

## Sumas Mountain

Trail Barrier

Tour Stops

DNR Managed Lands

### Completed VRH (

Completed VRH (Year Completed)

Commercial Thinning (Year Completed)



0 0.25 0.5 1



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NORTHWEST REGION 919 NORTH TOWNSHIP STREET SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WA 98284-9384 360-856-3500 -

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#### Recreation and Revenue on DNR in Whatcom County

#### **Background**

The demand for recreation in Whatcom County has skyrocketed over the past 20 years. This is seen on lands managed by federal and state agencies as well as county and local municipal lands. Even large, private timber lands have seen a spike in recreation and many are offering access and opportunities for mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding, paragliding and hunting. Based on extensive input from recreational user groups and the public at large, the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Northwest Region realized that providing recreational opportunities in Whatcom County is critical for maintaining the support of local citizens as DNR manages these Trust lands. Until very recently there was no formal recreation on DNR managed lands in Whatcom County. The DNR began a planning effort to provide recreation by hosting a public meeting to frame possible recreation opportunities and further gage community support. This meeting was held in January of 2016. From that meeting, a recreation planning committee, comprised of citizens who represented a variety of recreation activities, was selected and began the hard work of selecting compatible landscapes for desired recreational activities. The first committee meeting was held in March of 2016. After two and a half years of meetings, analyses, further public engagement, consultation with our tribal partners and internal management decisions, the final Baker to Bellingham Non-motorized Recreation Plan was signed by the Commissioner of Public Lands in April of 2019. This plan provided opportunities for recreation in Whatcom County while maintaining the DNR's fiduciary responsibilities to its Trust beneficiaries through active timber management for the next 10 to 15 years.

#### **Current Situation**

While the demand for recreation is high in Whatcom County, finding adequate funding to implement the plan has proven to be extremely challenging. The DNR's recreation program relies heavily on grants, mostly awarded through the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Grant applications are presented to RCO every couple of years, but the DNR is often not awarded those grants, especially for maintenance. While there was a recent increase in funding for maintenance from the Washington State Legislature, funding is still below the needed amount to maintain existing recreation let alone develop new recreation opportunities. In the meantime, unmanaged public use continues to increase across DNR managed lands, creating negative impacts to ecosystems and to public enjoyment and safety. While dispersed recreation is allowed on DNR managed land, much of the recreational activity occurs on unsanctioned trail networks that do not meet the environmental and safety standards allowed by DNR.

Because of increased dispersed use and unsanctioned recreational activities, the DNR's ability to meet its fiduciary responsibilities to Trust beneficiaries and maintain a strong rural economy through a robust timber sale program becomes more of a challenge. Vandalism, trash, damage to road networks, timber theft, impacts to special and unique wildlife and aquatic habitats result in gate closures. Add to this a public increasingly frustrated by timber harvest activities while not having new or improved recreational opportunities available have put a strain on DNR staff to deliver revenues from timber resources and meet public demands. Outreach to the community has been made a priority, but one of the underlying problems of a lack of planned and managed recreational opportunities continues.



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#### **Positive Steps Forward**

#### Baker to Bellingham Non-motorized Recreation Plan (B2B)

The implementation of B2B will allow for developed, non-motorized trails, trailheads and facilities to be built and maintained on selected landscapes in Whatcom County. Attempts to develop a motorized trail system met with fierce resistance from many Whatcom County citizens and was further hampered by Whatcom County Code (Chapter 20.43) that does not allow trails in areas zoned for commercial forestry to accommodate off-road vehicles. B2B pushes forward with non-motorized recreation and currently there is a Tier 1 project under development at Olsen Creek. Another Tier 1 priority for a water access site for rafts and kayaks has temporality been put on hold due to permitting and design difficulties.


#### **Dispersed Recreation**

Landscapes in Whatcom County were specifically selected to remain undeveloped to provide dispersed recreation opportunities. This was important to the hunting community, who were represented on the B2B planning committee, and critical to our tribal partners who seek to maintain and protect their cultural ties to these lands. The DNR will continue to manage dispersed areas, blocking unauthorized trails and encouraging appropriate recreational activities.

#### **Working Forests**

Areas being developed for recreation under B2B and areas with dispersed recreation all occur on working forestlands managed by the DNR. DNR manages state-owned Trust lands (like Sumas Mountain, Olsen Creek, Galbraith and Blanchard State Forest) to generate revenue for the various trust beneficiaries. The DNR continues to design timber sales on these working landscapes that follow the requirements of its Habitat Conservation Plan, Policy for Sustainable Forests and all relevant Forest Practices Rules. Recreation will continued to be allowed on DNR managed land, as long as it does not interfere with our ability to manage for our beneficiaries though revenue generating activities.

BAKER TO BELLINGHAM NON-MOTORIZED RECREATION PLAN Concept Map BRITISH COLUMBIA WASHINGTON NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL SYSTEM



\* All areas shown for trail or facility development are intended to be general in nature and are subject to field verification.

\* All "trail areas" shown will include site specific locations within them where conditions will preclude trail development.

