



DATE: March 12, 2023

TO: USFS Snoqualmie Ranger District

FROM: White River FPA

SUBJECT: March 2023 Report & Hours

Organizational Issues

Nothing new.

Forest Report

There is quite a bit of new snow in the mountains and on forest roads in March and early April. Sign damage and vandalism is light.

About a year ago, there was an emerging problem with jeepers parking their vehicles with trailers illegally on the 73 roads, blocking traffic. Emergency vehicles could not get past them, and some PSE repair crews could not access downed powerlines, delaying power restoration after storms. The last straw came when jeepers, probably drunk, were completely blocking the roads to the Crystal River Ranch, and some were saying they could stop all traffic for up to a half hour at a time and trying to start fights with local residents who politely asked them to stop blocking the county roads to the community.

We began a program of posting notices on vehicles parked illegally, asking them to comply with the law and informing them that their trucks and trailers could be towed at their own risk and expense. The results have been excellent, and compliance with these notices has decreased the lawbreakers by about 95% without having the vehicles towed! We also inform them of the extremely high rate of these vehicles being broken into by local meth people, saving them damage and money.

They have also been parking illegally on Muckleshoot land and sometimes blocking gates that must remain open for firefighters and Puget Sound Energy repair vehicles.

Here is what the notices look like:



We are delighted to find this program working so well thus far. Our intent is voluntary compliance and reducing conflict, blocking traffic for emergency vehicles, fights, and threats from the jeeping community against local residents.

Signs are staying up quite well so far this spring, and we will be able to get to some higher places to check those signs soon as well.

We are doing some brush placement this spring along the area of the 70 road where jeepers have been destroying the riverbank of the Greenwater River, including tearing up the riverbed and fish spawning areas.

70 Pit

No improvement from the last reports –disgusting and extremely unsafe activity remains there daily.

7013 Area

Perfect this last month!

Illegal Camping

Excellent compliance on the Greenwater River.

Cedar Springs Site Concept

Pending. Conservation NW has a plan we endorsed and sent a letter of support. We hope they will gain funding and be able to move forward on this significant project in the coming years!

Volunteer Hours

Current Month volunteer hours for the WRFPA are: **49**

Total Hours for WRFPA since November 2018: **5,911**

Sign Inventory

Okay, for now, sign loss has been minimal this last month.

Issues Moving Forward

- Discussion on permanent closure of 70 pit (see the report from last month).
- Permanent closure of the 7013 and access road remediation – move the gate out to the very edge of the 70 road.