

Mountaineers Conservation Advocacy Flow Chart

Policy issues – Sources include partner organizations, volunteers, members and land managers.



Conservation and Advocacy Director applies filter to issue/topic:

- Is it relevant to The Mountaineers' mission, strategic plan and conservation priorities?
- Does it directly affect public lands where Mountaineers activities occur or does it have the potential to affect activities the future?
- Can the issue be addressed, or a solution meaningfully addressed, with resources available to the organization?
 - If so, is this an issue that The Mountaineers will:
 - **Take the lead** on (staff-driven and run process)
 - **Participate in** (via a coalition or a partner organization leading)
 - **Follow:** Mountaineers members as Outdoor Advocates members follow the issue, attend meetings and report back to the CRR Manager

If NO,
no action

If YES, but
controversial

If YES, Conservation Director
researches & analyzes issue,
recommends action

Conservation Advocacy Council
Reviews & makes recommendation
to staff

CEO
Gives final approval on behalf of The
Mountaineers

Outreach to Membership and Public: Conservation Director uploads policy statements and letters to website, topics are covered in magazine, website and email communications, and outreach to Mountaineers members.

Example #1: Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (OWNF) Plan Revision

Policy issue– Opportunity to respond during public comment period to the Proposed Action for the OWNF Forest Plan Revision during winter of 2011-2012. (*Actual ongoing policy issue for The Mountaineers*)



Conservation Director applies filter to issue/topic:

- Relevant to The Mountaineers' mission, strategic plan and conservation priorities?

YES. The OWNF Forest Plan revision has implications for the management of wilderness and roadless areas, as well as recreational access to popular destinations.

- Directly affects public lands where Mountaineers activities occur?

YES. The OWNF is second only to Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF as a destination for The Mountaineers outings and courses.

- Can the issue be addressed with resources available to the organization?

YES. Level: *Participation* - by collaborating with partner organizations that have a similar stake in the results of the Forest Plan revision, we can have a meaningful impact on the results of the planning effort.



Conservation Director researches & analyzes issue, attends meetings, participates in discussions with partners to draft



Membership Outreach: via website, Magazine, email communications and social media.

Example #2: Yellowstone Bison Management

Policy issue– A member requested that The Mountaineers compose a letter to the National Park Service requesting non-lethal management of bison that stray outside park boundaries. (*Actual member request from Olympia member in 2011*)



Filter applied to issue/topic:

- Relevant to The Mountaineers' mission, strategic plan and conservation priorities?

NO. Wildlife management is related but peripheral to our emphasis on public lands and human-powered recreation.

- Directly affects public lands where Mountaineers activities occur?

NO. While the Greater Yellowstone is undoubtedly a cherished landscape for many members, it is not a destination for our outings and courses.

- Can the issue be addressed with resources available to the organization?

NO. Given the scope of the issues and the lack of expertise and context for the problem, we are less likely to influence the outcome.



No action

Example #3: Proposed National Recreation Area in Teanaway Valley

Policy issue— A partner organization requests that The Mountaineers support the congressional designation of National Recreation Area (NRA) on the National Forest lands in the Teanaway Valley. The proposal emphasizes access & opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized recreation and some wilderness additions. There are varying opinions about the proposal in the conservation and recreation communities. *(Based on an actual public lands proposal-in-progress that The Mountaineers have offered preliminary comments on and may desire to take a formal position on in the future.)*



CRR Manger applies filter to issue/topic:

- Relevant to The Mountaineers' mission, strategic plan and conservation priorities?

YES. The NRA proposal affects the backcountry experience on public lands in Washington.

- Directly affects public lands where Mountaineers activities occur?

YES. The Mountaineers have a long history of climbing, scrambling and hiking in the Teanaway Valley and currently conduct field trips for Scrambling and Naturalists in the proposed NRA.

- Can the issue be addressed with resources available to the organization?

YES. The Mountaineers is a clear stakeholder in the matter and has the ability to influence the outcome of the proposal.

Level of involvement: Participate or Follow



Potential controversy:

The draft proposal includes an emphasis on continued access for motorized recreation (dirt bikes, jeeps and snowmobiles) in areas where there are documented conflicts with non-motorized recreationists as well as wildlife.

There is potential conflict between The Mountaineers' wilderness and backcountry values and the NRA intent.



Conservation Advocacy Council

Reviews proposal, background materials & makes recommendation to staff



Staff considers input, chooses whether to take action or to seek further input.