

From: Elaine Stewart
To: Deb Scrivens; Jane Hart
Date: 6/7/2005 12:02:40 PM
Subject: Re: portage at Smith Bybee water control structure

When we designed the structure, we focused on providing canoe passage through one of the bays in the structure. The issue of portaging came up, but we thought we could address it separately. We thought we could "field-engineer" it - which is a fancy way of saying we thought we could place the rocks and make the slope such that it would be sufficient for portaging. But it didn't work out, and now we have steep slopes with large rocks that are well-suited to spraining ankles and scraping boats. Subsequently, I have applied for grants for various tweaks and improvements to the structure that include formal/improved portage. The grantors have declined to fund the portage portions of the applications because they have been focused on habitat improvement. Resolving the portage issue has proved more difficult than I thought it would be, and it's unfortunate. It hasn't been forgotten, and the Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes are very interested in it too.

This portage issue was not addressed in the trails feasibility study - it is outside the scope of that project. (That project is working on land trails, not water trails.) However, IF an alignment across the structure is chosen and developed, a portage could be part of that design. I WOULD NOT pass that last sentence along to the public though - it would be "tail wagging the dog" as a reason to choose a particular alignment, not to mention getting way ahead of ourselves in trail design!

I am happy to speak/email directly with this person or any other person that inquires about this. Or you could send them to Dan.

Cheers,
Elaine

>>> Deb Scrivens 5/24/2005 2:48:04 PM >>>

Hullo-

I had a question from a member of the public and I told him I would get back to him with an answer.

He wanted to know why there was no canoe portage put in when the water control structure was built. He thought we missed a great recreation opportunity for canoeists to be able to go between the Slough and the Wetland.

I figured this got addressed in the trail feasibility study, but I don't know much about it.

Could you refer me to some text I could send him, or possibly summarize a quick answer and I can forward it?

Thanks so much.

Deb

CC: Dan Kromer; James Davis