



The Recreation Report



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Hauling in Success with the Great Gravel Pack-In

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Volunteers and their pack stock return from dumping gravel along the Greenline #6 Trail.

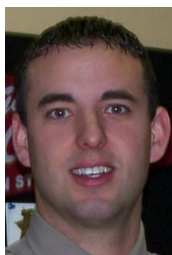
Photo: DNR/Randy Warnock

Despite some cold and stormy weather 143 volunteers braved the conditions on March 7 to help haul gravel and improve the trails around Mima Falls Campground and the Greenline #6 Trail. With the help of more than 19 pack animals, volunteers moved nearly 10 tons of gravel up the trail to improve trail conditions. In addition to the main group who worked on graveling and fixing the trails, other groups brushed out vegetation, rebuilt a culvert, prepared lunch, and cleaned around the campground.

Volunteers turned in **1,102.25** hours of work for the day! That number does not include the work done on the lower trail around the parking lot where people and wheelbarrows moved nearly 8.50 tons of gravel. Doing all of this laborious work were volunteers from nine chapters of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington as well as the Silver Spurs 4H group, WACMO Mounted Orienteering, and Friends of Capitol Forest. A special thanks to Costco, which donated hotdogs, buns, and chili for all the participants of the event.

This event would not take place if not for the efforts of Ed Haefliger. Ed has been there since the beginning with his continued support and hard work in helping to coordinate and organize this event. With his help this event has grown into our largest volunteer event in the region. And he is helping to ensure its growth and success for the future.

A Brief Message from the DNR Law Enforcement Division



On behalf of the DNR law enforcement division I would like to thank the various user and volunteer groups that support our program. Your help with providing information and identifying a variety of issues has been paramount to our success. It is imperative that we maintain a solid partnership and a strong stewardship among user groups,

recreationalists, private land owners and government agencies to accomplish a sustainable environment on DNR land. Further, our goal is to provide a safe and enjoyable outdoor experience for everyone using DNR land.

On February 3, the Board of Natural Resources formally adopted revisions to the rules regarding recreation and behavior on DNR managed lands. On March 14, the new rules went into effect and are now being enforced. The new rules reflect trends in recreation within the state and will address the increasing number of visitors and issues

occurring on DNR-managed lands. These rules will increase public safety and help improve natural resource protection. The rules cover a variety of issues dealing with target shooting, campgrounds, campsites, road and trail management, traffic, parking, etc.

The rules are governed under the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 332-52 and can be viewed on the Washington State Department of Legislature's website at

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=332-52>

Contact us anytime if you have questions or an issue that needs to be looked into. Thanks!

Sincerely,
Officer Jason Bodine

Remember to turn in your Volunteer Hours!

To support DNR's currently funded grants, please continue to turn in your hours. Contact recreation staff if you are in need of any extra forms or would like more information on volunteering.

South End Recreation

South Recreation Manager



With the recent legislative redirection of NOVA funding, the DNR Recreation Program is facing some tough financial times. We are working towards creative funding solutions to maintain full staffing throughout this funding gap. Though challenging, we are confident that we can figure out ways to continue doing our best to provide safe and sustainable recreation opportunities for our visitors.

However, this situation brings to light that we must rely on our volunteer partnerships now more than ever to stretch our shrinking capacity. Volunteers have always

been an important part of our recreation program. You provide us with thousands of hours of hard work and dedication to trails and facilities each year. The next two years without NOVA funding will be an unprecedented challenge.

Partners, this is a call to rise up and help us meet this challenge. We look forward to your continued support to guide us through to the other end of this tunnel.