\* All potential trail connections to surrounding lands are subject to approval by the adjacent land owner. These connections are not decisions that can be made by the Department of Natural Resources.

\* This map shows a development concept for recreation only. It does not illustrate maintenance, restoration or enforcement strategies.

**US Forest Service** Whatcom County Parks

Open Freshwater

Major Rivers

— DNR Active Roads

Wet Area

Highways

Extreme care was used during the compilation of this map to insure accuracy. However, due to changes in ownership and the need to rely on outside information, the Department of Natural Resources cannot accept responsibilities for errors or omissions. Therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this material.

are being shared between committee members for discussion purposes.

This Concept Map is included in the final Baker to Bellingham Non-Motorized Recreation Plan (October, 2018).

This is a map of multiple ideas that have been suggested by committee members at planning meetings.

The suggestions are not approved by the agency or agreed to by the planning committee. These ideas

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF** 



# Chapter 79.10 RCW LAND MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES AND POLICIES

RCW 79.10.100 Concept to be utilized, when. - The legislature hereby directs that a multiple use concept be utilized by the department in the administration of public lands where such a concept is in the best interests of the state and the general welfare of the citizens thereof, and is consistent with the applicable provisions of the various lands involved.

## RCW 79.10.110 Multiple Uses Defined.

Defines the "multiple use concept" to mean, in part, "...provide for several uses simultaneously on a single tract...". While these statutes do not require that recreation be incorporated on DNR managed lands it does indicate that both motorized and non-motorized recreation are recognized as valid uses of these lands where appropriate and where it will not adversely impact the financial obligations of the trust.

# RCW 79.10.120 Multiple uses compatible with financial obligations of trust management—Other uses permitted, when.

(2) Recreational trails for both vehicular and nonvehicular uses developed or maintained consistent with RCW 79.10.500.

RCW 79.10.500 Recreational trail policy—Development.

Finding—2014 c 114: "The legislature finds that the citizens of the state will benefit from a coordinated effort to plan recreational trails on land managed by the department of natural resources that are accessible by the greatest number of people and are constructed to standards that are consistent statewide.

RCW 79.10.510 Recreational facilities and trails—Local government permits.

Directs the department to work with representatives of local governments to find efficiencies in gaining local government permits for the development and maintenance of recreational facilities and trails





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#### **DNR Recreation Policies and Rules**

#### **Policy for Sustainable Forests**

#### POLICY ON PUBLIC ACCESS AND RECREATION

When managing public access and recreation use on forested state trust lands, the department will protect trust interests and seek to balance economic, ecological and social concerns by evaluating the following on a landscape or case-by-case basis:

- The physical condition of the area in a landscape context, including neighboring landowners;
- The characteristics of the users, including their degree of organization;
- The reasonable availability of financial, staff and other resources for sustainable, long-term management; and
- Cost and benefit to the trust(s).

The department will work to control negative effects of designated or dispersed public access and use on forested state trust lands through collaboration with the public, user groups, other landowners, and other agencies and organizations. Negative effects include:

- Threats to public, employee and department contractor safety;
- Theft, vandalism, garbage dumping and other illegal activities; or
- Damage to soils, water quality, plants, animals or other elements of the forest environment.
- Mitigation will include the closing, limiting or redirecting of public access when necessary.
- In meeting the intent of the Multiple Use Concept, the department will only expend management funds for closing, limiting or redirecting public access in order to meet trust objectives or protect trust assets by controlling the impacts of incompatible dispersed public access and illegal activities.

#### Washington Administrative Code

#### WAC 332-52-100 Managing recreation and public use.

- 1) Can DNR limit recreational activities and public use on department-managed land?
- (a) The department may limit any recreation activity or public use on department-managed lands to:
- (i) Protect public safety, natural resources, or other property.
- (ii) Execute its management and administrative obligations if any recreation activities or public use unreasonably interferes with the department's ability to carry out those obligations.
- (b) All persons shall comply with any department-posted restrictions that limit recreational activities.
- (2) Any violation of this section is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW.

#### WAC 332-52-145 Firearms and target shooting -excerpt.

- (1) What is recreational target shooting? Recreational target shooting is the use of a firearm or bow and arrow on targets and the sighting in of rifles or other firearms on department-managed lands. The department regulates and enforces target shooting on department-managed lands.
- (a) The department may restrict target shooting for the reasons set forth in WAC 332-52-100.
- (b) Persons shall not target shoot carelessly, recklessly, or without regard for the safety of any person, or in a manner that endangers, or is likely to endanger, any person, pet, livestock, wildlife or property.
- (c) Persons shall not discharge tracer or incendiary ammunition or projectile devices on department-managed lands. For purposes of this subsection, "incendiary" means causing or designed to cause fires, such as certain substances or bombs. "Tracer ammunition" means a bullet, projectile, or shell that traces its own course in the air with a trail of smoke, chemical incandescence, or fire, so as to facilitate adjustment of the aim.



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#### WAC 332-52-400 Managing road and trail use.

