

**Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Outdoor Access and Responsible Recreation (OARR) Strategic Plan
In-Person Public Planning Meetings Summary Report**

Prepared by Triangle Associates

Document Purpose: This report summarizes the January 18 and January 23 in-person public meetings. The agenda and objectives were the same for both meetings.

Public Planning Meeting Process

The Washington Department of Natural Resources hosted five public planning meetings to discuss the OARR Strategic Plan.

These meetings aimed to inform the public about the plan, present the high-level draft goals developed by DNR, and gather input on how these goals can be achieved. The meetings were held on the following dates and locations:

January 18, Ellensburg, WA

February 1, Virtual via Zoom

January 23, Lacey, WA

February 6 (Morning), Virtual via Zoom

February 6 (Evening), Virtual via Zoom

This summary report specifically includes feedback received from the January 18 and January 23 in-person public meetings. A summary report from the virtual meetings is provided separately.

Meeting materials included:

- An agenda
- A 2-pager on the OARR Strategic Plan process
- A 1-pager including draft goals
- A Frequently Asked Questions document

Welcome and Introductions

Andrea Martin, DNR’s Statewide Recreation Manager, and Project Manager for OARR, welcomed all attendees to the meetings and introduced DNR staff.

The independent facilitator from Triangle Associates reviewed the meeting objectives and agenda (the same for both meetings, including a presentation, full group Q&A, and small group discussion). The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review the purpose and need for the OARR Strategic Plan.
- Provide an overview of DNR's authorities and responsibilities in recreation management and state-land management, including collaborative agreements with Tribes.
- Review the OARR engagement process, which includes a public review of a Draft Plan once developed.
- Discuss DNR’s draft goals for the OARR Strategic Plan and brainstorm actions to achieve draft goals.

Participants engaged in a warm-up activity and were prompted to answer the following questions to create a word cloud:

- What recreation user group or public land use do you represent?
- What does responsible recreation and outdoor access look like?

The resulting word cloud responses to these questions are detailed in Appendix A.

OARR Plan Presentation

Andrea provided a comprehensive overview of DNR-managed lands and the recreational opportunities offered within these areas. She also shared details about why DNR believes the OARR Strategic Plan is needed and how DNR is working to draft the plan. This presentation was repeated in the in-person meetings and virtual meetings.

Overview of DNR-managed Lands and Recreational Activities

Andrea explained DNR’s role in managing Washington’s diverse lands, including trust lands, state-owned aquatic lands, and conservation lands.

1. **Trust Lands:** DNR manages approximately 3 million acres of trust lands with a fiduciary responsibility to generate revenue for K-12 schools, counties, public universities, and other trust beneficiaries. Revenue-generating activities on trust lands, such as timber harvest, agriculture and clean energy leases, and real estate management, contribute to funding essential services throughout the state. Most recreational activities that occur on DNR-managed lands occur on trust lands.

The management of trust lands by DNR involves balancing various responsibilities, including revenue generation for specific trust beneficiaries and providing public access. DNR operates with a Multiple-Use Concept (RCW 79.10.120), which requires by statute that DNR offer a diverse range of access to its lands, including recreational activities, while ensuring that these activities do not compromise other management objectives or financial obligations to trust management.

2. **State-Owned Aquatic Lands:** DNR manages approximately 2.6 million acres of state-owned aquatic lands, including tidelands, shorelands, harbor areas, and the beds of navigable waters. State-owned aquatic lands are managed as a public trust, with the goal of benefiting all citizens of the state. DNR allows recreational access to these aquatic lands, providing opportunities for activities such as fishing, boating, and shellfish harvesting.
3. **Conservation Lands:** DNR manages approximately 167,000 acres of conservation lands dedicated to protecting rare and sensitive species and ecosystems. These lands include two categories: Natural Resource Conservation Areas and Natural Area Preserves. Public access is limited or excluded on some Natural Area Preserves to minimize human impact, but many conservation lands offer low-impact recreational opportunities, such as hiking trails.

DNR also recognized that it has land management responsibilities to Tribal communities. Tribal leaders have expressed concerns about the impacts of outdoor recreation on state-managed lands, particularly impacts to wildlife habitats and ecosystems critical to Tribal communities and Tribal rights. DNR is committed to engaging with Tribes on a government-to-government basis to address these concerns and incorporate Tribal perspectives into the OARR Strategic Plan and ongoing recreation management. This includes recognizing Tribal rights and interests, as well as collaborating with Tribes to manage outdoor recreation in a sustainable and culturally sensitive manner.

Why DNR Needs the OARR Strategic Plan

Given the steady growth in outdoor recreation visitation, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, DNR recognizes the need for a strategic plan to guide its recreation management. DNR does not currently have a strategic plan or set of strategies that guides recreation management across the state.

