

We would greatly appreciate the opportunity for an off road recreation area. Please keep us in mind because places to ride are scarce these days with no local riding area. There are a lot of people in the ORV community willing to clean garbage, maintain trails, and to preserve the natural habitat of our beautiful area.

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As an active horse rider and hiker in Whatcom County it was with great excitement that I heard of your consideration of allocating an area for ORV users.

A great percentage of ORV users are the active youth in our county. Encouraging the youth of Whatcom County to get out and enjoy nature is of utmost importance to keep our trails funded and open for the enjoyment of the people of this county. It has been sad to see trails slowly be taken away first from ORV users and then from equestrians. Keeping our forests and trails open and tended too takes everyone from all walks of life. It is important to include the ORV user as part of our trail community. It is essential for the future of the trails in Whatcom County to include everyone on our trails. Please consider the need for riding areas for ORV users. ORV users include much of the youth in our community... It is by keeping the interest of our youth in nature that we will keep our trails funded and open for all to enjoy.

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The personal encounters I have had from ORV users while riding my horse have been very encouraging. Each time the ORV user has done their part to help keep the trail safe for both myself and my horse. It is time to bring back ORV trails and include everyone on the land. Use it or lose it seems to be where the funding for trails is going these days. The more who actively use the trails, the more funding people will be willing to participate in for keeping them open.

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I recently heard about this plan. There are a couple recreational activities that our area could use.

An ORV park, similar to Walker Valley ORV. Having a 2nd park would be great for our 4x4 enthusiasts. If there was a dedicated place in Whatcom County for ORV, there would be less damage to other places where this is not allowed.

a target shooting area would also be great. We are very limited on areas open to target shooting.

I look forward to seeing updates on the development of this area.

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I for one am very pleased at seeing an ORV recreation area added in the Sumas Red mt. area I am an avid hunter fisherman and hiker along with riding quads and bikes and am part of a local 4wd club I would be very pleased in seeing a place I can ride without having to drive a 100 miles everyone needs a place to go but I feel the motorized portion get completely shut out and hikers and Mt bikes get everything else I feel it would bring money to local businesses as well as cut down on the garbage problem we have now and for those opposed to the noise it will create there has been use of several of these places for over 10 years and no one has heard a thing I live right at the base of Sumas and I never hear a thing thank you for taking the time to hear my opinion.

As a motorized recreational user, I find your Concept E to be the best choice for a motorized trail system. While I do hate the idea of my nephews not knowing the joys of riding North Fork (which I grew up riding), I understand that new generations will have similar great memories of riding on a dirt bike at Red Mountain or Sumas Mountain with a UTV.

I can't believe how easy it is to enjoy the outdoors on a dirt bike, yet so many youth today don't have the experience of getting outside and enjoying the outdoors in the beautiful Pacific Northwest while riding with family. It would be great to provide more opportunities for families to enjoy this experience of motorized recreation and I would love to see my tax dollars put to such a good use as this.

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My husband and I are heavily involved in the off-road community, and spend time not only enjoying the outdoor recreation areas, but also participate in clean up events, trail repair, trash pickup, trail education, DNR education, and so much more. It would be great to have another area to enjoy and support, in the Whatcom county area...

Please consider this as a viable area for more ORV recreation!

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Hello, I wanted to voice my support for the plan to create a Sumas Mountain ORV Recreation Area. The Timber Tamers and the Kevin with the Rainier Ridge Rams were the ones who got me interested in ORV

recreation through their example of safe, responsible driving as well as commitment to cleaning up Walker Valley, Ocean Shores and Naches Pass. In my experience having supported trails creates an environment where it is easier to get off roaders to stick to marked trails, a sanctioned area with support of local clubs is a great thing for all of us.

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I believe Concept E is the most beneficial for use across the board.

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I believe opening this sooner than later will be a plan not only will it give ppl something to do but I think it could have a positive effect on family's as they are able to spend time together doing what they enjoy doing if I may help in and way please let me know the only issue I can see with this is people dumping I myself have seen peop dumping and actually made them pick it up and put it back in there trucks I think there should be very heavy punishment if someone is caught doing so and it should be known that taking a picture of someone dumping and reporting it is strongly suggested to keep our orv open and clean thank you

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I fully support motorized recreation in Whatcom County. I am the secretary and Charter Member of one of the largest Jeep-Only clubs in the PNW. With 252 active members, we are excited to see what Whatcom County has to offer for outdoor ORV use, and we are equally excited to learn what opportunities you'll have for us to help maintain such a place. As a "Jeeper" of a family friendly "tread Lightly" themed club, I feel it is very therapeutic to get out of doors, drive in the woods a bit... and then park, get out, pick up trash, talk about it, and then drive a few more yards and repeat.

Ultimately, after picking up trash and driving around, I like to go to the nearest town and enjoy some supper with my friends, gas up, get some snacks for the trip back, and head back home. I realize now that this actually extends my hobby to the local economy in ways I hadn't considered before.

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I support the Committee's Concept A, especially it's proposal to have motorized areas on Sumas and Red Mountains.

Whatcom County has a great need for legitimate motorized recreational areas. Having designated, technically challenging areas of sufficient size will make riding safer and make it easier to regulate for environmental concerns. It will also increase the feeling of ownership, encouraging people to take care of "their" areas.

It's great that the Committee is really considering supporting ALL forms of sport in Whatcom County. As someone who enjoys many forms of recreation, I look forward to sharing space with both motorized and non-motorized enthusiasts.

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Very excited about the opportunity for a new ORV recreation area! I have several family members with physical limitations that keep them from being able to hike any of the trails in the area. So it would be amazing to have a new location to be able to take them out in my Jeep and enjoy the beautiful nature of our State! I have volunteered regularly at other ORV areas and would be happy to help with building/maintaining this new area as well!

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It is spiritual for me.

It is therapeutic for me. Help with my depression and anxiety and panic attacks.

My kids and girlfriend this is how we spend our family time or one on one time with each other

It allows me to enjoy the great outdoors.

It allows me to give back to the many wonderful resources my state has to offer.

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I want to start off by saying i support recreational area. We have needed this for a long time. Its a great way to

spend with great friends and family. This is a great way how to teach people how to take care of the trails, as well as teaching my kids how to respect the trails and the land.

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I would like to express my support for an ORV recreation area component to your plan. As an owner of 2 duel sport adventure touring motorcycles and long time resident of Whatcom county I would love to see an ORV recreation area included in the plan. Many of the places I would ride when i was young are now closed and gated off. I think having a designated ORV recreation area would be great addition to the Whatcom county trail system.

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I would love to see concept E happen as this would give a good mix to motorized and non-motorized use of the land.

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As a member of Around the Sound Jeep Club (ASJC), I fully support motorized recreation in Whatcom County.

ASJC, other prominent jeep clubs, local non-club groups and individuals make up the majority of people who responsibly enjoy off road areas.

