



Public Comments**
Recreation Planning Committee Meeting
May 8, 2018 | 6 to 9 p.m.
Mt. Baker High School, Deming

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

Member of the public – Glad to see motorized proposal dropped. Still concerned about fire risk and risk to wildlife from recreation activity, even mountain biking. Someone needs to speak up for wildlife. Humans share this world with wildlife and needs to seek equality with wildlife and not dominance.

Member of the public – I am a resident of Silver Lake Road and I am very concerned about the lawlessness and inappropriate usage of forest land in that area. Not enough enforcement presence. Even among the committee members there was admittance of not following the rules regarding motorized usage on trails and no one from the DNR corrected the committee members. Very disappointed in the DNR. There are illegal trails that go across my private property.

Member of the public – If the Whatcom County Council ever changes the ordinance, will the DNR start a new process to consider motorized trail usage? Glenn Glover responded that the DNR will not be considering motorized usage in any Whatcom County planning process on DNR managed land.

Member of the public – Concern about Sumas Mountain not showing up on the map as a non-motorized area. Is Sumas being “held captive” for future motorized usage? Glenn Glover responded that there is no plan for motorized usage. After the current proposed plan expires, other kinds of non-motorized recreation may be looked at for Sumas, if another planning effort was instigated. Follow-up question: If a member of the committee was caught doing something illegal on DNR managed land, would that person be disciplined? Glenn G. responded that any committee member will be treated just like anyone else from the general public, including tickets/fines. Dana Leavitt added that the current committee members are really almost done with their service as the committee work comes to a close.

Member of the public – Expressed a concern again that Sumas is being held in reserve as a future motorized area. Glenn Glover reemphasized that Sumas is not being held as a future motorized area and will be utilized for dispersed recreation (hunting, gathering, etc.)

Member of the public – Explain dispersed recreation? Tim Stapleton answered that all DNR Trust lands, unless otherwise signed, allow for dispersed recreation. DNR does not just create mapped polygons to designate areas for dispersed recreation so Sumas Mountain will not have a mapped polygon to designate dispersed recreation.

Member of the public – How does prioritization work for the LEOs? Ron Whitehall responded that all LEOs will consider various hazardous situations involving human life, other health and safety concerns and damage to property as the highest priorities. Then comes the enforcement of rules and regulations that are a concern for DNR Trust lands and the forest roads, trails and facilities on those lands. It is also important to remember that the LEOs (2 of them) in the Region cover a very large area and cannot be in all places at all times.

Member of the public – How can LEOs get more funding? Ron Whitehall responded the communicating that desire with DNR executive management helps, but remember that LEOs are expensive to equip and train, so people need to be realistic. Also look at encouraging additional funding for another county deputy sheriff dedicated to the east half of the county.

Member of the public – What about the Forest Watch program? Tim Stapleton responded that this program may be helpful, but it has limitations. Ron Whitehall added that you can always send him pictures showing the issue and he can respond, depending on priorities.

DRAFT – Subject to Change Without Notification

BAKER TO BELLINGHAM RECREATION PLAN

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