- **Increased Use:** A study led by DNR, Washington State Parks, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Recreation and Conservation Office, and Earth Economics revealed a 12% increase in visitation across all state-managed lands from 2019-2021, with a 21% increase specifically on DNR-managed lands¹. While data beyond 2020 is not yet available, ongoing observations indicate that visitation remains higher than pre-pandemic levels. Increased usage brings challenges, including the use and creation of unsanctioned trails and instances of public abuse, such as trash dumping, encampments, and vandalism.
- **Limited Funding:** Funding for DNR's Recreation Program, totaling over \$25 million for the current biennium, does not meet the current need. Funding sources include the general fund, gas tax revenue, competitive grants, Discover Pass revenue, and trust land management accounts. Per statute, DNR receives 8% of the total revenue generated by Discover Pass sales. DNR estimates that the recreation program has a \$9 million funding short fall just to maintain current operations, and the OARR Strategic Plan is intended to help guide and secure future funding. Current DNR recreation funding is also unstable. DNR obtains 19 percent of its recreation budget from grants that it competes for along with other state agencies and recreation partners. DNR also funds 19 percent of its recreation budget from the gas tax refund. The value of the gas tax for state revenue generation is forecasted to decrease as more fuel efficient and electric vehicles come online.

OARR Planning Process

The OARR planning process officially began in 2023 with the DNR Commissioner's annual Tribal Summit; a meeting between the Commissioner of Public Lands and leadership from the 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington State and two federally recognized Tribes from Oregon and Idaho who exercise treaty rights within Washington State boundaries.

Following the Tribal Summit, DNR organized a workshop for statewide partners and provided multiple updates to the Board of Natural Resources. In fall 2023, DNR held a series of four Tribal forums for DNR and Tribes to jointly shape the plan's draft purpose statement and goals.

In winter 2024, DNR met with state trust beneficiaries to discuss how to manage the growing demand for access and recreation while meeting responsibilities to trust beneficiaries, as well as to get their input on how to achieve the draft goals of the plan. Additionally, DNR held five in-person and virtual public planning meetings with the public to review updated goals and collect input on actions needed to achieve the draft goals.

Following these public meetings, DNR will meet again with statewide recreation partners to discuss initial strategies developed from the input received to date. DNR will continue to engage and co-develop the plan with Tribes in 2024.

¹ [*Outdoor Recreation on State Lands in Washington: What Mobile Device Data Reveal About Visitation*](#), Earth Economics, 2022

DNR's goal is to publish the final OARR Strategic Plan by the end of 2024. Prior to its release, Tribes and the public will have opportunities to review and provide input on draft versions. Future public meetings are expected.

A timeline detailing anticipated milestones of the OARR Strategic Planning process is included in Appendix B.

Questions and Discussion from Both Meetings

- **Annual Operation Funding:** DNR clarified that it estimates it needs \$34 million in annual funding for annual operations. This figure represents the need to maintain current management and use, it does not reflect what would be needed for increased management or expanded use.
- **Funding Sources:**
 - DNR clarified that it receives 8% of total Discover Pass revenue as set forth in RCW 79A.80.090. Discover Pass revenue also goes to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington State Parks on an 8% and 84% distribution respectively. Public input at the meeting suggested a bigger percentage of Discover Pass revenue should go to DNR.
 - Forest management and other activities generate more than \$200 million in annual revenue for trust beneficiaries. Of the revenue generated, a portion is kept for Trust Land management activities. Only a small percentage of this revenue supports the recreation program, making up just 1% of the total program budget.
 - DNR clarified that currently, 1% of the total gas tax goes to recreation activities in general, with DNR receiving 36% of that one percent. There are legislative discussions taking place about a potential road usage charge as an alternative funding source for the State as gas tax revenue is dropping with fuel efficiency.
 - DNR introduced [HB2165](#) during the 2024 Legislative session that would allow the agency to charge fees for organized events and commercial uses while maintaining its recreational immunity. To implement, DNR is committed to collaboration with partners in developing a fee structure for organized recreation permits. ***Update as of March 2024 – The Legislature passed HB2165.***
- **Scale/Level of Detail in the Plan:**
 - In response to a question about the scale/level of detail to be in the OARR Strategic Plan, DNR explained it will offer broad strategies that are applicable across the state. It will be a tool to guide development of landscape-level action plans that will include specific on-the-ground actions. DNR currently has 10 landscape-level plans for different areas of the state.
 - The OARR Strategic Plan is not intended to replace active plans but aims to support them by addressing common roadblocks, especially funding.
- **Climate Resilience and Recreation:** DNR explained it has a broader Plan [for Climate Resilience](#) , but in the recreation context, the focus is on enhancing protection for infrastructure and people during natural and climate disasters.

