

COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION PLAN

FOR THE

METHOW REVIEW DISTRICT

OF

OKANOGAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

An Addendum to the Okanogan County Trails Plan

June 1990

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SUMMARY

This study and development plan was initiated in 1989 because discussions of trail potential in the Methow Valley with both residents and visitors to the area indicated that trails of various types were a very high priority to many individuals. Accordingly the Methow Valley Advisory Committee on Trails was formed by a group of interested individuals to assess the need for more trails, better coordination, and increased funding sources.

The results of the initial meetings indicated that there was increasing demand on existing trails, and that new trails were needed to better disperse recreational users and to accommodate non-motorized transportation by residents. The Committee concluded in studying current and potential uses that it is vital to the County to have a system of trails, not only as an amenity for residents and visitors but to provide some organized structure to development in those areas under the most development pressure.

It was seen that without such a plan the areas under the most development pressure, particularly the Methow Valley, would see grid development that would change the rural nature of the area, inhibit the movement of wildlife, and swallow up existing open space.

The Committee also concluded during the course of these meetings that, while the predominant need was for such a trail system, there might also be a demand for other county recreational facilities. Accordingly, public meetings were advertised and held, and a survey was circulated to determine what other needs the residents of the Valley perceived. The results of these meetings and the survey are documented in the Public Participation section.

This plan is intended to be a conceptual base to provide structure for a system of trails and other recreational facilities and to address the needs of the various existing and/or potential users of these facilities. The primary user groups that were considered in this plan are: bicyclists, cross-country skiers, hikers/backpackers, horseback riders, dogsledders and snowmobilers.

The information contained within this plan was developed at a series of meetings of the Methow Valley Advisory Committee on Trails. The Committees solicited opinions of interested individuals and user groups informally in addition to the more formal processes of convening public meetings and circulating a survey. The analysis and recommendations that follow are the result of this entire process.

The support of this study and the creation of a system of adequately funded trails are steps that the Advisory Committee feels will long be remembered by the residents and visitors to the County. With continuing support from the County and coordination

with the Forest Service, there is an excellent opportunity to improve the quality of life for all of the citizens of the Methow Valley.

Methow Valley Advisory Committee on Trails
Okanogan County, Washington
June, 1990

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BACKGROUND

As timber harvest levels in Okanogan County have decreased, and agricultural land has increasingly come under the pressure of residential development, much of Okanogan County has begun to shift to a recreation based economy. The U.S. Forest Service, particularly the Twisp and Winthrop Ranger Districts, are accordingly recognizing the opportunities that increased recreational use in the area provides. The Okanogan National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan approved in 1990 states, in pertinent part (Sec. 4-22),

"The Forest will encourage, establish, and sustain a diverse and balanced spectrum of quality recreation opportunities, services, and facilities in recreation service partnerships with outdoor recreation and use groups; other recreation providers; and groups representing ethnic minorities, disabled, economically disadvantaged, and youth."

Okanogan County government has also recognized this shift, and the increasing residential development that has accompanied the proposed Early Winters Resort and Puget Sound Basin economic prosperity. The County has passed land use regulations which encourage the retention of open space attendant to planned development (Okanogan County Interim Zoning Ordinance, Sec. 17.45.000); an adequate trail system is critical to making this regime functional by connecting residential clusters to each other and to human services.

In the Mazama Area Master Plan, the most recent addendum to Okanogan County's Comprehensive Plan, the transportation and Circulation section provides that a pedestrian orientation should be encouraged, along with alternative modes such as bicycles and equestrian (8.1). Moreover, County and State agencies are exhorted in the Implementation Strategy (8.3) to coordinate their activities with the community, and area residents are encouraged to help administer and fund trail systems in coordination with the County and other appropriate agencies.

To this end the Methow Institute Foundation was formed as a non-profit charitable organization in the fall of 1989. The Foundation has acquired letters of intent to donate land for right

of way alignments from property owners between Winthrop and Mazama, pending final determination of charitable status for the organization. Over seventy such commitments have been obtained, including all of those necessary for continuous routes between Winthrop, Sun Mountain and Mazama.

The bike path/ski trail/equestrian trail system begun by the Methow Institute Foundation is a recreational amenity and an alternative method of transportation that will be a major

enhancement to the County in the future. The development of these and other County Trail facilities will require infrastructure development in the form of surveying, clearing, leveling and seeding. Private tax-deductible contributions will be solicited, and grant applications will be submitted to pay for such development costs. Rights of way to connect all population centers and provide good through routes will be sought for dedication to the county or public benefit organizations such as the Methow Institute Foundation.

While the formation of this Foundation and the beginning of the Methow Valley Community Trail System provided much of the impetus for this plan, it was conceived and created as a conceptual tool to help the County as a whole with recreation planning, coordination, and funding. It is hoped that the development of this plan will help foster recreational development in other areas of the County, and inspire individuals and communities to form their own organizations for this purpose.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Recreation Plan are to 1) provide a conceptual framework and operative facts necessary to create recreational opportunities in the Methow Valley; 2) identify the current needs of the Methow Valley for trails and other recreational facilities; 3) encourage the development of facilities that will make non-vehicular travel in the Methow Valley possible; and 4) establish eligibility for grant-in-aid assistance from the IAC and other funding agencies.

People continue to live, move to, and visit areas like the Methow Valley because of the high quality of life to be enjoyed in such areas. The system of trails contemplated by this Plan will provide recreational facilities, facilitate alternative methods of local transportation, and provide opportunities for physical development for residents and visitors alike. Having these facilities readily available, and easily found and accessed by the public, will provide an opportunity for them to include hiking, biking, skiing, jogging and running into their daily schedules. This will improve both the physical and mental health of those who take advantage of the facilities provided.

GOALS

The following are the goals and objectives which will be met by the successful completion of projects which are undertaken pursuant to this Plan. Many of these goals and objectives in turn implement parts of Okanogan County's existing Comprehensive Plan, specifically Mazama Area Master Plan, the most recent addendum to Okanogan County's Comprehensive Plan.

Goal No. 1: Encourage recreational opportunities that will serve both residents and recreational visitors to the Methow Valley.

Objective No. 1: To provide trail facilities for year-round recreation, including walking, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding and skiing in the Methow Valley. Recreational use in the Methow Valley has increased dramatically in recent years by both residents and visitors alike. As is noted in the Demands and Needs section of this application, this increased pressure on existing trails requires an expansion of the trail system in the area to accommodate this increased demand and maintain the experience of the user.

