



**Comments from Sustainable Recreation Public Workshop | September 16, 2008  
Burlington, WA**

- **Where do you like to recreate?**
- **What kinds of recreation do you enjoy?**
- **How can we improve your recreational experience on DNR-managed lands?**
- **What is your vision for recreation on DNR-managed lands?**
- **General Comments**

**Where do you like recreate?**

- Ahtanum
- Anderson Mountain, Skagit
- Black mountain, Whatcom
- Blanchard (equestrian)
- Blanchard (mountain bike)
- Blanchard/Chuckanut (Trail run, mountain bike)
- Burnt Hill
- Capital Forest
- Chuckanut
- Chuckanut (bike)
- Clear Lake – Janake Road
- Coyote Ridge, Skagit (equestrian)
- Cypress Island (boating)
- Devils Mountain (hiking, horseback riding)
- Devils Mountain (mountain bike) (Skagit Starbird)
- Everett
- Glacier, Whatcom (mountain bike)
- Granite Falls
- Green Mountain (mountain bike)
- Harry Osborne (HO) – equestrian
- Heady Road area in Whatcom
- Lookout Mountain
- Lookout Mountain (Whatcom) (mountain bike)
- Middle Fork Snoqualmie
- Monroe
- Mt. Baker (southside, snowmobile)
- Naches (equestrian)
- North Fork Nooksack (mountain bike)
- North Fork Stilliquamish
- North Fork (bike)
- Open areas within Whatcom County for multiple uses (ORV, non-motorized, equestrian, etc.)
- P-5000 and trails, Snohomish
- Red Mountain (Whatcom)
- Reiter (mountain bike)
- Reiter (ORV trails)
- Sadie Creek (Olympic)

## Where do you like recreate?

*Continued...*

- Silver Lake area, Whatcom
- South Lookout and North Lookout, Whatcom (mountain bike)
- Stewart Mountain, Whatcom (hiking)
- Stewart Mountain, Whatcom (mountain bike)
- Sultan Basin – Horseshoe Bend
- Sumas (hiking)
- Sumas (mountain bike)
- Sumas Mountain – ORV, Non-motorized, mountain bike
- Sumas Mountain (Whatcom)
- Tahuya
- Tiger Mountain
- Vansant Dyke and area (hunting)
- Vanzant
- Verlot – snowmobile
- Walker Valley
- Yacolt Burn

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## What kinds of recreation do you enjoy?

- Birding
- ATV
- Hiking
- Camp – RV
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Motorcycling
- Mountain Bike - Free Ride , Downhill , Cross Country
- Kayak
- Mushroom/Berry Picking
- Picnicking
- Nature Observation
- Hang Gliding
- Parasailing
- UTV
- Backpacking
- Canoeing
- Photography
- Multi-Use with children, kid friendly
- Mountain Bike Races
- Trials
- Boating
- Skiing
- Mountain Biking
- Paintball
- Snowmobiling
- Snowshoeing
- Trail Running
- Horseback Riding

## What kinds of recreation do you enjoy?

*Continued...*

- Packing w/stock
- Shooting
- Hunting
- Educational Mineral Collecting
- Gold Panning

