

## **Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan Comments from Open House/Kickoff Meeting | February 1, 2012**

*The following is an unedited list of comments recorded at the listening stations and written on comment cards during the open house and received following the open house via email. These comments have not been sorted nor ranked by priority.*

- [Landscape connections](#)
- [Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Areas \(NRCA\)](#)
- [Raging River State Forest](#)
- [DNR-managed forest lands surrounding the community of Preston](#)
- [Questions and issues we might have missed](#)
- [Comments received following the open house](#)

### **► LANDSCAPE CONNECTIONS:**

*What opportunities are there to connect trails between DNR managed lands, communities and local, state and federal lands?*

- Connect trails to Snoqualmie Ridge Community
- Connect trails on west side of Mt Si along the river
- Trail connecting downtown North Bend to Middle Fork
- Connect Preston to Fall City & Snoqualmie & make loop back with county roads & easements
- Connect Mitchell Hill to Grand Ridge & Duthie
- Mountain bike connection from Grand Ridge to East Tiger and Raging River
- Connect with Hancock Forest; obtain easements for public access
- Connect Tiger Mountain to Rattlesnake Ridge
- Mountain bike connections from Taylor Mountain to Tiger Mountain to Raging River
- Horse connection from Taylor to Rattlesnake
- Historical sites as trail destinations with signage and information
- Connect Rattlesnake to Iron Horse State Park through City of Seattle lands near Rattlesnake Lake

- Acquire land behind Forester Woods to access Rattlesnake Mountain
- Obtain easements over private lands to increase opportunities for connections
- Trail base connections to cities to minimize driving
- Include trail system in North Bend annex area near exit 34. Correct base map to show new city lands.
- Include elk & wildlife corridor at exit 34 – Grouse Ridge & Raging River
- Wildlife corridors to double as recreation corridors
- Work with WDOT to connect across highway & that trailheads are not lost when road is widened; tunnel under SR-18
- Use I-90 & SR-18 for connector trails
- Work with King County Metro for bus connections
- Shuttle up Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley
- What happens to Raging River quarry?
- Snoqualmie trails as backbone of larger system
- Share baseline data from cities and county
- Take advantage of railroad grades
- Use levees for connections
- Trailheads to make loop connections
- Big Loop trails
- Intergovernmental compliance with County and State standards
- Exit 34- traffic impact on aesthetics, clean air, ground pollution, trail access
- Use connectivity to disperse use and avoid congestion
- How to communicate difference between single and multi-use trails
- Media campaign on trail etiquette

## ► MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE AND MOUNT SI NRCA:

*What do you enjoy about recreation in this area?*

*What is your favorite place to visit?*

*What is missing from your experience in this area?*

*Do you have concerns about the future recreation management of this area?*

- Acquire private lands; acquire private lands near Mail Box
- Consolidate lands with U.S. Forest Service
- Ensure compatible management between NRCA and Federal Wilderness
- New plan to fit with Wild and Scenic River designation
- Integrate older Middle Fork planning effort
- How deal with problems that road paving will bring?

- Coordinate with U.S. Forest Service and mining company
- Fire Training Academy has trouble with cars parking on their access road – block fire vehicles
- Collaborate with Ollalie State Park
- More resources and strategies to combat spreading of invasive species via trails
- More Trust Land Transfer to NRCA
- Fix Mailbox trail or shut down
- Make trail: Bessemer road to CCC to Green mountain (road to trail conversion)
- Maintain & improve Pratt River connection
- More access for white water paddling: parking, boat ramps, trails
- Horse trail access to horse camp; Middle Fork and connecting trails to keep existing use
- Parking lots for horse trailers with turn-around space
- Separate trail uses; create series of hiker only trails
- Have all multi-use trails unless terrain doesn't allow; we have enough hiker only trails
- Deal with all user-built trails that are fragmenting the land
- Big loops, long trails and connectivity
- Continue / expand alternating days for hiking and mountain biking
- Mountain biking:
  - grandfather existing trails & add more; manage rogue trails
  - make Granite Connector Trail & trail from concrete bridge to Green Mt. to Sitka Spruce trail legitimate
  - create stewardship program for trail maintenance
  - balanced growth for mountain biking
  - more downhill opportunities & also beginner options
- Restore former logged forest (mono-culture) to natural forest to support wildlife
- Interpretive signage for wildlife
- Protect historical and cultural sites: “enjoy not destroy”
- Flashlight vending machine on top of Mailbox
- Partying and target shooting is a safety issue and is getting worse
- Current ORV & target shooting not compatible with NRCA
- Current camping/living near Little Si is trashing the area
- Concern about balancing recreation use with abuse & dumping
- Create volunteer forest watch program coordinated with law enforcement
- Improve DNR enforcement/education presence especially at nighttime
- Public transportation; facilities to accommodate busses
- Public transportation instead of car access
- Plan for peak oil