Objective No. 2: To provide trails that will allow users with all levels of experience and physical ability to enjoy the outdoors and grow in their experience. Senior citizens and those with physical infirmities would benefit from the proposed project by the addition of trails in natural areas that are easily accessible for persons of all physical abilities. While many of the trails on adjacent Forest Service land are appropriate for younger and more physically fit users, those trails may not be appropriate for older visitors and residents, or those with some physical disability.

Objective No. 3: To provide support facilities for the trails in the form of adequate signage, benches and warming huts to enhance the experience of trail users.

Goal No. 2: To effectively utilize all trail facilities in the Methow Valley.

Objective No. 1: To coordinate planning and construction with the United State Forest Service. A relationship has already been

established with the recreation planners in the U.S. Forest Service office, Winthrop Ranger District, in Winthrop, Washington.

Objective No. 2: To utilize the resources of local outfitters and the Methow Valley Ski Touring Association whenever possible to assist in the maintenance and operation of the trail system.

Objective No. 3: To provide adequate information to users and potential users of the trail system. This includes dissemination of information at trail heads, lodges and inns, and local information centers.

Goal No. 3: To encourage non-vehicular travel in the Methow Valley.

Objective No. 1: To encourage pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian travel between population clusters, resort areas, towns and other recreational areas by providing trail alignments that make such travel possible.

Objective No. 2: To coordinate trail plans with residential developers in order to connect residential clusters to each other and to service centers in a meaningful fashion.

Goal No. 4: To utilize volunteer help and the resources of local, non-profit organizations to implement trail projects.

Objective No. 1: To maintain an organization to oversee the funding and implementation of trail projects. A non-profit corporation, the Methow Institute Foundation, has already been formed for this purpose. The Board of Directors of the Foundation is comprised of local individuals, including the Forest Service Planner, who have interest and expertise in trail construction, maintenance and operation.

Objective No. 2: To seek innovative ways to fund trail projects through revenues from tourism. This includes portions of the County hotel/motel tax, or a similar bed tax for the service area of the trail system.

Objective No. 3: Structure trail construction and maintenance projects so that local beneficiaries such as inns and lodges can see the benefit from participating in the construction and maintenance of adjacent trail segments.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AREA

The planning area lies north and west of the Town of Carlton, Washington, which is located in the North-Central part of the State of Washington, in the scenic Methow Valley.

This area is part of the Upper Columbia Region of the State, which is the largest area of the 13 designated economic regions in Washington. The Upper Columbia Region encompasses an area of approximately 10,050 square miles, including the three counties of Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan.

Okanogan County had a population of 31,470 in 1986, as compared with 25,520 in 1960. This represents a population increase of just under 23 percent from 1960. The majority of this population increase was due to migration into the county and natural increase of births over deaths.

A large part of the total land area in Okanogan County lies within the boundaries of the Okanogan National Forest. This is reflected by the relatively sparse population of the county (.6 per square mile).

The county economy is related primarily to agriculture (cattle ranching and other farm projects), forest products and tourism.

Construction work also contributes to the county economy; however, the number of jobs varies considerably, depending on construction and other miscellaneous building activity.

Tourism and recreation are expanding at an ever-increasing rate and have become the most important economic factor in the economy of Okanogan County. Although a major part of the economy in earlier years, mining contributes little to the area's economy today. However, some exploration of copper, primarily, along with geothermal sources, is currently being done and could be expanded possibly in the future.

The Methow Valley is the corridor for State Highway 20, which is commonly known as the North Cascades Highway between Interstate

Highway 5 on the West and the Mazama-Winthrop-Twisp area on the east.

This highway was officially opened to the public in September of 1972 after a search of over 50 years for a route across the North Cascade Mountain Range. This highway traverses some of the most rugged and scenic terrain in Washington, including land located within the boundaries of the North Cascades National Park.

The opening of this highway created a major increase in recreational use of the park, including campgrounds located on or near the highway and other recreational uses. The highway is generally closed in the winter months from approximately mid-November to mid-April because of heavy snowfall. The length of closure is, of course, dependent on annual climatic conditions.

Approximate driving time by automobile from Seattle, which is located approximately 202 miles southwest of Winthrop, is 4 hours when the North Cascades Highway is open. This compares with approximately 4 hours 15 minutes from Vancouver B.C., which is located approximately 225 miles northwest of Winthrop.

When the North Cascade Highway is closed, a more circuitous route is necessary via State Highway 2, east from Everett to connecting highways north of Wenatchee. Driving time from Seattle via this year-round route is approximately 5 hours. This route also leads through some of Washington's most scenic area, including the Stevens Pass area and the Cascade Loop.

The Methow Valley has one of the finest climates in the State, including abundant sunshine year-round, low rainfall and invigorating four-season climate. The general area encompasses primarily cattle ranches and farms, with several small towns and communities in the lower area, surrounded by National Forest lands. The area is attracting many new visitors each year because

of its near perfect climate. Some of these recreational facilities include prime hunting and fishing, along with 150 km. (90+ miles) of machine groomed cross-country ski trails, heli-skiing, snowmobiling, camping, hiking, rock climbing, boating, river rafting, and general relaxation in a western atmosphere.

Big game species include Mule deer, Whitetail deer, Mountain Goats, Black Bear, California Big Horn Sheep and a few moose.

Some of the fish included in the streams and lakes in the area include Rainbow trout, Eastern Brook trout, Cutthroat trout, Dolly Varen trout, Chinook salmon and Steelhead. A large part of the trout are hatchery reared planted fish.

Game birds include ducks, Blue grouse, Ruffle grouse, Ptarmigan and Chukars.

The area was originally opened for settlement by the Federal government in 1887 with mining and ranching being the primary economic factors in the early days. Subsequently, timber products became an important part of the local economy. Cattle ranching and farming, along with the timber products industry, have been joined by recreation and tourism as the mainstays of the local economy.

Major employment sources in the Mazama-Winthrop-Twisp area are similar to those for the county in general, including

agriculture,
logging, recreation and tourism. All of these industries have
been historically cyclical in nature, with substantial employment
drops during the winter months. This has changed dramatically in
the Methow Valley particularly due to the extensive development
and promotion of cross country skiing, snowmobiling and other
winter activities. Tourist orientated business in the Methow
(lodges, restaurants and shops) have successfully tailored their
business to attract the cross country skiers, mountain
bicyclists,
back packers, back country horsemen and nature hikers. The
Methow Valley Ski Touring Association currently grooms 150+

kilometers (90+ miles) of contiguous trails, supporting its maintenance and operation by the sale of trail passes during the winter months.

Various individuals and groups are involved in the promotion of winter recreation in the Methow Valley, including The United States Forest Service (Co-sponsor of the proposed community trail), owners of lodges, Methow Marketing, Chamber of Commerce, winter sports groups such as Methow Valley Winters Sports Council,

Pacific Northwest Mountaineering Club, Friends of the Methow, Methow Valley Ski Touring Association, local snowmobile clubs and individual local businessmen.