- **Collaboration with Tribes:** In response to a question about co-management of terrestrial resources with Tribes, DNR indicated the term co-management related to a specific legal framework that Washington and Tribes use in managing fisheries. DNR is co-developing the goals of the OARR Strategic Plan to ensure they are inclusive of Tribal interests and is guided by a Commissioner’s Order to collaborate with Tribes in all aspects of its work. In response to a question about Tribal priorities, DNR shared that it has heard Tribes express concerns about the high volume of people on public lands and irresponsible behaviors affecting their ability to hunt, gather, and utilize the land as per Tribal rights.
- **Land Acquisition for Recreation:** In response to a question about purchasing new land for recreation opportunities, DNR explained it is acquiring new parcels for conservation, and recreational opportunities may be an option, but are not the primary purpose.
- **Beneficiary Acknowledgement in Goals:** Participants observed approximately 95% of DNR-managed lands are trust lands and the purpose statement and goals do not explicitly mention providing support to beneficiaries.
- **Mitigating Human Impacts:** DNR explained that recreation program staff are the primary resources who work on mitigating public abuse, including illegal dumping, and the other uplands programs currently focus on different land management issues. DNR hopes the OARR Strategic Plan will identify mechanisms to help the agency and recreation program better mitigate impacts across DNR programs.
- **Impact of Increased Use:** In response to a question about the link between increased recreation demand and increased public abuse, such as dumping, DNR explained that while they have not yet investigated a direct correlation, there is a likely an association. Active recreation management tends to reduce abuse, and the plan aims to explore ways to manage impacts effectively.
- **Dispersed Camping:** DNR clarified it is not against dispersed camping and noted that concerns arise in areas with concentrated recreation use.
- **Tribal Enforcement on DNR Lands:** DNR recreation staff explained that [HB 2312](#) and [SB 6011](#) were introduced this legislative session and if passed would give DNR, WDFW, and State Parks authority to enter into agreements with Tribes, giving Tribal law enforcement jurisdiction to enforce state laws on state lands. The proposal would help meet enforcement capacity needs. *Update as of March 2024 – these bills did not successfully pass the Legislature in the 2024 session.*
- **Enforcement Officer Numbers:** With new funding from the 2023 legislative session, DNR has secured funding for five more law enforcement officers in 2024. DNR’s original request was for ten law enforcement officers; the request was funded at 50%.

Small Group Brainstorm

The facilitator shared instructions for the small group brainstorming sessions where attendees shared input at six stations, each representing a draft goal for the OARR Strategic Plan. Each station allowed for a focused discussion lasting 10-15 minutes, during which participants jotted down their ideas on paper placed on the table. Each station addressed the following questions for the assigned goal:

- In 10 years, what outcome(s) need to be achieved for this goal to be successful?

- What are current topics or issues that would need to be addressed?
- What steps should be taken, or potential opportunities leveraged, to accomplish this goal?

The small group session concluded with a dot exercise, allowing participants to emphasize their favorite ideas from the discussions using stickers. The outcomes of this prioritization activity are documented in Appendix C, where each specific piece of feedback is accompanied by the corresponding number of stickers.

Outlined below are high-level key themes for what was documented across all six goal stations. For full details of what was shared during the small group sessions, please see Appendix C.

Key Themes

Goal 1: Conserve and Enhance the Natural Environment and Cultural Resources

Description: Actively address outdoor access and recreation activities that impact natural and cultural resources and Tribal rights on DNR-managed lands, including the health of fish, wildlife, and habitat.

In summary, participants shared that reserving DNR lands and protecting the natural and cultural resources on them requires proactive conservation planning with specific objectives, targeted investment, increased enforcement, and engagement of diverse user groups.

Strategy themes included:

- Increase enforcement where appropriate.
- Reduce resource abuse, specifically dumping and trash on DNR-managed lands.
- Use education and collaboration with partners to make users aware of potential impacts to resources.
- Involve users in resource protection and restoration projects.
- Better define both what needs protection and capacity for use. Consider an inventory of potential impacts to inform management objectives and goals to help track progress.
- Prioritize funds for maintenance to protect resources.
- Partner with the ancestral lands movement to promote culturally sensitive recreation.

Goal 2: Cultivate a Stewardship and Responsibility Ethic through User Education and Engagement

Description: Improve user awareness of recreation's impacts on natural and cultural resources and their understanding of appropriate etiquette in different landscapes, knowledge of rights and interests of all groups, and how to engage in activities safely.

In summary, participants shared that education plays a crucial role across the six draft goals by instilling awareness through improved communication, regionally focused education initiatives, and cross-cultural outreach to foster new user opportunities and ethical practices on DNR-managed lands.

Strategy themes included:

- Improve volunteer recruitment and coordination.
- Expand education on protected recreation sites to include guidelines on acceptable practices.

