

Department of Natural Resources
Reiter Foothills Recreation Plan Public Meeting
Monroe High School - February 12, 2008 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Meeting Purpose: Introduction to Reiter Foothills Recreation Plan, and an opportunity for the public to ask questions, give comments and offer feedback to DNR.

6:00 Sign-in

- 6:10 Welcome, introductions and housekeeping – Margaret Barrette
- Review agenda and meeting purpose
- 6:15 Northwest Region - Bill Wallace, NW Region Manager
- Introduction to DNR and Northwest Region
 - Brief History – how we got here
- 6:20 Reiter Project - Candace Johnson, Asst Region Manager- Recreation
- Project purpose and planning area
 - Planning process and timeline
 - Public involvement
- 6:25 Listening and Information posts – Margaret Barrette

6:30 Listening and Information Posts

1. Current Recreation Activities – David Way and Christ Thomsen

What do you enjoy about recreating in the Reiter Foothills? What kinds of recreation do you currently do? In what locations?

2. Recreation Enhancements – Lisa Anderson and Stan Kurowski

What kind of opportunities are there to enhance recreation in Reiter Foothills? Where?

3. Recreation Challenges – Candace Johnson and Jim Cahill

What are the most pressing issues and/or concerns that need to be addressed to ensure long term recreation opportunities at Reiter?

4. Public Involvement Opportunities – Randy Kline and Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn

- *Recreation Planning Committee: applications, process, timelines*
- *Trail Inventory Collection*
- *Reiter project updates: sign up*

5. Trust Land Management, Recreation, Other Info – Laurie Bergvall and Mark Mauren

- *Trust Land Management: maps, trust obligations, revenue information*
- *Statewide Recreation Program: sign up for e-news*

8:30 Adjourn

Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan
February 12, 2008
Public Meeting Comment Summary

What do you enjoy about Recreating in the Reiter Foothills?

- Size of the area
- Close to major cities
- Large trail system of ORV use trails
- World class trials terrain
- Close and provides challenging terrain, good elevation and great views
- Large variety of trails types
- Scenery

Good areas and models to follow

- Great job in Walker
- Good model is little Naches area with its multiple uses
- Enjoy riding at Walker and Tahuya. They are good examples of what could be done at Reiter.
- Use Capital Forest as a model - separate riding areas.

What kinds of recreation do you currently do?

- Motorcycle riding
- Family oriented use
- Mountain biking (in Reiter, Deer Flats and Lake Isabell areas)
- Horseback riding (in Wallace Lake, Snow Lake and Jay Lake areas)
- Hiking
- Quad riding
- Fishing
- Camping
- Shooting and target practice
- Organized events
- 4x4 riding
- Snowmobiling
- Volunteer trail maintenance
- RV Camping
- Sight seeing

What kind of opportunities are there to enhance recreation in Reiter Foothills?

Planning

- Consider that ORV use is an existing use that has occurred for more than 40 years within and beyond the planning area
- Disappointed by closing of the P-5000 area and Sultan Basin without public involvement
- A bridge at May Creek is needed
- Have a gate keeper concept like Walker
- Allow night use

- Set up a system that allows for volunteers to maintain trails (in cooperation with DNR)
- Take advantage of volunteer skills and abilities by providing easy access to maintenance equipment and supplies
- Provide for safety and equipment use (chainsaw) training
- Allow for public involvement
- Design trail locations that conserve areas and provide areas for re-growth
- Provide donations signs
- Include habitat conservation as a consideration during planning
- Tax ORV usage to maintain area
- Camping could be good source of revenue

Education and Enforcement

- Provide enforcement at night
- Apply a “leave no trace” program
- Provide patrolling
- Better marking of illegal trails
- Have more ORV officers patrolling the area
- Ensure that public safety is protected
- Police illegal use including meth labs
- Provide education for users

Access, Trails and Use

- Provide access into Wallace Falls State Park for:
 - Hiking
 - Biking
 - Horseback riding
- Open up secondary roads (i.e. logging roads that are not county roads) for all ORV types
- Expand trail system for motorcycling (i.e. west towards Wallace Falls)
- Provide mountain bike trails (there are none in the Hwy 2 corridor) with 12+ miles of trails for a good user experience
- Put a children’s motorized beginner trail near the trailhead
- Re-open the trail that used to go to Index in the 1960’s and 1970’s
- Have trails of different difficulty
- Provide areas for target shooting
- Encourage family rides in the planning area
- Provide longer loop trail systems
- Provide trail maps with trail miles shown
- Build trails that are scenic
- Maintain the single-track trails
- Finish the Lake Isabelle trail
- Provide diverse trail options for higher level mountain bike riders
- Stop trail blazing
- Provide more trails around the radio towers on the connector road to Wallace Falls and the lake
- Provide a safe place to shoot recreationally, perhaps with a local enthusiast maintaining the spot
- Horse back riding is currently located along Skokomish River, would rather ride in Wallace Lake Area and Sultan Basin
- Provide horse trails, camping with horses and parking facilities for trailers

