

DEVELOPED TRAILS & FACILITIES

- There are many user-built trail networks in Whatcom County serving all user groups. Assess these and incorporate those that make sense with some modification if and as needed
- There have been attempts by DNR and others to stop trails at the property line. In most if not all cases this has been very ineffective. All user groups will find a route around the closure and have. Be realistic and work together to make sure the trail system is workable.
- A quality horse/stock overnight camping site adjacent to the trail system is missing
- Horse parking and trailheads should not be paved. It is better and safer for the horses if the lot is gravel so they won't slip coming down out of the trailer
- The dirt bikers need a legal place to ride. It needs at a minimum 50 miles of trails with the room to expand to 100 or 150. The bike use is year round so the trail system needs to incorporate year round access as well as some higher elevation trails that might be snowed in during the winter months
- There is no legal place in Whatcom County where a motorized dirt bike can be ridden
- There are some cases where (mountain) bikes really need/want a dedicated run downhill. Horses and hikers have issues with bikes coming down hill fast. There needs to be thought given to where the bikes can do this particular thing without being a danger to the rest of the users
- We do not want trails built in favor of mountain bike riding. Banked turns, burns, structures, and jumps are appropriate and places like Galbraith and not in multi-use oriented areas. I take no issue with the DNR creating mountain bike only areas if you so choose.
- An ORV in Whatcom County! What a wonderful idea! Make it happen
- Equine needs more trails that are user friendly
- I would like to voice my eager support for increased mtn bike trail access on DNR lands. I have been a long time active member of the Bellingham/Whatcom County community and moved back to Bellingham many years ago for the easy access to the outdoors. In the past and continuing through today, trail access for mtn bikers on DNR lands has not been clear and as a result the local bike community have suffered a huge loss by not being able to legally access these publically held land tracts. I strongly urge you now to take this opportunity (as many other municipalities have done...including Larrabee State Park and DNR managers on Tiger Mtn) to constructively work with the mtn bike community and allow access to these public lands.
- I just wanted to take this opportunity to promote the idea of developing new hiking / mountain biking trail systems in the proposed DNR managed forest areas.
- Does this new recreation plan in Whatcom County include any motorized usage - single track, two track and 4x4 - or is it, as usual, shutting down motorized access for the benefit of the non-motorized users?
- DNR has not planned for usage of UTV and side by side type vehicles (dimensions are typically 4.5-6' wide and 8-12' long) in its previous off-road access designs. This has resulted in use of 50" width constrained ATV trails or use of logging/fire roads due to lack of access for these vehicles. In the past DNR has claimed there was little utilization of this class vehicle, but it is due to the lack riding locations rather than lack of vehicles that has limited their reported use and exposure. Since fresh plans are being drawn for this area, this is the best time to include all forms of off-road vehicle access. This is also the opportunity to open up more roads to WATV use since the infrastructure to regulate the vehicles is in place and has been successful
- Divide trail use by speed - Hikers, horses and uphill bicycles are slow. Moto and downhill bicycles are fast. Downhill biking is unique in that it almost mandates user group specific directional trails.
- Build trails for all ability levels - Flat gravel paths are super boring but have their place. All user groups want advanced, challenging and exciting trails.

DEVELOPED TRAILS & FACILITIES

- I'm emailing you to express the need for mountain biking trails on DNR lands. I have been riding in this area for nearly 10 years on some of the best trails in North America and it's a shame that they have to be closed down due to being "illegally built." The amount of volunteer effort that has gone into these trail systems is mind-boggling. Although slope angle and erosion obviously have to be considered, long-standing logging on the same lands is undoubtedly much more impactful. I urge you to adopt these existing trail systems into your plans and allow the millions of dollars of volunteer hours to not go wasted.
- I am writing to express my support for more access to non-motorized trails (mountain biking, hiking) on DNR land as part of the Baker to Bellingham project.
- Combining, refining, expanding and interconnecting many of the user built mountain bike systems would be my priority and will yield the largest and most organized volunteer groups and thus would be the easiest to do.
- Sanctioned cross country bike trails in the Glacier area please
- I'm sending this email to express my interest in the proposed Bellingham to Baker and Whatcom Traverse Trails. I have personally ran and continue the use the trails already developed around these two epic adventures and would love to see these projects completed.
- We strongly believe the ORV area will not only provide an outlet for the outdoor enthusiasts, but bring tourist type money into our economy.
- Not having a legal place to enjoy all of our outdoor activities "at home" is always a letdown. We must travel to be able to experience some of the greatest outdoor experiences that could happen right here in our own county.
- I also appreciate campgrounds, hiking trails, and other opportunities for recreation, but mountain biking is most important to me.
- As a longtime Bellingham resident, I wanted to write in to make sure that mountain bikes are considered in recreation planning for the Baker to Bellingham project. Please work with the Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition (WMBC) to develop a plan for adding/maintaining a network of mountain bike trails.
- I'm really excited to see trails developed on DNR land. I especially hope there will be options to drive to the top of trails and ride down – "shuttling."
- Nowhere legal to park for motorized
- Be careful where motorized and mountain bikes are allowed
- Van Zandt dike and Sumas mountain better for motorized than north fork
- If you have a trail, you need facilities, at least a toilet
- Stewart mountain is better for mountain bike, hike, non-motorized because connectivity to lake Whatcom park
- Seasonal trails in more sensitive/impacted areas – also for safety
- Trailers need large parking and wide turn arounds
- Large parking areas for dirt bikes to gather
- Trials bike areas – less impact than traditional motor bikes
- Each use has a separate area
- Separate motorized from non-motorized
- Directional trails for mountain bikers and hikers
- Hiking only trails
- Single track remote access to old growth forest
- Long distance trails with connectivity
- Moto/mountain bike coexist on trails; Sumas to start
- Motorized trails – 2-way trails for challenge and more mileage