Most of us are members of Tread Lightly and collectively spend thousands of hours per year volunteering to help maintain the recreation area and assist non-club members obey signs and regulations.

Opening a new recreation area will help alleviate some of the heavier traffic Walker Valley has experienced.

I've experienced areas that are not regulated and understand the concern of some of the people that are against off road areas. I also understand that a regulated ORV Recreation Area will not eliminate all of the issues, but providing people a safe and legal place to enjoy motorized recreation in Whatcom County will drastically reduce them.

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I grew up in Bellingham and spent many many hours recreating between Baker to the bay, on the rivers, in the woods, in the mountains. When I heard that some of these lands could be opened up to full recreation use, I was just about as excited as could be. To be able to bring my adult fun to my old stomping grounds is exciting.

I have been part of a jeep club in western Washington for 5 years. Our club has supported other DNR sites (Walker Valley and Sadie Creek) by donating hours of volunteer time to do both trail maintenance and education. I personally have put in hundreds of hours volunteering digging sign holes, fixing erosion trenches, painting, clearing brush, closing off illegal trails/by-passes, and have personally had many conversations with trail users who needed eductating. Our club and I also adhere to the Tread Lightly philosophy and only stay on established 4x4 trails. What our club, and I have done shows how motorized vehicles can coexist on these lands without destroying them.

Look at Moab UT.... 4 national parks, 1000 of acres of BLM lands and they are able to control the use of those lands so the motorized vehicles, hikers, campers, horse riders, and river rafters can all enjoy. Also Sadie Creek. It is a small unassuming set of trails, but with a little trail maintenance, they are fun, remote, and stunningly beautiful. These are examples of how multiple users can work together and have a recreational area that can be shared by all. There is no reason that any one group should get all the land to the exclusion of the other recreational users.

It is interesting that at Walker, it is the 4x4 clubs that put in ton of volunteer time. Dirt bikes, hikers, etc. not so much. Besides, there are hundreds of trails in Washington that cater just to hikers, campers, horse riders, and river rafters, Please let the motorized vehicles share some of this new rustic area.

Right now, I only come back to Bellingham to go skiing, about 5 times a season. I jeep about 2 times per month....putting in some hours in Mt. Baker forest would be wonderful. The bonus is that we usually eat in

the community that we visit, so we also bring additional visitor dollars into the area.

Please move forward with a plan that allows for mixed use of these lands.

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Just writing in support of the proposed ORV area. These areas are very beneficial to the community in many ways. The increase in visitors to the area does many positive things. From a boost in tax revenue to people possibly moving to the area. The park would also increase revenue through Discovery Pass sales. I for one wouldn't have a pass if it wasn't required to go to Walker Valley. I hope that serious consideration is given in approving this park. An ORV area is the only thing that Whatcom County is missing.

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I am apart of the local motorized vehicle community in Skagit county. In sending this email today because I believe that Whatcom county should open up the area of sumas mountain and red mountain. The reason for that I say this is, I grew up in acme. Right on Saxon rd where everyone loves to ride there dirtbikes at. Whatcom county has some of the coolest woodland area that would make for a great ORV recreational area but DNR has made it illegal to be on a motorized vehicle on there land. If DNR and Whatcom County could work together to open up this land for a ORV recreational area they wouldn't really ever have to do anything. Most of the 4x4 and UTV clubs build and clean up all the trails at Walker Valley and keep them maintained. So if they were to open red mountain and sumas mountain the ORV community would be coming from all over it would help the local businesses because all these people would need to fuel up and need to eat and possibly get parts from the parts store. If they did open this up its not like they would be held responsible for what goes on up there if it was opened up the ORV community would take full responsibility for the land to make sure it is taken care of. This is why I believe that they should open that land up for a ORV recreational area, I mean what is there to lose ?

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As an avid off road motorcyclist and a person who cares about the environment I'd like to give my input on the proposed outdoor recreation concepts. From an environmental and cost perspective:

Concept A is the least appealing to me, areas with double track trails are typically used by quads and 4x4's and sustain a lot of abuse and unfortunate trash dumping etc.

Concept C looks like it has the same problem as concept A but without the benefit of a single track area where riders that are typically more conscientious of the impact of thier sport will ride.

Concept B seems ideal as it focuses on lower impact single track motorized use and non- motorized use. This looks like the best compromise between allowing a variety of uses on the land with the least impact

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Thank you for the opportunity to make comments regarding your work and "suggestions" for ORV use of public lands in Whatcom County. As I made remarks last night, I will keep these short.

About thirty (30) years ago in 1987 the neighbors surrounding Sumas Mountain overwhelmingly voiced their opposition to motorized vehicles, specifically ORVs, being granted additional opportunities to ride in that area. While this is a "different" proposal, the resulting affect upon the neighbors would be about the same: additional noise, destruction of property, trespassing, environmental damage, and safety (including fire and medical emergency services), etc. So many of those moving to the foothills, including my daughter and her family, did so specifically in an effort to enjoy the serenity of the area, often with the additional expense of time and money. It does not seem right to once again do this to these people.

The map was developed by one of those working to stop the increased use of ORVs thirty years ago to illustrate the overwhelming neighbor opposition. Please excuse the glare of a photo of a photo, especially to the NW of Sumas Mountain. Also, please note that the red shaded areas, encompassing most of the privately owned land around the mountain, is in opposition. Most of the non-shaded areas on the mountain designate large tracts of private or public, much DNR, forest lands, and include companies that could not be contacted or gave no input. As you can see, lots of opposition came from folks not even next to the mountain, but

knowledgeable about the situation, with total sympathy and support for the immediate neighbors.

Thank you again for the opportunity for input.

Please do not proceed with encouraging off road vehicle use in these neighborhoods and/or change zoning to allow this!

As you could tell last night, the neighbors are once more “up in arms” and will fight it as long as it takes!

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Im writing you to express my strong favor of a proper ORV park in Whatcom county. I feel that plan A of the proposed Baker to Bellingham development project would be a great benefit to our county. Having ridden both of these areas for a long time i see no reason that this plan should not be passed. These are already areas that are in current use by motorcycle enthusiasts and could benefit from having an area that would be restricted to motorized use and trail development. I hope to see the shared use of our public land improve and grow for years to come to make everyone happy including motorcycle riders.

Thanks to all who work toward public access on public lands! As a lifelong lover of the outdoors it is great to see people recognizing the benefits of recreation. Whatcom County is blessed with world class terrain and environments that few other places can rival. Many of us who were not born here have chosen to live here for this reason. I love all forms of outdoor recreation, but advancing age has reduced my physical abilities: hikes more than a mile or so are now the limit. As such I have turned to motorized recreation to be able to access the mountains. Please include motorized off road trails in your final project so that those of us who are somewhat old or disabled can still reach a portion of the places we love. My days of climbing and skiing Mt Baker are over but my love of the mountains and forests endures. Thanks!