The trail system involved the following Township, Ranges, & Sections in Eastern Washington:

Township	36N	Range 19 E.W.M	Section
			4
			5
			6
			8
			9
			15
			16
			22
			23
			24
			25
			26
			36

Township	35N	Range 20 E.W.M	Section
			3
			4
			5
			8
			9
			10
			13
			15
			22
			23
			24

Township	36N	Range 20 E.W.M	Section
			30
			31
			32

Township	35N	Range 21 E.W.M	Section
			19
			29
			30
			31
			32
			33
			34

Township	34N	Range 21 E.W.M	Section
			2
			3
			4

5
7
8
9
10
11

Township	34N	Range 23 E.W.M	Section 33 34 35 36
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Township	33N	Range 23 E.W.M	Section 1 2 3 4
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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The development of the Methow Review District Comprehensive Recreation Plan was undertaken by a group of concerned local citizens in the fall of 1989 at the request of the Okanogan County

Commissioners because of the lack of available County funds to do so. The Methow Valley Advisory Committee on Trails was formed from this group of citizens and meetings were held periodically through the winter of 1989. During this process it became increasingly clear that one of the central recreational needs of the methow Valley was a valley floor trail that not only provided a recreation amenity in and of itself, but also linked the existing network of Forest Service and MVSTA trails to each other and provided a connective link between existing communities, resorts, and small inns.

Opinions of other individuals who are active in outdoor recreational pursuits in the Valley were solicited by the Committee members. Many of these people contributed their ideas both informally to committee members and during meetings of the advisory committee. As a result of their participation, additional possibilities for trail alignments were discovered, commitments for materials and labor for trail construction were procured, and limitations of existing facilities became more clearly defined. One of the local packing outfitters expressed concerns that there were not enough trails available where hunting was prohibited, and he feared pressure to close areas where he had camps because of conflicts between his clients and other users during hunting season.

When the Plan finally began to take shape in early summer of 1990, a community meeting was held at the Winthrop Auditorium. This June 24th meeting was advertised in the local newspaper and by the placement of posters throughout the Valley where interested individuals were likely to see them, including local outdoor shops, libraries, and community centers. (See Appendix B). One of the most important comments from that meeting that was eventually incorporated into the plan was the need for warming huts and benches along trails as an important addition to the quality of the experience.

Just prior to the June 24 meeting, letters soliciting participation of representatives of user groups identified in the plan were mailed, along with text from the Uses/Needs sections applicable to that user group. The concerns and user needs that were expressed in response to these mailings have been integrated into the Plan document. Principal among these were the need for single tract trail alignments in the valley that would connect other single tract trails in the National Forest and the need to insure connections to population centers so that people would not need to haul their bikes to trailheads in their cars.

To ensure that the Recreation Plan had adequate public input, and that no significant recreational needs had been omitted from the

plan, another public meeting was advertised and held in the Winthrop Barn on August 15, 1990. (See Appendix B). Comments from the public at that meeting were centered almost exclusively on the need for a valley floor trail system, and adequate support facilities and parking for such a system.

Additionally, a survey to assess recreational needs was circulated to assess the recreational needs and demands of Methow Valley residents and visitors. Notice of the survey was published in the local paper on two separate occasions (See Appendix B), and the survey was circulated at the August 15 Public Meeting. The survey was available at the Winthrop Library, Winthrop Information Center, Twisp Library, outdoor equipment retailers, and the Winthrop and Twisp Forest Service offices.

Exactly one hundred surveys were completed. The results of the survey indicated that the overwhelming preference for County Recreational facilities in the Methow Valley is for trails of various types. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of the preference points were allocated to trails. Other significant findings of the survey were that 1) forty six percent (46%) of the respondents indicated that some of their favorite recreational opportunities had been lost to private land development or closure, or that such loss was imminent; 2) seventy-eight percent (78%) of the respondents agreed that the county should encourage developers of large developments to incorporate recreation amenities into those developments; and finally, 3) fifty-nine percent (59%) of the respondents indicated that they would be willing to volunteer 1-2 days per year to work on recreation projects for which partial funding had been obtained.

The specific results of the survey are as follows:

(Note: 1st preference given 3 points, 2nd preference given 2 points, 3rd preference given 1 point; responses given 2 points each if not rank ordered.)

1. What kinds of recreational facilities do you think are important for Okanogan County to support in the Methow Valley? (circle up to three, indicate preference 1-2-3)

1.	Walking Trails	153 pts.	26%
2.	Skiing Trails	137 pts.	23%
3.	Mountain Biking Trails	73 pts.	12%
4.	Bicycling Trails	50 pts.	8%
5.	Horseback Riding Trails	48 pts.	8%
6.	Parks	41 pts.	7%
7.	Snowmobile Sno-parks	21 pts.	4%
8.	Ice Skating	13 pts.	2%
9.	Pools	13 pts.	2%
10.	Dog Sledding Trails	12 pts.	2%
11.	Tennis Courts	8 pts.	1%
12.	Golf Course	6 pts.	1%
13.	Music Facilities	6 pts.	1%
14.	Roller Rink	5 pts.	1%
15.	Sports Fields	3 pts.	1%
16.	Rodeo Arenas	1 pt.	0%
17.	Velodromes	0 pts.	0%
18.	Skateboarding Hills	0 pts.	0%

2. Do you think the county's support of recreational facilities in the Methow Valley has been:

A.	Excellent	2	2%
B.	Good	18	18%
C.	Fair	30	30%
D.	Poor	39	39%
	No Answer	11	11%

3. Are you a full time resident, part time resident, or visitor to the Methow Valley?

A.	Full Time Resident	64	64%
B.	Part Time Resident	12	12%
C.	Visitor	23	23%
	No Answer	1	1%

4. Where do you live in the Valley? (If you are a visitor, where are you staying?)

A.	Winthrop area	40	40%
B.	Twisp area	16	16%
C.	Mazama area	34	34%
D.	Carlton area	2	2%
	Other or No Answer	8	8%

5. How close to your home or lodging would a recreational facility have to be for you to incorporate its use into your daily schedule?

A.	One quarter mile	4	4%
B.	One half mile	6	6%
C.	One mile	5	5%
D.	Two miles	11	11%
E.	More than two miles OK	71	71%
	Other or no answer	3	3%

6. Have you lost any of your favorite recreational opportunities (including skiing, walking, or biking trails) to private land development or closure?

A.	Yes	28	28%
B.	No	51	51%
C.	Loss is imminent	18	28%
	Other or no answer	3	3%

7. Do you feel that the county should encourage developers, through restrictions and development incentives, to incorporate recreational amenities into large developments?