## ► RAGING RIVER STATE FOREST

*What recreational opportunities would you like to see?*

*Do you have concerns about the future management of this area?*

- Protect basic resources; ecological restoration
- Appreciate DNR coordination of timber harvest with recreation
- Multiple use recreation; reduce conflicts with proper trail design
- Education and Enforcement (E&E) for multiple use trails; user groups to help get E&E message out and self-enforce
- Hiking, hunting, mushrooming, mountain biking, equestrian trails
- Mountain bikes:
  - Mountain bikes need diverse trail opportunities: stacked loop with different skill levels, advanced & intermediate decent; family friendly trails; cross country
  - Venue for lift-assisted Mountain bike events
  - Shuttle system
  - Non-shutable trails
  - Look at Galbraith Mt & Whatcom County as good example for trails
  - 2-way trail design
- Equestrian
  - Connect Taylor horse trails to winery
  - Horse camping linked to trail system
  - Half & full day ride loop opportunities
  - Manage equestrian use to minimize trail degradation for other uses
- Motorized possibilities
- Off-leash dog trails with signage
- River access & parking for trout fishing, trailhead to Kerriston Creek, Hwy 18, South of BPA lines.
- Television spots, radio, paper, smoky Bear type camping
- Trailhead at Echo Lake and more trailheads.
- Connections:
  - Across Hwy 18 to Tiger
  - Across I-90 to Echo Glen & Rural Lands to Grand Ridge
  - Taylor to SW ridge to north watershed
  - Rattlesnake to Raging to W Tiger to E Tiger, also to Taylor
  - Connect Issaquah to Snoqualmie Pass

- Lowland river trail to Kerriston
- Identify old Kerriston gravel & coal mining town buildings (1910-1930) as point of historic interest & trail destination point.

► **DNR-MANAGED FOREST LANDS surrounding the community of Preston**

*What do you enjoy about recreation in this area?*

*What is your favorite place to visit?*

*What is missing from your experience in this area?*

*Do you have concerns about the future recreation management of this area?*

- Conflicts between motorized and pedestrian at access point
- Barriers at access points prevent horse access but not others
- Need more information about the trails: maps with distances & surface described, parking & trail head locations clearly indicated
- Consolidate the maze of little trails coming from everyone's properties
- Private land clearly marked to avoid trespassing
- Connections:
  - Connect all of the pieces
  - Connect to King County trails
  - More land swaps & easements to connect properties
  - Connect Snoqualmie Ridge to Grand Ridge via Rural Lands
  - Big plus of living in Snoqualmie Ridge is the network of trails
  - Connect across I-90 – path along road shoulder
  - Connections between cities – good for business – can ride to another city for lunch, beer, wine tasting, Fall City Forest Theater, Old Preston Mill Site, etc. Opportunities to get cities to participate in creating long-distance trail network.
  - City of Issaquah has developed a regional bike trail plan add to maps
  - Connect Fall City & Rural Lands via levy and existing logging road
  - Grand Loop between Fall City & Snoqualmie Ridge using trails on both sides of Snoqualmie River
- Like to see horse, hiking, mountain biking, off leash dogs
- Multi-use trails instead of hiker only
- Separate uses on some trails
- Mountain Biking:
  - More opportunities
  - Winter opportunities in lowland hills
  - Connection from Snoqualmie Ridge to Grand Ridge via rural lands as alternative to paved bike path; loop back via bike path