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I wish to express my total opposition to allowing further use of trails or any other dnr property by off road vehicles of any sort.

You know, as well as I do, that owners of orvs like the challenge of taking them off trail. Established trails serve them only as entry ways into an area. They go everywhere they can with their machines. That is the challenge. That is their juice.

I have seen the destruction to once pristine areas caused by orvs in many areas of the U.S. One example. When young, I lived in Colorado. This was in the 1970s, before orvs. The high country was unmarred except for old mining roads. Forty years later, I visited the same area, after by then many years of extensive orv use. The difference was shocking. Erosion everywhere. Top soil gone. Deep gullies. Trash. Here in Whatcom county, I know of one place where the course of the Nooksack River is likely to change because orvs have dug out a gully that the river will follow come some future high water event.

I have nothing against orvs, if that is how some people like to recreate, but why not keep them to one area, and not spread them around to where they greatly diminish the value of dnr lands for other recreational users. Let them have their place, when they can rip up the land down to bedrock. Let em have at it. But keep them off the rest.

The dnr has a very bad reputation among virtually everyone I know for its seeming complete lack of interest in preserving this beautiful county. People will notice if you decide once again to act against the long range interests of Washingtonians.

Please accept this letter as a public comment to the planning process for the proposed Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan ('B2B').

I support the Committee's Concept A, especially it's proposal to have motorized areas on Sumas and Red Mountains. We are in need of balanced recreational opportunities on the west side of the Cascades for

responsible off road motorized use. In particular Whatcom County has a acute need for such motorized recreational areas. Having designed, technically challenging ORV areas will provide an area for responsible enjoyment and collaborative stewardship between DNR and the off road community.

It's great that the Committee is really considering supporting ALL forms of sport in Whatcom County. As someone who enjoys many forms of recreation, I look forward to sharing space with both motorized and non-motorized enthusiasts.

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I am a Washington resident and I fully support the Baker to Bellingham recreation development!

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I support motorized vehicle recreation at Sumas Mountain in Whatcom county. This is a great area for this activity. Motorized recreation is an activity I enjoy with my family, and an area close to home would be wonderful.

Due to physical disabilities, I can no longer hike and bike the outdoors like i used to. This is my way to get out in the forest and enjoy nature. My husband, children and i participate in clean up events many times throughout the year and will be glad to help here, too.

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I am a resident of Whatcom County. I have hiked, backpacked, camped and generally enjoyed the outdoors all my life. I am also part of the off-road vehicle community and in full support of bringing an ORV rec area into existence here in the county. If we look at the Walker Valley ORV rec area on Fire Mt. we see that maintaining trails and keeping this type of rec area clean are easy. There are many off-road clubs and volunteers VERY willing to take this responsibility here in our very own Whatcom County and surrounding area.

Further more, it will create new clubs and community involvement as well, our children will learn the value of protecting our forests so we can have places to explore on our vehicles. As much as some might disagree, these type of recreation areas really do bring people together in so many ways. I will say again, speaking for myself, my family and my closest friends I SUPPORT the ORV recreational area and we will all be volunteers in maintaining and keeping cleaning such a great place in which to enjoy our beautiful forests and wilderness in our Beautiful County.

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Good morning. I'm a born and raised resident of Whatcom County. I pay taxes. I ride a quad that is registered in Whatcom County. And I'm in the yes category for an ORV recreational area.

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Very excited about the new project for both more mountain bike and also motorized vehicle places to ride!! This will be great for our local bike and utv dealerships and definitely create more jobs. Plans A, and E are my favorite as they will split up the usage as much as possible. It also keeps the historic usages of each place the same. Hoping this all works out and very excited to not have to travel to skagit county. You can definitely tell the difference between the skagit county motorcycle dealers and the whatcom county ones. Hopefully this can even out

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I wanted to share my thought on motorized recreation on public lands.i am an avid motorized rec user and I use a lot of dnr motorized rec areas around the state . But they are far and few. I think by adding this to rec users like me would be important for the community and the dnr to create more lands for families, there health and to the respect this area has to offer.

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Being local all my life and enjoying all outdoor activities I am in support of any concept that keeps my passion of playing with my family outdoors with our motorized and non motorized equipment I'm all for it. I'm all in on concept A. Thanks for your time.

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Dear Sir or Madame, I'm writing this email in support of this motorized recreation area.I am a responsible motorized recreationist and am president of a four wheel drive club in eastern Washington and we are members of the Pacific Northwest 4Wheel Drive Association and Blue Ribbon Coalition. We practice

responsible, sustainable treadlightly form of recreation.

This area would become a Very popular area for families to enjoy trail riding and motorized exploration of the beautiful area there. It would also generate a substantial revenue for the towns around there and beyond. Our club travels all over the Northwest to enjoy similar areas and with the new Jeeps and Side x Side atvs coming out this form of recreation is growing exponentially every year. We have worked with and are working with the National Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, and Department of Natural Resources in many areas successfully to create and maintain similar areas. I hope to see this become a reality for all user groups to enjoy it sounds great for all. Thankyou for all your hard work in this matter and all the areas you manage. Sincerely ~ John Thompson president of the MidNite Mudders 4wd club

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Hello I am a dirt bike trail rider and I am always looking for some place to ride in upper Whatcom county, making this ORV park would benefit a lot of people! The last two PDFS of possible locations for the park are what I am voting for. Thank you, happy trails

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I am in full support in the sumas orv area. I feel it is much needed for off roaders everywhere and can take the pressure off a few of the over used areas.

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After reading some of the comment letters, I'll keep this short and sweet. I support ORV use integrated into the trail usage as there are plenty of ORV restricted areas all over Western Washington. Look at the environmental impact that loading up a truck and trailer to travel 400 miles to Eastern Washington and back has vs. being able to stay and recreate right here at home. Plus look at the economic benefit of keeping our money local and not having to spend it over there. I understand the concern that some people have had negative interactions or experiences with ORV users as there are a few bad apples in any orchard but the vast majority of us are respectful and caring to our environment and fellow users as we want to be able to share these experiences for generations to come.

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I did not receive a survey, so here are my thoughts. Regarding the proposals listed on <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/bakertobellingham>, my number 1 preference is Concept D, and second place is Concept C.

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My husband and I live out here in Kendall at the base of Red Mountain for the quiet, beauty, wildlife, and access to hiking. I am opposed to motorized uses on Red Mountain, because I don't like noise from machinery. All the other forms of outdoor recreation are fine with us, just not the motorized vehicles.

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Hi, my name is Katie Belfield. I am part on of the 4x4 club here in whatcom county, The Rainier Ridge rams. I would like to express my thoughts about opening an ORV area here in whatcom county.

