

**Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area Climbing Management Plan  
Workshop 1A – August 20, 2020 Notes and Agenda**

**Agenda**

- 6:00-6:25 Alex Schlueter introduction and presentation
- 6:25-6:35 Questions on presentation/process
- 6:35-7:40 Small group discussions (self-introductions and follow questions)
- 7:40-8:00 Report out from each group

## 6:25-6:35 Questions on presentation/process

- Will any other non-climbing recreation impact climbing? Alex responded that his job is to balance multiple uses.
- If other unengaged groups are identified, will the Forest Service engage them? Answer was yes and cited last question of small group agenda.
- Is there a process to review the CMP on a semi-regular basis? Answer was that a periodic review could be part of the CMP and that the CMP will need to be adaptable.
- Has any Seneca-specific data been collected on visitation or incidents? Response was that very little data was available outside of outfitter and guide numbers.
- Comment was made that a CMP has many disadvantages, handcuffs the Forest Service, and this process is from an administrative perspective. Alex encouraged participant to talk about these concerns in the small group and to write these thoughts out further and submit them to [ClimbingMP@usda.gov](mailto:ClimbingMP@usda.gov).
- Why CMP now? Response was best to recognize increase in visitation now and start planning now to avoid problems other areas are experiencing.
- Will this plan be whole Monongahela National Forest or just one watershed? Response was that expanding would be considered based on input.
- What are examples of conflicts with groups elsewhere? Bighorn National Forest was brought up as an example of conflict.
- Issue of hikers ending up in climbing areas was brought up.
- Participant said that Forest Service committed in 1970s not to develop south of Roy Gap Run or to develop the north peak.
- It was mentioned that Friends of Seneca has worked on trails in the area to address some erosion issues.

## **6:35-7:40 Small group discussions**

Seven small group discussions took place. The following pages are notes from each small group discussion.

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**3. What do you value about Seneca Rocks and the local area? (10 min)**

**Further leading questions:**

- **What motivates you to select climb at Seneca over other areas? Is it the setting, the social scene, something else?**
- **How is Seneca Rocks different from others you could have visited instead?**

\*\*\*Closest major climbing area (multi-pitch) to DC, Maryland, Northern Virginia area

One of the first developed climbing areas on East coast.

A lot of climbing mentors climb here.

Striking appearance.

Isolated/remote area.

Alpine nature is unique.

Great training for people wanting to go on to Tetons or other more experienced climbing areas.

Sacred spot.

A large population can easily reach this area.

Great first climbing opportunity.

A lot of people go here for traditional (trad) climbing

Gunks doesn't feel like Seneca (no separation, completely different experience).

DC/Baltimore area doesn't have many climbing opportunities. Trad climbing in Seneca and sport in Smoke Hole are unique. Gunks is similar rock, but turned at an angle (and vastly more rock). "Quantity has a quality".

Seneca doesn't bring people from across the world to the extent that the Gunks would

Seneca feels like home.

Despite isolation, you can come back to the store and the Gendarme and find a great community (similar to Miguels 8-10 yrs ago). Small community vibe.

**4. What would you like the experience at Seneca Rocks to be like 20 years from now? (15 min)**

As unchanged as it can be. Love Seneca as it is. Probably would've liked it even more 20 years ago when it was less populated. Hesitant to put things into place before they are needed.

Benefits to being more accessible (safety) like in the Red River Gorge. Understand concern of more developed climbing areas.

Existing climbing routes are left alone. Some routes are dangerous and there has been discussion in the past. Should be a review by Forest Service of fixed gear or existing routes. Would like this review to be part of the CMP.

Can address issues like fixed gear/existing routes with policy. Almost all bolting at Seneca has been done by guiding, not by climbing community – thinks that needs to be discontinued. Should be a restriction on any additional bolting.

Seneca Shadows campground run by national corporation and thinks it should be locally managed (taking \$ out of WV/Seneca Rocks econ).

Would like to see the Forest Service deemphasize tourism – lower profile of directing people to the platform. Huge erosion/environmental issues developed over decades – take same approach as Acadia National Park (reminiscent of “stairmaster” which used to be scree slope and has eroded over time) and harden trails (artful, blended). Fixing trails can be done without being intrusive. Access trails on East side are not really trails at all anymore – extreme erosion.

Trail work often completed by volunteers – Forest Service capability to handle? At Reeds, volunteers do trail work, and then it is ignored and shortcuts are immediately made. Needs to be level of commitment and level of expertise that sometimes is missing with volunteer work. FS needs to have ownership/oversight or problem will get worse.