DEVELOPED TRAILS & FACILITIES

- Enduro cross area built with trees and culverts
- Area for kids to build experience riding mountain bikes or motorcycles
- Longer trails with camping along the way
- Back country ski trail opportunities
- Orv park in Whatcom county
- Be sensitive in locating dirt bike parks-noise, side slopes porter creek/sumas less noise problem
- North fork Nooksack by maple falls access for kayaks limited circulation
- Orv/biking closed in winter, same capitol forest
- No over development of trails i.e. wheelchair access not necessary
- Off-roading in upcoming harvest areas
- Trail experience gets dumbed down from user wants
- WTA-cross DNR to access state parks (Larrabee)
- WTA-southside, limit trail density
- More single track at mount baker creek, sumas mountain, red mountain
- Black mountain and red mountain great possibilities/work/with Whatcom county parks and steward mountain area
- Groomed xc area with road access/work with state sno-parks
- Snowshoeing & cross country skiing
- Black/sumas/race horse-road access to launches
- River access points
- No shuttling-mountain bikes
- Quiet hiking/running trails/limit off road use (esp. 4x4)
- Develop north fork
- Missing: 4x4 tech./challenge area
- Loading ramps for orv's & bikes
- No increase to motorized vehicle access!
- Restrict motorized recreation to a specific area that would not impact residents nearby. Noise carries. Why should I be impacted because of some else's activity. An ATV park that would be behind hills to block noise is what I would support. If there isn't a designated area they will continue to access many areas illegally.
- Taking into account the fractured nature of the tree-hugging damn hippies in this town, they will tell you none of the forms are compatible with others. I ride in Eastern WA with ZERO issues with other forms of recreation on the same trails.
- Very simple, open them and let them evolve.
- There are groups in Whatcom County that will build quality trails with all volunteer crews. These groups can also reach out to the community to fundraise to get everything moving! The mountain biking community and trail running community already keep up trails on Galbraith and the Chuckanuts-let us help and we can get these trails built. We can fund them and we can build them-let us help!
- Specifically I would like to see a second motocross track in Whatcom County that is less hindered by urban encroachment such as we see at Hannagan speedway. Motocross is very popular in Washington and there are more tracks the further south you go from Whatcom County.
- Don't worry too much about who is using the trails. Any trails are better than none.
- Open up trail access via the Middle Fork up to Schrieber Meadows, Deming Glacier and Rail Road Grade.
- If it's to be anything like Reiter I would not visit it in terms of dirt bike single track
- More trails lowers the over usages and user group conflicts.

DEVELOPED TRAILS & FACILITIES

- Open more trails so existing trails are not over populated and eventually shut down because of too much traffic
- Sections of areas could be multi use if groups can potentially share access trails and then split off to their own single use trails. For instance, if a trail network has a percentage of single-use trails dedicated to hiking, biking, motorcycles, that allows those users to have a specific, high-quality experience without having to worry about potential user conflicts. That said, I'm not adverse to a specific user group utilizing an area - especially if they have historically been using it already. In Whatcom County, most user groups have already carved out their little areas and self-segregated.
- Non-motorized connectivity along trails corridors between all public owned-managed
- I really like the idea of combining multi-use trails that are climbing only for bikes, and then having biking only trail options for descents. Many trail types are great for all uses in both directions, but sometimes it is better to divert faster user groups like mountain bikes and motorcycles onto their own trails. It is also important to remember that different users like different trail features. When I hike I like views and waterfalls, when I horseback ride I like meandering single-track, when I ride mountain bike I like fast descents with berms and built trail features, and when I dirt bike I like challenging climbs and am happy taking a logging road further back than the hiking and biking areas to get to moto specific trails.
- A bike trail from Deming to Bellingham would be AMAZING! Bike commuting on the highway is scary and many of us would bike instead of drive to town if there were a trail.
- Give us a place to ride dirt bikes and downhill mountain bikes on DNR land so we can stop building illegal trails all over the place!
- I support motorized recreation and user built trails. I am a mountain biker but advocate for the concept of "shared land; separate trails"
- Plan some non-motorized rec areas to be multi-use: mtn bike trails and hiking trails can be separate but still intermingle across a landscape. I love both of these rec types!!
- Keep it simple. No vehicles at all, manual or motorized, except for mobility issues.
- I am a member of Back Country Horseman. I do not wish to see any opportunities for horseback trail riding to eliminated. The horses do minimal damage and can even improve some trails.
- Also, please restrict motorized/ATV areas to only a few more remote spots as it is environmentally destructive and the noise is unacceptable in quiet rural areas. It is also harmful to creatures in the area.
- I prefer we limit non-motorized vehicles
- Please adhere to approved trail building practices in sensitive lands i.e. Lake Whatcom watershed, riparian zones, wetlands, etc.
- Please make more accessible trails for those who have mobility aids and low mobility.
- Hiking and snowshoeing near motorized vehicles defeats the purpose of being in nature.
- I would rather have motorized uses either prohibited or severely limited. The areas I have encountered where motorized access is allowed tend to be severely degraded, both in T rail condition and amount of trash.
- Include people who ride off road motorcycles in trail planning. The trails at Reiter are awful and poorly executed. They're not worth riding more than once.
- I'd like to see the access points for kayaking this run improved. Parking for the take-out could be considered unsafe for some people and I'd like to see something developed with state funds, as it is inadequate as it is.
- Single track motorcycle and ATV trails are not the same.
- Long connector trails starting in town and heading out to the heart of the recreational
- I would love to see extensions of existing trails to support multi-day backpacking loops. Extending and tying in existing trails together to create 50+ mile loops
- Improve Swift Cr. trail bikes from Lk. Ann trail to Baker Lk.

