

It's been five years since I moved to Whatcom County. The majority of my weekends are spent recreating on state and federal lands all over Washington State. These activities include hiking, mountain biking, birding, foraging, camping, skiing, running, snowmobiling and more. These activities are enjoyed with friends, family, kids, and dogs. Expanding areas to include mountain biking, would aid in everyone's enjoyment. I would like access to include: The North Fork of the Nooksack, Middle Fork of the Nooksack and the Mirror Lake and Stewart Mountain areas (connecting into Lake Whatcom Park).

Please re-assess pre-existing trails to determine if they can be brought to appropriate trail standards for mountain biking and consider building new trails. Not only would this help jump start the trail construction, but it also could save a lot of money in the process. In order to build trails appropriately to limit disturbance for the Marbled Murrelet I recommend creating appropriate buffers around nesting sites, perform trail maintenance/construction during non-nesting season and can strategically locate trailheads and other infrastructure away from nesting areas to not attract predators.

Bike shuttles are very helpful and reduce trail wear, please consider a legal shuttle area.

As a Licensed Massage Therapist, I see many athletes who partake in activities in the great outdoors, including mountain biking. Their active lifestyle contributes to my lively-hood. Expanding mountain bike terrain would bring more mountain bikers to the area and thus more clients to my door, along with other small local businesses.