- Increase collaboration with community partners to foster an understanding of trail ethics and stewardship (e.g., event organizers, trail supporters).
- Engage school-aged children in educational endeavors and utilize state lands as educational spaces for public learning (living classrooms).
- Increase public education about restoration projects.
- Use social media to reach new user groups and share important “before-you-go” information.

Goal 3: Improve Equitable Access

Description: Reduce barriers that disproportionately impact overburdened and vulnerable communities, including Tribes, to access DNR-managed lands.

In summary, participants shared that inclusivity and equity are central themes, focused on ensuring equitable access to recreational sites for all communities and establishing relationships with non-traditional entities to inform recreation planning and decision making.

Strategy themes included:

- Create opportunities for new users to engage and learn about recreation on DNR-managed lands through targeted outreach events.
- Understand and identify people or communities who have been historically excluded from recreation opportunities due to economic or other barriers.
- Address potential language and cultural barriers for new users to cultivate a sense of belonging for underrepresented communities.
- Improve online communications to ensure dispersed recreation information, including roads and access points, are easily accessible to the public.
- Avoid pricing out lower-income users with higher access fees (i.e., implement a voluntary sliding scale for the Discover Pass).
- Implementation of more adaptive access, including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant trails.

Goal 4: Respect All Rights and Involve All User Groups in Future Planning

Description: Tribes, partners, and stakeholders are proactively involved in the recreation and outdoor access planning process. DNR staff have the tools, resources, and expertise to foster meaningful participation.

In summary, participants shared that respecting all rights and involving diverse user groups in future planning requires a comprehensive strategy. Enhancing diversity throughout the planning process is essential to ensure a broad spectrum of perspectives are considered. This may include building partnerships with non-traditional groups, investing in community-based engagement, and creating transparent planning processes.

Strategy themes included:

- Establish a procedure for systematic regional meetings aimed at informing users and gathering input.
- Incorporate education about Tribal reserved rights to increase public understanding and acknowledgement in the planning process.
- Form partnerships with groups who work with and advocate for underrepresented communities.
- Introduce career pipeline programs.
- Develop collaborative frameworks involving diverse groups and agencies for effective planning.

Goal 5: Secure Financial Stability for Management, Operations, Infrastructure, and Stewardship

Description: Identify current and future funding needs and achieve a sustainable operating model that supports other program goals. Leverage existing investments in outdoor access and recreation to achieve sustainable program funding to meet current and future needs, protect the environment, and benefit the economy.

In summary, participants shared that long-term success for recreation management across DNR-managed lands will require diverse funding sources and budgets that meet operational needs. Leveraging partnerships and user contributions will help ensure a secure financial foundation. Optimization of funding structures can be achieved through strategies such as increased access fees, tax mechanisms, or other alternative revenue streams.

Strategy themes included:

- Create a revolving fund for mitigation impacts, potentially supported by contributions from commercial recreation or corporate sponsors.
- Identify regionally focused funding.
- Create opt-in and donation options for user-driven funding.
- Explore funding opportunities with non-profits, industry, and corporations. (e.g., carbon storage).
- Foster successful Tribal partnerships with shared management and funding structures.
- Explore legislation for recreation-supporting taxes (e.g., retail).

Goal 6: Mitigate Climate Impacts and Build Resilience

Description: Prepare for extreme climate-related events, implement climate-resilient infrastructure design and maintenance, and integrate management and operations techniques that improve resilience and human safety, in alignment with DNR's Plan for Climate Resilience.

In summary, participants shared that adapting to climate change involves implementing sustainable trail designs and infrastructure plans, minimizing environmental impacts, and promoting climate-friendly transportation options. Education about climate change is essential for staff and users to foster a collective commitment to environmental stewardship.

Strategy themes included:

- Continue climate-informed trail and facility infrastructure planning (considering heavy rainfall, drought, etc.).
- Achieve a reduction in litter and illegal fires on landscapes through the development of a holistic agency-wide strategy, extending beyond recreation-specific initiatives.
- Collaborate with schools to support projects focused on youth engagement in stewardship, restoration, and maintenance.
- Improved education and information that results in an understanding and awareness of climate change and human impact on climate, particularly in relation to recreation.
- Collaborate with Tribes to implement traditional land management practices.

Appendix A – Word Cloud Warm-Up Responses

Word clouds emphasize words or phrases entered repeatedly by a group. Participants could enter up to three responses.

