, crowning for drainage. May add mag chloride if they can afford it.

Asphalt millings from State paved section to C Falls: pulled them to the section of county (about ¼ mile and pullout where state plow trucks turn around. Will chip seal this summer, and should be as good as asphalt for quite a while. (Really good right now, and even took out the deep bump at transition from pavement to gravel. Should alleviate washboarding going up the hill as drivers accelerate)

Ovila Byrd, Road and Bridge Department Supervisor: retiring end of July!!!! Sad, but inevitable! Tears in his eyes and voice as he told us. He will be missed, and got a rousing applause.

Flathead Lake Biological Station: Irv Heitz said grant to study stoneflies in the water aquifer at Wurtz and Graff properties is ended this summer, Wells will be pulled soon, and study will conclude. Irv will continue to sample wells this summer and results will be compiled. Dr. Rachel Mallison wants to try for some grants again up here, and information on stonefly wells and health of the population as a "canary" to poorer water quality will be studied.

US. Border Patrol: Assistant to Chris Young, supervisor, and another agent were there to answer questions. Nothing new to report but let them know if anything suspicious.

Meeting concluded without reps from FWP, US Fish, Wildlife, DNRC Water Resources.

(Too bad: wanted to ask FWP about enforcement of new reg on single hooks. Some people are seeing big treble hook lures catching fish!)

Conclusion called at 2:45 pm

FWP should host Feb Interlocal, but not there to confirm.

IH

MEMORANDUM



TO: William Walker
FROM: Dave Ring, Unit Manager, DNRC-Stillwater Unit
DATE: July 6, 2020
SUBJECT: Summer 2020 Interlocal Update

The following is an update for the next 6 months for the Coal Creek and associated state trust land parcels.

ACTIVE TIMBER SALES

- Moran North Timber- waiting for soils to dry and then the logger plans to move in around mid-July and finish the approx. 20 acres left near the Moran Creek Bridge.
- Garnet Timber Sale- sold this past June...possible road work and a small amount of logging this year. This timber sale is located in our most northern section near the Canadian border.

TIMBER SALE PLANNING

- **West Coal Timber Sale** is still in the layout and environmental analysis process...it is located in the west-central part of the main Coal Block... plan to sell this in the late spring/early summer.

FOREST IMPROVEMENT

- Spring weed spraying- sprayed the Coal Ridge, Cyclone Lake, Dead Horse and South Coal Road systems. No plans at this time for fall weed spraying.
- 909 #6 Pre-Commercial thinning project should be starting soon. This project is located near our Coal Ridge Road system.
- Road construction behind our Dead Horse Gate to improve the grade over a fish passage culvert
- Still plan to replace gate near Home Ranch Bottoms this summer that was damaged by a blowdown event a couple of years back...
- Posting signs which designate you are entering/leaving the Coal Creek State Forest has been postponed