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I do not believe people in whatcom county realize how much we actually do for the community. We hold multiple events during the year where we raise money to donate to DNR and local charities. In the few years I have been part of the club we have hosted and participated in multiple clean ups at Walker Valley ORV in Skagit county. We hosted the first ever clean up on Sumas mountain in September 2017 where we over flowed a 30 yard dumpster with trash off the mountain. We go as far as ocean shores every year to participate in Shore Patrol, where we clean up trash on the beach all weekend.

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I believe the ORV community in whatcom county does more beneficial things for the community and land then people know. If we had an area of our own I believe the land would be better taken care of then it is now. Majority of the people disrespecting the land have nothing to do with the ORV community. Having an area to enjoy the sport we love would not only benefit us, but the land as well.

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I have attached a few pictures from the clean up on Sumas mountain that our club hosted in September of 2017.

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I would like to show my support of the development of an ORV Recreation Area for the Baker to Bellingham planning. I love Jeeping and have several friends who also do. We visit Walker Valley, Elbe, and Evans Creek areas several times a year. We ALL carry extra trash bags to help police the area for trash, spill kits in case of oil loss, and we stay on marked trails. We do this out of respect and appreciation of the areas and because of our love of the forests and the beautiful areas we can access with our Jeeps! I am excited about the prospect of a new area opening to explore! Thank you for your time.

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AS a veteran with limited mobility and an older American, I urge you to maximize the area available for motorized or mixed use recreation. While a plethora of opportunity for non-motorized recreation exists, it is difficult to find areas I can get out, explore and enjoy the scenery. With the new electric technologies coming of age, there is no reason people such as myself should not be allowed to explore and recreate on public trail systems and roads. Please don't discriminate against me.

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I'm advocating for the proposed ORV recreation area in the Baker area. Our group is small in comparison to those who wish to rid of us which makes it very difficult. It becomes irritating when our group is automatically shut out over and over again. Our hopes of expanding are crushed and the land we do have is always under attack. Why does our opposition think we are so different?

Like all outdoor enthusiasts we respect and admire nature. We would never wish to harm the land on which we engage in our recreation. I've personally helped with trail building for mountain bike and motorcycle use. The best practices were used to prevent erosion and any other harmful effects on the surrounding habitat.

Please help the underdogs this time around by granting us the access to an ORV recreation area in the Baker area.

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I recently read an article about the possibility of an orv rec area for motorized 2 track and single track vehicles. I'm sending this email to show support for this action, I have logged countless hours with the ridge Rams cleaning trash on sumas mtn and also cleaning on my own time. The amount of individuals that show up to those events is astonishing which I believe really shows how much support there is in the community to help this dream turn into a reality. I think Whatcom county can benefit from an orv rec area and should really consider going forth with the project. Thanks

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My family lives at the base of Red Mountain on the South Pass Rd. I grew up the area and after finishing my medical training my husband and I moved back to Maple Falls to start our family. Thirty years ago my father with Peter Rasmussen spearheaded the opposition for proposed ORV park on Red and Sumas mountain. Many of the concerns 30 years ago are the same today and even more valid now that the area is more populated and the risk of forest fires has increased.

The proposed park on Red Mountain would be 200 feet from our property line near our house and our neighbor's and family's homes.

The sound power of an ORV is similar decibel range to a chainsaw machine gun at 120 to 130 decibels. Currently when there is logging in our area up to one mile away the sound resonates in our valley and we can easily hear the chainsaws. However, there is an end to this noise. Multiple ORVs throughout the year would be similar as living next-door to an airport. This is not why we moved to a rural area.

The fire hazard from ORVs is also a major concern. Our summers have been incredibly dry and the firefighters are already taxed. We have had fires in our area in the last few years caused by ORVs. Who will respond to these fires and monitor if bikes are up to code for stopping sparks?

We have no cell phone service in our area and emergency medical services are extremely busy and not nearby. The risk of fractures, head trauma and fatal blunt trauma is extremely high with ORVs. Contacting



EMS, finding the injured rider and transporting them to hospital will be extremely difficult. I am a family medicine doctor but I am not volunteering my weekends to care for the multiple inevitable injuries or have the capability to treat the type of injuries from ORVs.

The environmental impact will be large. The erosion from trail and off trail riding will increase risk of mudslides. Who will deal with the human waste and litter from riders?

Our roads are not equipped to handle the large transport ORV trucks. There will be many Canadian riders interested in the park and there would be no way to limit the amount of riders.

Please take our concerns into account when considering this proposed amendment.

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Having been a long time ORV user, fly fisherman, hunter, backpacker, day hiker, climber and Mt Biker I enthusiastically support an ORV Recreation area in Whatcom County. As I read through the comments I see people in the purposed area (and out of the purposed area) complain how having an ORV recreation area will be detrimental to a myriad of things. The bottom line is there are people throughout that area already using it to off road recreate. The purposed recreation plan would confine ORV use to legally sanctioned manageable areas, which Whatcom county does not have and by way of the Comprehensive plan should have. ORV recreating is already going on in the area, illegally, and will continue to happen unless there is a designated legal area for ORV users to recreate.

There seems to be this stereotype that the ORV user community are of cave man mentality and all they want to do is destroy the environment. Nothing could be further from the truth. Granted, just as every group has, there are some that ignore the rules and give the group a bad name. But I have seen "Hiker" trails where garbage was left, switchbacks ignored and shortcuts created and trails so rutted that parallel secondary trails were created (illegally). So, to point fingers at one group is to have four more pointed right back at you. I served on the Walker Valley Focus community for a few years and I can tell you the ORV users are very environmentally minded. I have attended work parties to restore areas that were once trails and have been abandoned. I have served on work parties that maintained the trails in such a fashion as to not encroach outside the designated trail. The ORV community in conjunction with DNR continues to use education and enforcement check points in the Walker Valley area to bring awareness to the "Tread Lightly" frame of mind. They have used their own money and equipment to maintain trails that DNR could not afford to keep maintained. Hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours as well. The ORV community does a fantastic job of self-policing. I would suggest that all the nay-sayers here take trip to one of the legal ORV rec areas down south and see how they are maintained. Walker Valley is a good example, even with the huge amount of people that are forced to use it because of the lack of legitimate ORV recreation areas, Walker Valley is well maintained.

The "Not in my back yard" position does not fly because it is already in your back yard, unregulated and growing. This is going to happen, so how about we all get together and figure out the best way to implement it rather than spend millions of fighting it. You'll find a lot of ORV users cross recreate and do not want to ruin the environment anymore than the most devoted environmentalist. But, you have to be willing to listen to them with an open mind.

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I will be attending the Feb. 13, 2018 meeting at Deming Library. I will be willing to provide personal comments.

I actually live in the area known as Paradise, slightly north of Peaceful Valley.