DEVELOPED TRAILS & FACILITIES

- No motorized recreation due to erosion, noise and pollution
- Allow the motorcycles and ATVs to use and maintain the trails on Sumas.
- Downhill trails at the north fork, similar to the DNR Darrington north mountain project
- Shared-use trails should be utilized, especially single-track that mountain bikers would use to climb, rather than descend (used as a one way for mountain bikers, and bi-directional for hikers/runners). I feel that users can share trails safely and without conflict, as we have long witnessed on Galbraith / Chuckanut. However, if a trail offers a technical descent it may be wise to limit such a trail to uni-directional mountain bike riding. British Columbia offers many shining examples of this type of shared-use trail system.
- Increase in any trail system type decreases the load put on other systems.
- Designate certain or specific trails for specific activities. It also takes way less effort for someone to ruin a place with motorized equipment, they cover more ground and it's takes minimal effort to spin the wheels. Hikers, bikers and horses have minimal impact on environment. Speed of travel and level of noise would be a good way to separate user groups.
- Detail for question 16: I volunteer for Switmo and work on the PNT trail. Please continue to support this trail and the stream crossings needed for swift and the other creek I can't think of right now. Thank you.
- Allow user groups to build and maintain trails within these areas as they do presently in British Columbia.
- Mountain bikes should be minimized and kept to their own trail systems. They should also go the same speed as horses and hikers when on a shared trail. Horses should be allowed on almost all trails. They and hiking are the most traditional means of transportation, we should protect that heritage.
- Some multi-use recreation areas have seen great success allowing uphill-only mountain bike access on hiking trails, then designating downhill-only trails for mountain bikes specifically. Basically, avoid mixing speeds (fast bikes and slower hikers, any motor traffic and any non-motorized, etc.)
- More multi-use trails, particularly motorcycle trails. This seems to work reasonably well at Capitol Forest (my former home trails), where the different user groups try to accommodate each other. It's a recipe for disaster and frustration to herd basically *all* motorcycle/atv users onto the small trail network at Walker Valley.
- Horses and Bikes do not mix well, sure it can be done but when you scare a horse on a bike it's no fun for you, the horse rider, and the animal. Plus hoofs punch holes in the trails and manure piles are no good when you ride through them. I don't know about mixing moto's and mtb's, could be collisions and moto's carve up the trails
- Providing short term overflow camping areas only for use during busy holiday weekends
- Please allow North Fork MTB trails to reopen, and to be expanded.
- More island or coastal camping if possible please
- Designated target shooting ranges to separate this activity from others that may have a bad interaction.
- With the view that our population will increase in the coming years and, therefore, a greater number of users will be accessing trails, it is vital that new and existing trails be built for multiple user groups and that trails are not designated to single users except in exceptional circumstances. My experience with user groups in several trail systems is that the more you separate users, the more division is created. Whatcom County's systems have shown that with more community involvement, greater education, and heightened volunteerism, the trail users can get along in a positive manner and the trails can be maintained more effectively. We need more trails, not fewer for single user groups.
- Let us build ramps for hang gliding that might improve safety

DIVERSE RECREATION

- A common theme amongst the user groups “we are all out there to enjoy the outdoors and the trails – regardless of the mode of transportation”
- Please consider that the largest majority of trail users are hikers trail runners and mountain bikers. These three user groups generally get along very well and are respectful of each other.
- I am not in favor of any creation of trails for quad riders or 4 x 4 mudding activity
- Would argue that most of us hikers and trail runners do not want motorcycles on our trails.
- There is a large community of disc golfers in Bellingham to Baker area that would be honored to help begin new courses in the region. We have access to some capital and lots of volunteer power. We are also more than willing to help fundraise including grant writing and identifying sponsors to assist with the upfront capital needed for disc golf course installation.
- NO internal combustion engines on our trails, please. They are polluting and destructive of public lands. They are a serious danger to hikers and backpackers, whose activities result in the least destruction of biosphere. Please keep all ATVs and the like out of the trail system.
- Lastly I feel that where it is feasible and does not negatively impact other members of the public, Whatcom county residents have a right to use public lands for recreating in whatever form they choose.
- As you are aware, the only legal motorbike trail system in both counties is Walker Valley, which is clearly inundated with concentrated motorized vehicles of all sorts. I believe the North Fork of the Nooksack would be a great starting location to expand both a motorized and downhill mountain bike shuttle accessed system. In general I do not feel that medium to heavy use moto trails can be combined with anything but DH Mtb trails and then primarily on a directional basis. I ride moto and unless trail entries are blocked by high skill level maneuvers, there will be significant damage caused by beginners on advanced trails.
- More hiking trails near Bellingham would be amazing! It's a huge draw for people to come to school up at western and it could attract a lot more people to the area. More trails closer to town would help make it easier for people to get outside and enjoy the beautiful state we live in
- Please keep bikes & motorcycles off horse trails
- Will there be zones for types of recreation? Single track, double track
- Some separation: everyone can have recreation just not in same spot
- Variety user groups for partnering with people like foraging in forest and peace and quiet.
- Balance moto and nm trails
- Mushrooming
- Beauty /serenity of woods
- Somewhere to have events
- Taking into account the fractured nature of the tree-hugging damn hippies in this town, they will tell you none of the forms are compatible with others. I ride in Eastern WA with ZERO issues with other forms of recreation on the same trails.
- Add new sports like disc golf.
- Would like to see more collaboration with Land Trust and other groups to connect DNR land with other lands in the South Fork area for larger trails, loops, etc.
- Everyone just needs to respect each other their loved activities for it all to work. I lived in the Sun Valley Idaho area for 15 yrs. and everyone motorized and non-motorized get along and help each other! it is needed and can be done with all the land that is Whatcom
- Don't discriminate against one activity because another complains about it. Mt Bikers vs dirt Bikers. Horse riders vs mt.bikers.....and so on.