- (1) Who manages road and trail use on department-managed lands? The department manages road and trail use on department-managed lands. The department, or lessee of state land in consultation with the department, may close all of, or portions of, a road or trail for the reasons set forth in WAC **332-52-100**.
- (2) What types of recreation uses are permitted on roads or trails?
- (a) The department may designate road and trail use by specific recreation activity, e.g., hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, all-terrain vehicle, off-road vehicle, four-wheel vehicle, snowmobile, or other over-the-snow vehicles.
- (b) Persons shall comply with the posted designated recreational use on roads and trails.
- (3) What types of traffic control measures does the department use on a road or trail? The department may, at any time:
- (a) Establish one-way traffic flow on any road or trail.
- (b) Establish use hours and/or seasonal use on any road or trail.
- (c) Restrict or prohibit use of a road or trail for the reasons set forth in WAC 332-52-100.
- (d) Persons shall comply with the posted traffic control measures on roads and trails.
- (4) What methods does the department use to indicate if a road or trail is closed to motorized vehicle use? In addition to posted traffic control measures, such as signs, the department uses a variety of barriers including but not limited to gates, large berms or trenches, concrete barriers, and large rock or stump piles or other similar large barriers. Motorized vehicular use on or beyond one or more of these barriers is prohibited unless otherwise posted.
- (5) When is operating an off-road vehicle permitted beyond a closed gate? A person may operate an off-road vehicle beyond a closed gate when there is a department-managed road or trail on the other side of or around the gate that is posted open for off-road vehicle use.
- (6) Where are motorized and nonmotorized vehicles permitted off of a road or trail? Persons shall only operate motorized or nonmotorized vehicles off of a road or trail on lands posted or otherwise designated by the department as open for the designated recreational use. All other off-road or off-trail vehicular use is prohibited.
- (7) How do I find out if a road or trail is open or closed? The department will use the following methods to notify the public if a road or trail is open or closed to recreation use: Information displayed on any signs, information boards, kiosks, websites, maps, or other written form of notice that either allows or prohibits access or specific activities on department-managed lands.
- (8) How do vehicle operators enter or leave a developed recreation facility? Motorized or nonmotorized vehicles shall enter or leave a developed recreation facility only on posted roads or trails.
- (9) Any violation of this section is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW with the exception of subsection (7) of this section which is neither an infraction nor a misdemeanor.



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#### THANK YOU FOR KEEPING THIS FOREST SAFE

- Target shooting is allowed from 9 a.m. to 1 hour before sunset.
- Target shooting is permitted in areas with an unobstructed, earthen backstop capable of stopping all projectiles and debris in a safe manner.
- No shooting within 500 feet of a recreation site or structure.
- Persons shall not target shoot carelessly, recklessly or without regard to safety.
- Persons shall not shoot within, from, along, across or down roads or trails.
- Persons shall not discharge tracer or incendiary ammunition or projectile devices.

- Explosives of any kind are prohibited. This includes Tannerite, explosive targets and propane tanks.
- No alcohol or drugs are permitted.
- ONLY items that are commercially or privately manufactured for the specific purpose of target shooting are allowed. (Vegetation, structures, furniture, computers, vehicles, glass, garbage of any kind, signs, gates, appliances, and other like items, are prohibited to be used as targets)
- Remove all debris and ammunition casings when leaving.







NORTH FORK PIT CLOSED DUE TO LEAD CONTAMINATION



Violators are subject to Civil or criminal prosecution under WAC 332.52 and for other applicable law.

call toll free 1-855-883-8368 forestwatch@dnr.wa.gov For emergencies, call 911 dnr.wa.gov