## How can we improve your recreation experience on DNR-managed lands?

- Stop the locked gate policy and allow us to experience WA and its natural resources
- Stop the free loaders (no tabs, cutting trails, keep using and never giving back)
- Hold me responsible for what I use. Make me participate in its experience of caring for our resources
- Pack in pack out
- Education is important – everyone is responsible – need to have a presence on the landscape
- Volunteers are ready and willing to commit time and energy in developing and maintaining trails
- Need to patrol trails not roads - need ATV vs motorcycle vs 4x4 – can't go everywhere
- Coordinate training with IMBA and other national groups
- Adopt a trail program
- Safety – mountain bikes – not extreme
- Connecting trail systems across the landscapes
- Publication on where you can and can't access state land
- Duck stamp \$ for access to state lands
- More access for disabled
- Hunting needs to be part of information and fact sheets
- More multi use trails – single track 20" trail width – don't dumb down – variety of experience – ½ to all day for mountain bikes, 10 to 25 miles
- Way to communicate between user groups – safety (hunting) – more aware of each other
- Signage
  - Maintain web site – Issues, trails open and closed, maps
  - DNR current on definition of recreation – different disciplines
  - Newspaper/website – where you can ride, what you can and can't do
  - Communication and reconstruction of trails after logging
  - Institute appropriate user fees - \$'s need to be spent on trails not general fund
  - Overnight camping – all types, outhouses, garbage
  - Need to improve communication with users – web, cell phones, email, newsletters, radio
  - Need to have radio/cell tower where there are dead spots for safety and enforcement
  - Need access to DNR lands (cross country hiking, dispersed recreation) Roads that are gated or abandoned prevents access for hikes and climbers
  - Design road abandonment so are accessible for at least hiking (Sultan Basin)
  - Open areas in Whatcom County for ORV and multiple use

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

- Establish relationships with user group clubs to steward lands appropriate for their use. Mountain bike riders are organized and ready to take a leader role.
- Having ability to horseback ride/pack into the wilderness areas without diverting around junked cars and trash. To camp (low impact) overnight at designated areas. To help DNR maintain existing trails and participate in developing others.
- To really experience them, to open it all up to responsible users. Make this the criteria that all users must participate in the care of these public lands by hours in its maintenance. Enough of the one sided effort and the use without care. Users need to bring solutions to the table that both care for and respect all other users.
- It all takes more \$, how do we get more \$ for recreation?
- Make user groups pay through taxation the same as snowmobilers do.
- Safe, enjoyable, sustainable...
- - Access for all groups on a variety of trails, as open as possible.
- - Don't let user conflicts drive decisions. They're the minority.
- Allow users to help build and maintain recreational areas (like trails). The DNRT shouldn't have to (or need to) do all this work. Let the users like Mt. bikers be stewards for the area.
- More, better trail patrolling with better vehicles for people doing the patrolling.
- - Allow space for all users to enjoy their activities.
- - Specifically allow freeride/downhill mountain biking on purpose built trails maintained and built by the users.
- - Communicate with neighboring land managers (National Forest Service, BLM, State Parks) to extend trail networks across boundaries.
- I'd like to see an ever growing number of multi-use trails established in our state. Hopefully linking cities & areas.
- Create partnerships with user groups such as Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Washington Trails Association, Bicycle + Motorcycle clubs to build, maintain, sponsor, police, promote, and use new facilities in seldom used and undeveloped DNR lands.
- Access development, but with minimal impact and sustainable historic and scenic trail preservation.
- Less deforestation, more recreation.
- Promote multiple use recreation areas, some motorized, some non-motorized. More trails.
- Consider recreation return vs. logging on \$/acre – with fees, etc., may be more valuable!
- Would be nice to have ORV land available in Whatcom – legally.
- Establish a trailhead and non-motorized trail system on the VanZant Dike in Whatcom County.
- Would like to see increased amount of 4x4 trails, statewide (including Whatcom County).
- Practice sustainable yield harvest on each forest area instead of only on a statewide basis.
- More downhill mountain biking specific trails especially in Western Washington. More maintenance to hiking and biking trails and the roads leading to them.
- Work with specific user groups to help manage specific rec. areas. – DH Mt. Biking.
- Promote single-use trails where applicable.
- Become dynamic and open to changing definitions of recreation and safety. Trail Networks designed for specific and multiple use. Make communication more accessible between users and user groups. Clean up the land, keep out the trouble.
- More single track motorcycle trails.