- Variety of trail experiences & longer trails
- Loop trails connect to Duthie & Grand Ridge
- Need parking for horse trailers
- Horse trails in Mitchell Hill
- Opportunities for trail running
- More viewpoints of ponds, wetlands, ridge tops
- Lots of wetlands, water flow unpredictable
- Educate public on what DNR does to benefit the public

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### ► **QUESTIONS AND ISSUES we might have missed?**

- More dedicated trails for different interest groups – mountain biking, hiking, etc
- Astronomy Club likes to know where recently logged areas are for good viewing opportunities.
- Conflict between Salmon Recovery Plan requirement for down wood & boat use
- Increased need for retaining lowland habitat for big game elk in planning area to offset lowland habitat that will be lost by North Bend annex
- Exit 34 is the last stop when pass closes. Consider how development will increase traffic around exit 34.
- Increase equestrian access and camping
- Minimize horse trails due to increased maintenance cost
- Emphasize hiker only trails
- Focus on getting user groups to work together for common goals, access, more usable areas, funding, etc
- Protect sacred sites for Tribes
- Consider impacts of recreation on spread of noxious weeds (trails are vectors); early detection & rapid response to control
- Plan growth compatible with natural areas
- How to control expansion of cities into natural areas
- Build infrastructure with money to maintain
- Educate about forestry and DNR

### ► **COMMENTS received on comment cards:**

- Orphaned trails need a home. Raging River map shows orphaned trails and I'm not familiar with the area, unfortunately, but it would be nice if these trails were accessible for multi-use or linked to other existing trails for multi-use.

- Would like to see ORV areas developed by I-90. Motorcycle, ATV & Jeep trails. The plan being developed at Reiter Foothills could be used in this area.
- Connections Board #1:
  - Consider trail linkages with utility line corridors – City of Redmond has been successful with this.
  - Consider trail connections to downtown Snoqualmie, Railroad history and Snoqualmie Falls for variation in experiences.
  - Consider trail linkages to public transportation system. Someday sound transit may extend to area.
- Station #3: Raging River State Forest: should be committed primarily to longer distance hiking, kept as primitive and natural as possible, mechanical devices prohibited, dogs on leash and good signage of trails & distances.
- All uses should prevent conflicts between mechanized devices and human locomotion – i.e. areas committed to people without mechanical devices who want to go slow, pick mushrooms and enjoy the environment.
- Please preserve access to the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River for kayakers, canoeists and rafters. Please don't require us to carry heavy boats a long way to get to the water. The Middle Fork is a beautiful place – don't keep us out. Have any freshly logged areas? Let Astronomy clubs know.
- A missed question: How to minimize conflicts between hiker, horses and bikes. There needs to be developed an overriding plan that is observed in identifying permissible uses for particular areas.
- Proper horse trails must be less steep & straighter than hiker trails - therefore less interesting & versatile. Horses should be limited to specially built, sustainable trails and generally not permitted on trails built for hikers and mountain bikers or maintenance will be a huge issue.
- Substitute “mechanized” for “motorized” when discussing permissible uses – there's a critical difference & prohibiting “motorized uses” – simply does not do it.
- Station 2: Favorite uses for Si-Mailbox: Terrific hiking and climbing. The roads are fine for bikes, but trails should not be expanded or developed to accommodate mechanized devices.
- Need a place within 30-45 miles of Seattle for off-road motorcycle riding. There has been no effort in this area. All we ever hear is it's not compatible. Why not? Make an area.

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**► COMMENTS received following the Feb 1 meeting via e-mail:**

- I'm an avid mountain biker, hiker and backpacker and I would love to see more mountain biking opportunities in the planning area. Washingtonians need well designed, sustainable, single-track that there, unfortunately, really isn't much of in Washington. I can hike/backpack all over the place, but when I want to get my mountain bike fix, the choices are limited. Please include these comments in the record.

- What about us? There are already tons (miles and miles) of walking and hiking areas in the south king county area. What about 4x4 and motorized use. This is a huge area there has to be someplace here for this growing sport. Please sign me up for your mailing list.