Access Fund provides guidance for planning – good resource for training volunteers. Amazed at the lack of Access Fund support/presence at Seneca (who is the local presence for SenecaRocks?). Mid Atlantic Climbers (501c) – Seneca out of their league?

Would still like SR to be trad climbing – for ecological reasons and for the understanding of safety that it brings. If there is an increase in bolts and unexperienced climbers, they wont get the same level of experience gained (alpine experience).

All bolting occurred since 70s for purposes of guided climbs. Have sport routes at Reeds and Smoke Hole – could have more bolt maintenance there. Although it is beneficial to have guides which bring people to the area, it makes it feel like a sport crag (with 15-20 people taking over a wall for the day). It should be a balancing act.

Hope to see more diversity in the climbing community

**5. What issues are you currently experiencing that prevent you from the experience you just described? Are there any issues you anticipate becoming an obstacle to the experience you envisioned 20 years from now? (20 min)**

Erosion (see responses above)

Lack of local representation thru Access Fund

Shift in culture from undemocratic to hopefully democratic/bureaucratic

Being buzzed by drones

**6. Lastly, are there any organizations or individuals not represented today that you feel need to be a part of this planning process?**

Affinity groups – did Alex contact? May take up Elliot on help.

Need to have individuals participating in official capacity, instead of as individuals.

AMGA – American Mtn Guiding Assoc.

More social media outreach (Orion may send names of particular groups to Alex)

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**3. What do you value about Seneca Rocks and the local area? (10 min)**

- The beauty of Seneca rocks. Things made of wood vs concrete structures. Gravel trails. Wooden signs vs plastic signs.
- The darkness. No light pollution from nearby towns/cities. More light from Seneca Rocks Discovery Center and close businesses are taking away from the night sky.
- The environment around Seneca Rocks and the environmental impact surrounding the area.
- Value people not creating social trails that cause erosion.
- Value small groups and crowd management,
- The quality of the climbing equipment and management of climbing equipment by the community.
- Appreciate how the area feels more like a wilderness than an established rock climbing area. No tremendous crowds.
- Value that it's a traditional climbing area. Makes the area unique on the east coast. One of the few places that provides a summit experience.
- The community/social setting is great, there is a fear that the sense of community is going to disappear. Private properties that are for sale in the nearby area are a concern.
- Value the safe feeling of visiting Seneca rocks, fear is that a new community will come in that won't feel as safe.
- Choose Seneca over other places because of the traditional climbing. The bolted anchors make it feel like a safer trad climbing experience.
- Good location. Conveniently located with a short hike to the crag. The small surrounding community is appealing and nice. Makes climbing a fun experience.
- Other places have the feeling of a climbing gym, where Seneca feels more private/wild.
- Traditional climbing at Seneca provides a greater experience than other climbing areas, even if they have traditional climbing.
- A lot of multi pitch climbs which makes it feel more remote. Can make a whole day of climbing in one area.
- Value that there are no cell phone towers in the area.

**Further leading questions:**

- **What motivates you to select climb at Seneca over other areas? Is it the setting, the social scene, something else?**
- **How is Seneca Rocks different from others you could have visited instead?**

**4. What would you like the experience at Seneca Rocks to be like 20 years from now? (15 min)**

- The exact same as it is right now.
- Making the area darker to appreciate the night sky. Nearby businesses pollute the sky from the summit of Seneca..
- No additional **concrete** buildings or bridges.
- Still traditional climbing, no sport.
- Keep the small town feel/community. No massive buildings around the area by new land owners. No condos/apartment complexes. This would take away from the community and feeling of the area.
- Making people aware of how to preserve trees and not harm the environment.
- Similar experience to today with more educated users. No short cuts on trails. No scrambling around on the rocks and littering. Lowering the impact on the area. Leave No Trace.
- Even better shape than it's in now in regards to environmental impact from the public.
- The swimming hole remaining open and clean.
- Being able to go climb and then immediately go swimming is an amazing and unique experience to Seneca.
- More educated climbing community.
- No cell phone towers.