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I and my family would love a place such as this. We have only a few down here in the south sound. I have noticed that having such places has really reduced the pressure on non- ORV areas. And the trash and vandalizing has been way less in the surrounding areas due to the ORV areas. This would just add another spectacular area for my family and I to go and enjoy the outdoors. Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

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It has come to my attention that the possibility of developing an area of Whatcom County for ORV use is being considered by the DNR. I would like to voice my support for this as a hiker, and ORV enthusiast. Even though there are those that oppose an ORV user area, I believe that many of those opinions are formed by misinformation and propaganda that just simply isn't true. I have seen users disrespect public land and litter while hiking, just as much if not more so than ORV users. The last 25 years have forced ORV users to be very aware of the image the public sees and present a very positive one just to keep current areas open. ORV users still fight the image of being beer can littering rednecks who don't care about the environment even though now they regularly go out of their way to clean up garbage and other debris for the benefit of all users. I hope the DNR will see past this prejudice and misinformation and work with ORV users to create an area for a very deserving User group.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Please consider opening more areas to ORV use. There are plenty of Motorcycle, Mountain Bike and Jeep clubs that would donate money as well as man hours to help build and maintain these areas. It also brings added funding through permits and supports the small business in nearby communities. Thanks for your consideration.

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I am aware that a proposal has been submitted to change the zoning regulations on DNR land in Whatcom County, which would allow for motorized access by ATVs and motorcycles. As a Whatcom County native, and a current resident of the Kendall/Welcome area, I strongly urge the Whatcom County Planning Commission to not to consider this proposal. As a child, I grew up at the base of Sumas Mountain in Kendall and was witness to my parents' efforts to thwart the same proposal in the 1980's. Luckily, their efforts, and the efforts of so many like-minded residents, paid off and an ORV park was not developed on Sumas Mountain. Now, as an adult, I find myself experiencing the same issue, roughly 30 years later. Approximately 18 months ago, my husband and I purchased 20 acres on Sumas Mountain. It is our dream property, and we are deeply grateful to be able to raise our children in such a beautiful and quiet area. However, our property borders DNR land. The thought of ATV and motorcycle use in such close vicinity to our home and children has us greatly concerned.

We have multiple reasons to be concerned, but the first and foremost is in regards to the potential increase in crime that will likely accompany ATV/motorcycle use on DNR lands. We bought our property so our children would be able to play safely in our yard and explore our acreage. Living in a part of the county that is serviced by the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, we understand that response time can be limited due to the vast size of Whatcom County. We took that into consideration when purchasing our property. However, allowing ATVs/motorcycles in the areas of Sumas Mountain and Red Mountain will increase the number of calls (both criminally and medically) that the WCSO will be responsible for providing a response.

Second, we are concerned about the environmental impacts. We specifically purchased this home and property for its location in such a beautiful forest, giving us the opportunity to raise our children with a deep love of nature. The threat of fire danger is paramount in our minds if DNR land was rezoned to allow for motorized access. Between lack of spark arrestors, cigarettes, and campfires, the possibility of forest fires will greatly increase. With the wildfires in British Columbia and Eastern Washington this summer, and the wildfires in California, we know this has a strong likelihood of occurring. In addition to the fire danger, I am greatly concerned about the erosion that could occur as the ATVs drive through creek beds and natural springs. With the number of mudslides that have occurred in Whatcom County over the last ten years, we don't need any users on the mountains that will contribute to our already high likelihood of these incidents.

Third, we are concerned about the noise that will accompany motorized use on Sumas Mountain and Red Mountain. We live in a small valley, and the noise of ATVs/motorcycles will provide an extreme level of noise pollution. We intentionally chose not to live within city limits in order to enjoy the peace and quiet that comes with living in such a rural area. For many of the homeowners on Silver Lake Road, Kendall, and Welcome, this was a conscious choice to become homeowners in these areas. Allowing ATVs/motorcycles in these areas

would not be fair to all of us who intentionally purchased our property to enjoy quiet, country living in this beautiful, rural area of Whatcom County.

In an effort to support the residents that live in and on Sumas and Red Mountains, I implore you to not give any further consideration to this proposal. DNR land in Whatcom County should not be rezoned to allow for ATV/motorcycle use. This rezoning proposal is NOT in the best interest of the residents who reside in the Kendall, Welcome, Maple Falls, South Pass, and Silver Lake areas. Changing the zoning regulations to benefit a select user group while negatively impacting the residents of these areas would be a huge mistake.

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I am both a mountain bike (non-motorized) rider and a dirt bike (motorized) rider. There is currently little to none legal motorized trails in whatcom county. Galbraith used to be motorized trails before it became a non-motorized mountain only.

I would love to see concept A or concept E come to fruition, as would many other motorized riders.

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Looking at the options you have posted, I vote for A. I am primarily a single track motorcycle rider and I hike, hunt and fish. I'm starting to do some trail running and in the past owned a jeep.

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Location, location, location... I can sympathize with the difficulties surrounding your work and I understand your desire for riding areas. Our kids use to ride dirt bikes and we would drive them 3 -4+ hours out of town & camp - away from communities, in very remote areas, in order for them to ride and NOT 'disturb/ annoy/ trespass or BURN OUT any folks in residential communities !

This valley is a quiet, rural, residential area with a large influx of weekend & summer time families. I appreciate you must have worked many hours since early 2016 developing these plans [without our knowledge! AND I still don't understand why there has been NO ATTEMPT to notify property owners up here] You need to hear what the people who LIVE HERE have to say on this proposal you folks are putting together. This proposal will negatively impact this entire community here in these valleys between RED MOUNTAIN Silver Lake park & Sumas Mtn.

As a property owner next door to one of these proposed sites I want to go on record as being vehemently OPPOSED to RED MOUNTAIN being considered for this off road motorized park !

For the following reasons:

**FIRE HAZARD**-2 summers ago, off road motorcycles started a large brush fire ! [bikes had no spark arresters, it was blatant disregard for the HIGH fire warnings in effect; more power was more important !] Fortunately our volunteer fire dept was able to get it under control & put out. Without loss of life & only small amount of property damage.

**NO EVACUATION PLAN** - there is no emergency alert system in place up here, there is ONE road in, one road out ! How would we ALL be notified if this were to happen again AND How could we ALL safely evacuate our community especially when our roads can hardly accommodate the influx of weekend & 'summer residents' on our narrow winding road ??

**NOISE** - ECHO VALLEY - is a term we hear frequently out here near Silver Lake Park, the noise from Red Mountain echo's off Black Mountain so we all know when a tree is being felled! **We all can hear when all the eagles return to nest & to hunt in our forest & on Silver Lake !** Usually this is a quiet peaceful valley, it's been utilized for many many years by thousands of folks trying to get AWAY from the noise of traffic & the city bustle!