DIVERSE RECREATION

- Motorized users have always supported mixed use trails. It would be nice to see the non-motorized folks support the same. Their attempts to exclude certain user groups is selfish and short sighted. There is room for everyone in the forest. If they prefer absolute silence, then I would invite them to recreate on the thousands of acres of wilderness we already have in WA State.
- Increase opportunities for mountain biking and snowmobiling
- Give every recreation user type their own piece of the pie. It makes them more responsible when they are the only user to make sure it is kept up and they feel responsible for it. Then Have several multi use areas they are shared.
- If there were areas for motorcycle riding, we would definitely volunteer to maintain the trails, or whatever was needed. We don't like having to take our kids out of area
- Need more areas for atv camping mountain biking horseback riding
- Have user specific areas to give all users their own area to police themselves and have responsibility and pride to take care of it. As well as having multi use areas for all compatible users to share.
- I really like the idea of combining multi-use trails that are climbing only for bikes, and then having biking only trail options for descents. Many trail types are great for all uses in both directions, but sometimes it is better to divert faster user groups like mountain bikes and motorcycles onto their own trails. It is also important to remember that different users like different trail features. When I hike I like views and waterfalls, when I horseback ride I like meandering single-track, when I ride mountain bike I like fast descents with berms and built trail features, and when I dirt bike I like challenging climbs and am happy taking a logging road further back than the hiking and biking areas to get to moto specific trails.
- Additionally, I feel that DNR lands should be much more available than they currently are for organized events both large and small.
- There needs to be better target shooting locations, that don't interact with other activities
- I don't believe any DNR land should be set aside for a specific recreation type. They are public lands and should be open to all.
- Allow open camping, not campgrounds. Preferably in areas that do not require discover pass in addition to a multitude of other fees or permits
- Permanent steel targets cemented in the ground to greatly reduce trash and targets people leave in the area.
- Try to keep shooting range away from for camping
- Restricting motorized stuff is key towards having a rewarding back country experience, for me. Motorcycles, ATV's, and snowmobiles are loud, and the users of them generally disrespectful of the trails and other people on them.
- Think about who uses the area, not just who has the most money
- When you harvest trees exploit the landing pad at the top of the clearing for paragliding. Keep the road that was used for logging open after the logging is completed so that paraglider and hang glider pilots can exploit the clearing.
- Thanks for doing this survey. Heavily logged areas good for motors, pristine hiking, mtn biking great in working forests in between logging.
- Open the north fork mtn biking trails
- It is our land. Open it up
- More toilets.
- Multi-use recreation areas that allow for a variety of user groups to share access on some trails and have exclusive use others is the best proposal I have heard of so far.
- Shared-use trails should be utilized, especially single-track that mountain bikers would use to climb, rather than descend (used as a one way for mountain bikers, and bi-directional for hikers/runners). I feel that users can share trails safely and without conflict, as we have long witnessed on Galbraith / Chuckanut. However, if a trail offers a technical descent it may

DIVERSE RECREATION

be wise to limit such a trail to uni-directional mountain bike riding. British Columbia offers many shining examples of this type of shared-use trail system.

- Designate certain or specific trails for specific activities. It also takes way less effort for someone to ruin a place with motorized equipment, they cover more ground and it's takes minimal effort to spin the wheels. Hikers, bikers and horses have minimal impact on environment. Speed of travel and level of noise would be a good way to separate user groups.
- After questions 14 and 15, I am scared that there will be recreation "zones" that only are only open to one type of recreation. I think that there is no problem with having mountain bike trails and horseback riding trails right next to each other on the same hillslope, though they are not the best trails to have as multi-use so that the horses do not get scared and injure someone. I do not think that each and every one of these areas referred to in question 2 should be separated just by recreation type, I think there is enough room to share each area in some fashion.
- We have been so pleased with all the improvements that have been made at the areas we visit and recreate. I think the constant care of the trail system and hang gliding launches is all I would like to see. We are so grateful for having the land made available for use and thank DNR very much!!
- I would love to see more paragliding and hang gliding sites developed in the area

