



Public Comments**
Recreation Planning Committee Meeting
January 9, 2018 | 6 to 9 p.m.
Deming Library, 5044 Mt. Baker Highway, Bellingham

****Note: Comments were captured to the extent possible by DNR staff**

Brett Dodd – Thanks for your work. It sounds like folks are being proactive for all groups to get recreation access. Having motorized recreation in a working forest is not a bad thing.

Laurie Taylor – Dirt bike rider. Thanks for considering motorized recreation. A lot of the conflict is created through attitude. We are all in this together, moto, no moto, etc. We all enjoy the forest. Any groups excluded, will not be allies with the rest. My family was raised motorized, we turned out good. Similar families are looking for that opportunity.

Peter Rasmussen – I was involved with an org that was opposing a park about 30 years ago. The people around the neighborhood, around the mountain, we're overwhelming against the noise and intrusion that would come from the extra activity in the area. I think that the committee would consider that. In the past, and I suspect in the present, the neighbors will not be excited about this.

Volunteer Firefighter – I respond to a lot of motorized vehicle crashes. We are a strained, limited response. This is a huge impact on fire and EMS resources around the county.

Chris Novar – I would like to know if we are going to have another public comment period after those maps are shown. *Dana - Not tonight, this is a working meeting, we have a lot to do. We share the comments with the committee every month.*

Chris - You made these maps public before this meeting. How many people are here concerned about what was presented on those maps? Stand if so – (many people stand).

Laurie Cleveland – I own 20 acres that abut DNR. If you love the woods, go in there quieter. I cannot believe the DNR is considering this, given how hot and dry the last two summers have been. If Sumas catches on fire, I will hold DNR responsible. That is my home. They couldn't contain the fires in California, if the weather continues, you are putting a lot of people at risk. Not only are you going to ruin my home, you are ruining the wildlife. You can't replace my home.

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Heather Swanson – I appreciate the conciliatory tone. ORV use is controversial, and currently prohibited in Whatcom. Why are you picking a battle with public opinion? Even the most popular motorized use, is ranked 9th on your own public user survey. We have some public abuse on Red Mtn. We have no reason to trust DNR will start enforcing its own rules. This community will fight to oppose ORV use on Red Mountain. I do support non-motorized recreation in my back yard. I do not support ORV use. Please drop ORV use consideration in Whatcom County.

Rainbow Madison Walker – I am a daughter of Chiefs. I walk, pray and do ceremonies in the woods. ORV use is the only recreation use I feel threatened by. It has not been policed, or enforced, and I have no reason to think it will be. ORV noise goes everywhere in our valleys. I am scared. The fire danger goes up with this use. I do not want it.

Amber Pearl – Have we considered our neighbors to the North? They may be joining us too if we go through with this rec plan. That would mean a lot more people.

Nori Zickerman – Resident of Silver Lake. I agree with Heather. Please consider a larger room for future meetings.

Holly- Laurie I feel for you. I meet a lot of responsible riders. I wish all were like you (Laurie Taylor). That's not the case. The sport has not been capable of responding to the bad element. I can take you up to salmon streams that have been driven through, and merchantable timber that has be shot. I know there's a need for that recreation in Whatcom County, but that doesn't mean this is a suitable place. Whatcom county residents may have to travel to drive ORVs. We will litigate to stop motorized trails in Whatcom County. The illegal use has been rampant over the years.

Edward Fox – Live on West side of Red mountain adjacent to DNR land. We understand DNR will be doing forestry work. It sounds like perpetual chain sawing year around. It is different than what we expected and it is not positive.

Candy Galindo – Thanks to DNR for pursuing ORV use. I learned a few years ago there is a large illegal aspect. I think a lot of these problems can be mitigated by law enforcement in a legal area for motorized use.

Joel Adams – Silver Lake Road North. Part of the ORV community. Been riding for years. It is great way to get out into nature. I love it. I run, ride horses, ski, mountain bike. I see it from a motorized and non-

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motorized use. I am opposed to motorized recreation with the current maps. It's not about the activity, but it's a big community, and not all are environmentally conscious. The fire risk is huge. I own horses on 15 acres next Silver Lake Park. I support the BCH. It is going to be a big conflict.

Kelly Nelson – Silver Lake Park – I am opposed to ORV use. For all of the reasons mentioned above. A serious impact on residents. Disappointed more residents have not been included in this process as stakeholders.

Kathy Levall – Silver Lake Road – adamantly opposed to ORV recreation. You cannot control noise. Off-Roding can be fun. But we stopped because of the noise. This is a residential area; you will be stealing our way of life. You will be in our homes, you can't control the noise. Silver Lake Road is not safe for bicyclist, we need a bike lane, and the road is not big enough as it is to accommodate increased traffic. You are increasing risk to property to and human life.

Name? – We do not have an evacuation plan. We have no way of notifying folks if there is a fire. The road is already maxed out. How are we going to deal with the toll that more and more traffic takes on the road?

Max Duncan - Live on 20 acres abutting DNR land. We try to be good neighbors with all of the mixed uses that come with living next to DNR. I support them all but ORV use. I see a lot of ORV use. I know great people who ORV. Regularly however, ORV's will go off existing roads and trails. We hear you have one enforcement officer for all of Skagit and Whatcom County. So there is no enforcement. This is not how to be a good neighbor. Some ORV users are ruining the sport, I apologize for the good users.

Llama Packer – There's no cell phone service. So if there's an emergency, how long will it take to get help? Border patrol uses a lot of the trails to catch drug runners. How are they going to know what's what? ORV users do not stay on the trail they're supposed to. We pack out all the trash they leave. I have gotten pretty scared out there from ORV users.

Frederick Skinner – ER room nurse. I worked near an ORV park in Hollister, CA. Fri-Sun you could count on 2-4 people coming to the ER with breaks. It's going to be a mess.

Tom Vale - Silver Lake Road, oppose ORV park. Oppose all motorized trails. We don't have enough law enforcement present now to take care of what little use goes on up there. Regardless of how good or bad the groups is, the more people the more problems there will be. When you call law enforcement their

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response is always that they are understaffed. When I go to sell my property, I hope it will be worth more than it is now. I don't think that will be the case with an ORV area down the road.

When will be the next public meeting? *Dana - 2nd Tuesday of February, March and April.*

Greg McClaren – North Fork Road off Mosquito Lake. About 30 years ago, we had ORV park proposal on Sumas. Folks came out to North Fork, and there was a big impact. Strings of cars. One trailer with ten vehicles, and ten trucks following. The shooting increased. It didn't work for our little dead-end road.

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