

Vital Signs Indicators Project: Cultural Subgroup Meeting Notes

Tuesday, 11 December 2007

Gorge Commission office, White Salmon, WA

Attendees:

Greg Griffith, Washington Dept of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Marge Dryden, USFS- Scenic Area

Cheryl Mack, USFS-Gifford Pinchot

Charles Hudson, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission

Jeremy Fivecrows, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission

Greg Webb, US Army Corp of Engineers

Jessica Metta, Columbia River Gorge Commission

Angie Kenney, Columbia River Gorge Commission

The group began with introductions to get acquainted. Rich Davis with Washington State Parks and Sally Donovan, a historic buildings consultant, were invited but not able to make the meeting. An introduction to the WIKI by Michele Dailey, Gorge Commission staffer who is helping to manage the WIKI. This site is best used as a way to share information and edit shared documents. A handout about how to access the WIKI was distributed. Any questions on the site should be directed towards Michele or Angie Kenney.

Besides the WIKI handout, a packet of information was given to each participant explaining the Indicators Project and the task of the subgroup and Technical Advisory Team (see handout package for this meeting scanned into WIKI). Jessica and Angie explained the Indicators Project in general to the group and more specifically, the task of the subgroup.

The group discussed the definition of cultural resources in the Scenic Area Act and as used by the agencies represented. In general the Gorge Commission and state/federal agencies define it as done in the National Register: archaeological resources, historic buildings and structures and traditional cultural properties. Charles noted that the tribes might have a different definition, one that is more inclusive. Greg pointed out that the National Register definition addresses the integrity of the resource, whether it is significant. While the subgroup does not have to stick to the definition in the Management Plan, the indicators chosen need to be things that the Commission has the ability to regulate through the Act. (Note: After the meeting, we verified that the Act does not define cultural resources but the Management Plan does. The Management Plan defines it as archaeological resources, historic buildings and structures and traditional cultural properties. It goes into detail about what each of these includes.)

The group looked at the objectives for the cultural indicators. Charles noted that when he talks to the tribes about this project, they may want to add another objective such as one related to process like consultation (i.e. whether changes need to happen in the tribal consultation process – the Commission to the tribes and vice versa). The group discussed that it could be appropriate to add an indicator like this.

Marge handed out a document she had created from brainstorming about cultural indicators prior to the meeting (see Marge's handout scanned into WIKI). The group read through this document and thought it was a good start at indicators.

Greg brought information about the GMAP (Government Management Accountability Performance) measures that his agency has done for Washington state. The group that several of the measures

that they have been recording could easily become indicators for this project (see Greg's handout scanned into WIKI).

The group decided that before the next meeting, they would think about the three draft cultural indicator objectives (maybe add a fourth) and also think about the potential indicators from Marge and Greg's information. This thinking would involve editing draft documents on the WIKI. By the next meeting, members should have looked at Marge's brainstorming handout and are encouraged to edit this and be ready to discuss their ideas.

The next Cultural Subgroup meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 8, 2008, 10am, Gorge Commission office in White Salmon.