This valley has taught our children how to respect the spectacular wildlife we have been blessed with, so I cant imagine what I'll tell my grandchildren once these magnificent bald eagles are frightened away, the cougars, bears and all the deer, have been run off - the wildlife that we see in our yards, on our hills will be no more.... Just because a few want to go and have FUN, why should we be subjected to the noise of Quads & dirt bikes screaming across Red Mountain echoing down the valley for miles & miles through out the year, all hours of the day & into the night. WHY should we have to give up the peace & tranquility that came with the purchase of our property ?

**ACCIDENTS** - our volunteer fire fighters and EMT's are already stretched over their limit with our existing population, how could they cope with off road accidents as well? Not to mention NO CELL SERVICE, Corner store may have a pay phone if you want to hike that far, but getting help would be nearly **impossible**- plus we don't have the man power nor the equipment.

**EXISTING ESTABLISHED EQUESTRIAN TRAILS & Hiking trails**- there are many horse trails already up behind Silver Lake park, on Red mtn, these are frequented by 4 H & other riding clubs that include **children** -mixing the two activities is a recipe for a potential fatal accident !

WILL EACH OF YOU INDIVIDUALLY TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS HUGE LIABILITY ?

Will This committee? DNR? Off Road motorcycle clubs? Hope you ALL have deep pockets!

**TRESPASSING** - property owners along this hillside do not want to contend with strangers riding onto their property, scaring their livestock, or the wildlife they normally have on their land- nor risk damage that these vehicles could possibly cause if they 'inadvertently lose their way'....we all know the allure of folks pushing the envelope & going "out of bounds" [up on Mount Baker it happens frequently- only up there, its just the 'rule breaker' who suffers - in this case it's the property owner who suffers ! ]

**TRASH & ROAD MAINTENANCE** - our hillsides & roadsides are kept clean by our residents, not DNR, not by county maintenance - we cant even get county maintenance to fix our roads ! They keep cutting back on what they repair ! How can we possible increase the wear and tear on the already overly stressed access roads your plan will impact ?

Please reconsider where you allow these machines to be ridden - there are less populated areas that could be less impacted by their use. Like I mentioned WE, as parents, hauled our kids and their dirt bikes away from communities so they were NOT a nuisance to any neighbors.

I believe the Red Mountain & Sumas Mtn sites are very irresponsible sites for this proposal and I **STRONGLY OPPOSE IT !**

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I just attended a meeting at the Deming Library regarding the Baker to Bellingham Planning Committee. I will have much more to say about the proposal to designate **MOTORIZED** Off Road use on Red Mountain. However, I find it more than ironic that the same day of your meeting, the Commissioner of Public Lands, Hillary Franz, I presume your boss, issued the following statement:

"As I made clear [last week](#), Washington State needs to adopt a smart and effective carbon reduction strategy.

From wildfires and dying forests to drought and ocean acidification, climate change threatens the health and productivity of the lands and waters that sustain us, putting all of us at risk.

It is our shared duty to ensure that our lands and waters remain healthy and productive – supporting Washingtonians not just today, but far into the future. That starts with setting policies that effectively reduce carbon pollution.

I applaud Governor Inslee and state legislators for taking up the issue of climate change.

I look forward to working with the Governor and Legislature to advance legislation that reduces carbon pollution and strengthens our lands and waters, making them resilient in the face of climate change.

By building resiliency in our lands and waters, we will preserve vital natural resources and create economic security for the communities that depend on them.

We need to come together and meet the challenge of climate change head-on, securing our health and economic prosperity for generations to come."

I'm no expert in off road carbon emissions, but all gasoline powered motorcycles, ATVs, UTVs, etc emit CARBON.

Do I sense a conflict here, or am I missing something?

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It's great that proposals are being made to support all forms of recreation on our state lands. As someone who enjoys both motorized and nonmotorized recreation with family and friends I support Concept A. Thank you for the time and effort spent with careful planning that can include everyone's interests!

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I'm writing to encourage an ORV area. ORV use is growing rapidly and our area to use them is not. It is good family fun. I have been spending time with my boys for they're whole lives and am now doing so with their kids. We desperately need an area like this. Kids learning to ride with their families is good for their development and anytime families can enjoy time together is good

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Whatcom residents could really use at least one orv approved area. Presently the closest one is Walker Valley in skagit county which can easily be over an hour drive each way. While thats not terrible Walker Valley is also fairly difficult for new riders as there is not much in terms of easier trails (unless you count boring/extremely easy roads). This then pushes people to go farther to places like Tahuya state forest on the peninsula. Its easily 3 hours away and that is with good traffic. That kind of distance necessitates either camping or a very long day with fatigues drivers on the way back. However if areas were opened up locally within Whatcom county it would allow residents to stay local when looking to use their orvs. Heck it may even bring folks in from nearby as well!

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We are property owners and reside near Silver Lake County Park. We chose this residence for the quiet environment and recreational opportunities. Silver lake is geographically located between Red Mountain and Black Mountain. This narrow valley amplifies and reverberates noises generated on either mountain.

The proposed DNR project as laid out involving trails to be used by motorized vehicles is a very disturbing idea to most of the population in this immediate area. The appealing nature of this locality is the peaceful atmosphere that would be adversely affected by the loud use of these ATV vehicles. We vehemently oppose any zoning changes allowing these loud vehicles.

Please, please reconsider how this type of recreational use would alter the atmosphere of this unique area of Whatcom County. It is wisdom that on Silver Lake no boat motor more than 9.9 hp is allowed. The wildlife, fish, and humans all appreciate the peaceful character of this environment.

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Please allow for the formation of an ORV double track recreation area within Whatcom County. See the example of the Reiter and Walker Valley areas for successful ORV recreation areas in this state. Both areas are great examples of public off road recreation for multiple user groups. Both areas are policed and maintained by citizens with regards to general cleanup and trail maintenance.

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My family has lived in the Bellingham area for over 80 years. It would be great to have designated recreational vehicle area's with trails. We support the idea!

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The idea of motorized recreation in Whatcom county on Sumas Mt. and maybe even on Red Mt. is a fantastic plan. The use of motorized vehicles on the mountain is a terrific thing for families and young people; a great hobby, a terrific bonding time for a family, and a fun time in the outdoors. The Whatcom County 4 wheel drive clubs and the woods motorcycle riders police there own and do regular

trail maintenance and upkeep.

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I think its a great idea to offer an OHV recreation area in the mapped location. OHV recreation is a growing sport and needs more managed areas and the local clubs in the area do a great job of volunteer work and educating the public. I am totally supporting this and would volunteer my time as well to make this a dream come true.

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Hello I'm a active rider and volunteer for the orv sports. I support the DNR plans for future parks.

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On behalf of the Northwest Motorcycle Association and its approximately 1000 members I would like to express my strong support for creating an ORV recreation area in Whatcom County.

The quantity of offroad vehicle enthusiasts in the area is increasing and the opportunities to legally recreate on public land are currently nonexistent within the county.

The DNR managed public land in the Sumas Mountain area is well suited for this type of recreation.