January 18, 2024 Public Meeting



January 23, 2024 Public Meeting



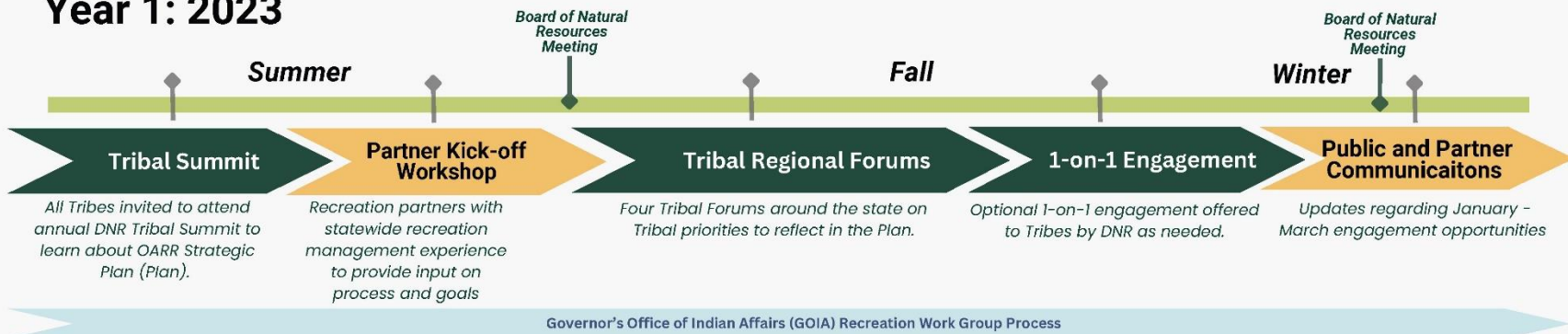
Appendix B – Engagement Timeline and Milestones



DNR OARR Draft Plan Engagement Timeline - Plan A

Draft Document
Subject to Change
(v.11.27.23)

Year 1: 2023



DNR participating in GOIA process and creating link with OARR Planning

Year 2: 2024



Appendix C - Summary of All Public Input Received

Disclaimer: The following is a documentation of suggestions or ideas offered by meeting attendees. This summary is not a commitment from DNR to include all recommendations in the plan.

- Ideas were organized after the meeting to best fit the applicable goal.
- Note: The numbers in parentheses following specific comments indicate the number of times these comments were echoed or emphasized by other attendees.

Goal #1: Conserve and Enhance the Natural Environment and Cultural Resources		
Successful Outcomes	Key Issues or Topics to Address	Actions Needed to Achieve Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce or eliminate unauthorized trails to enhance land conservation. • Increased DNR land ownership, encompassing both sides of riparian areas (1). • Precise conservation goals for effective planning. • Strengthened Tribal resources for enhanced educational outreach. • Respect for resource protection among all parties, Tribal and non-Tribal. • Achieve a reduction in litter and illegal fires on the landscape (2). • Multiple user groups involved in planning. • Inventory of sites to ensure effective protection. • Increased investment to better manage recreational use (1). • Reduced restrictions for infrastructure use like bridges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to clearly define what is being conserved, especially cultural resources (1). • Examine the impact of non-Tribal huckleberry harvesting on cultural and Tribal practices. • Tackle issues arising from different permissions and a lack of awareness of Tribal uses. • Trailheads and roads are not always maintained. • Safety concerns following DNR land alterations, including tank traps. • Build trust with Tribes for accurate land inventory (1). • Maintain commitment to beneficiaries. • Allow user groups to lead stewardship projects, with event fees benefiting landscapes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased enforcement measures (6). • Reduced enforcement where appropriate (1). • Education about sites and why they are protected. • Increase the number of education and enforcement staff at recreation sites. • Extend education beyond "know-before-you-go" to cover acceptable practices. • Issue statements and outreach to user groups, explaining what is being conserved in a recreation area. • Develop a commercial use policy, potentially involving fees (1). • Restrict motorized use to smaller areas and designate motor-free zones. • Ensure sufficient infrastructure to support recreational activities. • Install signage in multiple languages, including Tribal languages. • Prioritize appropriate engineering practices to promote low impact use for recreation sites. • Work collaboratively with small forest conservation initiatives. • Partner with the ancestral lands movement to promote culturally sensitive recreation. • Non-performative land acknowledgements. • Create a revolving fund for mitigating impacts, potentially supported by contributions from commercial recreation or corporate sponsors (3). • Augment education and enforcement staff to interface with users, increasing overall presence (3).

Goal #1: Conserve and Enhance the Natural Environment and Cultural Resources		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentivized stewardship programs, like free Discover Pass hours (1). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase planting of deciduous trees, especially in burn areas and Eastern WA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with schools to support projects focused on youth engagement in stewardship, restoration, and maintenance. Evaluate carrying capacity and implement necessary restrictions. Implement temporary restrictions as required for effective management. Involve all user groups to assist DNR projects (2). Provide preventative amenities like trash bins and informative pamphlets (1). Establish a user-friendly process for reporting and managing trail conditions, building positive user relationships (4). Allocate funds for maintenance, not solely for new infrastructure. Integrate trail planning into DNR road management for cohesive efforts. Form partnerships with waste management and local partners. Collect comprehensive data on impacts for informed decision-making. Implement a QR code trailhead system for user feedback on trails and roads, potentially through an online form. Develop a holistic agency-wide strategy to address trash, extending beyond recreation-specific initiatives. Explore solutions for the cost of waste disposal, possibly through free disposal days.