Sincerely,

Jessica

jessica.kimmick@dnr.wa.gov

Rock Creek Work Party Draws Multi-Group Cooperation

On February 28, DNR staff along with several volunteer groups and individuals worked on the Tarbell Trail just out of Rock Creek Campground to repair several soggy sections of trail. More than 30 volunteers showed up to work, with 400 volunteer hours accumulated in one day's work. Mountain bikers, hikers, horseback riders, and ORV enthusiasts all participated and worked together to make this work party a success. Representatives from clubs that participated were from Jones Creek Trail Riders Association (JCTRA), BCH (Mt. St. Helens chapter), Washington Trail Riders Association (WTRA), Washington Trails Association, PUMP Mountain Bike Club, Cold Creek Mount Bikers, Columbia Long Ears, and Chinook Trail Association.

Donations for the day included:

- Dan's Tractor Inc. in Battleground—mini excavator.
- Dale Lubbers donated and operated a Kubota tractor.
- WTRA donated 500 feet of woven geo-tech trail fabric.
- BCH and WTRA donated more than 40 tons of rock and gravel.
- JCTRA donated three 6x6 ATVs with operators.
- Chuck Busig, owner/operator of Polar Excavation donated the use and operation of his dump truck for moving gravel.

Huge thanks to everyone for their donations and hard work!

Before

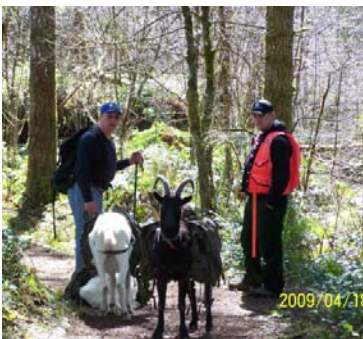


Photo: DNR/Kyle Buckmiller

After



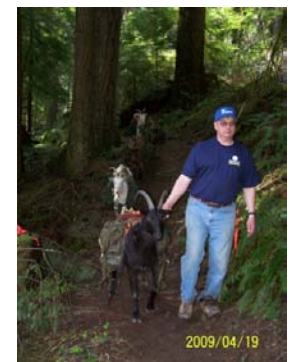
Goats Hauling Gravel?



Goats pausing for a photo-op with DNR employee Kyle Buckmiller

On April 18-19, the Bells Mountain Trail was host to a special group of goats that helped haul more than 1,000 pounds of gravel. This group of 12 goats with four handlers worked two days to clean up some bad spots on the trails. The goats hiked nearly 2 miles in to trouble spots and made several trips during their two days of service

The handlers were out volunteering as part of the Master Hunter program through Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The program requires that each person wanting to qualify to be a Master Hunter provide at least 20 hours of volunteer service on a project benefiting state wildlife resources. This goal was easily met by those that participated. Big thanks again to the Evergreen Pack Goat Club for their help in donating their time and resources to help maintain the trails.



A Volunteer and his goats on the trail hauling gravel.

Photos: DNR/Jessica Kimmick

Photo: DNR/ Jessica Kimmick

Phil Wolff New Recreation Manager North Region North Recreation Manager



Hello I am Phil Wolff, the new recreation Forester in the Pacific Cascade Region. My area of responsibility includes the Capitol State Forest.

I have spent the majority of my forestry career in South Puget Sound Region and more specifically the Tahuya and Green Mountain state forests. As time went on, my position became directed towards managing recreation. In the early 1990s, we launched the "Tahuya Project" where an extensive amount of trail work and environmental rehabilitation work was accomplished in the forest. This project included collaboration and combined work efforts with recreation groups in Tahuya and Green Mountain. We also established trail tread test area using (at the time) new methods of trail hardening and trail design methods.

I went to the Product Sales and Leasing Division in 2005. Here I took on special projects, some of which were related to recreation. While at the division I gained a broader understanding of DNR's trust land responsibilities and leasing abilities.

I am a trails enthusiast, riding both mountain bikes and motorcycles, and occasionally I escape from the forest with my family to do some saltwater fishing and kayaking.