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

*Continued...*

- Make more camping areas at all ORV areas.
- More dispersed motorized recreation.
- Extensive Mt. bike trail networks
  - DH w/ gate access for shuttling
  - Users will create & maintain
  - We don't need \$, we only need permission
- Provide better visibility to how gas tax & ORV tax fund monies are spent.
- Enforce laws against litter, vandal and illegal non-recreational activities.
- Keep motorized trails open and open an ORV area in Whatcom County on Sumas Mt. or North Fork area of Nooksack River. Keep open communications with the motorized community.
- Maximize the multiple use recreation pursuant to RCW 79-10.
- Designated areas for specific user groups:
  - ATV
  - MTB/DH
  - Horses, etc.
 Re-open the Sultan Basin to ORV use
- Don't waste money on excessive trail signage, trails don't need to be marked like freeways.
- Resurrect--Trail.Net—trail networks in the right places--for the right users. --Bay to Baker trail network.
- More people every year want to experience the outdoors on a motorized vehicle, ie snowmobile, UTV, quad. Create and maintain more trailheads and parking areas, more trails and trail systems that connect to each other. Responsible users are willing to help maintain areas when organized and given direction.
- Interconnected trail networks thru Greenways (Bellingham example)
- Encourage Inforcement [sic] of land (Dumping Trash – out of bounds – vandalism) in Recreation areas.
- Permanent preservation of specific<sup>1</sup> forest and land areas for continued permanent recreation.
 

<sup>1</sup> Areas deemed local, valuable, for recreation
- Less Wilderness More Open!
- Whatcom County motorized use are for dirt bikes ATV'g + jeep trails if camping was available it could bring in out of county visitors and their money to county businesses.
- Choices for my children and grand-children. I picture them having the choice of use, be it hiking, hunting, skiing or motorized vehicles.
- More truck & trailer parking and turnaround spots; shoe-fly's @ gates to keep unequipped vehicles out.
- Freeride/Downhill mountain biking should be considered a equivalent summer experience to skiing/snowboarding in the winter.
- We want more mountain bike trails, and there's plenty of volunteers ready & willing to do the work to build & maintain them. This includes freeride & downhill trails! Additionally, mountain biking shouldn't be viewed as an unsafe "extreme" activity. I'm a 35 year old woman who rides with and teaches (?) other women (& children) how to ride safely & responsibly. Mountain biking is an activity for anyone & everyone!
- More multi-use trailheads for all user groups to use. There is enough room for everyone.
- More and better campgrounds @ these various Parks; specifically motorized multi-ORV Parks.

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

*Continued...*

- - Implement the projects in the Mt. Baker Foothills Chain of Trails Plan (Whatcom Council of Governments, 2006)
  - Increase the role of recreation as an income generating activity of DNR (as opposed to logging)
  - Improve the communication & responsiveness of DNR staff with recreation groups.
  - Increase hiking & mountain biking & horseback riding access points for the public to Sumas Mountain, Stewart Mountain, Racehorse Mountain & other holdings in Whatcom County.
  - Recognize that logging at current rates may not be sustainable for ecosystems
  - Aquatic lands along Chuckanut Drive near Samish Bay need an over-water trail of some type to connect Larrabee with ??[undecipherable] (Interurban)
- Don't charge users for something they already own. That's not recreation! Keep trailheads simple:
  - plenty of parking
  - an outhouse
  - room to turn a truck/trailer
  - no wood—concrete and metal (vandals)
- It would be great to see a multi-use trail system in Whatcom County, specifically motorized user groups – this would tremendously reduce the impact on surrounding ORV areas (Walker Valley, Reiter trails, Naches, Elbe, are just a few)
- There is a large need to establish an area in Whatcom County to have motorized recreation area. This would also decrease the impact on Walker Valley.
- More ORV areas so the ORV areas that exist aren't overwhelmed with traffic spread use out. One ORV area per county.
- Less lockouts more land available for motorized use... ATV's, motorcycles, snowmobiles and the parking areas and trailheads to facilitate that use! Establish Adopt-A-Trail Program for user groups to volunteer for trail maintenance.