Goal #2: Cultivate a Stewardship and Responsibility Ethic through User Education and Engagement		
Successful Outcomes	Key Issues or Topics to Address	Actions Needed to Achieve Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimized littering and illegal dumping on state lands. Decrease in garbage and abuse on land. State lands utilized as educational spaces for public learning (living classrooms). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address and resolve divisions among user groups. Assist the DNR recreation program in articulating the benefits of recreation to trust beneficiaries, emphasizing mutual advantages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement educational initiatives on the principles of "Leave No Trace." Involve school-aged children in educational initiatives (2). Enhance the framework for trail builders and connect interested users with appropriate channels for trail building. Organize regional meetings involving multiple user groups to discuss common issues (2).

Goal #2: Cultivate a Stewardship and Responsibility Ethic through User Education and Engagement

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and education on trail etiquette (2). • Enhanced understanding of land ownership boundaries, including Tribal and state lands. • Users are educated on responsible and sustainable resource usage (1). • Well-defined volunteer programs and outlets for involvement. • Improved volunteer recruitment by directing interest toward smaller, more focused groups (2). • Avenues for individuals to get involved with smaller volunteer organizations. • Educational curriculums with local schools. • Broader public understanding and respect for Tribal reserved rights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the issue of illegal dumping leading to closures of certain areas. • Develop mentoring programs to instill responsible ethics in new users. • Concern that DNR is currently enforcement heavy. • Develop strategies to avoid the displacement of issues due to concentrated enforcement efforts. • Address safety concerns associated with citizen enforcement and potential conflicts. • Establish trust between DNR and partners to ensure effective user education. • Address the high turnover issue by providing re-training and knowledge retention strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host community events targeting new users, addressing language, immigrant status, and welcoming new Washington state residents (1). • Establish partner agreements for maintenance to increase engagement (3). • Foster increased engagement with local partners to enhance knowledge of trail ethics and etiquette (i.e., retailers, race promoters, trail advocates). • Develop educational videos on responsible land use. • Leverage increased usage for increased vigilance against undesirable behavior. • Build more trails, see less dumping. • Implement weekend enforcement. • Engage trailhead ambassador volunteers to assist in promoting responsible land use (2). • Use non-LEO staff for contacts (ambassador program with partners to learn from peers – look at WDFW model) (3). • Communicate the boundary between DNR land and private land (1). • Enhance education and signage efforts (1). • Provide training and orientation for new staff to improve public trust and relationships. • Secure additional funding for trailhead ambassador programs. • Encourage user groups to actively participate in educating and sharing information. • Identify areas where Environmental and Educational officers are more appropriate than volunteer programs (trailhead ambassadors, Forest Watch). • Utilize social media tags to reach individuals discovering areas online. • Establish connections with community organizations to create a volunteer pipeline and maintain a consistent calendar of work. • Connect actions to Goal #3 (equitable access) and focus on better educating users, starting with school programs. • Evaluate and understand the effectiveness of various education initiatives.
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Goal #3: Improve Equitable Access		
Successful Outcomes	Key Issues or Topics to Address	Actions Needed to Achieve Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserving DNR's wild character – not resembling a State Park level of development • Enhanced access through effective enforcement. • Increased educational use of DNR-managed lands. • Greater dispersion of recreational opportunities for closer access. • Improved accessible and consistent transportation. • Promotion of regional equity. • Establishment of partnerships with non-traditional groups. • Enhanced tracking of land use (1). • Initiate educational programs starting with schools. • Foster a more diverse usership on the land. • Development of current trail maps to enhance the sense of safety (1). • Creation of a robust inventory of recreation opportunities and user groups. • Expansion of navigable waterway opportunities. • Safer recreational shooting environments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivating a sense of belonging for underrepresented communities/people historically excluded • Developing methods for capturing and responding to incidents of harassment (1) • Evaluating and improving the permitting system. • Balancing increased access with managing overuse at trailheads and campgrounds (1). • Addressing transportation challenges to trailheads (1). • Recognizing that not all areas are appropriate for all users. • Maintaining habitat connectivity (1). • Addressing insufficient trail networks (2). • Focusing on resource protection and management. • Enhancing access to trails • Addressing cost barriers for schools (transport, lunches, teacher training). • Minimizing gates or obstacles. • Ensuring website accuracy for gates/trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of access for all (1). • Understanding current user demographics (2). • Installation of trail counters to track use • Development of an inventory of all recreation challenges to users • Ensure accessible communication. • Incentivizing public transport opportunities (3). • Implementation of public transportation (no Discover Pass needed) • Conducting traffic studies. • Improvement and maintenance of existing infrastructure • Investment in road improvements. • Inclusion of target shooters, recreation shooters, and gun enthusiasts in the conversation. • Exploration of land trades to secure access to habitat (1). • Clarification of walking areas on the shoreline • Establishment of a system for reservations for equestrian camp sites. • Mapping roads on the website. • Implementation of outdoor classroom programming (1). • Increased funding for regional education. • Television communications and education (1). • Outreach to historically excluded groups. • Coordination between land management agencies.

