

DATE: September 10, 2007
TO: Genesee Foundation Board of Directors
FROM: Anne Sherwood
SUBJECT: GEM Committee Report
9/12/07 Board Agenda Item VI.A.2.

OPEN SPACE 2007

See report forwarded by Management.

Dogwood Shaded Fuel Break

Recommended the following in lieu of tree thinning:

- Trees marked for removal will be left standing.
- Trees will be laddered to a height recommended by Dahl Environmental Services
- Deadwood will be removed.
- Brome grass along Genesee Trail will be mowed.

A letter has been sent to Dogwood residents informing them of this resolution.

OPEN SPACE 2008

Integrated Planning Process

Designated ten acre area near Stonecrop – Bear Trail over to Bitterroot – as the integrated test site. It includes a number of open space components: shaded fuel break; sanitation thinning; meadows; Aspens; riparian.

Budget Proposal

Approved an Open Space Project matrix and a supporting \$84,060 budget proposal.

DYING ROADSIDE TREES

Anne Sherwood, Gary McKay, and Carla Andrews met with Larry Benshoof, JeffCo Director of Roads & Bridges, on August 13th to discuss options for preventing further harm to roadside trees and removing existing dying/dead trees. Summary of the discussion follows:

- The dying tree problem is primarily on the north side, from the Vista clubhouse down both entrance roads. The Foundation has taken down 50 – 75 roadside trees, large and small.
- Regarding providing financial assistance in taking down trees, the County must apply such action to the entire county and does not have the resources to do much.

- **JeffCo uses Ice Slicer and traction sand on sharp curves and steep grades to insure traffic safety. Ice Slicer is a mined product that is made up of naturally occurring chlorides: magnesium, calcium, sodium, and potassium.**
- **Chloride is considered the most toxic element in deicing salts. Damage to trees comes from spray off passing cars, runoff washing into the soil, and salt laden snow plowed onto roadside shoulders. Symptoms often appear suddenly in the spring and develop progressively over the years.**
- **Applications after March 1st cause the most damage as trees are beginning to break dormancy and take up soil water containing deicer runoff. Unfortunately spring is often a time of heavy snow falls.**
- **While chlorides have a negative impact on trees, other factors such as drought, drainage, and root stress must be considered in determining the cause of dying roadside trees.**
- **Trees in ditch lanes are volunteers; they were not there when roads were put in. Older trees on the other side of ditch lanes probably had roots cut when road went in.**
- **The County agreed to “put a microscope” on how much Ice Slicer is applied and requested feedback on areas that are reported as “overdone.” Application adjustments can be made as long as traffic safety can still be maintained.**