A.	Agree strongly	56	56%
B.	Agree somewhat	23	23%
C.	Disagree somewhat	4	4%
D.	Disagree strongly	10	10%
E.	No opinion	3	3%
	Other or no answer	4	4%

8. How many times during the past two years have you walked, hiked, biked, or skied on trails in the Methow Valley?

A.	Once	9	9%
B.	Two or three times	8	8%
C.	Four to ten times	10	10%
D.	More than ten times	72	72%
	Other or no answer	1	1%

9. Besides contributions and grants, how do you think the county should pay for recreational facilities in the Methow Valley? (Indicate preference 1-2-3)

1.	Combination of fees & taxes	159 pts.	39%
2.	Fees for all users	115 pts.	28%
3.	Taxes on tourists	92 pts.	22%
	(bed or meal tax)		
4.	Tourist fees only	31 pts.	8%
5.	Taxes on residents	6 pts.	1%
6.	Taxes on new development	6 pts.	1%
	(write-in)		

10. Would you be willing to volunteer time to work on
recreation
projects for which partial funding has been obtained? (per
year)

A.	1-2 hours	4	4%
B.	3-4 hours	4	4%
C.	5-6 hours	10	10%
D.	1-2 days	59	59%
E.	Unwilling to contribute time	16	16%
	No Answer	7	7%

11. What is your age?

A.	Under 18	0	0%
B.	18-30	17	17%
C.	30-45	58	58%
D.	45-60	16	16%
E.	Over 60	9	9%

USES, DEMANDS AND NEEDS

This plan encompasses a variety of trail-related activities.

This focus results from the public input process, where it was discovered that trail facilities were overwhelmingly the highest priority of residents and visitors to the Methow Valley.

Although the Forest Service provides many trails in the area, none are on the valley floor with gentle terrain, and none provide the kind of connective link to existing trails that this plan contemplates.

The fact that the proposed valley trail system will provide a flatter or gently rolling trail grade will appeal to a large sector of the public. Physically impaired individuals will enjoy the easier grades of the surfaced lower elevation trail.

Although the trail will be in a spectacular natural setting, the actual trail will be wide, surfaced, and easy to find and use which is ideal for those are physically impaired.

Most of the other lower priority needs expressed by residents at the public meetings and by respondents to the survey are currently being served by entities other than Okanogan County; expansion of those facilities makes the most sense in addressing unmet need.

The Forest Service currently provides the public with camp grounds and picnic areas. Towns in the Methow Valley provide other community centered recreational facilities. There is a pool in Twisp, a band shell in Winthrop, and both communities have parks, ballfields, and tennis courts. Boating and Fishing area available on a number of local lakes with access provided by the Washington State Department of Wildlife. Pearrygin Lake State Park is located just north of Winthrop. There is a rodeo arena near Winthrop as well as a golf course at Bear Creek, with two other private golf courses in the planning stage.

Each trail related activity addressed in this section has it own specific requirements and therefore will be discussed separately. The nature of the experience, the conditions that would enhance the experience, conflicts and hazards, current use and projected growth, economic impacts, facilities in place, and facilities that are needed, will all be discussed with a view towards determining the direction that should be taken to create trail systems and

other recreational amenities for visitors to, and residents of, the Methow Valley. The primary activities that are addressed are:

Mountain Biking
Road Bicycling
Cross Country Skiing
Ski Touring
Hiking and Walking
Horseback Riding
Snowmobiling
Dogsledding

MOUNTAIN BIKING

THE EXPERIENCE: Most new bikes purchased in the County and bikes brought in by tourists are now mountain bikes. Part of the appeal of this type of bicycle is the upright riding position and high level of stability, but the biggest appeal is the ability of these bikes to go on more than paved surfaces. Logging roads, jeep roads, ORV trails, hiking trails and cow trails are all fun to ride on a mountain bike. Most mountain cyclists prefer smooth single-track trail. Many local residents cycle roads and trails throughout the County. Many tourists visiting the area are looking for places to ride their mountain bikes, since they have few off-paved-road opportunities in their home/city environment. People ride for physical fitness, scenic beauty and the feeling of fun and freedom.

EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS: Scenic views and a variety of terrain.

CONFLICTS AND HAZARDS: There is a possibility of conflict between bikes and horses on the same trail. Horses are sometimes startled by mountain bikes. There is also a possibility of conflicts with hikers and joggers if use on some trails is high enough.

CURRENT USE AND PROJECTED GROWTH: 1989's mountain bike festival drew over 250 participants. Over 80% of bikes sold in 1989 were mountain bikes with well over a million sold in the U.S. there are now five mountain bike rental operations in the Methow Valley.

No new numbers are available, but the increase in riders on the trails and mountain bikes on the roof racks of cars in town is noticeable. The growth of this sport is expected to continue.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: The Methow Valley has a reputation for being one of the best mountain biking areas in the State, yet the facilities for single track riding are very limited. With the development of a Valley floor trail connecting Mazama to Winthrop, this reputation won't fade and mountain bicyclists will have a significantly positive impact on the Methow Valley. Often the best riding is in the spring and fall just when other tourist

activities are slack. The 1989 Methow Mountain Bike Festival drew over 250 participants in October who stayed from two to four days and bought lodging, gas, food and souvenirs.

FACILITIES IN PLACE: The Winthrop District of the Okanogan National Forest has identified forty-one mountain bike routes, mostly on logging roads and often a long distance from the towns and commercial centers. There are also a number of bike routes on the Twisp Ranger District. Most of the MVSTA ski trails are open to mountain bikes with the most use occurring on the Sun Mountain Trails. Few of these routes are single-track trails and few are suitable for novice riders. A Valley floor trail would be easy to ride and usable by a wide range of people. There are large bike route maps displayed at the Winthrop Mountain Sports Store and at the Virginian Motel in Winthrop. The Forest Service has produced a guide and map of the area.

FACILITIES NEEDED: The most important facility for mountain bikers are single-track trails. More single-track trails are needed close to the major towns and near the Valley floor. The trails should connect population centers, resort areas, and especially scenic areas. In the Methow Valley there is ideal terrain in the State Wildlife areas and on private lands. These trails should be two feet wide, smooth and have grades no steeper than 20%. Signing and mapping is important. Marking intersections is crucial, since it is a difficulty to stop and pull out a map at each intersection. Many out-of-area cyclists would like campgrounds adjacent to good riding areas and all riders would like small picnic facilities at scenic spots along the trails. It's also important to have the ability to maintain the routes by removing down trees, rocks, etc.

