

PVS Conference Wellington Field Trip

Notes for Speakers

Issues to Cover

Rehabilitated open cut mines as a recreation opportunity – old & new.

- Stockton - Recreational use of “rehabilitated coal mine”, water quality, vandalism, skiing, motor bikes, camping, fires, impact of current nearby mining.
- Kepwari - rehabilitation of a coal mine for recreational use – rehab & recreation planning, tenure, leasing, water quality, stability, risk management.

Potters Gorge

- History of recreational use, even when supply was used for Great Southern water supply.
- Current use – irrigation only
- Future potable source, planning for recreation, Water agency opposition, community views.
- Draft Management Plan (a few copies to pass around would be good – Denam??)– briefing on key issues – NC values, recreational use & user conflicts, proposals for recreational use of catchment. (This is only an intro to the plan, further discussion about rec use, heritage, “disco” forest to be included at other sites.)

Wellington Dam

- Introduce the WNP capital works program (handout photos before and after of some of the projects that we will see later today)
- Xxxxxx \$'s spent on improvements to facilities, roads and trails since 2001.
- Funded largely through the Governments Protecting Our Old Growth Forest Policy under the New Parks program & more recently through PVS capital allocation.
- Although a “new park” the area already had considerable visitor infrastructure, high visitation and a Recreation & Tourism Master Plan endorsed by a community advisory committee.
- This allowed us to undertake major capital works in the absence of a management plan.

The Dam precinct – refer to “before” photos

- History of the buildings & infrastructure, leading up to current lease & DEC ownership
- Explain the capital works, toilets, roads, interp, trail network, heritage issues – use a site plan
- Water Corp proposed improvements to dam wall
- Abseil and climbing activity
- Walk around site to lookout & Quarry

Wellington Discovery Forest

- History of Discovery Forest, the demonstration Forest concept, National Park or A class reserve for Education and Scientific purposes. (750ha of SF, set aside for community education and interp in the early 1990's). SWDC Eco museum grants.
- Centre of the regions Eco Education Program, explain Education resources/programs, numbers and age range of participants.

Lennard Drive & Honeymoon Pool

- Aboriginal heritage, river and immediate surrounds is a registered site, many other places of significance to local Noongar people.
- Ethnographic & archaeological study conducted in 2002. AHA Section 18 approval given for capital works that would protect heritage values, protect the environment and allow visitors to enjoy the river valley.
- Road improvements, Lennard Drive - main access to river valley for park visitors. Prior to major upgrade it was narrow, slippery, steep dangerous, now all sealed.
- Recreational use of the park, management planning –user conflicts, 4WD use, mountain bikes, trail bikes, horses, canoeists, rafting, CTO's, school groups etc.
- Rec site upgrades along the river.

At HMP

- History of the site, major camp and day use facility in WNP. Refer to photos
- Discuss capital works – the wall, deck and day use facility, planning, design, challenges in building it.
- Walk to Stones – cover VRM issues, colour themes (camp kitchen), the camp decks

Trip back to Bunbury:

- Possible discussion on trip home: - mountain bike tracks, gravel extraction, rubbish dumping, Ferguson valley – horticulture and tourism developments.
- Or let everyone have a break!!