**Winter’s Grove Nature Trails assessment with USFS 5/26/2020**

*David Ashby, USFS Recreation Manager, Logan Ranger District*

*Zach Maughan, USFS*

*Janifer Larson, Great Old Broads for Wilderness*

*Barbara McConvill, Great Old Broads for Wilderness*

David, Zach, Barbara and Janifer met at the Winter’s Grove Nature Trails to discuss the next phase of replacing and repairing interpretive and trailhead signs. This was a very productive meeting. We walked the trails in both directions.

Observations:

* The stone sign pillars are in great shape, but the wooden structures holding the interpretive signs have been destroyed by time.
* Zach discussed placing metal covers over the top of the stone kiosks and a metal post with frame to hold the signs. The metal sign structure would hold up over time as opposed to the other sign frames that where constructed of wood. Zack will explore his sources for sign material and Barbara will check with Grizzly Graphics about the products they have available. David will check with the region office regarding graphics and text design for the signs. Barbara will talk with WSU regarding the Discovery Trail and their signs. We discussed using the following themes:
  + Area and Huntsville town history for signs on the north end of the trail. Trappers, pioneers, farmers and ranchers all played a role. Linda Laws is working with Huntsville historians for info.
  + Environment – the role wetlands play in the health of the environment including water and air quality.
  + Wildlife – represent what species use the area and for what purpose (food, water, reproduction, etc.).
  + Trees and plants – what role do they play in this environment.
  + Public lands – why is this trail important to the community.
* Tim LaMarche, a Huntsville local and certified welder, agreed to create the sign bases as an in-kind contribution. We will discuss this further with him and then get details to the USFS.
* The wooden information kiosks (3) need to be refurbished and new graphics added. USFS suggested new plywood and replacing the old shingles with a metal roof. USFS will complete this project. Broads will stain the structures, tighten bolts, etc.
* David will arrange for a new trail sign on HWY 39 and in Huntsville.
* USFS will remove the old Winter’s Grove sign that is unreadable and will also replace the flex barriers on the north side that are broken.
* The wood on the two trail benches need to be replaced. It was agreed to replace the seat with redwood and then stain. The USFS will supply the stain. Jan will check with Home Depot to see if they would donate or discount the lumber.
* Barbara asked about placing bird boxes in the trees along the trails. David will get Broads the box design plans and Broads will ask the boy scouts to participate as a service project.
* The USFS will explore what would be needed to make the asphalt section of the trail accessible to wheelchairs.

Timeline:

Before June 6 trail clean-up –

* Arrange to pick-up stain from USFS
* Purchase redwood lumber for benches along with new bolts and nuts for installation

June

* Remove Winter’s Grove sign
* Reroof kiosk (2)
* Meet with Swampy to review sign attachment options
* Decide on sign material and vendor
* Draft text for signs
* Decide on artwork for signs

July (or before) –

* Finalize sign designs, materials, vendor, structure
* Install new graphics on kiosks
* Install trail sign on highway
* Set date/time for grand re-opening (COVID guidelines will impact this)

August –

* Install new interpretive signs
* Trail clean-up

September

* Grand re-opening

Future discussion topics:

1. USFS needs to follow-up with Weber County RAMP regarding payment of the $2000 award and then discuss how these funds will be dispersed (through USFS, Broads?).
2. The future of the campground and how part of that area could become a nature trail in summer, cross-country/snowshoe area in winter.

USFS is excited about our projects on the Winters Grove Trails. We need to keep them up to date on our timelines. We will follow up before the June 6th trails project.

Greater Wasatch Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness

May 26, 2020