ROAD BICYCLING

THE EXPERIENCE: Road bicycles or "ten speeds" are designed for efficient riding on paved surfaces. These bikes are characterized by drop handle bars and skinny tires. Road riders are looking for smooth, scenic and lightly used roads and bike paths. Many people still tour by bicycle. Rides range from a quick spin around the block to a trans-continental trek. Many long distance tourers camp as they go, but more and more cyclists are traveling light and staying at inns and lodges. People ride for health and fitness, to see the country and sometimes to commute to work or school. If we want to develop and continue to build a reputation of being a scenic, friendly, courteous resort area with quality facilities, then we should consider the bicyclist who comes through or spends a few days in our County.

EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS: Scenic views, variety of terrain, and light traffic.

CONFLICTS AND HAZARDS: Vehicular traffic is the major hazard to cyclists. A possible conflict with walkers and joggers on paved bicycle paths could occur.

CURRENT USE AND PROJECTED GROWTH: Bikecentennial, a national non-profit bicycle touring organization, designates the North Cascade Highway as the start/finish of their northern trans-continental route. Other commercial bike touring groups pass through on Rt.

#20 doing various routes in the Northwest. Some Puget Sound bike clubs do the Cascade Loop annually. Although mountain bikes are out selling road bikes, the bicycle touring vacation industry is growing strongly with most trips using road bikes on paved roads. Special rides to raise money or otherwise are on the rise. The annual STP (Seattle to Portland) drew over 5,000 cyclists last summer.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: Bicycle tourists do contribute to our tourist economy and should not be left out. Bicyclists will not buy much gas in Okanogan County, but they will buy food and lodging and not use up parking places or add to air pollution.

FACILITIES IN PLACE: There are a number of very attractive loops in the Methow Review District. Most paved roads make excellent riding when not heavily used by cars and trucks. Unfortunately, SR20 has too much traffic to be safe and enjoyable. SR20 is also the only route available to cyclists between Winthrop and Mazama. An alternative bike route in the upper valley would allow safe and pleasurable riding throughout the Methow Valley.

FACILITIES NEEDED: Car and truck traffic is the major detriment to road riding. Separate bike paths would be ideal. Signs directing cyclist to less traveled routes would direct out-of-area cyclists away from heavy traffic. Where that is not possible, wide road shoulders and warning signs to motorists would help.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

THE EXPERIENCE: Cross country skiing refers to skiing on ground trails, either skating or the traditional diagonal stride. Most trails are groomed with expensive and sophisticated snow cats making a smooth consistent platform 8 to 12 feet wide with one or more set of molder tracks, tracks for the diagonal technique and a smooth lane for skating. This type of nordic skiing is the most popular in the U.S. Because of the constant quality of these groomed trails, many people of differing skill level can have an enjoyable and safe ski outing.

EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS: Scenic views, variety of terrain, variety of vegetation, good snow, and a variety of trail lengths and loops.

CONFLICTS AND HAZARDS: Since a great deal of time, money and effort is spent to groom trails, anything that destroys this is a conflict. Things that can ruin trails are: snowmobiles, pets, livestock, 4-wheel drive vehicles and even walkers.

CURRENT USE AND PROJECTED GROWTH: The Methow Valley is well known throughout the U.S. and Canada as a top quality cross country skier destination. There were between 18,000 and 19,000 skier days on the MVSTA trails in the 89-90 season. The Okanogan Nordic Club grooms some trails at Loup Loup Summit and Loup Loup Ski

Bowl

does the same. These areas probably see 3,000 skier days. Skier use has increased each year by 18%-20% for the past five years on the MVSTA trails. The growth nationally at commercial cross country ski areas is at about 10%. With increases in available lodging and the population increase in the Puget Sound Area,

MVSTA

trail use should increase even more than at it's present rate.

If

the Early Winters Resort goes in, cross country skier days could increase over 100%. Many skiers wish to ski to a destination, or from town to town or inn to inn. The huts in the Rendezvous area operated by Rendezvous Outfitters are a popular destination. The trail from Sun Mountain to Winthrop is also used often.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS: Before the Methow Valley Ski Touring Association was formed and organized and groomed ski trails were available in the Methow Valley, there was almost no winter economy

in the Valley. Cross country skiing is now the major economic generator in the winter months. Some inns and lodges do more winter business than summer trade. Sun Mountain Lodge, just renovated at a cost of 22 million dollars, will depend on cross country skiing for its winter business. Cross country skiing spreads tourist dollars up and down the Valley and encourages small inns and bed and breakfasts. To be successful, Early Winters will have to have a quality cross country ski option available to its guests.

FACILITIES IN PLACE: The Methow Valley Ski Touring Association grooms trails in three different areas: Sun Mountain, Mazama, and

Rendezvous. This equals close to 150 km. of groomed trail and makes the MVSTA system one of the largest in the country. These trails can be accessed from a number of locations. Some trail heads are primitive with nothing more than a trail head sign, while others are at full service resorts. The trails in the Mazama area and the Rendezvous area interconnect and Sun Mountain is connected to Winthrop via groomed trails. MVSTA signs all the trails by name and difficulty, provides toilets at some trail heads, produces trail maps and patrols the trails, as well as grooming them.

FACILITIES NEEDED: The missing link is the connection from Mazama

to Sun Mountain. Most winter visitors stay two nights or less.

With the ability to ski from inn to inn, visitors will stay longer. Some parts of the trail from Sun Mountain to Winthrop are

in danger of being lost to home development. The acquisition of permanent easements of the trail throughout the Methow Valley are critical to the continuation of MVSTA's outstanding trail system and the winter tourist business that goes with it. Increased parking is also needed. Sun Mountain has helped, along with the Forest Service, to develop a day skier parking area near Sun Mountain. The parking area still needs toilets and a small warming hut. Some of the parking areas like Cub Creek and North Cascade Basecamp are too small and need expansion. Many of the MVSTA trails need summer work to allow grooming with minimal snow cover.

MVSTA has no legal easements on much of the trail system and is losing some important trail connections due to land being broken

up and sold. The Methow Community Trail System, with its deeded easements, will provide much needed stability to the MVSTA operations.

SKI TOURING

THE EXPERIENCE: This type of skiing is done away from developed ski areas. A variety of equipment is used ranging from lightweight simple gear to highly sophisticated mountaineering skis, boots and bindings. Some ski tourers are seeking a quiet, gentle outing, while others are looking for exciting downhill

runs. In most cases, the snow is in it's natural, ungroomed state, although occasionally ski tourers follow other ski tracks or snowmobile tracks.

EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS: Good snow, scenic views, and gentle or steep (depending on skill level), open terrain.

CONFLICTS AND HAZARDS: Occasionally skiers not yielding to snowmobiles on snowmobile trails could result in conflicts. There is an avalanche hazard on many slopes.