- Provide more trails for hikers and horses
- Provide a rest area
- More guard rails in pit areas or have designated entrances
- Make a trail connection between lower and upper pit
- Leave the Reiter pit area alone but provide patrol for illegal activities
- Provide mountain bike trails. We have almost no trails to ride anywhere in the area, and the terrain at Reiter is perfect for mountain bikes. Trails could be anywhere in the forest, but area with elevation change are best, such as the area surrounding Wallace Falls State Park.
- Mountain bikes are low impact, and can co-exist well with almost any other recreational use. A good mountain bike trail should have at least 10 miles of trails for a good user experience. We really need a place to ride mountain bikes here in Snohomish County.

Camping and Facilities

- Need dispersed camping
- Like to see fire pits, restrooms and garbage cans
- Provide camping in the Reiter pit area
- Allow camping with motor homes
- Make it an all-over RV park
- Camping is needed. If the lower pit area were to be expanded possibly as far as the power lines it would provide easy access for motorhomes, campers and trailers which would result with more family use.

Parking and Staging Areas

- Need Wallace Falls main line parking area to access area west of Wallace Falls State Park
- Need an RV round about
- Provide improved staging areas that are attractive and safe
- Existing parking lot needs to improved
- Provide toilets and facilities at staging areas
- Split parking area into two parking areas – one for horse trailers and one for ORV trailers

Signage

- Add road signage (who yields)
- Clearly mark DNR land boundaries
- Provide enhanced signage in parking areas
- Provide signage stating no littering or dumping

Erosion

- Provide protection for City of Index water quality

What are the most pressing issues and or concerns that need to be addressed to ensure long term recreation opportunities at Reiter?

Planning and Maintenance

- Provide more opportunity for public involvement and feedback
- Improve habitat conservation, environmental damage reduction and protection
- Don't over regulate
- Equal user fees for motorized and non- motorized users

- Maintain the trails and facilities that are built
- Concern as to what DNR will do if Reiter is not managed
- Concern for what the ultimate plan will be? Want to ensure that recreation use is planned and managed
- Allow clubs to seek expansion of the trail system
- Address noise issues at late hours

Access, Trails and Use

- Provide places to ride horses that are free of traffic and motorized trails
- Emphasis on multiple use trails to maximize use
- Try to spread trails over large areas to minimize impact
- Motorized use on designated routes only
- Decommission unauthorized motorized routes (with unsuitable soils, etc.)
- Reduce user conflicted by having designated areas for users like Tahuya (by blocks) - 4x4 has taken over too many motorcycle trails
- Provide gated access for areas to the north part of planning area
- Provide sustainable trail design
- Reiter is being loved to death (too concentrated and not designed that way)
- Concern over potential for loss of existing ORV trails to non-motorized uses
- Wild Sky Wilderness area must be protected from motorized access
- Provide more areas on the west side to help with over crowding
- Trails near Hagerty Creek should be reopened
- Provide trail maps
- Do not reduce the trail miles
- Camping for horse back use
- Non-motorized uses are driven out by motorized use
- Need single track maintained as single track
- Provide an area for safe shooting but “designated” area may not be popular
- Concern that trails are becoming freeways
- Need to provide horse stalls, corral tie racks and stock water
- Need trails that are more family oriented
- Safety and enforcement of illegal equipment and behavior. STOP the jeeps and quads from converting single-track trails into 8 foot wide clear-cuts
- Provide sustainable multi-use trails. Long term, ensured access to mountain bike trails. These features will promote a strong user base with an interest in building, providing for and maintaining such trails
- Mountain bikers are a pro-active group and would definitely be involved in building any new trails with our volunteer workforce (working with DNR, of course) and could provide full plans for trail layout/design

Education and Enforcement

- Firearms issues
- Lack of education
- Partying issues
- Noise issues
- Lack of respect
- Drug users and illegal dumping issues need to be addressed
- Strict enforcement of laws

Littering

- Keep it clean, open, and protected
- Littering and dumping of cars and trash is a problem
- Not cleaning up after camping
- Alcohol abuse is a problem
- Vandalism

Parking and Staging Areas

- Provide speed limits in staging and trailer parking areas
- Ensure peak-use capacity (enough parking and trailer space)

Erosion and Water Issues

- Correct erosion issues especially at water crossings
- Use a similar strategy to Walker Valley (eco blocks) to control erosion in mountain areas
- Protect drinking water sources
- Water holes on trails are too deep

[End]