

## Meeting Notes

### Recreation System Group Meeting #4

June 25, 2014

This meeting included:

- A review of the remaining steps in Scenario Planning
- Summary of other System Groups
- Review and discussion on Vision
- Goals and Metrics group discussion and informal Goals polling

### Steps in Scenario Planning

Jeff Heilman reviewed the remaining steps and how they fit together.

#### June-July

- 2 System Group meetings
- Stakeholder, public and committee input

*Finalize: Vision, Goals, and Metrics*

#### August-October

- 3 System Group charrettes completes formal System Group meetings
- Stakeholder, committee and public input

*Design Features explained, design features mapped, apply metrics to existing conditions to generate the System report card*

#### November - January

- Small workshop and charrette
- Stakeholder, committee and public input
- Exec Board select preferred

*Combine Systems, stakeholder and public involvement and refinement, then select a Preferred Scenario*

Reid further elaborated that in the next stages of Scenario Planning the system group will build on information gathered as part of existing conditions. In Charette 1 the approach will be to stay at a high level and identify high, moderate and low-use areas and nodes. In Charettes 2 and 3 the group will apply design features to those areas and nodes.

### System Groups Update

Layne Jones presented an overview of other System Group Vision, Goals, and Metrics.

The group had comments on the other groups' goals and metrics and questions regarding how some words were defined—in particular “quality of life.” Some expressed an interest in providing input to the

other groups (Economy in particular). Ultimately the group decided that the best way to address concerns with other groups' potential actions (in particular on the subject of reinvestment) is by creating goals, metrics, and supporting design features which best represent the needs of the Recreation System.

### Vision Discussion and Polling

Michael Barille introduced the draft vision statement which was distributed to the group before the meeting and is available on the Mountain Accord website. An overview was provided on the process for developing the Vision including system group meetings, small group work, relevant research, and review of other cases studies. Additionally, the group discussed what successful implementation of the vision might look like, including discussion a case study of the Upper and Lower Yosemite Falls Trails. Implementing the vision involves integration of a range of high quality opportunities for different levels of users, from casual to high intensity users, within defined high use areas. By focusing high levels of use at particular nodes, with a variety of recreation opportunities thoughtfully designed and planned for, other areas are able to be preserved for people to experience solitude, naturalness, and other wilderness values by reducing the volume of use in those areas.

#### **Discussion:**

Word choice is important to this group and key points were discussed on the following words and phrases: sustainable, promoting/encouraging/accommodating/directing/managing. There was lengthy discussion on terminology associated with "key developed locations," what is meant by that phrase, and how it does/does not relate to the USFS definitions and other terms used (primitive, dispersed, developed, etc.). An explanation supporting the intentions of vision statement is in the packet distributed to the group before the meeting. Additional comments were made about the emphasis placed on mountain recreation; foothills are also an important component.

The group reviewed the revised Vision statement but thought additional changes were needed. *The consultant team will revise and conduct a formal poll to indicate level of concurrence before the next system group meeting.*

### Goals and Metrics Discussion and Polling

Brad Barber introduced the draft Goals and Metrics and provided background as to how the goals were developed, similar to the vision process (small group meeting June 9—Alaska, Zion, and Switzerland models). Small group thought that it would be good to incorporate elements of each (high use, dispersed used, levels of acceptable change). Consider: location of development, increased connectivity and funding opportunities. Reid presented goals in detail.

#### **Discussion:**

Goal 1: There was some discussion on word choice. Should we identify other areas where we want to create different opportunities (maybe this is captured in Goal 2)? Contemplate sustainability—this is different at resorts vs. ecosystems, for example.

Goal 2: Does this mean low-level use? What does "special and unique mean?" Consider using solitude, naturalness. (This is primarily a backcountry goal).

Goal 3: Clarification that this goal applies to summer trails.

Goal 4: It was advised that the group should not try to differentiate between the intended uses of land preserved/gain access, rather just state "land preservation (add publically accessible)."

Goal 5: No changes.

*A majority of the System Group, by a show of hands, indicated their concurrence with the goals and a desire to move forward.*

- 1) Concur 23
- 2) Concur with minor point of contention 8 (*send comments to Reid*)
- 3) Disagree with outcome but consent to move forward 0
- 4) Dissent 0
- 5) Waive or Abstain 0

One person commented: the goals should be simpler with a clearer and easier to understand intent. Suggested incorporating the supporting documentation in a more useable format. Highlight key words.

**Metrics Introduction (Reid):**

Three ways to get at metrics: Informed Calculation, Qualitative Assessment, and Physical Measurement.

Brainstorming Metrics (to compare scenarios in the next three months)

Metrics Goal 1: Differentiate between ski resorts and other. Acres used (map resorts, backcountry)

Note: acres might not be ideal because the quality of a particular acreage (esp. backcountry: slope, usability, etc., may not be equivalent to those at resorts). We have some of the acreage information as part of existing conditions.

Metrics Goal 2: Acres used (map resorts, backcountry)

**Action Items**

- Incorporate the Backcountry Alliance information at the next meeting. (Reid)
- Send input on Vision to Reid by the end of the day Monday. (System Group Members)
- Consultant team will revise Vision statement and do an interim poll. (Reid)
- Schedule a small group meeting to occur before next System Group meeting. (Reid)

Name	Organization	Title	Phone	Email	6/25/14 Attendance
<b>Co-Chairs</b>					
Brad Barber	Planning & Land Conservation Consultant			<a href="mailto:barberconsult@comcast.net">barberconsult@comcast.net</a>	✓
<b>Members</b>					
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Nate Smith	Mountain Education Development	Executive Director	1-877-MED-7991	Nate.Smith@MountainED.com	
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<b>Observers</b>					
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*More on back* ★