**5. What issues are you currently experiencing that prevent you from the experience you just described? Are there any issues you anticipate becoming an obstacle to the experience you envisioned 20 years from now? (20 min)**

- Environmental impact from the public and other climbers. A lot of social trails spring up out of nowhere by people taking short cuts or going to spots where the start of the climb is not located.
- Multiple large groups showing up who are uninformed about the area. Larger groups can cause chaos and hurdles to other groups that are informed. Group management hasn't been good in the past.
- Very busy weekends. Experiencing faster climbing passing slower climbers in an unsafe manner. Have seen unsafe maneuvers such as single rope rappel vs double rope rappel. There is one specific area where single rope rappels would require a rescue from someone else. Climbers have had to build anchors for those who became stuck on the single rope rappel.
- Large groups trashing locations that others love to visit. Regulation could be difficult.
- Large trucks stopping at the stop sign and using Jake brakes is loud.
- Drones take away from the experience. Climbers have felt that drones are intruding on their climbing.

Don't want to see any zipline groups or ziplines built around Seneca Rocks.

**6. Lastly, are there any organizations or individuals not represented today that you feel need to be a part of this planning process?**

Potomac Appalachian Trail Club – Mountaineering Section – larger climbing group in the area.

Slack line communities.

Other recreational users. Hikers/bikers/fishers/astronomers

Drone Pilots/photographers

Military groups

Guide services.

Rescue groups. Fire department in the local area.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

- Advantages to having Spruce Knob Seneca Rocks National Park vs Spruce Knob Seneca Recreation Area as far as the difference in climbing management?
- Would there ever be any route closures on the rocks?
- Should a more formal rescue group or plan be put into place at Seneca Rocks since right now it is seen as slow and there's no cell reception in the area?
- Would climbing be a priority when it comes to recreational activities at Seneca Rocks?
- Bolts and anchors need maintenance and replacement over time. Would the Forest service be managing these bolts/anchors? Will it be supervised in any way?
- Are there going to be memorandum of agreements with the established climbing clubs, businesses, and major stakeholders?

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**3. What do you value about Seneca Rocks and the local area? (10 min)**

**Further leading questions:**

- **What motivates you to select climb at Seneca over other areas? Is it the setting, the social scene, something else?**
- **How is Seneca Rocks different from others you could have visited instead?**

Everyone agreed that Seneca is a rare climbing destination in that it holds some of the only multi-pitch trad climbing within a significant distance.

**4. What would you like the experience at Seneca Rocks to be like 20 years from now? (15 min)**

Multiple individuals express that in 20 years they hope Seneca has not changed at all. They valued the lack of crowds, not having to wait in line for climbs and the wildness of the area. They hope to keep usership down in the coming years.

**5. What issues are you currently experiencing that prevent you from the experience you just described? Are there any issues you anticipate becoming an obstacle to the experience you envisioned 20 years from now? (20 min)**

More bolting is a problem. Bolting is going to change the dynamics of Seneca. Trad areas are sacred and rare and prevent large groups at the same time (steeper learning curve keeps the masses away). Managing for the increased growth. (the Access Fund expressed interest in helping with trail mapping and identification for integrating climbers trails into system trails)

**6. Lastly, are there any organizations or individuals not represented today that you feel need to be a part of this planning process?**

If the forest service can get a list of current participants, the access fund/mid-atlantic climbers/ Friends of Seneca/Friends of Smoke Hole can check it against their list to make sure everyone is included.

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**3. What do you value about Seneca Rocks and the local area? (10 min)**

One of the most unique climbing destinations on the whole of the east coast. It offers a range of difficulty levels for climbers. Different routes for different levels; lends itself to a different type of climbing based on rock formations. And is a wilderness destination that is in easy driving range for neighboring states/ north east coast.

It is the closest (to DC) Closest and tallest and most varied if you're a traditional climber.

When you're at the top you can traverse the ridge and look over both sides. There are few places where you can do this. Its scary and fun!

I value that Seneca is fairly undeveloped. No RV no hook-ups.

**Further questions:**

- **What motivates you to select climb at Seneca over other areas? Is it the setting, the social scene, something else?**
- **How is Seneca Rocks different from others you could have visited instead?**

**4. What would you like the experience at Seneca Rocks to be like 20 years from now? (15 min)**

The climbing community has grown and evolved since the 80's. Climbing has become more popular. I would hope to see that climbing is still happening and we still have access to the area, that it is not overly regulated. Part of the charm of the area is the wild west feel of just being able to go and climb without having a permit process/pay to play. Other areas have permits, would not like permits I it's a hinderance.

I would love to have more primitive camping, rather than private camping. (rules and regs for dispersed camping on Forest Service land, specific this National Recreation Area).

