

**Mt. Emily Recreation Area (MERA)
Joint Advisory Committee Meeting
November 1, 2022**

AGENDA

- Convene @ **6:00 PM**
- **Attendance/ Introductions:** Forrest Warren, Doug Wright, Rex Harden, Jon Paustian, Ian Caldwell, Mark Barber, Scott Wilson, Sean Lerner, Tyler Brooks, Chris Evans, JB Brock, Jordan Ray, Alex Sealy, Eric Johnson (USFS), Katrina Gaines, other members of the public

Public Comments

Kate Fisterman. What is happening with thinning? Concerned with fires and large trees coming out. With Friends of MERA. Want to work together.

Minutes

- **Minutes** of Last Meeting August 21, 2022. Motion by Alex Sealy to approve. Second by Tyler Brooks. All in favor.

TOPICS

Red Apple Forest Improvement project/Area closure update- Doug: Have started thinning. Contractor just pulled out due to the wet weather. Waiting for freezing conditions to protect cultural sites. 62 loads of logs pulled out so far. \$25,000 in the red. Mastication is costing a lot of money. Wanting to get a brushing head for the skid steer to be able to do more ongoing maintenance of brush. Watching the soil moisture conditions. Do not want to make more roads. Abby is the Stewardship Forester for ODF in Union County and she looked at how they are following marking requirements. Jesse is doing really good work. Discussed how manage on a more regular, short-term basis. Talked about chipping slash piles. Think will be able to get 48 foot trucks in winter with freezing soils. Will try to get as many as possible. May not be able to reach a few piles. Have access for logging on south end on Shaw property for administration use. Not for public access. Waiting to see what the weather does. Trails are open now. If volunteers want to start opening trails they can. Ed: Do you think we will break even? Hoping to break even. Will be very close. Someone thought it looked pretty good in south area. Not much brush there and might be able not to masticate that area to save money. Need to keep the firebreak on top clean. Bart: Concerned about getting trails opened back up again. Really want to see the trails back on the north end. Doug: It will be an on-going process. Bart: concerned about ruts from last year that are holding water. Need to make sure to have erosion control on roads.

Annual County Budget update for MERA- Doug: Have projected revenues. Spread out over expenses. Have historic data that we keep for the last 3 years. Forest Management: 224,000 revenue and 195,000 in expenses. Also have cash carryover that will have for next year. Coordinator is paid with ATV funds and work on other parks

and is salary is paid by those other funds. Chris: have you looked at transient lodging tax? Yes, always trying to get some of those funds.

Non-motorized Parking Fee program discussion- Forrest: Would like to see some sort of funding mechanism. Would like to create a subcommittee to look at options for dayuse parking passes. about 70 cars a day at Oswley Trailhead.

Create parking program exploration subcommittee? Tyler made a motion to form a subcommittee, Scott Wilson Second. All in Favor. Forest, Jordan, Tyler, Sean would be on the committee. Concern about fees in motorized area. Concern about people at archery lane. Concern about enforcement.

Coordinator position update- Doug: Will have an answer in 2 weeks.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department ATV Operations and Maintenance Grant Cycle- Doug/Ian -Letters of support to OPRD encouraged before Nov. 15 –

Winter Events?

Sean Learner: Will be grooming trails, Archer, to shelter. Contractor is not planning on using Archer Lane.

Master Plan

Will discuss at next meeting in February.

- Date of Next Meeting: February 7, 2023 at 6PM
Meeting Schedule; First Tuesday of February, May, August, November

Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.