Because ORV fit between trees, the impact to trust land value is relatively insignificant and the available state Nonhighway and Offroad Vehicle Activities and federal Recreational Trails Program grant funding will more than offset any potential impact while at the same time provide the funding to develop and manage the new recreation area.

Local ORV clubs affiliated with the Northwest Motorcycle Club have expressed a strong interest in providing volunteer support if some motorized single track opportunities are included in the plan.

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I support the Committee's Concept A, especially it's proposal to have motorized areas on Sumas and Red Mountains.

Whatcom County has a great need for legitimate motorized recreational areas. Having designated, technically challenging areas of sufficient size will make riding safer and make it easier to regulate for environmental concerns. It will also increase the feeling of ownership, encouraging people to take care of "their" areas.

It's great that the Committee is really considering supporting ALL forms of sport in Whatcom County. As someone who enjoys many forms of recreation, I look forward to sharing space with both motorized and non-motorized enthusiasts.

---

I am a committee member on the citizens board for the Baker to Bellingham recreation plan. As you may know, even though the committee is a diverse group, it has recognized unanimously that there is a need for legitmate ORV recreation in Whatcom County.

However, it has been brought to my attention that the DNR has received feedback from citizens who are "against" motorized recreation. I do not know any details, but I feel very strongly that the cry to restrict motorized recreation must not be taken as the definitive will of Whatcom County residents.

We all know the common arguments against motorized recreation so I don't need to delve into that. Some of it is true, as well as being valid to our current discussions in the recreation committee. Instead, the points I want to make clear are why we need legitmate ORV recreation:

**1. We deserve a safe, legitimate and indisputable place to recreate just as much as any other group.**

Right now, there is nowhere to legally go for motorized recreation in Whatcom County. This has many pitfalls. It causes

those who participate to be secretive of the location of their trails and can ultimately lead to trails being made in areas that are not suitable for motorized recreation. Also, it is inherently dangerous to recreate in an area if nobody knows you are there.

Worse than that, it creates a lot of controversy and argument as to where we can, should, and should not go. It also gives certain groups/individuals the feeling of authority to determine these matters for us, which is absolutely not true.

It leads to areas being abused and disrespected. When nobody has a sense of "ownership", nobody takes care of the land. In addition to this, it is creating a huge amount of distrust towards DNR and DOL as we pay hard earned money to have the right to recreate. We buy discover passes just like everyone else. We are even forced to buy what is currently a useless ORV registration tag and this leads many people to forgo the hassle of either institution.

## **2. There is a very large population in Whatcom county who is FOR motorized recreation.**

The majority of these are low-to-middle class, full-time working people, usually under the age of 45, who spend the great majority of their time supporting the economy and well-being of this area we call home. They do not believe that anyone can stop them from doing what they love and tend to be quiet in their political aspirations. They are the "just let me live" group - often unaware when their freedoms are being restricted or spoken against by an invisible and determined opposition of questionable intent.

## **3. Motorized recreation is a massive economic driver.**

I would even venture to say that it produces more revenue than any non-motorized type of recreation and the impact on our local economy is great. If we were to have legitimate ORV recreation areas it would attract people from across the state, as well as from across the Canadian border, to come enjoy our lands, businesses and diverse culture.

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Motorized recreation is not the most destructive force endangering our forests and wildlife. The most destructive force that our forests and wildlife have to contend with is massive, commercial and highly lucrative timber sales and logging operations. The DNR works hard to mitigate these dangers and by having a legitimate ORV recreation it can also help mitigate the effects caused by illegal motorized sport.

I hope that through this letter you will consider the positive aspects of legitimate ORV recreation area in Whatcom County as well as the undeniable negatives of restricting us from what drives us.

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I am writing to ask that you forward a request for the inclusion of the Middle fork area into the Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan. I have added the area (OPTION D) for your review and consideration on the attached map.

Recreation and planning in the Middle fork area dates back to the early days of Whatcom County. A brief list of recreation plans and highlights are listed below.

- Edmund Colman's first ascent of Mt. Baker 1868
- Completion of the Deming-Mt. Baker trail along the middle fork river 1909 Mt. Baker Marathon (Deming route) 1911-1913
- Mt. Baker National Park proposals from 1916-1922 Jones and Jones Nooksack River Recreation Plan 1970 Chain of Trails Plan 2004
- Mt. Baker Ultra Run 2014-2016
- Upper Nooksack River Recreation Plan 2016
- 20 year Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan update, addition of Bellingham-Mt. Baker trail corridor 2016.

In composing the attached map I have included elements from past public planning processes and current recreation interests. The addition of the Middle fork area for Non-motorized use would be compatible with DNR's land suitability overlays.

Addition of this area would allow for a wide range of recreational opportunities including: pleasure driving, hiking, running, mtn. biking, kayaking, hunting and fishing, backcountry camping, long distance trail experiences and horseback riding.

Within the proposed area is a connection to Whatcom County's South Fork Park. In 2017 Whatcom County Parks completed construction of a new trail head for hiking and horseback riding. Whatcom County Parks is currently working with DNR to construct a trail through state land from the Galbraith homestead to the Nessel farm. This trail would provide access onto state lands and would align with proposed trail corridors out to the Middle fork area and Forest Service boundary.

Here are two ways you can help:

Forward this email to Dana Leavitt and let him know that you support the addition of OPTION D Middle fork.

[Dana.Leavitt@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Dana.Leavitt@dnr.wa.gov)

Speak up for the Middle fork addition at the Tuesday January 9th planning meeting.

Thank you for representing our recreation community.

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I support the Committee's Concept A, especially it's proposal to have motorized areas on Sumas and Red Mountains.

Whatcom County has a great need for legitimate motorized recreational areas. Having designated, technically challenging areas of sufficient size will make riding safer and make it easier to regulate for environmental concerns. It will also increase the feeling of ownership, encouraging people to take care of "their" areas.

It's great that the Committee is really considering supporting ALL forms of sport in Whatcom County. As someone who enjoys many forms of recreation, I look forward to sharing space with both motorized and non-motorized enthusiasts.

---

hi there, just wanted to take some time to speak up in opposition to the proposed motorized vehicle parks on Red and Sumas Mountain...im more opposed to the Red Mountain park because i live right near it in Maple Falls on Silver Lake Road.

me and my surrounding neighbors choose to live out here for its serenity, beauty and peace-along with its quick access to non-motorized vehicle areas. we love it here. sure there's occasional chainsaw noise and gunfire from hunters but having a motorized vehicle park would negatively impact our habitat out here.

we want to continue our close connections with the land in this area by preventing the precious and familiar sounds of owls and nearby maple creek from being interrupted by loud motorized vehicles. i urge you to NOT allow motorized vehicle parks on Red and Sumas Mountain. thank you.