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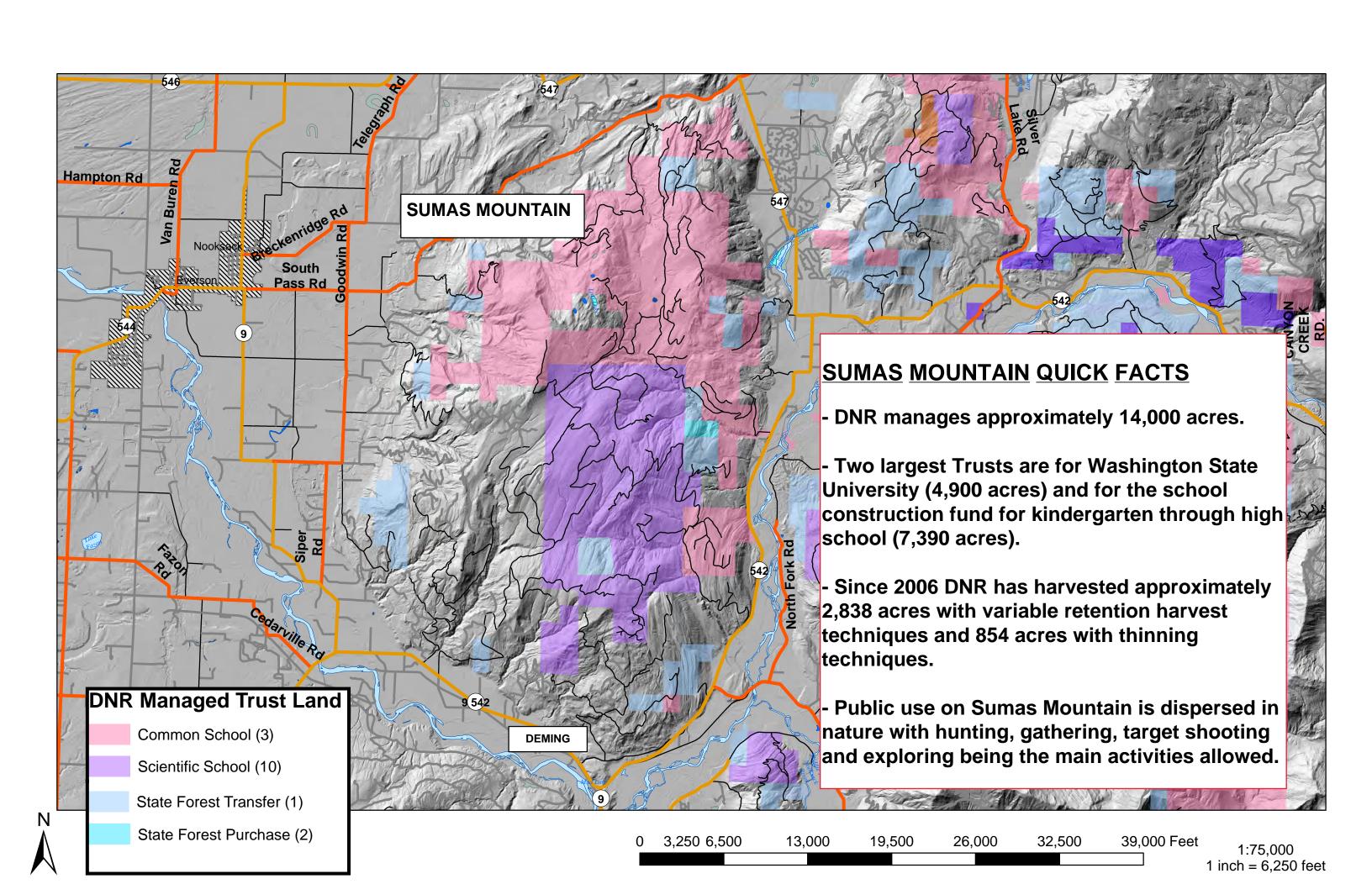
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lators are subject to
or criminal prosecution
for PWAC 332.25 and
for explicable law.

To report illegal activit
call toll free 1-855-883
for emergencies, call 5
dncwa.gov







## **Unsanctioned Trail Building on DNR**

#### Preparing for Trail Blocking



**Blocking Trails** 



**Unsanctioned Trails** 



**Unsanctioned Trails** 



Blocked Trail (grade re-abandoned)





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### **Unsanctioned Trail Building on DNR**

#### Lower Sarr Creek Crossing (fish stream)



Lower Sarr Creek (fish stream)



**Unsanctioned Trails** 

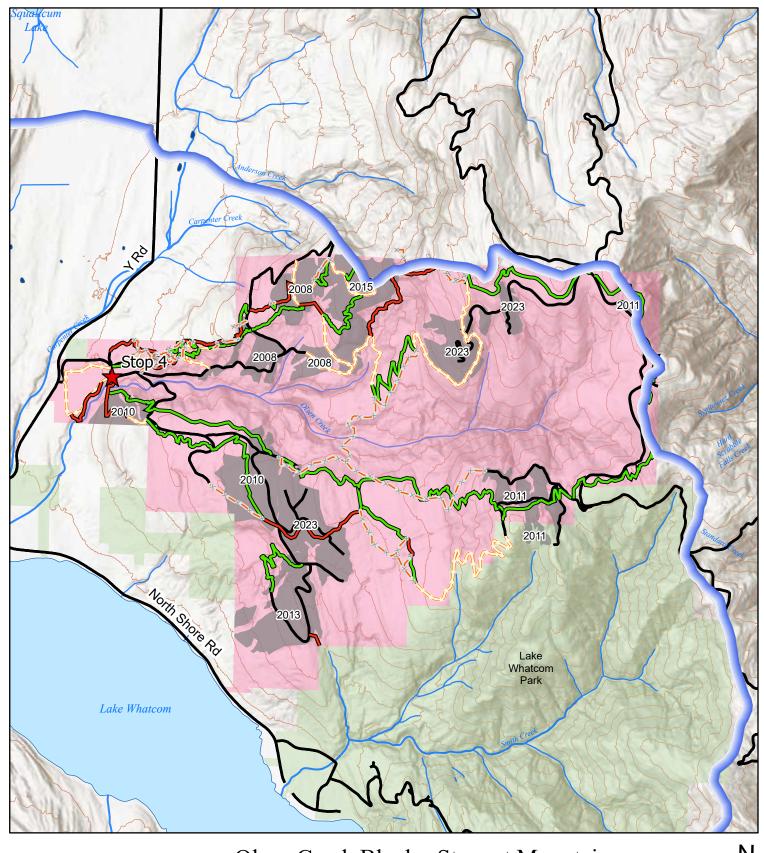


Unsanctioned Trails Blocked

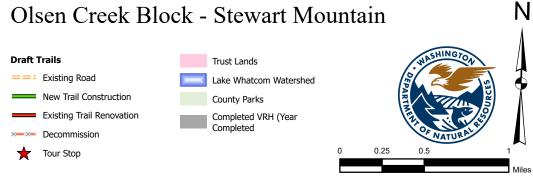


**Excavator Ready for Action** 













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#### Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan Development (Tier 1)