I am looking forward to enhancing sustainable recreation opportunities with recreation enthusiasts and fellow Pacific Cascade recreation team members. You can reach me at philip.wolff@dnr.wa.gov

Public Turns out for ORV Safety Summit

On May 9, DNR in partnership with Straddleline ORV Park and WOHVA sponsored the 2nd Annual ORV Safety Summit. The event had over 200 participants who came out to learn more information on the current safety issues and regulations for ORV /ATV use. Participants enjoyed booths from local dealerships, equipment vendors, state, and county law enforcement agencies, local fire/rescue agencies, as well as numerous riding clubs, and user groups.

Highlights of the event included:

- Drawings for various gifts donated by dealerships, groups, and local retailers were handed out by local dignitaries and representatives from clubs and agencies.
- Downed rider scenario put on by Black Lake Fire Department which showed kids and adults what would happen if a rider is injured out on the trail.
- Bike-out-of-compliance skit put on by Chris Rankin from DNR Law Enforcement detailing proper riding technique and apparel.
- TPQ, aka Tim Shelman Pro Quad Circuit rider, was on hand to sign autographs and he gave a demonstration ride following the event on the Straddleline track.

Thank you to everyone who helped and participated in the event. Thanks to all of you it was a great success!



DNR Law Enforcement Chief Larry Raedel speaking with pro quad rider Tim Shelman and other dignitaries during the ORV Safety Summit

Photo: DNR/ Randy Warnock



User Submitted Photo Contest

Thank you for everyone that submitted pictures for the picture competition, there were several great entries received. This month's winner is...

Matt Pogue from WA-ATV

Matt submitted a picture that was taken during a WA-ATV work party this winter. WA-ATV was building rails along a bad part of the Waddle Loop Trail in Capitol Forest to get it ready for the use season and their Spring Fling Poker Run that was held on May 2-3.

This picture was chosen because it shows the hard work that is being done on the trails throughout the year by our dedicated volunteers. The ability to maintain these trails and keep them rideable is a daunting task but with continued support from dedicated volunteers the trails will remain open for years to come.

To submit a picture for the next newsletter send your favorite picture to nick.cronquist@dnr.wa.gov



Camp Hosts Needed for DNR Campgrounds

Current Campground Information

Capitol Forest
Open for Camping and Trails
May 1- November 31

Winston Creek
By reservation only

Dougan Falls
Open

Merrill Lake
Open March 15- Nov 15

Snag Lake
Closed for salvage logging in area

Western Lakes
Closed for salvage logging in area

Woodland
By reservation only

Rock Creek
Open

Cold Creek
Open

Tunerville
Open

DNR is seeking volunteer hosts for three of its campgrounds in southwest Washington. These sites are:

- **Merrill Lake Campground in Cowlitz County**
- **Sherman Valley Campground in Thurston County**
- **Porter Creek Campground in Grays Harbor County**

If you or someone you know would like to apply for a camp host position in one of these areas, please contact your recreation manager for more information.



Sunset at Merrill Lake Campground.
Photo: DNR/Carlo Abbruzzese

Upcoming Events:

Capitol Bike Club Ride	Middle Waddle Trailhead	June 20
Competitive Orienteering Ride	Fall Creek Campground	June 20
Adventure Trek Day Hike	Wedekind, Trail #30 #6	June 23, 26
KORE Bike Duathlon	Fall Creek Day Use	June 27
Competitive Trail Riders Ride	Evergreen Sportsman's Club	June 28
Smuggler Poker Run	Middle Waddle Loop	Aug. 15-16
South Bay Vet Fun Run	Chehalis Western Trail	Aug.22
Competitive Mounted Orienteering Ride	Margaret McKenny Trailhead	Aug. 22-23
Rock n Roll Poker Run	Jones Creek Trailhead	Aug. 23
Williams Motorcycle Poker Run	Middle Waddle	Aug. 30
Burm Basher Bike Race	Trail #30, MMP #8	Sept.19-20
Bells Angels Check Point Run	Middle Waddle	Sept. 20
Capitol Forest Christmas Party	TBA	Dec. 12

For questions on these events, or if you would like to have your event added to the calendar, please contact Nick Cronquist at 360-490-2700 or nick.cronquist@dnr.wa.gov

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