



Comments from public workshop | September 10, 2008 | Olympia, WA

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1. Where do you like to recreate?

Ahtanum

Ashford – Mt Tahoma Trail System

Black Diamond

Buck Creek

Burke Lake (by George)

Capitol Forest

- Fall Creek
- Margaret McKenny
- Rock Candy
- Wedekind

Clearwater Forest

Conrad Meadows

Crystal Mountain

Cypress Island

Dorothy Lake

Elbe Hill

- Alder Loop Trail
- Busywild Trail
- Gotcha Trail
- Mainline Trail
- Rainier Vista Trail
- Rock Bowl end of Wine Rd.
- Sunrise Trail

Evans Creek

Fall City

Falls Creek

Fort Lewis

Gifford Pinchot

Green Mountain

Greenwater

Harry Osborne State Forest - Les Hilde Trailhead

Loomis Forest

Lower Chehalis

1. Where do you like to recreate?

Continued....

Lummi Island

Mount Si

Mount St. Helens

Mt. Blanchard

Naches

Reiter Foothills

Salmon la Sac

Scatter Creek

Sierra Creek

Skookumchuck

Sunrise

Tahuya State Forest

Teanewa

The Nile (off 410 towards Yakima in Naches)

Tiger Mountain

Toonerville

Victoria Village (by Arlington)

Wenas

Woodard Bay

Yacolt Burn

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2. What kind of recreation do you enjoy?

Type	Number
4x4 Off Roding	8
Boating	3
Camping	20
Child Growth & Development	4
Climbs	0
Cross Country Ski	11
Dog Sled	1
Fishing	10
Geo-caching	2
Gold Pan	1
Hiking	21
Horse Back Riding	14
Hunting	11
Kayaking	6
Motorcycles	5
Mountain Biking	24
Mushroom Gathering	5
Road Cycling	14
Shooting	8
Skijoring	3
Sledding/Tubing	2
Snow Mobile	1
Snow Shoe	7
Trail Maintenance	1
Trail Running	9
Wildlife Viewing	6

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3. How can we improve your recreational experience on DNR-managed lands?

- Trails and bridges engineered to accommodate pack stock.
- Educate in the schools about proper use on DNR land.
- Have accurate trail maps and easy access to buy them.
- Maintain campsites on a regular basis and providing garbage pick-up (Capitol Forest).
- Community calendar to better inform the public of DNR events and clean-ups.
- Designate more human power trails.
- Designate shooting areas to limit in forest shooting near neighborhoods, trails, etc.
- Better way of coordinating trail work between user groups and DNR.
- Allow volunteer groups to build and maintain new trails.
- More awareness of logging operations with other rec and trail users.
- Better posting of trail numbers, intersections and directions.
- No hunting with multi use trails.
- More kayak launch sites.
- Shooting, hunting and fishing.
- Water facilities for horses at Crystal Mountain.
- More dispersed camping areas.
- Move gates back for parking and camping.
- More patrol.
- Shooting areas away from trails.
- Designate horse only areas for camping (Margaret and Mima and Fall Creek).
- Encourage multi use access and recreation.
- Better communication about management activities that impact users.
- Specifically utilize website about all aspects of DNR (trail closures, evens, spraying pesticides, timber harvest, etc.).
- Managing number of events on certain weekends (Capitol Forest).
- Increase access to the natural area preserve for hunting.
- Shooters away from trails.
- Have stipulations on land use license
 - Trails must be ready before event
 - Maintenance after your event (Capitol Forest).
- Adopt a trail program expanded.
- More visible parking areas (Green Mtn).
- Camp hosts at all sites to improve safety.
- Public education and signage about proper interactions with horse traffic.
- Sites open to horse riding during the winter (more options).
- Winter mapping for old logging roads for horse access.
- Developing a relationship with other land mangers to extend trail opportunities (with trail closures during the winter pushed to other lands).
- Pursue or fund permanent positions for enforcement and education trail maintenance.
- Re-evaluate the compatibility/safety of certain users ie speed.

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4. What is your vision for recreation on DNR-managed lands?