CURRENT USE AND PROJECTED GROWTH: The two best seasons for ski touring in the Methow valley are winter and spring. In recent years light snow packs have made low land ski touring limited.

In winter it is difficult to gain access to the high country, although a number of local skiers have purchased snowmobiles and use them to get to higher elevation skiing. In spring, when the North Cascade Highway opens, the area around Washington pass gets lots of use with 3 to 4 parties on week days and 20 or more on weekends. This season goes from mid-April until June or later. The Northwest has been showing a growth in ski touring equipment sales, especially ski mountaineering gear. This growth rate is not as much as cross county skiing on groomed trails.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: Ski touring is enjoyed by locals and tourists. There is some sales of ski gear locally and the tourist do contribute to our tourist economy, especially in the spring.

FACILITIES IN PLACE: There are a number of small turn-outs and parking areas that can give access to ski touring areas. Loup Loup Summit, the Methow Wildlife ranges, and the end of the plowing on Highway # 20 in Mazama are the most used. Some tourers also gain access to high country via helicopter. In the spring, while plowing of the North Cascade Highway is in progress, skiers can often park at the Silver Star Gate.

FACILITIES NEEDED: Spring access to high country is the biggest problem. Having another gate at Cutthroat Creek could allow earlier access to good touring in the Cutthroat Lake area. The development of high country huts and hostels could make the long haul up out of the valley worth it. There are a number of superb sites available for such development.

HIKING AND WALKING

THE EXPERIENCE: Anything from a short walk near residential
areas
to an extended hike or climb of a backcountry peak. Some people
walk for daily exercise, some for an opportunity to view the
natural surroundings and others for a multi-day vacation. In
many
cases, hikers are seeking solitude. Another aspect of hiking is
interpretive trails.

EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS: Scenic views, variety of terrain,
variety of vegetation, wildlife, historic sights, access to
fishing, access to peaks, and interpretive signs.

CONFLICTS AND HAZARDS: Motorized use is a conflict to most hikers

because of the vehicles speed, noise and smell. To a lesser degree, mountain bikes are a conflict because of their speed.

Horses are also a conflict due to size, trail damage (dust, trenching, multiple lanes, etc.) and smell. In some cases, even heavy hiker use is a conflict. Segregation of trails then becomes

a matter of the volume of use. Hazards consist of poor trail marking and unstable trail tread.

CURRENT USE AND PROJECTED GROWTH: Most research shows walking as a major and emerging American recreational pastime. One survey in

Steamboat, Colorado, found winter guests said they would return for hiking and sightseeing in the summer above all other activities. Sun Mountain Lodge, in an evaluation of it's summer recreational activities, found trails to be the most important, with walking the primary use, followed by horesback riding then mountain biking. Currently, there are interpretive trails at Sun Mountain, North Cascades Basecamp, and Mazama Country Inn.

Washington State has a very large population of hikers with one of the longest Volksmarch associations in the country. There is a statewide demand for early and late season hiking. Low land trails in Okanogan County are often snow free from late March to Mid-November. Many of these trails have world class scenery, yet remain unused due to lack of organization and day connections. The Methow Valley also has the opportunity to provide inn to inn walks over easy terrain.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: Hikers contribute to the tourist economy like any other group. Many backpackers spend a night in a local lodge before or after their backcountry experience. The North Cascade Basecamp reports an increase in families staying at their place and using it as a base for day hikes in the area. Sun Mountain has seen an increase in walking and use of it's interpretive trail. Taulk Tours, North Cascade Institute, and the Elder Hostel

program all use walks as a major part of their program at Sun Mountain. The potential exists for significant shoulder season tourism through organized inn to inn hikes. The spring wildflowers backed up by snow covered peaks, makes for ideal hiking conditions that would have national appeal. World wide walking tours is a growing tourist industry.

FACILITIES IN PLACE: The Okanogan National Forest provides many miles of prime hiking trails - some of the best in the world. These trails access the Pasayten Wilderness, the Sawtooth/Lake Chelan Wilderness, the Pacific Crest Trail, and the North Cascade National Park. But almost all of these trails are at high elevation with a short snow-free season. Sun Mountain Lodge, North Cascade Basecamp, and the Mazama Country Inn all have access to trails at lower elevations. But these trails are limited and do not connect to each other or to the higher elevation trails. The Methow Wildlife Ranges have excellent hiking opportunities, mostly on two tracker roads. The Methow Valley floor has the potential for superb hiking in terms of terrain and scenery.

FACILITIES NEEDED: More low land trails are a priority. Organization of the Methow Wildlife Range's and Methow Valley floor's hiking potential into a community trail system that connects current facilities, the towns and resorts is much needed.

There are not trails accessible by foot from Winthrop to Twisp.

HORSEBACK RIDING

THE EXPERIENCE: The State of Washington has a very high horse population. Riding is popular as a day and multi-day activity on trails well suited to horse use. Many local riders ride right from their own stables on their own land and many locals and tourists transport their animals to trailheads. Most people ride for scenic beauty and a chance to be outdoors. Some ride for access to fishing and high terrain. There is still significant horse use in the local ranching industry. Rodeos are still popular and are important historically in this area.

EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS: Scenic views, variety of terrain, variety in vegetation, wildlife, fishing areas, and historic sights.

CONFLICTS AND HAZARDS: The largest conflict is with motorized use. Horses are not sure how to deal with these new motorized equipment and are easily spooked. The most important hazards are difficulty trail conditions like rock and snow slides, extended swamps and bogs, and deteriorating trail treads.

CURRENT USE AND PROJECTED GROWTH: The largest use now is in the wilderness areas with many multi-day commercial and private horse parties. the heaviest time of use is the annual high hunt in September. There is also increasing commercial day use in the Methow Valley with five or six operations, including Sun Mountain Lodge. The local chapter of Washington Backcounty Horsemen is quite active and sponsors a number of rides.

FACILITIES IN PLACE: Most of the trails on the Okanogan National Forest are open to horse and provide excellent riding. Some trailheads have horse facilities such as loading ramps and corrals. Two notable examples are the new South Creek Trailhead on the Twisp River and the planned one at Rattlesnake Camp near Lost River. The Methow Wildlife Ranges are also open to horse use
and have excellent opportunities.

FACILITIES NEEDED: Trails connecting towns and inns and trails from the valleys to the high country are the highest priority.

It

would be best if the horse trails could be separated from hiker and bicycle trails.

SNOWMOBILING

THE EXPERIENCE: Modern snow machines allow a great deal of speed and maneuverability. Riders can cover long distances and climb steep slopes. Most snowmobilers ride to enjoy the winter beauty

and often ride distances of 20-30 miles or more. Often a "play area" is used to climb hills and enjoy the capabilities of the machines.

EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS: Scenic views, variety of terrain, good snow conditions, and groomed routes.

CONFLICTS AND HAZARDS: There can be a conflict with ski tourers. Skiers not realizing the speed and capabilities of snowmobiles can get in the way and cause conflicts. Many urban skiers have a negative attitude towards snowmobiles and make no effort to be courteous. Snowmobiles can ruin the prepared tracks of cross country ski area. Snowmobiles easily can reach avalanche terrain and put themselves at risk. Other winter survival hazards can exist due to break downs a long way from help.

CURRENT USE AND PROJECTED GROWTH: Most snowmobile use is local but there is still a significant number of out-of-area riders. Statewide snowmobile conventions have been held in Winthrop in the past.

FACILITIES IN PLACE: There are hundreds of miles of groomed snowmobile routes in Okanogan County, mostly on Forest Service roads. There are a large number of Sno-Parks available to access these routes. The places of heaviest use are: the North Cascade Highway, Loup Loup Summit, and the Goat peak area. If snow conditions are right it is possible to ride from Winthrop to Conconully. In all cases, snowmobiles are drawn away from cross country ski areas.

FACILITIES NEEDED: Large enough Sno-Park areas for trailers and warming huts on major routes.

DOGSLEDDING

THE EXPERIENCE: Dogsledding combines the fun and excitement of a winter outing with the challenge of training and controlling a team of dogs. A packed snow surface is needed for efficient travel along with moderate grades. Dogsledding can be a free ride on the sled or a "work-out" running beside the sled.

EXPERIENCE ENHANCEMENTS: Scenic views, variety of terrain, packed snow surfaces.

CONFLICTS AND HAZARDS: Skiers or snowmobiles can frighten or distract young or untrained dogs. The dogs and sled ruin groomed cross country ski trails. Encountering a fast moving snowmobile on a narrow trail or bend in the trail could be a hazard because of the difficulty in quickly maneuvering the team.

CURRENT USE AND PROJECTED GROWTH: Dog teams have been used in the past to reach remote places in winter. Now there are 8 to 10 working teams in the Methow Valley. Statewide there is the 85 member Northwest Dogsled Association and the 38 members Inland Empire Dogsled Association. Usually there are 5 or 6 dogsled

events per year. The activity seems to be growing and holds a romantic appeal to winter visitors.

FACILITIES IN PLACE: About 6 to 10 forest service roads are now used for dogsledding in the Methow Valley. Many of these are in conjunction with already existing sno-parks and groomed snowmobile trails.

FACILITIES NEEDED: More roads or trails designated for dogsled use with some closed to snowmobiles to train young or inexperienced dogs. Grooming for dogsled routes. Sno-parks.

PRIORITIES

From public meetings, responses from user group leaders, and responses from trail users, the following priorities have been selected. In this case, there is an overwhelming first priority with a number of secondary priorities.

FIRST PRIORITY: The establishment of a valley floor trail for skiers, hikers, mountain bikers, and horses that connects Winthrop to Mazama. This connection will allow all of the Methow Valley Ski Touring Association's trails to be connected to each other. This will allow non-motorized travel from town to town and inn to inn in all seasons. It will also allow non-motorized access to the Pacific Crest Trail from the Valley floor and the towns and inns. The alignment for this trail is known and most of the rights-of-way for trail crossings of private land are in place. Funding is the final step needed to complete this priority.

SECONDARY PRIORITIES: These secondary priorities are:

1. Mark and Sign Trails
2. Improve and Develop Trailhead Facilities
3. Develop Warming Huts and Picnic Areas
4. Provide Maps and Use Information
5. Develop Other Trails for Specific Uses

MARK AND SIGN TRAILS: Many of the user groups identified the need to mark and sign trails as a high priority. No one likes to be confused or lost and most people do not wish to continually stop and take out a map for navigation. Trail users want to know the name of a trail, it's length, destination, recommended use and difficulty. All of the MVSTA ski trails are marked by name and difficulty in the winter. There is not adequate marking for summer use of these trails and of course there is no marking on the proposed Valley floor trail. It is recommended that all the trails in the Methow Valley be marked with a uniform trail sign showing trail name, acceptable uses, and difficulties and that distance and destination be left to maps. The current MVSTA signage is routed cedar 1" x 4" signs with blue letters on 8 ft. peeler poles in the ground and trees if they are in the right spot. Difficulty is marked by standard cross country symbols. Recommended use can be done with 3" x 3" international symbols (see Appendix: "Carsonite Federal Recreational Symbols").

IMPROVE AND DEVELOP TRAILHEAD FACILITIES: Winter trailhead parking at Sun Mountain, North Cascade Base Camp, Cub Creek, and Goat Creek are all inadequate. Sun Mountain has made some improvements by building a new day skier parking lot on U.S.F.S. land, but this lot needs surfacing, toilets, and a trailhead sign.

A warming hut at this parking area is also a high priority. More space is needed with toilets, for access to the Rendezvous Trail

system at both ends, Cub Creek and Goat Creek. Better trailhead facilities are needed in the Early Winters Campground area to relieve congestion at the North Cascades Base Camp. Trailhead facilities will be needed at both ends of the dirt section of
Wolf

Creek Road. Other trailheads will most likely be at the Winthrop Town Park and at the Virginian Motel. Both of these sights have adequate parking but will need improved trailhead signs and toilets. The Winthrop Town Park will need a bridge across the Methow River to access the trail system. If the trail is
extended

to Twisp (the route is in place and has been used for years, but is poorly marked), it will need better trailhead facilities at Elbow Coulee and in Twisp.

DEVELOP WARMING HUTS AND PICNIC AREAS: There are numerous sites along the proposed Valley Floor Trail and the other trails in the MVSTA system that are well suited for warming hut development.

In
some cases, the distance from a trailhead, lodge or town makes a warming hut a strong safety priority in winter. The mid-point
of

the dirt section of Wolf Creek Road, the area just north of the Cassel Ranch, and the intersection of Meadow Lake Trail and Thompson Ridge Road are all such cases. There are many sites
with

superb views or delightful settings that would make ideal picnic or just bench sites.

PROVIDE MAPS AND USE INFORMATION: MVSTA produces winter trail maps, including use information (see Appendix). It is
recommended

that similar maps are produced for each use type (hiker, horse, bike, and ski). In addition, information needs to be posted at trailheads concerning use and trail etiquette. Some sort of permanent "you are here" type maps are also a priority at various spots along the trail system, especially in confusing areas.

