

Partner coordination

Objective P-1: Establish a structure for coordinated management

THE NEED: The Carbon River Corridor includes large areas of public and private landownership. Public pressure for expanded use of the area has grown dramatically as population and travel to the Pacific Northwest has increased. A means of sustaining coordinated planning and cooperative management of the corridor is needed to address the issues and opportunities resulting from increased interest and expanded use of the area.

The following actions are key to achieving coordinated management of the corridor:

We heard you!

Public and stakeholder input included:

- Expanding visitor services and information.
- Enhancing infrastructure.
- Desire for additional recreational opportunities and infrastructure.
- Desire to conserve natural and historic resources.

Action	Lead Organization	Partners
P-1-1 Adopt and implement the Carbon River Corridor Cooperative Action Plan.	Pierce County Parks	US Forest Service, National Park Service – Mount Rainier National Park, Fruit Growers Supply, potentially other Steering Committee members, and Stakeholders
P-1-2 Landowners develop and participate in Memoranda of Agreement related to management of public services and facilities in the Carbon River Corridor.	Pierce County Parks	US Forest Service, National Park Service – Mount Rainier National Park, potentially other Steering Committee members, and Stakeholders
P-1-3 Identify funding sources and opportunities for cost-sharing and prioritize needs not supported within current budgets	Pierce County Parks	US Forest Service, National Park Service – Mount Rainier National Park, potentially other Steering Committee members, and Stakeholders

Pressure for public access to the Carbon River Corridor is expected to continue to grow. It is important to mitigate this anticipated growth by implementing the actions of this plan, especially those related to visitor services and information, infrastructure, and enforcement before recreation opportunities can be opened to more users. Due to the proximity and common interests of the parties, a means to discuss current events and shared concerns will be an on-going need. A coordinated management approach will provide a stream-lined process to improve the responsiveness of all partner organizations to visitor and public interests.

Developing one or more Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) or other such charter among landowners and land managers will put a management structure in place that can change, as necessary, as use of the area grows. Initially, the focus will likely be on enforcement and developing visitor services and information as a priority, which can be expanded to include issues concerning infrastructure and other services. The goal is to realize a nimble and responsive management structure that can continue to coordinate on common issues over time and as needs evolve.

Objective P-2: Coordinate across partners to mitigate unsanctioned activities

THE NEED: Unmitigated enforcement issues across the corridor were identified in public outreach, conversations with stakeholders, and by the Steering Committee as a top priority for short-term action for landowners, visitors, and local citizens alike. These issues include illegal camping, shooting, dumping, vandalism, and unsafe parking. Many actions to improve enforcement in the corridor were identified, all of which will require a coordinated and collaborative approach by the multiple agencies and private landowners in the area.

Increased patrols

Increase a coordinated, timely response to illegal and unwanted activities in the corridor. Multiple agencies, landowners, and volunteers can work together in a coordinated way to improve law enforcement agencies’ ability to analyze, compare and act on real-time issues as they arise.

We heard you!

Public and stakeholder input included:

- Addressing vandalism, trespassing, illegal shooting, and irresponsible camping.
- Expanding visitor services and information.
- Desire for additional recreational opportunities and infrastructure:
 - Drive-in campgrounds.
 - Hike/bike/ride-in campgrounds.

Action	Lead Organization	Partners
P-2-1 Form an enforcement coordination work group.	Pierce County Parks	Pierce County Sheriff, Washington State Patrol, Pierce County Parks, National Park Service – Mount Rainier National Park, US Forest Service, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, forest landowners

P-2-2 Establish a cohort of volunteer safety patrols.	TBD	Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition, Friends of the Carbon River, Carbon River Forum
P-2-3: Develop landowner partnerships to expand private security contracts.	Timber Companies	WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, other landowners
P-2-4 Evaluate shared response agreements.	Pierce County Parks	US Forest Service, City of Buckley

Structural changes

Creating structural changes that make it more difficult for illegal and unwanted activities to take place and implementing disincentives may work together with other actions to reduce unwanted activities. In addition, actions such as improved information and visitor service infrastructure will help move sanctioned activities to the appropriate places.

Action	Lead Organization	Partners
P-2-5 Increase ticketing for illegal activities.	Enforcement work group	Towns, Pierce County Sheriff and Code Enforcement, US Forest Service, National Park Service – Mount Rainier National Park, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
P-2-6 Create developed dispersed camping opportunities.	US Forest Service	TBD
P-2-7 Provide a Wilkeson presence, possibly within a new visitor contact center pilot in Wilkeson (see action R-2-10 and R-2-11).	National Park Service – Mount Rainier National Park	US Forest Service, Pierce County Sheriff

[Graphic for this section: Small call-out box:

In order to move actions for this topic forward, the following will be needed:

- Strong partnership between all involved agencies, landowners, and the local community,
- Additional policy research and consideration by Pierce County and partners regarding deputization or shared service agreements.
- Clarification on emergency vs. non-emergency issues and the creation of a response system that all agencies, private landowners, and the public know how to activate.
- Policy change with US Forest Service regarding dispersed camping.
- Piloting a mobile, interagency visitor contact center in Wilkeson in 2022.]