



## Washingtonians Building a Solid Future for Recreation on State Lands



DNR photo

Washingtonians love to play outside, and many of us define ourselves by our relationship to the outdoors. Each year, the public makes more than 9 million visits to lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

But recreation in Washington State is at a crossroads. Washington's population continues to grow, bringing more visitors to state lands. Newer forms of recreation are gaining popularity. The state's investment in recreation on public lands has not kept pace with the growing number of visitors and the changing face of recreation.

In the next year and a half, you will have the opportunity to help guide the direction of recreation on lands managed by DNR.

### What is the Sustainable Recreation Work Group?

The 2008 Washington State Legislature unanimously adopted a DNR proposal to create the Sustainable Recreation Work Group. The Work Group will make recommendations to the Washington State Legislature on a **long-term vision** for the future of recreation on DNR-managed lands.

### Why a long-term vision for recreation?

Washingtonians have embraced recreation on DNR-managed lands on a level and in ways that no one could have anticipated since 1971 when the state last took a strategic look at how the public uses these lands. The increase in population in the state brings an increased use of the land and competition for limited space from a variety of recreational activities.

DNR wants to provide Washingtonians and other visitors with the broadest possible access on a wide range of recreational activities. At the same time, DNR must consider:

- Compatibility with its commitment to managing forestlands, aquatic lands and natural areas.
- Safety of visitors.
- Stewardship of the land and waters to ensure environmental health now and for future generations.

### How will the Work Group conduct its business?

In working on a long-term vision for outdoor recreation, the Work Group will:

- Learn about the nature of state lands that DNR manages.
- Evaluate DNR's legal responsibilities.
- Examine the roles of other state agencies in recreation—such as Washington's State Parks and Recreation Commission and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Assess current recreation uses and future trends.
- Learn what citizens are thinking about recreation on DNR-managed lands.

### Work Group timeline:

- First meeting – September 26, 2008
- Progress report due to legislature – December 2008
- Final recommendations to legislature – December 2009

### Contact

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For more information, visit [www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov). Enter "Sustainable Recreation Work Group" in the Search box.

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