#### **Project History and Status**

The DNR manages over 87,000 acres in Whatcom County. Most of those acres are working forests that generate revenues for specific Trust beneficiaries. There is a long history of dispersed public use on DNR managed land in Whatcom County. Until 2021, there were no sanctioned trails or trailheads on DNR managed Trust land in Whatcom County. However, with a rapidly growing population, pressure from recreation advocacy groups and elected officials and very high public use across DNR managed landscapes, the DNR initiated the development of a recreation plan for Trust lands in Whatcom County. The goal of this recreation plan, officially called *Baker to Bellingham Non-Motorized Recreation Plan* (B2B), was to provide quality recreation experiences on sanctioned trails in appropriate areas while maintaining dispersed recreation and working forests where the DNR can meet its fiduciary responsibilities to Trust beneficiaries. In 2016, formal planning efforts were started, which included public meetings and the creation of a committee, which represented a wide array of recreational stakeholders interested in developing managed recreation. A final plan was approved by the Commissioner of Public Lands in 2019 and efforts to implement the plan began shortly afterwards.

The Baker to Bellingham Non-Motorized Recreation Plan looked at DNR managed land throughout the county and finished by selecting four large landscapes and one small water access site to have planned, developed and managed recreation implemented over a 10 to 15-year period. The plan selected three tiers for implementing development projects. One of the Tier 1 projects involved acquiring property and establishing a trailhead and trails for the Stewart Mountain Unit (now called the Olsen Creek Block). This development project is now in progress and is described below.

#### Olsen Creek Trails and Trailhead:

There is a long history of public use in the area around Olsen Creek. Numerous user-built trails are located on DNR managed land. Many of the trails are in bad locations causing erosion and impacts to streams and wetlands. In addition, Whatcom County Parks built a trailhead on a small parcel of property near Olsen Creek that funneled people across private property toward DNR managed land. Trespassing and unsanctioned trail building were rampant. The number of users have been steadily increasing for years and currently as many as 200,000 users visit Olsen Creek every year. Through the B2B planning process, the acquisition of specific parcels of private property were identified as a high priority. An industrial timber manager owned the property, and some of the parcels had the potential for residential development, which would have made future DNR management very difficult. The area also included a seed orchard for growing conifer seed needed for seedling production. A new, productive seed orchard was a high priority for the DNR's silviculture team. The DNR partnered with Whatcom County and their conservation easement program as well as Whatcom Land Trust to purchase the property (Whatcom County contributed \$218,000, Whatcom Land Trust \$28,000 and DNR the remaining \$490,000), which prevented development from ever occurring and provided the public legal access to DNR managed land. The DNR is in the process of rehabilitating the seed orchard, which will serve the needs of both the DNR and community reforestation efforts. The acquired property was also perfectly situated for the building of a new trailhead that will access an extensive, planned trail system on DNR near the City of Bellingham as well as planned trails in an adjacent county park called Lake Whatcom Park. There are potential trail connections and opportunities for Whatcom County Parks and the DNR to work together.

Since the land acquisition was finalized in 2020, Baker District staff worked with DNR landscape architects and planning staff from DNR's Recreation and Conservation Division to develop trail and trailhead concepts, planning timelines, grant proposals for funding and the development of Architecture and Engineering (A&E) contracts for construction designs, critical area assessments and necessary county permits. Baker District made two attempts to acquire development grants for the Olsen Creek project from the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), but each time this project scored very low on RCO's priority list for funded projects. The only source of funding that has kept this project moving forward has been **capital funding**. With current capital funds, a contract crew from Washington Trails Association (WTA) was hired to assist DNR in locating trails on the landscape, which was needed for archaeological and critical areas work to be completed. In addition, SEPA documents were completed by DNR. An A&E firm was hired (Leon Environmental) for delineating all stream

and wetland buffers for required county Critical Areas Review as well as completing a review of cultural resources and getting Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) concurrence. These reviews are now completed and a Land Fill and Grade (LFG) permit from the county for Priority Area 1 construction of the trail system was issues in July of 2023. Additionally, Leon Environmental will be doing trail bridge designs (including a 70' multi-use trail bridge over Olsen Creek), a future trailhead design (30-car parking area with vault toilets and picnic tables), secure all required Hydraulic Permit Applications (HPA) from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for bridgework, and secure all additional LFG permits for future phases (Priority Areas 2 and 3) of development. Work orders for trail construction are in place with partner groups, including the Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition and Washington Trails Association that make trail construction possible within the very tight time constraints required for operations within the Lake Whatcom watershed. Future capital appropriations must happen to keep the Olsen Creek project on track.