Do folks value the fact that Seneca does offer a traditional climbing experience and is that something we want Seneca to be able to continue to provide in 20 years? Collective, yes. Traditional climbing offers a mental challenge; you have a rack of gear strategic gear management; find the route yourself. Sport climbing is less adventurous, following a preset line of bolts (difference in route finding). There's more of a mental challenge. Retain value of having a traditional climbing area. Avoid excessive trail building that could happen with sport climbing (over developing)

I want to see access remain open at Seneca no reduction in climbing access and response climbing expansion If that's the direction the community wants.

Access to alternative potential climbing areas

**5. What issues are you currently experiencing that prevent you from the experience you just described? Are there any issues you anticipate becoming an obstacle to the experience you envisioned 20 years from now? (20 min)**

When you climb at Seneca it can get congested/rock fall from people climbing above. Finding rappelling – there's only 2 main (+ some intermediate station); they can be difficult to find.

Period overcrowding is an issue its part of the nature of the community (becoming more popular) have to wait in line for rappel stations. Limited rappel stations could be the reason for congestion.

Chimney;

Rappel stations on the east face could be helpful, would need to assess which routes are viable climbing options.

Groups that come out in large groups—the issue is the number of climbs is too small to handle a large numbers of large groups coming at the same time.

**6. Lastly, are there any organizations or individuals not represented today that you feel need to be a part of this planning process?**

Daniel Brothers

Ohio climbing community

Top rope climbing

Traditional climbing

Sport climbing

Solo climbing

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**3. What do you value about Seneca Rocks and the local area? (10 min)**

**Further leading questions:**

- **What motivates you to select climb at Seneca over other areas? Is it the setting, the social scene, something else?**
- **How is Seneca Rocks different from others you could have visited instead?**

- trad!
- quality multipitch
- real adventurous climbing (Champe & North Fork)
- still “wild” compared to anything within several hours
- great climbing community (people willing to help you, connections and good people)
- great climbing established support (trails, gear shop, etc.)
- climbing community established in town & rocks
- scenery and gorgeous landscapes
- rock quality

**4. What would you like the experience at Seneca Rocks to be like 20 years from now? (15 min)**

- not be bolted/sport climbing
- would not want anchor rebolting to be impossible or over-regulated but would not want additional bolts, hardware
  - if rebolting has to go through Forest Service, then may be slow/unsafe process
  - main concern being rappel stations, not necessarily replacing bolts on little used, older routes
- Seneca has largely stayed the same over the years, would like for this to continue
  - leave space as-is as much as possible
- plenty of parking currently, no need to expand drastically
- area closer to the river to jump in after climbing

**5. What issues are you currently experiencing that prevent you from the experience you just described? Are there any issues you anticipate becoming an obstacle to the experience you envisioned 20 years from now? (20 min)**

- too many drones (general group concurrence on this)
  - too close to climber
  - unsafe
  - unable to communicate with partner
  - dangerous distraction
- more climbers = more new trad leaders, potential for dangerous errors increases
- road can wash out to be impassable which causes issues

**6. Lastly, are there any organizations or individuals not represented today that you feel need to be a part of this planning process?**

Seneca Mountain Guides

**7. Other**

- There was an assessment of climbing with some data at Seneca ('93 – '97) taken when guiding was fairly new. (Alex, this is probably of interest to you!)
- Slacklining/Highlining: something to take into consideration, very related to (and sometimes in conflict with, though generally on the same page) climbing
- CMPs: concerns that almost all fail/don't get through the entire process
  - Ex: C&O Canal, Virginia side of Great Falls
    - Might be trying again on these but not looking like will run to completion
  - What if: find rare species of animal/plant, could climbing be shut down?
  - Could starting this process result in more restricted climbing areas/use?
- What other conflicts between parties are there?
  - bolting versus not bolting (chopping) conflict
  - what others?
- How much of the local climbing etiquette/ethics possible to be listed in the management plan?
  - Believe that current etiquette/ethics are valid and up-to-standard
    - standard for long time: ground-up bolting allowed, skyhooks allowed to stand in while drilling
      - specifications best left to local climbing organizations?
  - Which local ethics do we emphasize and continue with?
  - Are we able to use precise enough language in this document to allow for nuanced bolting versus not bolting and other issues?

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**3. What do you value about Seneca Rocks and the local area? (10 min)**

A traditional area, mini-alpine world - different to other areas of climbing. History associated with it, troops trained there, natural history. Climbing community at Seneca is different than other areas because of skills associated and connection/comradery amongst climbers. Small, Appalachian town/community. Not just an area, but a community.