- More education and enforcement, stressing education.
- Have bus stops/service to trail heads.
- Maintain Washington's rich heritage of shooting and hunting access on public lands!
- Include mountain bike trail built in a well managed manner that the riders find challenging to their skill levels.
- Less illegal shooting and other activities that make our recreational areas dangerous. More of a concentration on trail maintenance.
- Monthly focus group meetings for each area (think Tahuya).
- Provide better and more enforcement of illegal activity.
- Provide more mountain bike/hiker trails in Capitol Forest.
- Provide more camping spots in Capitol Forest.
- Every trail in the state is now open to hikers!
- Need more enforcement. Don't make rules you can't enforce!
- I want to see our public lands used for horses and mules.
- Put more land into trust the state could set aside a certain amount of money annually to buy more land.
- More and stronger partnerships between local user groups and DNR. It is important to foster positive relationships and provide accurate and timely info regarding management activities. Local buy-in results in better long-term stewardship by users.
- Preserve public access on all public lands – include all recreation activities – I.g. hunting/fishing – consumptive uses should be maintained.
- Increase trail mileage and leverage volunteers for maintenance. Convert decommissioned roads to trails.
- Ensure public lands remain multi-purpose including shooting, hunting and fishing.
- Restore trails that were lost to logging roads. These need to be trails, not just closed roads.
- Trainings – best methods:
 - Trail maintenance
 - Minimal impact design
 - Internet links to written and video methods
- Safe and preserved access for all trail users, well maintained trails for a variety of use.
- Well-rounded useage and education on sharing lands for “conflicting” groups.
- Provide better maintained trails, more user specific trails, and safer trails for our children to enjoy after the rest of us are dead and gone.
- If necessary, designate authorized shooting areas on trust lands.
- Provide more and continued use and expansion for mountain bike use.
- Ban target practice in Capitol Forest.
- More user built and managed trails.
- Confine target practice to a couple of designated areas.
- Self maintaining trails – water crossings aren't at risk of “blow-out”; are designed to avoid failure.
- Provide safe trail riding by banning or restricting shooting.
- Local law enforcement to educate and refocus safe usage.
- Increase mountain biking trails to meet increase demand and challenge riders of all levels.
- Hook up DNR trails with county trails – e.g. Thurston County Reg's Trail System.
- Maintain and improve hunting and shooting access! Open NAP's to reasonable access!
- Law Enforcement funded out of the General Fund – not generally funded!
- We will see quiet, electric powered motorcycles very soon.
- Enforce sound on the motorized areas.
- Develop a strong community-volunteer program using school groups for education/work opportunities, as well as the general public. Use community-volunteer hours to leverage matching funds from state: sweat equity=\$. This could be used as incentive to volunteers and give structure and goals to a volunteer/outreach program. More outreach to many segments of community so that DNR lands become more strongly maintained by community.
- Increase love between user groups!

4. What is your vision for recreation on DNR-managed lands?

Continued...

- Every trail and road in the state is open year round to hikers – how about opening some more DNR property to motorized use so we alleviate the pressure on the few areas we have. Remember – we’ve lost a lot of trails – Tiger Mtn., etc...
- Have area set aside for non-motorized use and access.
- Promote EDUCATION working with groups such as Tread Lightly! We need a campaign to make education “cool” so the users are self policing.
- Good recreation opportunities for my children and their children.
- Improve enforcement.
 - Illegal motorized vehicles
 - Illegal trail use
 - Random target shooting
 - Motorized vehicles behind gate closures
- More collaboration with other agencies regarding recreation and fees.
- Maintain and enhance the systems already in place.
- Take advantage of the volunteer commitment by BCHU and other.
- Provide enforcement.
- There are few, if any equestrian only camping facilities, yet we maintain all trails for all users but lose a horse camping spot to a 6x6 dome tent.
- User groups working together to use trails together safely.
- More trails open to horses so that the trails don’t get over used – spread out the riders.
- Move monitoring of trail heads and camps so that they are safe.
- I’ve got 4 teenagers. I would love it if their interest in this would grow. Help us encourage their interest and participation.
- Big horse or bike events not allowed until mid June to protect trails.
- I would like to see the forest useage evolve into a collaborative partnership between the land managers and the various user groups. This would allow useage with the different groups needs being considered as well as the managers’ needs being a part of the equations. Maintenance and care of the trails and facilities could also be done in a partnership manner.
- There are few, if any motorcycle only camping facilities, yet we maintain for all users. I hope that other groups ask us to recreate our way in the future. It’s not looking too good!
- Shared use trails.
- Single purpose trails.
- More authority to user groups to maintain trails.
- Move shooting areas to less populated on unused areas.
- Renewed effort to get rid of the checker boarding in Eastern Washington. Renew effort to establish the legacy trust.
- Funding for maintaining recreation infrastructure is self sustaining. Possibly use fees or use sticker.