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## General Comments

- BackCountry Horsemen donate thousands of hours of volunteer time. We want to help maintain the trails with DNR guidance. Please let us use chain saws when there is massive blow downs. Horses/mules can pack supplies – tools – gravel, timber, etc. Please include BCHW on your planning & development of DNR lands. Thank you.
- Thank you for taking the time to listen to us – the users of these public lands. We hope you will listen to each perspective and reach common goals to ensure your goals of “safe, enjoyable, & sustainable” recreation. We believe that all different users can act as stewards, and as members of the mountain bike community (as well as snowshoeing & hiking & birding & many others), we pledge to use these lands in an appropriate manner and keep them available for future users.
- Work with user groups to help maintain trails & build. Non-motorized. Promote recreation for healthy life styles. Allow difficult/challenging trails. – Mt. biking.
- I belong to Backcountry Horsemen of Washington. Trailusers is the Snohomish County chapter. We are very willing to volunteer to help. Good public meetings. Thanks.
- Access, Access, Access, to public lands. More mountain bike trails, user maintained. Don't let user group conflicts drive decisions; they are a minority.

## General Comments

*Continued...*

- Please open more areas to mountain biking & hiking.
- I am happy to see concern over the public's voice. I would like to have better access to the DNR's environmental concerns over the land as well as educational info on how the public may learn and offer its help. Also that both the public & DNR may understand adaptation of both side's concerns. Thank you.
- Appreciate the chance to get our 2¢ worth in. I ride horses in Whatcom & Skagit Counties. My family has just started hiking as well. I'd love to see the lands stay open to traditional uses such as these, but also believe there is room for others as well. New trailheads for accessible ones in Whatcom & Skagit Counties would be great. More variety. More room for everyone.
- Work with volunteer orgs to develop / build / maintain DH (downhill) mt. bike trail networks. We are many, we are organized, and we are skilled.
- Mt. bikes need more places to play. Long loop cross-country trails are in demand – These can provide opportunities for beginners & intermediate level riders as well as expert fitness level riders. – MTB is a low environmental impact sport. It is the embodiment of sustainable recreation.
- I appreciate being able to use DNR land for equestrian use. I am a Back Country Horsemen Skagit Chapter member. We spend many hours clearing trails, picking up garbage, educating people, etc. We hope to be able to use DNR lands for many years to come. Thanks!
- I enjoy motorized recreation (specifically 4X4 trails) and would love to see an area opened as an ORV park in Whatcom County.
- I would love to see some downhill specific mountain biking trails, specifically in Whatcom County. I would also like to see a little more road maintenance on roads in Whatcom County leading to hiking & biking trails.
- I ride my horses on a lot of DNR land and hope to continue. I belong to 3 Back Country Horsemen clubs. I volunteer to help clear trails and pick up garbage. I hope to help keep the land usage open. Thank you.
- Motorized off-road, shooting, hiking.
- More mt. bike access to public lands. More trail opportunities and ways to be involved.
- I appreciate the effort put forth by the DNR for meeting with the community. My biggest concern with land use is safety among multiple use areas, mainly concerning hunting and shooting. As a mountain biker, I feel that my personal safety may be at risk every hunting season. I hope that there can be a way to communicate these issues to all user groups effectively, without limiting user experience.
- 1. Mountain bikers need to be able to build more trails of all kinds (cross-country, free rides & downhill) in Washington State. There are plenty of people interested in doing the work and collaborating with DNR to build sustainable trails.  
 2. Bikers aren't all just teenaged boys. I'm a 35 year-old woman who teaches women & kids how to ride, safely and responsibly. We all need more trails.

## General Comments

*Continued...*

- Headed in the right direction to listen to users. Plenty of acres to use – 4-wheelers ~ motorcycles in one area, shooters in one area, horse related in one area. Do **not** mix.
- Mt. bikers need access to build & create additional trails in WA State. Both single track & free ride / downhill.

Mountain bikers are nonmotorized recreation & should be treated as such with access to current trails in the area.

- Off-road motorcycle rider – representing Mt. Baker Motorcycle Club – closer riding areas to home would be nice.

And / or designated place for ORV events.

- Provide more access & parking areas – by permit is ok. Provide restrooms at each major-use area.

Assess permit fees to help offset legislative & public funding. Pay as we go.

- Mountain Biking on DNR land on “Multi-use” trails I believe has real merit.