**Further leading questions:**

- **What motivates you to select climb at Seneca over other areas? Is it the setting, the social scene, something else?**
- **How is Seneca Rocks different from others you could have visited instead?**

Sense of adventure climbing at Seneca is still there, other crags are “brought down” to the people in the area. Have to push yourself for the routes at Seneca. Traditional climbing community, have to have background knowledge. Multi-pitch.

**4. What would you like the experience at Seneca Rocks to be like 20 years from now? (15 min)**

Just like it is. Committed adventure, have to think on your feet. Well maintained and adventurous. Availability for people to hone in on skills. Retain the wilderness/backcountry character that the area has. Maintain it as a unique area that requires skills to succeed on the crag.

**5. What issues are you currently experiencing that prevent you from the experience you just described? Are there any issues you anticipate becoming an obstacle to the experience you envisioned 20 years from now? (20 min)**

Drones – they cause a massive distraction/annoyance/safety issue for those that are climbing (incident where a woman mistook the sound of the drone as a swarm of bees and started running on the summit). They take away from other people’s experiences.

Tourist interaction in technical climbing areas can be concerning, separation of certain groups.

There are a lot of people that visit and explore Seneca currently. There is a carrying capacity and it should be maintained.

There are different groups of climbing, the CMP should take that into consideration. New types of climbing could be established that would need to be taken into consideration when they come up. Different kinds of groupings of climbers as well, some areas could be opened to a group experience, should be thought about how that can be accommodated and where the line should be drawn. This also can include slacklining. There was an incident where the Forest Service 2 years ago wanted slackliners to not come back.

**6. Lastly, are there any organizations or individuals not represented today that you feel need to be a part of this planning process?**

Getting the local community involved/aware would be essential.

Also, where pets play in, bringing dogs around and where they can be etc. (rock fall risk)

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**3. What do you value about Seneca Rocks and the local area? (10 min)**

- Easy access from VA and collegiate environment. 5.5 hours to New River Gorge and Richmond about 3. Multiple outdoor experiences in same area.
- Coming out of DC/southern Maryland, most accessible climbing area around. National Forest system, multiple sports in general area, convenient. Long day trips possible. Best location regionally and not overbuilt at the moment.
- Climbed in area about 35 years. Put up hundreds of first climbs. Willing to look and figure out access, plenty still left to do. Many routes that did years ago have been retro bolted and people thinking they were first, which is cool. Climbing community has gotten along reasonable well. Some small conflicts but in general well managed. Hopefully experience stays available. People want to do things that are not in the guide book and not on mountain project. What to hope to gain from this experience.
- Been climbing for just under 9 years, Seneca at just under 8, so relative newbies. One attractive to Seneca is probably the best easy weekend trip from DC subs for multi-pitch climbing which is what enjoy the most. Multi-pitch at Seneca stands out for its exposure. Enjoy getting out of the DC subs. Try to frequent the local establishments as much as can (gateway, etc). Like Seneca for lot of same reasons others mentioned.
- Lots of people want to put their footprint on an area and take care of it in a respectful manner.

**Further leading questions:**

- **What motivates you to select climb at Seneca over other areas? Is it the setting, the social scene, something else?**
  - Unlike other trad MP climbing areas, Seneca is free. No day pass or no member only. Lots of good with membership fees but want to make sure stays free and available for all to enjoy.
  - Appeal at Seneca is straight forward and easy. Lots of range of ability. No cost to use. Mental approach to climbers akin to a camping trip. If your skill level, open and easily enjoyed. Similarly, community around supports it with campsites, cabins, etc.
  - Closest east coast alpine type climbing. Even going to New River Gorge, doesn't have the same feel. Just the proximity, short windows, would rather work with participants than in a car.

- Like Seneca because of the high quality routes in all different grades. Routes that aren't rated difficult but very enjoyable. Need to bring wider range of skills to climb at Seneca. Not too many places where can just come and set up top ropes. Not many bolted routes, so have to be good at using trad. Even though climbed heavily, have to deal with loose rock and route finding. Skills that when learned can apply to other alpine settings and big mountains, offers opportunity to develop skills to travel around world and be successful and bigger aspirations.
- Closest alpine type climbing destination in mid-atlantic. Much better prepared to climb out west and other places based on climbing and learning at Seneca. Given us healthy respect for area and endeavor. Hope this place remains this way. Not going to turn into a place where people top rope the first pitch. Agree with above, good improving and training ground for bigger adventures.
- **How is Seneca Rocks different from others you could have visited instead?**
  - Different style of climbing from other areas. Lot more rugged. Harder access on foot.
  - If look at some other popular climbing areas within local areas, Seneca still predominately trad climbing compared to reeds creek, etc (sport). Different options locally. Seneca particular flavor is not sport experience, think that's great and mostly should stay that way.
  - Several other areas getting developed that have that sport setting. So having capability to do other options nearby. Can do trad, sport, multi all close together.
  - Locally a good climbing area but even the town and community, supports climbing but not popular enough that the town gets lost. Unique place for us.