ECONOMIC & QUALITY OF LIFE

- The Canadians, even when their dollar is not favorable, do come here to recreate. The population of British Columbia has a major role in Whatcom County. During planning this impact needs to be kept on the table.
- A growing population and the inherent economic value of recreation would require that the planning process look into the future to accommodate this increase in people and use
- Recreating locally puts money into the local economy
- We strongly believe the ORV area will not only provide an outlet for the outdoor enthusiasts, but bring tourist type money into our economy.
- More families
- Want to stay at home (in the area) and ride; not go to Canada or Skagit county
- Solace, opportunity, community fun, multi-faceted, future
- Gives landlocked (city) families and opportunity to get on the broad landscape
- Consider traffic effect on county road system for county residents
- Youth involvement in outdoor activities
- Exercise/health (mental too!)
- Economic opportunities
- Drives rural service economy
- Trail signage for nearby economic opportunities
- Nearby breweries
- Local investment – local support w/ regional draw
- Maintenance – dirt bikes, mountain bikes, 4x4
- World class quality of life resources
- Big capital improvement; resource creates draw for generations; not as much ebb & flow of the other economic sources --
-- stability
- Clinics (3-day clinic for women, kids – activity based)
- Shops that benefit from purchasing equipment/training
- Good paying jobs
- Opportunities to lease land for recreation event as revenue source
- Draw for larger companies to move personnel to outdoor recreation rich communities
- Have money to do sport; more disposable income
- hotels, restaurants, shops
- Not just competitive events – experience events (world-wide draw)
- Recreational events
- Lunch or dinner after trail rides
- I would strongly support events like a 50k running race or mountain bike or cyclocross races. I would also support the commercial activities associated with those one-time events. I would not support permanent commercial activities.
- With the world going crazy over the stereoscopic 3D and VR apps using google cardboard and your smart phone. Installing 360 degree cameras in certain scenic locations could improve use of the recreational areas and increase revenue. Just post the feed link to your website for people to view. They'll see how beautiful it is, and want
- I travel mostly to Eastern WASHINGTON and spend around 500 dollars per trip
- Spend the money to build the recreation areas,

ENFORCEMENT & EDUCATION

- Secondly word of trail closures, restrictions, and rules spreads quickly through the community and the vast majority of mountain bikers are happy to cooperate. The continuing use of the Galbraith Mountain trail system is testament to this.
- The purpose of this memorandum is to request that you act to rein in the armed dirt bike gangs that roam heedlessly through your DNR domain and into private property destroying our environment temporarily with their disgusting noise and fumes and long-term with their wheel-spinning forays through wetlands and up and down steep slopes both on established trails and off.
- Have to prevent trail cutting
- Bad apple – not everyone knows to pull off trail with dirt bikes when horses are on trail
- Signage, educate folks on sensitive areas (balds, etc.)
- Why have it (noise rules) if we can't enforce
- Non-existing law enforcement
- Bikes dumping fuel so they can get under gate
- Visitors causing fires
- Have educational material available at rei, motor bike stores, etc.
- Impacts of going off trail, leaving trash, driving cars (air/noise pollution)
- Earth living skills school
- DNR establish primitive natural areas for gathering to be in nature for foundations who do “nature immersion” to let people interact simply with nature – like a pavilion to provide education, then go off into nature
- Leave no trace education/ethic
- Easily accessible recreation maps
- Increased communication between user groups
- Education of sanctioned areas for use
- Enforcement/patrols needs met
- Point visitors to resources in rural areas
- Concern with conflicts between user groups
- Orv parks contain trails-enforce boundaries
- ??? Pit out of hand
- Gun use=shooting everywhere
- How to know whose land on
- Stewardship signs at trailheads with simple actions each user can take to improve the site, such as invasive species removal information, trail maintenance techniques i.e. water bar and culvert maintenance.
- I've been shot at, had a car try to hit me (and then claim I'd hit his car), and had guerrilla photographers jump out of the bushes to take pictures of me when riding in this county.
- Would love to have more info on trails (even if unmaintained) in the South Fork area.
- It's the locals dumping garbage in DNR land. We will help you police the area, everyone has cameras now. I hate felling like an outlaw while riding my motorbike.
- Only recommendation I have is this simple idea... If you build legal areas for people to regulate it will be easier to manage and control the impact they make. Plus the more opportunity you give people to use the land, the more they will work to protect it and care for it.
- A better web presence with trail descriptions and maps?
- Have horseback riders also have to clean up the horse poop.... It doesn't make sense that they can just leave it.
- Lessen the amount of bullying done by DNR Agents and stop arming them