I look forward to linking our region with trails more & more over time. Thank you.

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*Additional comments follow...*

**Public Workshop Sustainable Recreation - burlington**

**September 16, 2008**

**6 to 9:00 p.m.**

**Burlington Library 820 E Washington Ave**

**Burlington, WA 98233**

**360-755-0760**

**Mike Reid**

**20216 Mountain View**

**Duvall, WA**

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**Public access to 2.2 million acres of forested state trust lands gives you opportunities for a variety of recreation experiences in primitive settings across the state.**

**Of 2.2 million acres under DNR control less than 10 per cent is directly accessible by the public.**

**Much of our 13,000-mile forest road system is open and leads you to countless opportunities such as hunting, fishing, bird-watching, and hiking.**

**Most DNR roads are gated and closed to public access.**

**In conservation areas, you have opportunities to learn about our natural heritage and to enjoy low-impact recreation.**

**Because of the limited access to the majority of natural areas the opportunities to practice low impact recreation and learn to appreciate our natural areas is also limited.**

**Because most of our growing population in the state is using less than 10 per cent of the DNR land for recreation there is no low impact conservation being practiced. These areas are being highly impacted by over use.**

**While the DNR has developed good publications on recreation the actual unwritten philosophy is to lock up the Natural recourses and keep the people out of all but a small portion of the natural areas.**

**Historically major logging and industry ventures on DNR lands have done more damage than all recreational activities ever have.**

**The DNR has spent approximately \$8,000.00 on 10,000 gates to limit people from damaging our natural lands. Other major land owners have spent like amounts to continue the philosophy of "lock up the land and keep the people out".**

**With the present makeup of this recreation work group I' am skeptical that any change in this philosophy will occur soon. If we apply this same philosophy to Semi truck accidents on your freeways by not allowing the trucks on the freeways we will have no**

more truck accidents but will have bigger problems! Likewise, If the DNR does not change its philosophy we will have bigger problems on our forest lands in the future.

#### **WHAT CAN WE DO?**

- 1. Change the way we access out state natural areas so all people young and old have equal access.**
- 2. Remove most of the barriers and gates that now exist and replace them with fewer automated gates. That allow access with sign in. much like you see in a parking garage.**
- 3. Place video cameras that take pictures and show license plates of vehicles entering and leaving natural areas.**
- 4. Provide a living space at these access points of retired people to live to monitor the ingress and egress of visitors and to provide help and information where needed much as is done in Europe. These people do not confront law breakers.**
- 5. Make more education available to citizens with practice on how to leave little or no negative impact on our public lands and allow more access to those public lands.**
- 6. Open our forest roads so senior citizens and disabled people have better access to forest lands and natural areas.**
- 7. Change the present DNR unwritten philosophy of “lock it up and keep the people out” and allow legitimate access.**

## **A Sound Direction.**

I would like to see DNR go in the direction of directing and managing public lands with the working public. In collaboration with all users. One of the directions I am suggesting is all users be responsible for the care and well being of these public lands. I see this being accomplished in a couple of ways. One: to do 12 hrs of work a year on the properties being used by these land users. This could be done in a variety of ways, trail work, clean up, policing and monitoring uses. This by itself would accomplish several things. It would educate all users of its extent. It would show all users what it takes to keep it up. It would show we are all responsible for what goes on. It would give DNR the eyes and ears it needs to watch over it. It would bring about community by all users to each of their sites with understanding. It will bring in more grant monies because these things are being taken care of and many more would really see it.

Two: the public lands should all be locked up and access given by an access card with personal information attached to it. This could be done with solar power and batteries and the work would be done by users as part of the 12 hrs per year. The cards would also be use as the way of recording hours worked and right to access.

Time and time again I see the garbage thrown all over the areas I use. I see people who never lift a finger to repair damage destroying a resource I like to use. Its time we get educated, its time we understand what it really takes. Its time for all users to be a part of the solution. If you wish to use it you must be willing to sustain it. Education is our best friend for you the land managers and for all of us the users. Making more rules that only stop and dictate are not answers and make working people mad as heck, why shouldn't it. So by collaboration of all groups lets learn how to be friends, good users and excellent examples to show our children we mean what we say and we do what we say and we take care of what we play on or with or what we enjoy.