#### 4. What would you like the experience at Seneca Rocks to be like 20 years from now? (15 min)

- Smoother process on the permitting process, ability to do things not faster but more efficient manner to assist in climber development. Develop climbs, improve trails. Better parameter to cater to groups. Ratios prohibit larger collegiate groups to be able to teach courses. Could help area, but also knowing impact on rec climbers and smaller guide trips, vegetation, etc. Better trail and access systems.
- Maintain land in area reserved for public access, no leasing out to private entities. Current land that is accessible stays that way. Various discussion increase in tech, drone access for example, put up restrictions, etc.
- Ditto to the drone and accessibility, land access, etc. No leasing out to private entities (huge)
- Ditto ditto on the accessibility and no leasing, commercial extraction, etc.
- Would like to see it basically same as is now. Have been some changes over the years but really not that different than 20 years ago or even the mid 80's when started climbing there. Some small differences. Have seen popularity wax and wane. Seemed even more crowded at times historically than is today. Other times could go over the weekend and not even run into people. Preserving the nature of climbing at Seneca, 100 years from now can come and have relatively the same experience. Some things can definitely change (anchor points, etc) but none of those change the nature of Seneca as a trad area. If lucky enough to climb 20 years from now, can come to Seneca and recognize as same experience.
- Agree with all of the above. Ditto.
- Seneca really is kind of an oasis. No cell phones, rural, open access to nature. Everyone on this call, lucky if grown up with it, lucky to enjoy it. Great deal to be said for Seneca 20 years from now. A place where people can bring their 20 year olds to and share this place with.

**5. What issues are you currently experiencing that prevent you from the experience you just described? Are there any issues you anticipate becoming an obstacle to the experience you envisioned 20 years from now? (20 min)**

- Appreciate being able to just pull up, hike and go. No reservations, no time slots, no excessive permitting (federal or gov). Climber maintained and created, maintain spirit of what its been.
- Drone photography. Suspect this is something folks have passionate views on. Personally doesn't bother this person a whole lot but others it is whether annoying or safety issue. Drones at a safe distance and not a huge amount, can provide things we value like area photographs that go into guide books or magazines, something can't do without drone photography. Only comment will make as suspect it will come up in other groups, regs and permits maybe too strong, but some kind of process where there aren't 5 drones buzzing around someone's head at once. Respectful of subjects filming (and others). Don't think need to go to banning drones, but know others have pretty passionate views.
- Permitting process, issues of area not being conducive to larger groups, especially right now with regs can only use Seneca for guiding. If get caught in other area, loss of permit. Something experience in future, hopefully look at new beginner climber, hikers, guides in collegiate programs, etc...something working with federal agency while working for state agency, tough.
- Nobody really slapping wrists for over ratio, guiding out of area, etc.
- Not currently experiencing anything regularly that interferes with climbing. Always been the way that its been there. Not really different from anytime in past. Not seeing much develop that significantly affects the climbing there. No huge problems with the climbing. Drones but doesn't really bother me. Could get out of hand. Usually drone comes, takes a few pics, leaves. Haven't experienced drone coming too close.

**6. Lastly, are there any organizations or individuals not represented today that you feel need to be a part of this planning process?**

- James Madison University/George Mason.
- People whose businesses or use it the most are at the front of it
- Other non-climbing locals – Yokums, etc that will impact them based on everything (parking, etc) aware that this is happening, how it could impact them, etc.
- When an accident, do these people need to be involved with EAP.
- Mike Gray (wrote Smoke Hole guide book)
- Franklin gorge? (residents, etc?) not sure what's going on with that area. Area probably should look at in this. Private property access issues.
- Tony Barnes (first three editions of SR guidebook). Andy Weiman.

## **7:40-8:00 Report out from each group**

- Seneca is valued as a place to have adventure in a wilderness setting
- Don't want change
- What is advantage of National Park versus National Recreation Area? Different management or environmental protection?
- Keep local climbing etiquette/ethics
- Erosion issues
- How to share notes? Google docs was suggested where people could leave comments
- Share emails of attendees?