ENFORCEMENT & EDUCATION

- have some clarity on off-leash dog expectations
- Post phone number to call if you see people dumping garbage or other violations
- The more opportunity for environmental sustainability and preservation, as well as strict rules regarding public safety (especially for bikers/motorcyclists) I feel are of the utmost importance.
- would also like to see an area (or multiple) with pay phones to call 911 for emergencies or if people feel unsafe or threatened (I speak from experience)
- Occasionally various groups could do a cleanup of a beautiful place.
- Keep in mind the effect on wildlife of unleashed dogs on the trail and the incompatibility of hiking and biking.
- More DNR law enforcement presence to cut down on illegal activities, trashing, mudding, and vehicle break-ins.
- Much of my experienced difficulties in Whatcom County's DNR lands has stemmed from other users and their lack of respect for others and the environment. Beyond increased enforcement patrols and (sadly) decreased access, I don't know what to do about deeply-entrenched stupidity.
- Patrols watching for litterers and drug users is a must!
- We don't need petrol motor powered vehicles on DNR land. Get the kids out there instead, educational opportunities are infinite with the right instructors when you're in the woods exploring. And that is the best way to raise a new generation of land stewards!
- No shooting garbage with guns at the North Fork!
- put the garbage dumpers in jail
- To encourage use between horses and other users, there should be "yield" signs to indicate who yields to who. Also explain procedure when meeting horses--i.e. "stop, stand, speak." I am an active member of BCH Peninsula Chapter.
- Gate off roads being abused by dumping
- Eliminate dangerous firearms shooting occurring in gravel pits, on roads and
- Perhaps a pamphlet on what are the current DNR recreation areas, what sort of use they have been established for and maps of the area would be helpful to the general public.
- Tell the law enforcement officers (all WDFW too) that when you issue a family member that is most always a law abiding citizen a \$1,275 infraction for riding a quad on a gravel road when it is not posted clearly or at all for that matter, we and all that we camp with will never come back to do anything in Whatcom Co again. My mother in law was riding a Seadoo and she's is no young woman, the cop on the Lake, Baker... made her jump off the machine and issued her a ticket for failing to yield right of way. She was shaken from the cold water and injured herself attempting to get back on the machine after she was cited for an infraction. It was clear this cop had an agenda to cite anyone with even the slightest wrong doing while recreating as he went from boat to boat all day. Good way to keep everyone away for good. BTW that officer cited a high ranking government official that day.
- Education
- A better way to penalize violators
- We need to find a way to encourage people to be more polite & cordial to each other. We are all there to enjoy nature
- Horse riders are often snubbed or treated rudely when meeting hikers but we are often the ones working hard to clear downed trees & keep the trail passable.
- Downloadable GPS or phone based apps to ensure appropriate land use.
- Also, more trails should be signed as "one way" and/or "downhill only" so as to improve safety in blind and/or steep areas.
- Communication and information is key. Up to date maps and information on logging information is greatly appreciated.

HUNTING & FISHING

- So many areas I used to hunt are gated. Open them up!
- I am an avid recreational shooter and am looking to get involved in hunting and would appreciate it if shooters were still allowed to use the North Fork gravel pit to shoot.
- Being an avid hunter, I would like to see more land allocated to hunting possibilities
- Preserve hunting and access
- Create option for limited vehicle access behind gates for hunting
- New recreation affect hunting
- Have seasonal recreational closures, to allow hunting
- Closed gates during hunting season
- Would like to see more fishing opportunities on DNR land in the South Fork area.
- land management activities to improve game animal populations
- Not a fan of Mt Bikers, they cut too many new trails and get mad when they see hunters
- Have hikers and others wear Hunter orange during hunting season's and be respectful of hunters and others
- Let use hunt and trap DNR lands. Also have the area open 24 hour so if i have a animal down or if I get off work. I have time to check traps or get a animal out before dusk.

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Be good stewards of the land where we recreate and minimize resource damage
- Of concern are environmental impacts: the planning needs to consider the streams and rivers
- We thank you for considering opening more DNR lands for recreation but please be first respectful as conservationists and then recreationalists.
- The environmental degradation created by motorized users can be quite extreme. The comments last night in regard to stewardship by the off-road users is so far from what I have experienced with these user groups
- In my opinion an area should be chosen that does not include second growth forest and certainly not old-growth forest. There are plenty of areas that have been recently logged out that would be more appropriate for motorcycle riders.
- Need balance with ecological/naturalist groups.
- Lake Whatcom watershed water quality – in recreation planning erosion – dependent on trail activity type
- Animals, fish, birds
- Keep trails out of areas that will be impacted (riparian, etc.)
- Built trails should be properly built – some user built trails contribute to erosion, etc.
- Frogs, raptors – address these
- Non-motorized less potential impacts to native plants
- Protection of native plants
- need clean areas for gathering of natural foods/medicine
- DNR establish primitive natural areas for gathering to be in nature for foundations who do “nature immersion” to let people interact simply with nature – like a pavilion to provide education, then go off into nature
- No motorized use in lake Whatcom watershed
- Big trees, wildlife/birds, views, seclusion, clean air, quiet, big rock faces, clean water, waterfalls, wild flowers, mushrooms, challenges
- Water quality down/salmon habitat less due to recreation access
- Enforce laws. Recognize that it is primarily neighbors who impact biodiversity. Recognize the ancillary impacts of users who litter and speed on access roads. Fence and supervise the playgrounds to control the biodiversity impact of horse, bicycle and ATV users. Recognize that commercial exploitation is incompatible with biodiversity and with recreational use by locals--see Hawai'i beaches.
- Eliminate clear cut logging. Select harvest up to 40% to reduce blow downs. Ecologically sensitive harvest would be compatible with soil quality, fish habitat and happy recreation.
- Also, please restrict motorized/ATV areas to only a few more remote spots as it is environmentally destructive and the noise is unacceptable in quiet rural areas. It is also harmful to creatures in the area.
- Please adhere to approved trail building practices in sensitive lands i.e. Lake Whatcom watershed, riparian zones, wetlands, etc.
- Limit it to non-habitat destroying activities. Too much emphasis is placed on recreation as opposed to preservation
- The more opportunity for environmental sustainability and preservation, as well as strict rules regarding public safety (especially for bikers/motorcyclists) I feel are of the utmost importance.
- Hiking and snowshoeing near motorized vehicles defeats the purpose of being in nature.
- Keeping sections clear of activities that chase out the wildlife. Even the constant noise of downhill mountain bikers chases away the critters. I go to the forest to enjoy all of the life in it. It saddens me that I rarely see any animals other than birds anymore.
- Loss the evidently impact nonsense, this used to be logging land which was clear cut and had heavy equipment running all over it. The impact from any of these user groups is zero in comparison.