#### Project Budget for Olsen Creek

#### Previous capital funds FY21-23: \$350,000 (minus \$100,000, which was carried over to FY23-25)

Funds used for assessment of user built trail network, field location of planned future trail locations, critical areas delineation and cultural resource evaluations, environmental analyses and permits.

#### Current capital funds FY23-25: \$600,000 (plus \$100,000)

**OLSEN CREEK:** Priority Area 1 Trail Development. Delineation, Designs and Permits for Priority Area 2 Trail Development. Olsen Creek bridge design and purchase. Olsen Creek trailhead designs.

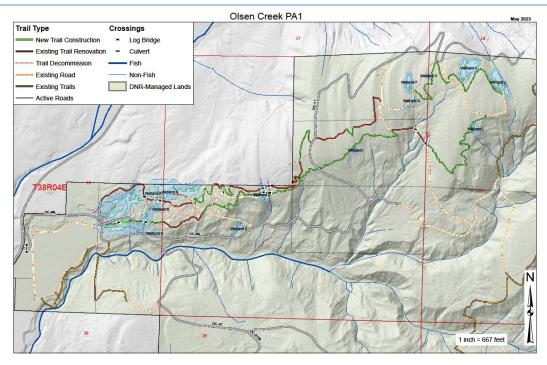
Total Project Budget: \$700,000

#### **OLSEN CREEK PHASE 1 DEVELOPMENT FY23-25**

Category	Work Type	Estimated Cost
AE Bridges	Geotech, Bridge Designs	\$70,000.00
Purchase/Install Bridges	Purchase, Install 3 bridges. 1 x 100', 2 x 40'	\$250,000.00
AE Stream/Wetlands Delineation	Buffer delineation for Whatcom Co critical areas review	\$70,000.00
Permits	HPA, LFG, Critical Areas	\$10,000.00
Trail Building	Contract trail building from WTA/WCC/WMBC	\$100,000.00
Staff Time	Hire staff to manage project	\$200,000.00
		Total \$700,000.00

## **Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan Development (Tier 1)**

#### **Photos**



Design: Finn Hopper – August, 2023 | Proposed Phase 1 trail development for Olsen Creek Forest Block



Photo: Tony Baumann – June, 2021 | A trail user enjoys views of Mt. Baker and the Sisters from the Olsen Creek Forest Block



Photo: Evan Voss – July, 2020 | Hikers view the sunset over Lake Whatcom, Bellingham, and the San Juan Islands from the Olsen Creek Forest Block



Photo: Hyden McKown – July, 2019  $\mid$  Kids play in Olsen Creek at the Olsen Creek Forest Block

## Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan Inter-jurisdictional Committee Checklist Landscape Plan Objectives-Explanatory purposes only

Resolution 1141: The Board of Natural Resources directed the Commissioner of Public Lands to appoint a 5 member inter-jurisdictional committee to review site-specific activities within the watershed and make recommendations to the DNR. The committee shall evaluate any planned activities against the strategies contained within the Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan.

Objective 1 – Ensure no significant risk to public health, safety and resources, and tribal archaeological and cultural resources from forest-management related mass-wasting events.

- Slope stability assessments include mapped mass wasting units and prescriptions identified in the Lake Whatcom Watershed Analysis.
- Forest Practices rules for slope stability followed, especially as identified in Board Manual 16.
- Field review conducted by a licensed engineering geologist.

#### Objective 2 - Maintain and restore the sediment regime within the range of natural variability

- Construction, Maintenance, & Hauling may not be permitted from November 1<sup>st</sup> –
  March 31<sup>st</sup> (may be waived if contractor can demonstrate that protection of resources
  can be provided through adequate BMPs).
- Required or permanent roads will be built and maintained to Forest Practices standards.
- Optional roads will be abandoned at or before contract termination.
- Seasonal restrictions will be in effect; however Contract Administrator has the ability to halt operations at any time of year if unfavorable conditions exist.
- All Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan (RMAP) prescriptions have previously been assessed and reviewed by the IJC with work subsequently completed.

## Objective 3 – Protect and restore riparian and wetland habitat to sustain healthy native aquatic, wetland, and riparian ecosystems.