It's great that proposals are being made to support all forms of recreation on our state lands. As someone who enjoys both motorized and nonmotorized recreation with family and friends I support Concept A. Thank you for the time and effort spent with careful planning that can include everyone's interests!

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I want to apologize for some of the spelling , grammatical errors and missing words. I tried saving the changes to my draft file several times on my iPhone , but to no avail . In fact , my first draft was supposedly saved — but it's



never resurfaced — killer because I spent over a half hour on it— this happens in Mexico . I just got so frustrated, I finally sent the second draft I prepared given the meeting today . There are a couple of items that did not get picked up in my penultimate draft . The main one is the Association's , and the off road users ,are net beneficiary's with no cost to them — most do not LIVE in the area and I'm not sure how open they would be to people unknown to themselves —“playing loudly” in their back yard . THERE ARE NO IDENTIFIABLE BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY . In fact , there appears to be only negatives as outlined — including obstruction of the unfettered peace and enjoyment currently experienced by the Community . What happens as population and the number of Association users materially increase— are there identifiable impact limits ? Two VERY large negative impacts NOT outlined in my missive, is the detrimental impact on the fair market value of the properties and the corresponding ability to actually SELL your property — given prospective buyer concerns of the issues clearly identified ! I'm sure I've missed something , but other people can flush things out further and “ run with it “ .

Cheers everyone .

Based on the information recently provided , it is clear that the DNR has engaged in discussions for over two years with various ATV , motorcycle , four wheel drive, mountain biking and trail riding associations ( the “Associations”) on selected areas for their use WITHOUT the involvement or knowledge of the community most adversely affected by the underlying proposed use and activity— that being the land owners and residents (the “Community”) .

While some are not opposed to recreational use per se — others are adamantly opposed to any and all increased use or variation of the current guidelines , particularly as a result of many recent experiences . It is apparent that many or most of the individuals of the Associations are responsible people — however , there are a number of individuals who may not be , which is of grave concern to the Community . The issues of concern are as follows :

(1) NOISE—many of the Community chose to live in rural /forest settings given the peace and tranquility traditionally offered . This is in direct conflict with the objectives of , particularly many motorized off-road vehicles . Further exacerbating the issue, is many are highly modified( straight pipes, loud mufflers or expansion chambers) from factory , federal , state or local regulations pertains to noise ( Decibel—DB ) levels . What are the proposed noise level targets ? What times of day are allowed activities ? What frequency and intensity (motocross/track , off-road , ATV RACING ) is contemplated or allowed ? Who and how is it monitored ? How are restrictions enforced ? Who enforces it ? Who pays for monitoring and enforcement ? If noise becomes such a problem , how can the Community shut ALL activity down in the future ?

(2) Road Conflicts — many of the Community's ONLY access or egress from their property is joint use roads and DNR roads . There is increased risk of injury or death to the Community's families driving on or who's children's may be playing on or in close proximity to said roads . The issue is not those driving responsibly but rather those racing up these roads . Again , who monitors and controls such adverse activity ? Who pays for the increased use and wear and tear of the roads ( rutting and potholes ) plus filing and grading ? Who organizes the purchase of material and filing and grading ? What roads are proposed as restricted use ? What facilities and arrangements are made at launching points / trailheads / trailer areas ?

>(3) GARBAGE —many in the Community have complained there has been a dramatic increase in garbage being deposited in the proposed areas by outside users — beer cans , plastic bags , household garbage , injection needles , lawn and garden waste , used oil , dead animals/ pets / livestock , human waste etc etc . Who is going to monitor and protect the environment ? What garbage facilities are proposed to be provided . What bathroom / porta poties are provided and maintained ? Who's paying for it and organizing it ?

(4) FIRE — increased use by individuals also directly increases the risk of forest fire in the Community . If a fire occurs in the proposed area , directly as a result of these individuals , it's no just burning the forest — it's burning people's homes ! What restriction on fire -besides a general forest fire ban are there ?What about vehicles that have been highly modified without spark arrestors ? Are there designated camping and fire pit locations proposed ? What is the infrastructure contemplated in these locations — water , contained permanent bbq's , fire suppressed control areas etc ?

(5) Firearms — what controls are proposed from the resultant increased use of firearms related to the increased use in these proposed designated areas ? The issue is noise and risk of injury or death to the Community from increased target shooting .

(6) OTHER ISSUES — SHOULD the Community not outright stop the “ Change In Use “ in the areas proposed by the Associations and DNR — what are the practical solutions to guideline development , monitoring , enforcement ,

costs , annual review of guidelines/ permitted activity or outright restrictions ( with Community input ) . Is the DNR going to monitor ,pay and enforce ? Are the Associations going to post a Bond (\$10 million ) and provide insurance for fire and destruction (\$20 million ) in favour of the Community ? What is the minimum required expenditure for road maintenance , garbage and human waste collection( Annual Budget ) ? I assume all of these can be paid for by annual Association fees or an annual special user access fee for such activities in the designated areas . There must be a number of other precedents in the DNR that can provide .

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Thank you for the opportunity to make comments regarding your work and “suggestions” for ORV use of public lands in Whatcom County. As I made remarks last night, I will keep these short.

About thirty (30) years ago in 1987 the neighbors surrounding Sumas Mountain overwhelmingly voiced their opposition to motorized vehicles, specifically ORVs, being granted additional opportunities to ride in that area. While this is a “different” proposal, the resulting affect upon the neighbors would be about the same: additional noise, destruction of property, trespassing, environmental damage, and safety (including fire and medical emergency services), etc. So many of those moving to the foothills, including my daughter and her family, did so specifically in an effort to enjoy the serenity of the area, often with the additional expense of time and money. It does not seem right to once again do this to these people.

The map was developed by one of those working to stop the increased use of ORVs thirty years ago to illustrate the overwhelming neighbor opposition. Please excuse the glare of a photo of a photo, especially to the NW of Sumas Mountain. Also, please note that the red shaded areas, encompassing most of the privately owned land around the mountain, is in opposition. Most of the non-shaded areas on the mountain designate large tracts of private or public, much DNR, forest lands, and include companies that could not be contacted or gave no input. As you can see, lots of opposition came from folks not even next to the mountain, but knowledgeable about the situation, with total sympathy and support for the immediate neighbors.

Thank you again for the opportunity for input.

Please do not proceed with encouraging off road vehicle use in these neighborhoods and/or change zoning to allow this!

As you could tell last night, the neighbors are once more “up in arms” and will fight it as long as it takes!

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Im writing you to express my strong favor of a proper ORV park in Whatcom county. I feel that plan A of the proposed Baker to Bellingham development project would be a great benefit to our county. Having ridden both of these areas for a long time i see no reason that this plan should not be passed. These are already areas that are in current use by motorcycle enthusiasts and could benefit from having an area that would be restricted to motorized use and trail development. I hope to see the shared use of our public land improve and grow for years to come to make everyone happy including motorcycle riders.

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