

ALPINE COUNTY AD HOC WINTER RECREATION DIALOG

REVISED PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSIONS

- The Alpine County Ad Hoc Winter Recreation Dialog (“Dialog”) is intended to be a forum for constructive discussion and option development around winter recreation issues in Alpine County.
- The Dialog is not being established as a formal committee with fixed membership. It is beginning with discussions among a core group of people who have been active in connection with a set of issues around winter recreation in Alpine County. Some people represent organizations, and others are participating on their own behalf. There is no fixed membership; participation in the Dialog is open to other people who are committed to constructive dialog and agree to these Guidelines.
- The Dialog seeks to explore mutually acceptable options for multi-use winter recreation in Alpine County. The Dialog is committed to addressing all relevant interests as part of its effort to develop options, as long as these interests are presented constructively and in good faith.
- The Dialog has multiple desired outcomes. One is to foster improved communication and understanding among user groups and interested individuals in Alpine County. A second goal is to share with the USFS initial views on potential options for Alpine County Winter Recreation not later than September 30, 2006. These initial views will include those of individual Dialog members as well as organizations represented by participants. The Dialog may continue beyond September 30, 2006 depending in circumstances.
- The Dialog is committed to the Operating Principles adopted by the Alpine County Board of Supervisors in Resolution 2006-28, adopted May 16, 2006, and will rely on participation by the County.
- The Dialog seeks to identify as many points of agreement as possible among individuals and representatives of organizations, as well as areas of disagreement. There is no requirement of reaching consensus on substantive issues.
- The Dialog agrees on co-chairs Debbi Waldear and Rob Levy.
- The agenda for Dialog meetings and planning for any related activities will be based on input from Dialog participants. The final version will be coordinated among the Co-chairs and the Facilitator.
- The U.S. Forest Service’s Carson Ranger District is paying for the services of the Facilitator for a limited period of time.
- The USFS has supported exploration of the potential for initiating the Dialog. However, the Dialog is not established or controlled by the USFS, but rather equally by all Dialog participants. The USFS is attending to observe and provide information as needed.
- There is a “core group” for the Dialog consisting of people participating in the assessment discussions and initial meeting as described in the July 28th meeting summary. The core group must make a decision to allow additional people to participate in the Dialog. The decision rule is: (1) a unanimous decision if possible, and (2) a two-thirds majority if unanimity is elusive.

- Dialog participants agree to communicate with the media regarding the Dialog as a group rather than as individuals or representatives of organizations. Participants further agree that for the time being media will be asked not to attend Dialog sessions. This may be reconsidered at a future date.
- All Dialog participants commit to participating based on the following Guidelines for Discussions:
 1. *Interest-based, problem-solving approach.* The focus of the Dialog will be on identifying all significant interests and needs related to winter recreation, and developing options to address those needs. Positions may be articulated, but the underlying interest or need is the key.
 2. *Openness to more than one outcome or solution.* Participants will be open to different ways of addressing their key interests. Insisting on a single solution is likely to perpetuate disagreements and limit creativity. “My way or the highway” will not work.
 3. *Education and communication.* Participants understand that education and effective communication are essential for overcoming past conflicts and establishing a mutually acceptable framework for shared use of resources.
 4. *Basic respect for other participants.* This includes allowing people to speak, not interrupting, avoiding personal attacks, and sharing the available time among all participants. There is room for strong feelings as long as they are managed.
 5. *Respect for applicable laws, rules, and regulations.* Participants agree that a mutually acceptable future must be based on shared commitment to respect laws, rules, and regulations, whether these are based on county, state, or federal authority. This shared commitment extends to members of organizations participating in the Dialog. Without this sincere commitment it will not be possible to develop potential options for shared use of the resources in Alpine County. This commitment includes, as one example, honoring federal wilderness area boundaries and rules. A second example is honoring ordinances regarding parking and noise.
 6. *Acknowledgment of past disputes and disagreements.* One motivation for the Dialog is the conflicts that recently have characterized winter recreation in Alpine County, particularly between some motorized and non-motorized users. These conflicts, and the values and actions behind them, are an important element for finding solutions, but participants agree to try and move beyond them toward a mutually acceptable future. The Dialog is not the place to continually re-hash the past and assign blame.
 7. *Working it out within the Dialog.* The Dialog reflects a commitment to try and develop potential options as a group. Participants agree to support this effort, and to solve problems within the Dialog. This includes not attributing motives or describing Dialog discussions publicly or to the media. The only exception is for authorized statements on behalf of the entire Dialog.
 8. *Good faith.* The principle embodies sincere support for the Dialog effort. Participating as a way of gathering information in order to oppose Dialog goals or undermine Dialog participants is not consistent with this principle.

- These Principles and Guidelines may be modified only by unanimous agreement of current Dialog participants.

I agree to abide by these Principles and Guidelines, both for myself and for any organization I may represent:

Signature

Date