- Water typing will utilize the Water Typing System for Forested State Trust HCP Lands (Washington Forest Practices Board Emergency Rules, November 1996 (WAC 222-16-030)).
- All prescriptions for the DNR's Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy (RFRS), which is part of the agency's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) will be followed.
- All buffer widths are horizontal distances, measured either from the 100-year flood plain or Channel Migration Zone (CMZ) (generally Type 1-3 streams) or Ordinary Highwater Mark (generally Type 4 and 5 streams). Type 3 stream buffer widths are based on 100-year site index tree heights. Type 4 stream buffer widths are 100' while Type 5 stream buffer widths in the Lake Whatcom watershed are 33' (from Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan). Riparian Management Zones (RMZs) may be no-entry RMZs with the exception of right-of-ways for road construction, or managed as allowed by the RFRS.
- Generally, if yarding corridor(s) are proposed, yarding shall either achieve full suspension or utilize temporary structures that protect streambank integrity.
   Streambeds/banks will be protected by the use of log puncheon or other approved structures and removed upon the completion of yarding activities.
- Wetlands between 0.25 acres and 1.0 acres will be protected with a 100' buffer.
   Wetlands larger than 1 acre will have 100-year site index tree height buffer. Wetland buffers can be managed (thinned) as allowed by the HCP.

## Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan Inter-jurisdictional Committee Checklist Landscape Plan Objectives-Explanatory purposes only

## Objective 4 – Maintain and restore the forest hydrologic regime for each sub-basin within the range of natural variability.

• Lake Whatcom Watershed Analysis requires a hydrologic analysis to be done for the Olsen Creek sub-basin.

## Objective 5 – Maintain and restore water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems.

• For herbicide use within the watershed, use the following prioritized application methods: 1) no treatment, 2) non-chemical and 3) ground-applied. No aerial application of herbicides allowed. Select a cost effective method by considering the no treatment method first and then moving sequentially down.

## Objective 6 – Maintain and restore a diversity of natural and managed functional habitat conditions to benefit native fish and wildlife species, particularly those identified in WDFW priority and habitat species (PHS). .

- Follow the DNR's RFRS for protecting or improving riparian habitat.
- Follow DNR's HCP, including the Long-term Conservation Strategy for Marbled Murrelets, for identified wildlife species and critical habitat protections and enhancements.

## Objective 7 – Permanently retain green trees, snags, & down logs to support mature forest conditions.

- Follow DNR's HCP for the retention of leave trees and snags.
- Some downed wood may be removed with any proposal; however a residual of 2 downed logs per acre will remain after the completion of a timber sale.

#### Objective 8 – Maintain or increase soil productivity and health.

- Standard ground based systems generally will not be allowed to operate on slopes greater than 30% (not including the new tethered systems or self-leveling systems).
- Ground based operations will generally not be permitted from November 1<sup>st</sup> March 31<sup>st</sup> (may be waived if contractor can demonstrate that protection of resources can be provided.

## Objective 9 – Preserve, protect, and restore significant historic, archaeological, traditional current use and cultural resources.

- Review DNR's TRAX (Total Resource Access System) to identify any previous surveys or other cultural or historic information within a one-mile radius of the proposal area.
   Utilize a Cultural Resource Technician to review the proposed project area for any potential cultural resources.
- Utilize the DNR's archeologist as appropriate.

## Objective 10 – Provide and facilitate tribal access to state managed lands for traditional cultural and religious practices and treaty guaranteed hunting and gathering.

 Host an annual meeting with local tribes to identify potential areas for traditional cultural activies.

#### Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan Inter-jurisdictional Committee Checklist Landscape Plan Objectives-Explanatory purposes only

Objective 11 – Create and implement a sustained yield model specific to the Lake Whatcom watershed that encompasses the revised management standards and that is consistent with the sustained yield established by the Board of Natural Resources.

• Annual volume limits are set in the landscape plan.

#### Objective 12 - Maintain or improve commercial forest productivity and health.

- Ground based operations will not be permitted from November <sup>1st</sup> March 3<sup>1st</sup> (may be waived if contractor can demonstrate that protection of resources can be provided through adequately deployed BMPs).
- Ground based systems will generally not be allowed to operate on slopes greater than 30% (not including the new tethered systems or self-leveling systems).
- Reforestation will occur after harvest with at least two different species.
- Appropriate vegetation management will be implemented to ensure healthy conifer stands are free-to-grow.

#### Objective 13 – Cultivate higher value commercial forest products.

- Use silvicultural techniques to grow poles and maximize saw log wood quality and size.
- Utilize the contract harvest program as appropriate to maximize log prices.

## Objective 14 – Develop and maintain a transportation network that facilitates commercial management activities.

- Maintain all existing roads to Forest Practices standards.
- All optional construction will be abandoned to a minimum of Forest Practices standards.

## Objectives 15 - Maintain and increase lease revenue from existing and future communication sites.

• Look for opportunities as appropriate.

#### Objectives 16 - Consider opportunities to generate revenue from oil and gas exploration.

Look for opportunities as appropriate.

## Objectives 17 - Consider the marketing of special forest products such as evergreen boughs, salal greens, moss, and native plants, as appropriate.

• Look for opportunities as appropriate.

#### Objectives 18 - Consider other revenue generating mechanisms.

- Consider recreation as a revenue source.
- Look for other opportunities as appropriate.

#### Objective 19 – Manage dispersed, low impact recreation.

- Implement Baker to Bellingham Non-motorized Recreation Plan.
- Continue to allow for and monitor dispersed recreation in the landscape.

## Objective 20 – Reduce the visual impact of the forest management activities in high visibility areas as shown on Map S-1.