OTHER

- Roads on private land built with tax dollars possibly for firefighting
- Keep in mind if you build a trail, it needs maintenance
- Adjacent lands affected by what happens on DNR lands
- Back country ski trail opportunities
- Planned events
- Like proximity to general area
- Work with local user groups steward areas
- The motorcycle club in Skagit County does a very good job of maintaining the recreation area at Walker Valley ORV Park. Club participation is vital to the support and sustainability of any recreational area no matter what type of recreation it's used for.
- Coordinate with local universities for research, recreation, and volunteer opportunities.
- In BC most of the trail building is done by user groups. BC funds the groups.
- Everyone just needs to respect each other their loved activities for it all to work. I lived in the Sun Valley Idaho area for 15 yrs. and everyone motorized and non-motorized get along and help each other! it is needed and can be done with all the land that is Whatcom
- Get lots of user group feedback, try to get volunteers as involved as possible.
- Work with local advocacy groups to route, build and maintain trails, since they will be the main users and have a good idea of the type of experience users are interested in.
- Take account of the volume of users, not simply the volume of their voice.
- Playing in the woods is fun.
- Create trail building/maintenance opportunities for the public on DNR lands. It's much cheaper than contracting work crews and gets the community involved.
- listen to the Mountain Bikers
- Leave it be.
- No wheels. Don't screw with perfection
- The recreation areas are being overused and "loved to death". We need to encourage funding (lobby US Representatives and Senators) for Forest Service roads to take pressure off existing recreation areas.
- Much more work needs to be put into trails, both in maintenance and in new trails. Everywhere I go this is an issue.
- This is going to sound strange but I think it's important that we allow for the smoking of recreational marijuana before, during and after recreational activities
- Large wind turbine with an observation deck with power sold to PUD or nearby town and proceeds for school construction fund to minimize logging.
- Have lots of volunteer programs and events to get users to feel some ownership and want to be better Stewards and ambassadors for all the trails as a whole while out on their own time in public.
- Make teleport from Snohomish county. :)
- I'm always amazed how cities will spend thousands to build skate parks on expensive urban land but prevent the use of land/trails that will often be taken care of by volunteers.
- Work with organizations and clubs

PROCESS & AGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Each user group should be able to legally recreate on appropriate trails in Whatcom County
- Review and include the new statewide DNR trails policy
- All the agencies need to communicate and attempt to work together within the limits of the various laws and procedures that each has
- I was surprised to find that most of the voices at the table represented the motorized recreation community.
- General concern for water quality, sustainable forest practices, access.
- Opening up areas for recreation is excellent. Doing so, however, should be done in ways that void adverse impacts on adjoin lands and roads (that could amount to a taking, correct?!).
- DNR go to the same extent for planning when they go to logging? Consult with biologists, geologists, forest practice rules, hcp, etc. All on line
- Will DNR coordinate with Whatcom County next to the re-conveyance area for trail development?
- Possibility of trail in elk habitat – co-management of landscape
- Trial group wants input once areas are defined
- All groups want input once areas are defined
- Having an area that is managed in a form of conservation as opposed to non-authorized trails
- Does DNR have sound decibel rules? Like usfs has
- Saxon area – more parking and trails
- Vedder – private trailhead or partnership
- South fork Whatcom county parks coordination
- Joint planning between landowners (DNR & parks)
- Closing areas seasonally
- Balancing demand for access
- Provide for user groups a way to work with contractors and DNR on preserving trails from harvesting activities
- North fork Nooksack by maple falls access for kayaks limited circulation
- Access to clear water creek for kayaks decommissioned
- Orv/biking closed in winter, same capitol forest
- No Disneyland – too many rules and reg's
- ??? Pit out of hand
- Restoration access becoming limited
- Concern-too much regulation with water stream crossing
- Have seasonal recreational closures, to allow hunting
- Fundamental fairness
- Look at recreation across county and not just DNR
- all Canadian riding areas have a steward club in charge of trail maintenance and trail building, it a wonderful system that lets the users police the area and allows government money and personnel to be utilized on more important fronts.
- Give us some area and allow us to use it. There is lots of land around us!
- Only recommendation I have is this simple idea... If you build legal areas for people to regulate it will be easier to manage and control the impact they make. Plus the more opportunity you give people to use the land, the more they will work to protect it and care for it.
- Get it going now, we've waited to long for this.
- Less planning, just leave gates open so the public has access to public land. We need less management not more.

