

Lower White River
Biodiversity Management Area
Stewardship Planning Meeting
December 13, 2006

Auburn City Hall
25 West Main
Auburn, WA 98002

Present: Michelle Tirhi – Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Linda Burgess - Puyallup River Watershed Council
Burr Mosby - property owner
Bob and Lavern Anderson - property owners
Bill and Kathy Adsmund - property owners
Cindy Plass – city of Auburn
Paula Wiech – City of Pacific, property owner
Steve Ladd – City of Bonney Lake, property owner
Ryan Mello – Cascade Land Conservancy
Pat Johnson – City of Buckley
Jeanne Fancher – citizen of Pacific
John Garner, Metro Parks
Dr. Ernie Bay – Foothills Rails to Trails
John Berry – Foothills Rails to Trails
Tracy Engels – LWR BMA Conservation Coordinator

Presentation was given by Dr. Ernie Bay, former president of Foothills Rails to Trails coalition. Dr. Bay spoke about the history of the trail system in Pierce and King Counties and its future.

The Foothills Trail was literally born in Buckley where Dr. Tait came from Canada to serve as the town's only physician for many years. Among the families to which he administered was that of Buckley native Jan Wolcott, now Director of Pierce County Parks. Doc Tait delivered all of the Wolcott children, so it was only natural that he turn to Jan in return for help in delivering the Foothills Trail. For all of his skill it was not a project that he could have handled alone. Successful trail projects require a coalition of people with Doc's vision and passion, a supportive public agency and sources of funding. It was Doc's early leadership that brought these resources together.

The thousands of miles of trails in the mountains and backwoods of the Puget Sound region make for great adventures, but most of the time we'd like to safely walk or ride a bike in our own community. The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition actively supports community trails. The Foothills Trail is Pierce County's largest community trail project with a total of 30 miles being developed from Puyallup through Orting and South Prairie to Buckley with another branch through Wilkeson to Carbonado. Local communities are planning many extensions to the core trail: Orting wants to build branch trails, Puyallup

is developing a link that will extend along the Puyallup River, Sumner is blazing trail from the Puyallup River up to King County, Enumclaw is connecting to the Buckley section of the Foothills Trail at the White River, Edgewood, Milton and Fife are reviving the Interurban commuter corridor of the early 1900s, Tacoma is creating a pedestrian corridor from the Thea Foss Waterway to Point Defiance, The new Narrows Bridge will link with Gig Harbor's Cushman Trail. Our ultimate goal is a regional network of hiking and biking trails all the way from Mount Rainier to Commencement Bay. A group of Coalition members have planned a first-of-its-kind relay run that will demonstrate our goal. They will begin early June 7 at the Carbon River entrance to Mt. Rainier National Park and run to the Dickman Mill on Ruston Way using sections of the Foothills and other trails wherever possible.

Local and statewide polls consistently rank safe and pleasing places to get out, walk, run, skate or ride a bike as the most requested recreational facilities.

After Dr. Bay's talk the group settled down to working on the stewardship plan by designating several "conservation targets", or attributes in the LWR BMA that they would like to see preserved or enhanced. There was discussion on each item and stresses and action items will be applied to each in the future. The items will be assessed according to The Nature Conservancy's 5S plan and put in a workable form, to which the group will add in future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.