My suggestion is making this a legislative effort to make this the rule, or golden rule if you say. I want to experience Washington; I want to experience it in a motorized fashion. I want others to have this opportunity and I want all of us to do the work or shut it all up so no one can have it or no one can use it. Why have it just sitting there? Like I said please, lets keep this in a sound direction.

Definitions:

Users:

Any person who actually goes to DNR or any public lands and does any type of activity.

Land managers:

Anyone who is an appointed a servant for the sole purpose of caring for our public lands.

Policing:

A voluntary person with a vest on that clearly states Patrol.

These people would have to take a course and pass on how to patrol. How to record information and what information is relevant and not relevant. Would travel the site and all its destinations to see what users are doing. Has the authority to check for access card.

Observer:

A voluntary person who sits at an entry point and monitors who goes in and out. Has the authority to check for access card.

12 hours:

12 hours of time equals one hour per month.

Each hour would represent access for one month, no more no less. Hours can be accumulated and carried over into the next year for up to one year. Example; one hour is donated in January 2008, it could be used up to January of 2010.

One hour equal 30 days. 12 hours equals 365 days.

How much time one wants equals how much time one must donate to the resource.

## **Responsibility**

Over the years we in the motorized community have seen a ton of opposition, understandably. There is noise that goes along with it, dust issues and other issues as well. But the truth is many have worked to help resolve these issues, yet the large amounts of opposition still exist, why? Because it is easy, one does not have to do much effort to stop something, in fact it is very simple, yell out loud, and get a few people on your side and BAM! Here it sits staring you in the face. I would really like to see some positive changes in this area, here is what I would like to see happen. Let's say you have a group of people that are apposed to dogs in the park, this is OK. If these folks feel strongly enough to oppose this idea then please do the effort of finding other working alternatives. That's right, I said those that oppose can, but they must propose workable alternatives to help guide it in this direction. Creating a problem for others and then leaving it for everyone else to clean up is not acceptable, or should I say it should not be. It has been clear to me that most people only want to do half of the job. A job is a created effort and no job is ever done until all the actions are taken care of. Denying groups their rights to do what sport they desire is not an answer, it creates hate, non rational thinking and worse conditions than one started with. I do not think I belong everywhere on my ATV but I do deserve to have my fair share to experience this great state. I should have a

local spot close to me I can practice regularly to get my exercise and to keep my alertness level up. This is for my safety and the safety of others as well. This idea that I must be denied is stupid, it is disrespectful to all of us who have purchased these machines in the state of Washington. So yes, people can oppose and I initiate that these people do not stop there, show us the real passion and complete the task at hand, show us how important it really is not to have this activity at a particular location.

This should not stop here and should resonate to all organizations including DNR. If land Management is intent on closing an area an alternative of equal value or better should be presented. This is our land, not just yours to manage. You manage it for us because we ask you to by appointment. There for we the people have a say. I put forth we put in legislation to support such an idea. To create respect and communications across all sides. To bind us together to resolve issues and work together with responsibility for all. For our children and our children's children.

Compassion amongst people should also be the same practice amongst groups. I stand before you with a solution, not the only solution by any means but one that includes all groups, all people and all users alike. In this I included my responsibility to participate and help bring resolution to all.

Thank you,  
William Schooler

## **Addendum**

It has been suggested to create an access pass the land users pay for and then allow people to volunteer hours for discounts on the pass or including a pass for hours worked. The rate charged for a monthly pass would be the amount that would be the same rate the state or DNR receives for one hour of grant money for voluntary hours. A year access pass would be the equivalent of grant money for 12 hours worked. The idea then is to get the majority to volunteer hours but to allow all to use public lands and would give people who will not volunteer a process in which to access public lands that would be applied towards purchasing access cards and for additional grant monies to be used for hours toward the stewardship and care of public lands.