PROCESS & AGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Don't charge people to use public lands that our taxes already pay for.
- Allow trail building by Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition
- If money is tight make a park and rec. permit necessary for trail use.
- There are fewer horse (equestrians) than any other user group and the equestrian user group does not seem to get the recognition in the planning process as I would like to see it have.
- Do not require Discovery Pass / NW Access Pass in new recreation areas unless...
- Allow open camping, not campgrounds. Preferably in areas that do not require discover pass in addition to a multitude of other fees or permits
- Stop trying exert more government control and just let people enjoy the lands that they already pay to use. Stop trying to ban things.
- It usually takes quite a long time to correct an event (such as a landslide) that makes a trailhead access road (such as Canyon Creek Road) unusable. I would love to see the process of addressing problems like that speeded up.
- Have it ran by volunteer groups to maintain and clean. Much like walker valley does.
- Charge entry (discover pass) utilize nonprofits and volunteers to maintain and care for areas once built.
- Allow the authorized use of "User" built trails when they are compatible to the planned recreation in the planning area. They provide a perfect template of what users are seeking when recreating.
- On another note, I feel that user groups should be assessed on a case-by-case basis (Especially equestrian use of trails, based upon research of their impact upon trails).
- Open all directions and public lands to fur trapping. We are only allowed to use cage traps so non-target animals would not be harmed.
- Make trail connections to adjoining County Park and Federal lands
- Proportionality of rec opportunities within the overall region, not just DNR lands. If DNR lands need to accommodate all users equally within individual planning areas, the results are substandard for all users, too crowded in too small of space. If DNR can consider all acreages available for different types of rec in this DNR region, then true gaps in access can be addressed within appropriate planning areas.
- More public input
- State funds should be used to build and maintain trail systems. The public wants access to public lands. Trails allow that. Separate areas for motorized sports should be the goal.
- Explicitly legalize recreational access to existing trails and access points in commercial forests, and streamline the approval process for new user-driven projects. Allow volunteers to maintain their own recreational amenities.
- Recreation doesn't require input of funds, only permission.
- Eliminate the logging for schools requirement. This does not mean eliminate logging.
- Allow nonprofit organizations to hold events on DNR lands
- Put our inmates to work on the trails.
- If you do have recreation, it should consider intensity of use impacts and plan buffer needs accordingly. To ensure that damage is minimized, there should be a limit on how many people can use the trails in relationship to wildlife needs. We need to stop acting like we are the property owners of this planet or this county. We need to show restraint to ensure ecological resiliency and health.
- More hang gliding and paragliding sites
- More recreational access in the twin sisters area.

PUBLIC ACCESS & ROADS

- Concern of the access roads and the folks living on or near them is important from an increased traffic speed and safety standpoint
- Where public land fringes on private land, the agency involved needs to try and work with the private party to see if there is a way for the trail to cross the land to regain access to the next public parcel
- Lately American Forestry Management has been slightly aggressive about requiring permits for using logging roads on the mountain. We have lived here for over 10 years through multiple logging companies and this has us concerned since on one has demanded these permits before. In addition, the company has been hostile about blocking existing trails around the gates – some gates are left open but the gate on Eagle Flyway is barricaded. Why should we pay for a permit when they are blocking trails?
- Access to the snow - I'm not a snowmobiler but I have friends who are. They are crammed into Glacier creek and Canyon creek. They don't need much more than a defined area to recreate and a place to park and unload near the snow. I do split board and would also use any new access points for recreation. The two previously mentioned areas have very long distance approaches which makes them unreasonable for non-motorized recreation.
- I believe the snowmobiling access is actually pretty good though It is primarily USFS as well
- If possible try to stay away from getting private land owner permission for access to recreation areas. This often can become a headache down the road.
- Access – forest management & recreation taxes don't provide recreation access
- Road access – if roads are built, it makes it easier for users to trespass onto private property due to proximity
- Unlocked gates; drivable roads
- Provide river access
- Hamilton Hwy 9-south of Nooksack need access at bridge
- Access to DNR thru private lands
- Black mountain and red mountain great possibilities work with Whatcom county parks and Stewart mountain area
- Black/sumas/race horse-road access to launches
- Like Saxon area-mountain views, vistas
- Develop north fork
- Like proximity to general area
- Red/black/sumas
- Give gate keys to motorcycle clubs
- Allowing more access, and allowing organized user groups to build and maintain trails
- Stop closing and locking gates. Public lands should be available for all uses, not just entities such as logging and mining.
- Open all gates let people enjoy what we all own
- Tear down all these thousands of gates blocking access to DNR-managed lands and make it like it was in the 50's, 60's and 70's.
- Always open access to Canyon Creek Lake area
- Ensure all DNR and other public lands have legal public access routes (easements, county roads). Without legal public access that DNR land is ineligible for RCO recreation grants. Pursue exchanges and purchase to ensure legal public access year round.
- Gate off roads being abused by dumping
- Improving communication between recreational users and private land owners about public access using roads, designated trails, and logging roads to land locked DNR
- Good access with clearly defined boundaries to discourage trespassing on private lands.

PUBLIC ACCESS & ROADS

- Keep gates open by default, close them only when there is a safety concern. It's public land, there should be public access.
- More access
- Tie roads together to make scenic loops. Don't decommission roads. Mark roads as primitive non-maintained. Have many multiuse trails and roads.
- Between Whatcom County and DNR the woods are virtually inaccessible to user groups.
- Fix the Roads
- Maintain already established roads to alpine.

WATER-RAFTING & KAYAKING

- Please protect the river from dams. The free flowing nature of the river is highly valued by the boating community.
- Please help rafting/kayaking access specially raft takeout Nooksack River in maple falls.
- Provide river access
- Access to clear water creek for kayaks decommissioned
- Improve access to the rivers: NF near Maple Falls, SF near Hamilton
- Add more river access points. For as many miles of beautiful river flows through our county on public lands, there should be more points of access and places where people can enjoy the river.
- I'd like to see the access points for kayaking this run improved. Parking for the take-out could be considered unsafe for some people and I'd like to see something developed with state funds, as it is inadequate as it is.
- Put in and take outs for river runs, road maintenance to put in and take out. Some runs in the area cannot be paddled because road is in bad shape
- Continued management of rivers as free-flowing with good public access.