DEVELOP OTHER TRAILS FOR SPECIFIC USES: The Sun Mountain Trail plan and the Forest Service mountain bike priority list both recommend trail development and improvement off of the Valley Floor Trail. Although the Valley Floor Trail is the highest priority, other trails are needed and used. Of particular importance is the development of more single-track mountain bike routes and the improvement of high use ski trails so they can be used with the minimum amount of snow. In addition to the

improvement suggested above, the improvement of the Methow Trail to Twisp with a better marked and maintained spur to Aspen Lake and the ridge above are a priority.

ACTION PROGRAM

1. As budgetary assistance for recreational programs in Okanogan County is likely to remain limited into the indefinite future, the County will continue to solicit the participation of private organizations in recreational development. In the Methow Valley, this includes the
Methow
Institute Foundation, the Methow Valley Ski Touring Association, the Methow Valley Backcountry Horsemen's Association, the Volksmarch Association, and other local groups that will benefit from the development of trails in the Methow Valley.
2. Grants and aid will be sought from various State and Federal agencies, including the Inter-Agency Committee for Outdoor Recreation.
3. Materials and labor will be solicited from local individuals, organizations and businesses for the development of recreational projects, and as a source of the County's matching funds where such matching funds are required.
4. Construction of the Methow Valley Community Trail System will be begun as soon as it is financially feasible to do so. Because of increasing development in the area, it is necessary to proceed with the development of this trails alignment, both as a recreational amenity and as a planning tool.
5. An addition to the hotel/motel tax applicable only to the Methow Valley will be considered as a source of funds for recreational development in the Methow Valley and as a source of County matching funds for grants where such matching funds are required.

APPENDIX

Capitol Improvement Program:

First Order of Priority - Priority by number or Work in Progress
(WIP)

WIP. Acquire deed in escrow for Phase I & II (Work in Progress)
Year Programmed 1989, 1990
Approximate cost: \$3,800.00

The Methow Institute Foundation has in it's possession Letters of Intent to donate Right-of-Way from seventy-eight landowners. The timetable on transferring title is determined by the availability of surveys for the subject property. The description in the deed is of "a meandering fifteen foot wide right-of-way for a non-motorized trail between the following described points...." The points are easily described when a boundary survey exists. Some of the donated property has never been surveyed. Cash donations for the surveys has been pledged. Upon receipt of this money the survey work can be completed and the deeds prepared.

(Estimated completion date: September 26, 1990)

WIP. Stake Right-of-Way (Work in Progress)
Year Programmed 1988, 1989, 1990
Approximate cost: \$2,400.00

A sizable portion of the land donated for the trail traverses lands adjacent to riparian habitat, lakes, rivers and wetlands. These sections have been identified and the routes carefully selected. Meetings have been taking place with the agency officials involved. The approval of these routes has been obtained from Department of Wildlife. This process must be accomplished prior to developing linkage with the other parts of the trail.

(Estimated completion date: August 20, 1990)

1. Survey trail/Legal Descriptions/Amend Deeds
(Work in Progress)
Year Programmed 1989, 1990
Approximate cost - Surveying \$7,000.00; Legal \$1,200.00

2. Clear & Grub - Trail/Parking facilities/Trailheads
Year Programmed 1990
Approximate cost - Clearing \$26,640.00

3. Grade/Construct small bridges
Year Programmed 1990
Approximate cost - Grading \$33,000.00; Bridges \$40,300.00

4. Surface with crushed rock
Year Programmed 1990
Approximate cost - \$39,600.00

5. Develop trailhead facilities--Restrooms/Warming Huts
Year Programmed 1990-1991
Approximate cost - Roads \$3,500.00; Parking \$9,600.00;
Warming Huts - \$11,600.00

6. Signing
Year Programmed 1991
Approximate cost - \$5,220.00

7. Bridge design/Bridge funding/Bridge construction
(Federal Program - link up with Pacific Crest Trail)
Year Programmed 1991-1992
Approximate cost \$412,000.00

8. Expand Hut to Hut network
Year Programmed 1991-1992
Approximate Cost - \$93,000.00

* This survey is being done as part of the preparation of the Okanogan County Recreation Plan for the Methow Review District.
Completion of the Plan is a requirement of most State recreational funding.

RECREATION SURVEY

Please return by 8/24/90

1. What kinds of recreational facilities do you think are important for Okanogan County to support in the Methow Valley? (circle up to three, indicate preference 1-2-3)
 - a. Walking Trails b. Tennis Courts c. Sports Fields
 - d. Pools e. Bicycling Trails f. Parks
 - g. Music Facilities h. Velodromes i. Rodeo Arenas
 - j. Horseback Riding Trails k. Snowmobile Sno-parks
 - l. Skateboarding Hills m. Mountain Biking Trails
 - n. Golf Course o. Ice Skating p. Skiing Trails
 - q. Roller Rink r. Dogsledding

2. Do you think the county's support of recreational facilities in the Methow Valley has been:
 - a. Excellent b. Good c. Fair d. Poor

3. Are you a full time resident, part time resident, or visitor to the Methow Valley?
 - a. Full time resident b. Part time resident c. Visitor

4. Where do you live in the Valley? (If you are a visitor, where are you staying?)
 - a. Winthrop area b. Twisp area
 - c. Mazama area d. Carlton area

5. How close to your home or lodging would a recreational facility have to be for you to incorporate its use into your daily schedule?
- a. One quarter mile
 - b. One half mile
 - c. One mile
 - d. Two miles
 - e. More than two mile OK

6. Have you lost any of your favorite recreational opportunities (including skiing, walking, or biking trails) to private land development or closure?
- a. Yes b. No c. Loss is imminent
7. Do you feel that the county should encourage developers, through restrictions and development incentives, to incorporate recreational amenities into large development?
- a. Agree strongly b. Agree somewhat c. Disagree somewhat
- d. Disagree strongly e. No opinion
8. How many times during the past two years have you walked, hiked, biked or skied on trails in the Methow Valley?
- a. Once b. Two or three times c. Four to ten times
- d. More than ten times
9. Besides contributions and grants, how do you think the county should pay for recreational facilities in the Methow Valley? (Indicate preference 1-2-3)
- a. Fees for all users b. Tourist fees only
- c. Taxes on residents
- d. Taxes on tourists (bed or meal tax)
- e. Combination of fees and taxes
10. Would you be willing to volunteer time to work on recreation projects for which partial funding has been obtained? (per year)
- a. 1-2 hrs b. 3-4 hrs c. 5-6 hrs d. 1-2 days
- e. Unwilling to contribute time

11. What is your age?

a. Under 18 b. 18-30 c. 30-45 d. 45-60 e. over
60

* This survey is being done as part of the preparation of the Okanogan County Recreation Plan for the Methow Review District. Completion of the Plan is a requirement of most State recreational funding.