



HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages over 3 million acres of state trust lands, 2 million acres of state-owned aquatic lands, and 97 natural areas covering nearly 170,000 acres. These lands include 1,300 miles of designated trails and more than 160 recreation sites, including 80 campgrounds.

DNR has adopted 10 landscape-level recreation plans but does not have a statewide strategic plan setting priorities for recreation management and outdoor access. Following a 21 percent increase in visitation between 2019-2020, a trend that is expected to continue, the agency is developing the Outdoor Access and Responsible Recreation (OARR) Strategic Plan, a statewide road map to guide future landscape-level planning and ensure natural, cultural, and tribal resources are respected and protected throughout the state, while offering high-quality, accessible recreation opportunities.

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A Shared Vision for Sustainable Recreation on State Trust Lands

DNR is developing its first Outdoor Access and Responsible Recreation (OARR) Strategic Plan, a statewide strategy to guide management of recreation and related impacts to natural, cultural, and Tribal resources on DNR-managed lands.

The Strategic Plan will articulate what responsible and sustainable use of DNR-managed land looks like for generations to come. The final plan will be used to support legislative budget requests and set agency recreation management priorities over the next decade.

The intent of the strategic plan is to develop a shared vision and strategy for recreation and outdoor access on DNR-managed lands. It will guide decision-making for future management practices, and ensure DNR-managed lands provide sustainable, diverse, and high-quality outdoor access and recreational opportunities that enrich the quality of life in Washington state.

Engagement to Date

In 2023, Commissioner Hilary Franz committed to co-developing The OARR Strategic Plan in collaboration with Tribes. After gathering input from Tribes at the July 2023 DNR Tribal Summit, DNR organized four regional tribal forums between September and October across the State to jointly shape the plan's purpose statement and goals.

DNR is working in partnership with Tribes and engaging state trust beneficiaries, recreation partners and stakeholders, and the public to collect input on the development of DNR's OARR Strategic Plan.

During the summer of 2023, DNR initiated engagement with statewide recreation partners at a workshop and met with the Board of Natural Resources, representing state-trust beneficiaries.

Planned Engagement for 2024

In 2024, DNR plans to host virtual and in-person public meetings in January and February to review updated goals and collect input on actions needed and topics to address to achieve goals. DNR will also engage directly with [state trust beneficiaries](#). Details about these meetings will be posted online. After the public meetings, DNR will invite statewide recreation partners to meet and discuss initial strategies developed from input received to date. Triangle Associates, an independent firm contracted by DNR, will facilitate these engagement activities. DNR will continue to engage and co-develop the plan with Tribes in 2024.

Expected Timeline for the OARR Strategic Plan

DNR aims to publish the final OARR Strategic Plan by the end of 2024. Before its release, Tribes and the public will have a chance to review and provide feedback on a preliminary draft of the plan.

A timeline detailing anticipated milestones of the OARR Strategic Planning process is attached to this document.

For more information about the OARR Strategic Planning Process and updates on engagement opportunities, visit DNR's website at www.dnr.wa.gov/StateRecPlan.