Goal #3: Improve Equitable Access		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring access for mobility-challenged individuals (1). • Securing easements to landlocked areas (1). • Ensuring equal opportunity for diverse users. • Increased funding for educational initiatives (2). • Implementation of more adaptive access (1). • Establishment of career pipeline programs. • Provision of public transit to popular sites. • Ensuring equal access behind locked gates. • Encouraging more collaboration among recreation users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritizing the conservation of sensitive areas, including wildlife and vegetation (2). • Identifying and addressing "barriers" (1). • Identifying vulnerable communities. • Coordinating with other state agencies. • Protecting resources and private lands. 	

Goal #4: Respect All Rights and Involve All User Groups in Future Planning		
Successful Outcomes	Key Issues or Topics to Address	Actions Needed to Achieve Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place-based development for user groups. • Inclusion of specific user groups in planning. • Engagement of wide user groups through dispersed shooting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of collaboration between groups in multiple proposals for multi-use trails. • Need for an iterative approach to landscape-level plans. • Improvement of the website for dispersed recreation information, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently engage with user groups and develop iterative planning processes. • Provide case studies of successful plans and engagement (1). • Organize future events for planning groups, including implementation and site visits. • Develop landscape-level plans. • Prioritize ongoing maintenance where needed (1). • Balance multiuse coordination and sharing.

Goal #4: Respect All Rights and Involve All User Groups in Future Planning

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboratives established for planning involving various groups and agencies. • On-the-ground results achieved from implemented plans. • User-wide groups advising DNR on protective management. • Increased diversity in representation during the planning process. • Establishment of a well-acknowledged forum for planning discussions. • Educational initiatives for all users, with DNR developing materials and user groups providing information. • Enhanced understanding of Tribal rights and uses. • Effective maintenance of RCW 79a.15 (5). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • including roads and access points (1). • Promotion of respect for dispersed recreation. • Lack of joint plans across different agencies. • Tracking and monitoring outcomes of Plan development. • Balancing diverse user needs. • Ensuring equitable communication of plans. • Incorporating climate change considerations into plans. • Addressing safety issues between user groups, such as shooting practices around trails (1). • Tackling the issue of litter (1). • Managing multiple users with potentially incompatible activities (e.g., bikes and horseback riders). • Identifying and engaging with non-organization-based users. • Adapting to changing technologies. • Establishing centralized points of contact/news/info for all user groups. • Addressing concerns related to the closure of lands or increased restrictions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize regional user meetings for information sharing between groups (1). • Improve policy procedures and communication for regional meetings, including nonaffiliated users. • Establish agency standards for cross-user group collaboration (1). • Construct more trails (1). • Educate users about other user groups. • Leverage available funding to construct shooting ranges. • Implement trail counters. • Encourage community investment in recreation clubs and groups to build consolidated voices. • Invest in community engagement and communications staff. • Appoint a contact person for immediate concerns. • Incorporate education about Tribal reserved rights to increase public understanding (1). • Prioritize recreation and embrace it (3). • Appoint a DNR representative as a point person for user concerns. • Examine the Snoqualmie ancestral land movement and link it to education. • Establish a consistent process for systematic regional meetings to inform users and collect input (3).
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Goal #4: Respect All Rights and Involve All User Groups in Future Planning		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering wildlife preservation in recreation expansion plans (4). • Ensuring public input from user groups in landscape-level management. • Educating DNR staff on relevant RCW laws. 	