#### Lake Whatcom Landscape Plan Inter-jurisdictional Committee Checklist Landscape Plan Objectives-Explanatory purposes only

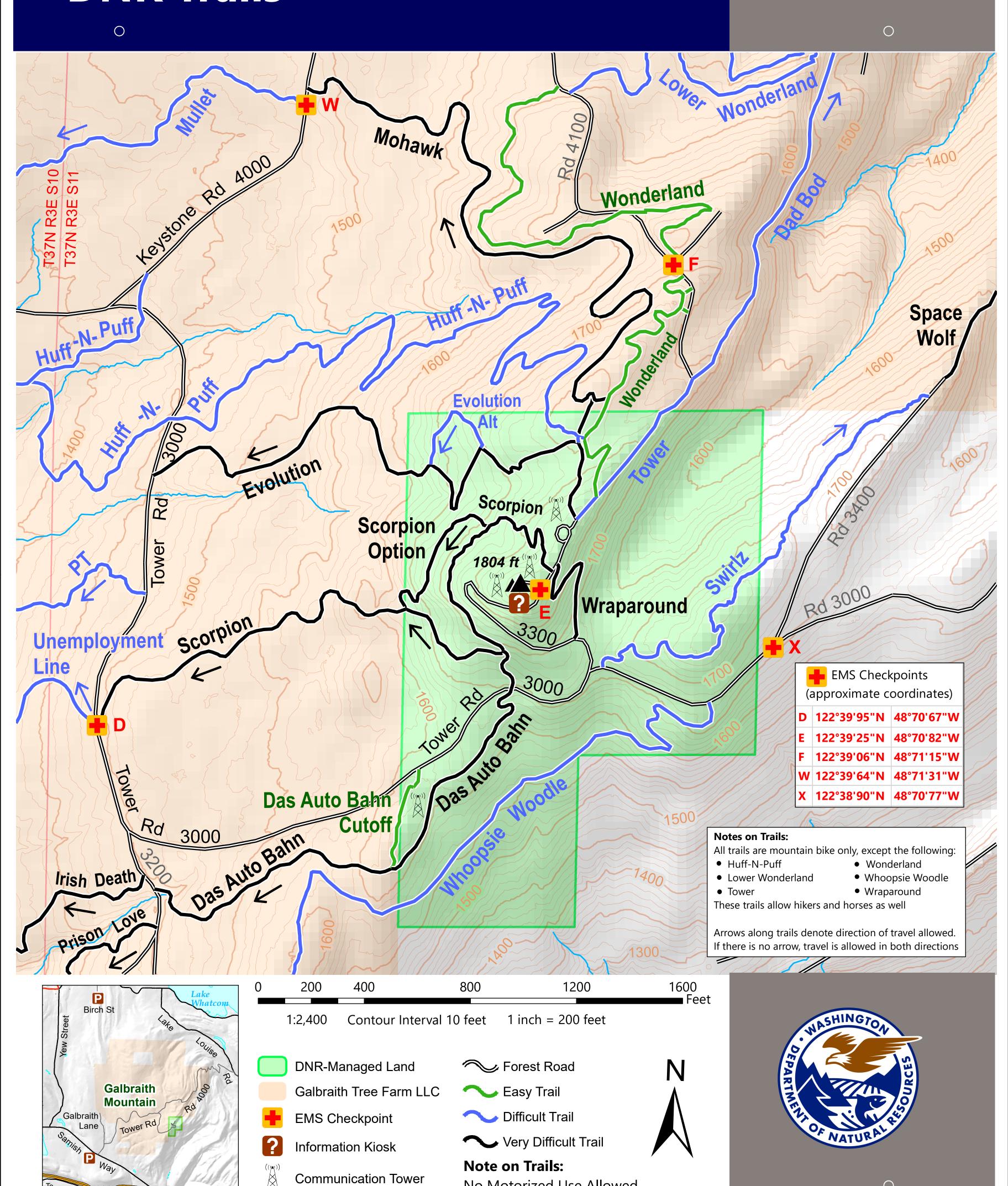
 Potential aesthetic impacts from timber harvesting are reduced by leave tree areas, riparian management zone buffers and slope stability buffers adjacent to sale areas. Prompt reforestation is always planned which will help reduce longterm visual impacts.

## Objective 21 – Support stewardship education opportunities and partnerships that address community needs.

- Implement Baker to Bellingham Non-motorized Recreation Plan.
- Support education events such as Whatcom County 4-H Forest Conservation Tour.

# Galbraith Mountain **DNR Trails**

## **Galbraith Mountain**



No Motorized Use Allowed

Produced by: DNR's Recreation Section: Northwest Region; Note to map users: Extreme care was used during compilation of this map to ensure accuracy. However, due to changes in ownership and the need to rely on outside sources of information, the Department of Natural Resources cannot accept and Communications & Outreach; December, 2022 Additional data provided by Chris Behee responsibility for errors or omissions. Therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this material.

Burlington

Bellingham

dnr.wa.gov/mobilemaps