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General Comments

- Designate some downhill/technical trails in Cap. Forest, and to give/get more power and say from local groups who actually use the resource.
- I ride mountain bikes in Cap Forest, which sometimes causes me to fear for my life! Irresponsible shooters have sent me looking for cover many times. I hope that designated shooting areas will be set up and irresponsible shooters will be dealt with. Also, I'd like to see more patrol for those who use the forest irresponsibly. I'd also like to see some MTB-specific trails.
- I would like to see the recreational areas available for horse and mule use.
- 1. Please prepare a report consolidating the comments of this meeting series.
2. It is virtually impossible to find a point of contact for a specific "on-the-ground" issue. – A call back is rarely produced. Your resources are limited but you must be able to respond to public inquiries in a timely manner.
3. Maintain recreational opportunity for both consumptive users (hunting, fishing) and non-consumptive uses.
4. 1 [one] enforcement officer for this Region is inadequate. (I'm sure you know this.) Get to your public; we can make good things happen – \$450K for recreation [on] DNR lands is a disaster. You need the \$5M/yr. – The public is going to need it as private lands are developed or simply closed to recreation.
5. Woodard Bay needs an adequate kayak launch. I can put a group together to build it with DNR cooperation. Funding would be very minimal to make a safe, useable access site just inside the gate!! Let's Do it.
6. Consider a co-op program with WDFW to have hunting season signage at all campgrounds and major entry points to DNR lands. Benefits – Safety/Multiple Use/Maintain hunting.
- I would like to see well-managed trails for mountain biking that challenge different skill levels like those found in Northern Vancouver, B. C. Friends of Capitol Forest (in particular David Snyder & Jim Graham) have spent a lot of time studying how this could be done without detrimental environmental impact. A lot of work has been done to study how it could be done without user group conflict as well. The North Vancouver BC Trail Assoc. & International Mountain Bike Assoc.
- Mr. Sutherland, I appreciated your welcoming attitude and hearing my request/complaint about the DNR not allowing trail restorations and referring to them as "New Trails". There are several miles of Capitol Forest trails lost to logging road construction in the 1990s. By restoration, I mean placing a new trail on the side of the road that is consistent in design and character to the remainder of the trail. This can be designed and built by volunteers with minimal material support, review and input from DNR field staff. To say it's too expensive is not excusable.
-Your support would be appreciated in allowing restorations and assuring that no more trails are lost to logging roads.
- It is important to regulate the larger group activities in a way that will minimize the adverse impact to the trails in the spring when the ground is still very soft from the wet weather.
- Restore old trails that have been made into logging road spurs.
– Keep it open to all users.

General Comments

Continued...

- Enforcement of road & trail closures.
Allow restoration of trails taken and turned into logging roads.
Continue to support volunteers – not oppose their efforts.
- Trails are too wide and straight on motorized side of Capitol Forest. Allow 1 or 2 user groups to co-design (with DNR) a single track test loop, let the users build and maintain the loop for 2 years, track safety on that loop versus typical trails at Capitol. Not \$ expenditure from DNR, we'd be trading for trail mileage lost in Dec. '07 storm. – Member - Cascade Family M.C., NMA.
- Have designated areas in Capitol Forest for target shooting. Work with shooters to maintain. Restore old trails that have been turned into logging roads.
- – Enforce target shooting in Capitol State Forest in designated shooting areas.
– More awareness on logging operations to recreation/trail users.
– Allow volunteer groups to build & maintain new trails.
– As reroute to improve trail drainage rather -than maintain poorly draining old trails!
- Ban target shooting in Capitol Forest. It endangers all other users.
Continued and more mountain biking opportunities.
Shooting on DNR land endangers all other users. Ban shooting.
- – Need more parking access along side of dirt roads for hunters & fisherman & hikers.z
– Trailheads are **not** required for this access.
– Need to create more user focus groups like the Tahuya & Green Mtn Focus Group.
– Need more designated target shooting areas.
– Posting areas as **no** target shooting areas should only be permitted if there also is a sign telling you where you can go shooting.
– Need more camping areas. These should be primitive camping areas along with some campgrounds with some maintenance & designated spots. – Reservation only camp grounds don't work!
– Lower Chehalis State Forest is my elk hunting area behind R-Line gates on DNR land. Gates are locked shut during hunting seasons, which is good; however, DNR needs to provide camping access for those who hunt in that and other areas.
- – As a bike enthusiast, I welcome DNR's approach to take comments from users of all backgrounds. Mountain Biking has been a growing sport. And demand for Bike Trail is growing to match various needs from cross country usage to a more extreme usage. There are a lot of examples of trails built to meet these needs and DNR can take advantage of these examples to provide all a safe use but also encourage sports, and outdoors activities like mountain bike.
– Please provide more single purpose trails.
– Take advantage of local volunteer groups that are invested in "bettering" the experience and maintaining sustainable trails for their specific trails.
- Please ensure that all public/trust land remains truly multi-purpose including shooting, hunting, and fishing. There are many more uses for this land other than dirt bikes!
- I am a recreation enthusiast. I bike, run, hunt, drive, get firewood – anything and everything. Hikers have a dedicated trail or multiple trails. I think every group should have a dedicated single purpose trail / mountain bike, horse, bike, ORV, etc. *Single purpose trails for all!
- I mountain bike, hike, fish, ride motorcycles and camp, and Capital Forest has been a big part of my life. I think it can be improved on with the help of our volunteers, to provide an even better forest for my daughter!

General Comments

Continued...

- Thank you DNR for providing the increase enforcement in Capitol Forest over this past year. I am looking forward to a safer Capitol Forest throughout the future.
- I Mtn Bike In Capitol Forest Every Weekend Year RoundRain, Snow or Shine.

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