



File Code: 2300

Date: September 14, 2023

Subject: Krause Basin Focused Recreation Area

To: Interested Parties

Purpose / Intent

The intent of this letter is to summarize efforts from the public collaborative which identified current issues, and present planned actions related to Krause Basin Focused Recreation Area.

Background

- Public collaboration process took place to seek input for developing a recreation management strategy for Krause Basin:
 - o Several public meetings occurred from December 2021 through September 2022.
 - o Identified interested collaborators and potential partners.
 - o Multiple user groups had varied opinions on how to manage area, different thoughts on long term use in the area.
 - o During this process, several recommended alternatives were developed and evaluated by user groups.
 - o Identified issues and conflicts of the area.
 - o The Krause Basin Recreation Collaboration Final Report provides a framework for suggested and desired outcomes.

Discussion

During the public collaborative process, there were discussions and several surveys conducted to collect information about recreational uses of the area, frequency / duration of use, and other useful information. The following are some of the common thoughts shared amongst many of the participants:

- Top opportunities for improvements to the trail system in Krause Basin:
 - Trailhead improvements such as parking, addressing garbage and restroom issues
 - Trail maintenance as well as too few authorized trails
 - Accurate trail map
 - Too many user-created trails
 - Conflicting trail uses
 - More enforcement of current uses
- What information is needed at trailheads:
 - Trail restrictions
 - Trailhead restricted activities
 - Trail etiquette
 - Location of system trails



Additional detailed information collected included potential trailhead locations, potential areas for parking expansion, which trails are most used, information needs of the collaborative group, where road condition issues are occurring, where the biggest trail conditions concerns are, and other preferences for future management of the area.

Course of Action

The work of the Krause Basin Collaborative provided me better insight into the area values held by public users. In considering actions for future management activities in the area, I am utilizing information provided by the public while adhering to past decisions and current laws. I am implementing the following immediate actions that the District and Forest can take to improve conditions at Krause Basin:

- Improve trail maintenance of existing system trails.
 - Maintenance includes taking actions within existing trail corridors to address erosion concerns, vegetation encroachment, and discourage use of user created trails. This includes blocking access to user created trails by utilizing boulders, vegetation, or other means that are effective. The goal is to administer existing system trails to standard.
- Trailhead improvements – provide updated trail location map at Strawberry Lake Trailhead and Krause Basin Interpretative Trailhead that clearly states uses and trail etiquette.
 - https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1063048.pdf
 - This action does not add any signage on trails, only maps at existing trailheads.
- Look to utilize volunteers and / or partner groups to assist with trail maintenance.
- Look for opportunities to increase presence in the area either by or in combination with law enforcement, Forest Service personnel, other potential partners / volunteers to monitor uses in the area.
 - This will be accomplished in part by Forest Service personnel completing trail maintenance.
 - This will require flexibility based off staffing levels of Forest Service personnel, priorities, and available partners / volunteers.

The timeline to implement these activities shall begin during Fiscal Year 2024 and will be ongoing. The Swan Lake Ranger District will continue to assess progress and adjust as needed. Future projects and decisions in this area will go through the appropriate level of planning based on current laws and management direction.



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