Goal #5: Secure Financial Stability for Management, Operations, Infrastructure, and Stewardship		
Successful Outcomes	Key Issues or Topics to Address	Actions Needed to Achieve Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget that meets the operation and maintenance needs on recreation sites. • Funding driven by well-articulated needs rather than availability (5). • Full funding for recreation needs (1). • Trust management funds supporting public abuse costs. • Stable positions for operations and maintenance staff, moving away from grants (1). • User awareness of funding mechanisms for different state agencies. • Self-sufficient camping (2). • Successful Tribal partnerships with shared management and funding structures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas tax. • Seeking alternate revenue streams (e.g., selling carbon? credits to industry). • Avoiding pricing out lower-income users. • Unpredictable core program funding for maintenance needs. • Reliability issues with forest grant funding (1). • Restoration of trails after logging in high-use motorized areas. • Unknown maintenance needs at the landscape level. • Increasing public confidence through transparency and education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure more funding. • Proactively engage users. • Generate user-driven funding. • Opt-in and donation options, with Discover Pass proceeds directed to DNR or Tabs (1). • Explore Tribal willingness to participate in funding (2). • Increase access fees (1). • Establish non-profit entities like "Friends of DNR" (e.g., WA State Parks Foundation). • Direct permitting revenue toward DNR funding. • Review and optimize the Discover Pass program. • Encourage Tribes to contribute financially to areas of concern. • Explore DNR legislation for recreation taxes (e.g., retail) (1). • Implement a voluntary sliding scale for the Discover Pass. • Secure a certified grant writer. • Facilitate private sponsorship of trails (1).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffed volunteer base • Tourism-based tax (e.g., heads and beds) (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber sales funding (1) • Increasing federal investment in federal lands to avoid competition for grants with state agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance transparency on funding sources. • Explore funding opportunities with non-profits, industry, etc. (e.g., carbon storage) (1) • Implement SHB2165. • Ensure staff stability and succession planning. • Outreach to schools for various programs. • Implement an electric vehicle tax to replace the gas tax. • Establish an event permitting process for revenue. • Engage expert volunteers to undertake some work. • Collaborate with schools having program requirements as volunteers. • Foster partnerships, agreements, and liability considerations. • Restore volunteer numbers to pre-COVID levels. • Leverage volunteers and partners. • Examine Idaho's example of an endowment/investment fund (1). • Reduce reliance on direct timber revenue. • Subcontract campsite maintenance similar to the Oregon Forest Service (1). • Direct tab fees from Off-Road Vehicles (ORV) to DNR/DFW (1). • Establish a fund for recreation from logging timber sales (1). • Implement campsite charges (1). • Introduce an out-of-county use fee (1). • Increase the Discover Pass price by \$5.00 (2). • Re-evaluate the distribution percentage of Discover Pass to reflect usage (2). • Introduce an opt-in additional donation when renewing tabs. • Increase the percentage of DNR funding to recreation needs to be more than \$20,000 in two years.
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Goal #6: Mitigate Climate Impacts and Build Resilience		
Successful Outcomes	Key Issues or Topics to Address	Actions Needed to Achieve Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate-friendly transport options to reduce single-car trips. • Good air quality. • Improved culverts and bridges addressing changes in flow. • Enhancement of stream and river corridors. • Bus-to-trail programs implemented. • Improved drainage on trails. • Reservations for high-use trails. • Strong relationships with community organizations and user groups. • Enhanced educational signage. • Implementation of landscape-scale plans . • Development of sustainable trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive species restoration needs and linkage to recreation impacts. • Vegetation management in response to a changing climate (2). • Sea level rise and aquatic access. • Infrastructure maintenance communications (DNR hub). • Electric Vehicle (EV) recreation (industry partnerships with manufacturers and retailers). • Communication gaps between DNR programs (forest health and recreation). • Identification of issues and overlap between urban and rural recreation opportunities. • Lack of trail building standards. • Reduced greenwashing, increased transparency in practices, and reporting of unsustainable logging. • Understanding and awareness of climate change (1). • Human impact on climate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) parking (e.g., ski area example) (1). • Increased transportation options to recreation sites (3). • Campfire use education. • Increased public education about restoration projects (1). • Continued climate-informed trail and facility planning (considering heavy rainfall, drought, etc.). • Trail building without negative impacts on streams. • Improved and updated trail plans with consideration for unsanctioned trails. • Development of plans to address climate impacts. • User education initiatives. • Outreach programs. • Documentation of all maintenance needs at specific landscapes for a comprehensive understanding of needs. • Continued expansion of prescribed fire and wildfire mitigation efforts. • Improved safety infrastructure and communications (1). • Safety education (1). • Active forest management (4). • Prescribed fire and pre-commercial thinning. • Collaboration with Tribes to implement traditional land management practices. • Active fire protection and prevention. • Increased deciduous tree presence in evergreen forests.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus on the reality of climate impacts. • Environmental impacts contributing to broader climate effects. • Expansive land management. • Increased collaboration within DNR (e.g., recreation and timber sales). • Budget cuts to fire impacting other budgets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced ability to manage forests across boundaries. • Enforcement of logging practices to halt cutting of old growth (1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NOTE: DNR, under its Policy for Sustainable Forests, adopted in 2006, does not harvest old growth forests.</i> • Adequate training for managers. • Logging practices demonstrating greater awareness of recreation activities (1).
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