BAKER TO BELLINGHAM
RECREATION PLANNING
RECREATION PLANNING FOR DNR TRUST LANDS IN WHATCOM COUNTY
Tonight

- Management of trust lands and recreation
- Overview of recreation planning
- Update on Baker to Bellingham planning
- Introduce draft recreation concept maps
- Listening stations - Receive your input on the draft concepts

December 2017 - subject to change without notification
DNR Working Lands Generate Revenue

$260 million in FY 2014 for

- Public school construction
- State universities
- County services & local schools
- Prisons and corrections
- Other trust beneficiaries
DNR Trust Mandate

- Generate revenue for each trust in perpetuity
- Maintain undivided loyalty to beneficiaries
- Act impartially with respect to current and future beneficiaries
- Act prudently to reduce the risk of loss for the trusts, including through loss of ecological function
Recreation on Trust Lands

Multiple Use Concept (RCW 79.10.100)

Provide for other public uses when such uses are:

- consistent with obligations of trust mandate
- in the best interest of the state and the general welfare of the citizens
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Purposes of Planning

- Integrated approach to land suitability and recreation siting
- Reduce impacts of unsanctioned recreation
- Ensure community involvement in decision making
- Provide high quality, managed recreation
- Secure funds for operation and enforcement in the plan area
Goals of Planning

- Identify types of recreation that will be provided and where.
- Develop objectives for managing recreation for next 10-15 years.
- Identify opportunities for connections across landscapes.
- Identify partnerships and volunteer opportunities.
- Establish priorities for implementing the plan.
Planning Highlights

- Types of recreation being planned
- Planning acreage versus acreage of recreation
- Committee member selection
- Trails and trailheads, not parks
- Future trail design and routing incorporate more specific assessment
- Whatcom County suggested zoning amendment application
Recreation Planning Process

Data Gathering
- Biological Data
- Soils/Geology Data
- Management Data
- Field Visits
- Community Meetings Input
- General Public Input
- Recreation Trends
- User Survey

Assessment
- Land Suitability Analysis
- Field Visits
- Issue Sorting from:
  - Survey Results
  - Public Meetings
  - Committee Input
  - Ongoing Public Input
- Evaluate Costs of Capital Development & Maintenance

Recommendations
- Committee Brainstorming
- Preliminary Recommendations
- Develop/Review Draft Recreation Concept Plans/Community Meetings
- Prioritize Implementation Timeline
- Final Concept Plan
- Committee Recommendation
- SEPA Public Comment Period/Community Meetings

Estimated 2-Year Timeframe

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Landscape Context

Proposed DNR Recreation Planning Area (Approx. 86,000 Acres)

Other DNR-managed trust lands

Whatcom County Parks

City Limits

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Land Suitability Mapping

Biology
Soils
Geology
Management

Maps guide recreation planning efforts
How to Manage Recreation Over the Next 10-15 Years?

- Similar ideas in different locations
- Different ideas
- Common to all
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Topic Areas

1. Connectivity & Linkages
2. Trails & Facilities
3. Common to Both

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Connectivity - Linkages

- Potential link to Silver Lake Park
- Potential non-motorized trail connections with Lake Whatcom Park
- Potential trail connections with Canyon Lake Community Forest
Trails & Facilities

- Trail systems for motorized and non-motorized recreation
- Trailheads
- Scenic/vista points
- Picnic facilities
- Day-use fishing facilities
- Paragliding/hang gliding launch facility
- Water access facility
Common to Both

- Education and enforcement strategies
- Resource Restoration
- Partnerships
- ADA access at developed facilities
- Dispersed recreation opportunities in the area
Listening Stations

- Themes
- Purpose
- Locations
Next Steps

- Gather comments from tonight
- Develop new draft Concept F
- Prioritize projects with the committee
- Draft plan - possibly Summer 2018
- Environmental review/SEPA – Summer/Fall 2018 (including formal public comment period)
- Final plan/decision – anticipated Winter 2018

** county zoning amendment process**
Additional Ways to Participate

- Check planning webpage and sign up for e-newsletter updates at [www.dnr.wa.gov/BakertoBellingham](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BakertoBellingham)
- Send an email to us at [BakertoBellingham@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:BakertoBellingham@dnr.wa.gov)
- SEPA comment period during environmental review of the draft recreation plan

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