



## Recreation Planning Committee Meeting Notes

February 13, 2018 | 6 to 9 p.m.

Mt. Baker Senior High School, 4936 Deming Road, Deming

### In Attendance:

#### *Committee Members*

Ari Bezona	Doug Huddle	Becky Peace
Arlen Bogaards	Eric Brown	Walden Haines
Bert Isaacson	Glenn Gervais	Chris Tretwold - absent
Bill Lawrence	Kevin Vanderhorst	Buck Bouck - absent
Carole MacDonald	Lance Hansen	Wendy McDermott – absent
Dana Johnson	Mike McGlenn	Mark Harding

#### *DNR Staff*

Dana Leavitt	Hyden McKown	Glenn Glover
Chris Hankey	Kyle Galloway	Tim Stapleton
Laurie Bergvall	Rick Foster	

**Meeting Purpose:** Have a follow-up discussion on the preliminary concepts, consider partnership opportunities, review education and enforcement strategies, and discuss objectives and strategies.

### Welcome:

Review Agenda – agenda ok to proceed.  
Introductions – by DNR staff and committee members  
Review January Meeting Notes – January meeting notes ok.

### Public Comments: Provided as an attachment to the meeting notes

### Follow-up Discussion on Concepts D&E –

Dana Leavitt provided a summary of conversations and January’s discussion on the two concepts. Opinions divided on use for Red Mountain – motorized, non-motorized – both uses there. As a committee we need to address this. We need to come up to a resolution on this subject. Broad support for non-motorized recreation for Stewart Mountain and Mirror Lake – opportunities there. Trail connections and access to move through. Whatcom County parks willing to work with DNR and a planning committee to start that out. Common perspective to include 38 Road in the Middle Fork area. We need more discussion if we can include that with the long-term Marbled Murrelet Strategy. Quite a few support motorized recreation in principle. Reflected by several people in the last month. Broad support for access to the higher altitude non-motorized area in the North Fork unit. No consensus on the location of the trailhead. Be good in the proposed recreation zone. Need to see where we should be proposing a trailhead for the upper part of Slide Mountain. Water access points, para/hang gliding points,

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cooperate where county lands abut DNR lands - the Community Forest, Lake Whatcom Park and Silver Lake Park. Many people have expressed desire to see these ideas happen.

**Middle Fork 38 road right now – PNW Trail that goes along that corridor – EIS modified MM long-term strategy.**

**Eric Brown** - Can comments still sway that?

**Dana Leavitt** – all comments would be welcome. The Forest Service maintains that road. Has to be a way to address that corridor. We find it difficult to say a forest road will be a trail corridor. Not the safest way to make a trail. Address it when we write up the objectives and strategies. Put in objectives – work with other land managers and non-profits – identify a place where the trail could occur. We will have to be able to carry it through. Make it an objective in the plan to work with these groups. This is a conservation area for the marbled murrelet - the eastern end of the 38 Road.

**Mike McGlenn** – not a problem for the Forest Service. Why is it a problem for the DNR, not the Forest Service?

**Dana Leavitt** – DNR entered into a HCP with USFW, USFS separate thing.

**Becky Peace** – Conditional Use Zones – Propose we do include it in the plan – strongly supported by the committee – too far off to include it at this time. Place holder in the plan. Also understand what the final strategy will be. Type of uses will be there in the future. Conditional use zone – more linear. Have to figure out how to represent it.

**Red Mountain – Motorized and non-motorized – full committee runs the full gamut. As a committee is there consensus or is there going to be a difference of opinion on this unit?**

**Mike McGlenn** – I told the motorized folks I would support motorized areas, but not on Red Mountain. I don't see a consensus growing out of that.

**Dana Johnson** – We have discussed two areas that have a lot of current use – we talked about the different kinds of ORV use – quads and trucks being bigger and motorcycles being smaller. Red Mountain better for motorcycles. Sumas better for quads and 4x4's. Our discussion talked about the history of ORV's. In my days of riding which are pretty long, I've never had an issue. I can't speak for everybody but when I see a horse I turn off the motor. I'm not willing to take anything off the table.

**Dana Leavitt** – is there any thought of dividing it? South/North? Does this not have much traction?

**Becky Peace** – enforcement comes to my mind. Spillover – meaningful or not – creating a little bit of work for them.

**Ari Bezona** – if you let either group up there – you will have motorcycle ruts on horse trails, and horse poop on motorcycle trails.

**Dana Leavitt** – right now it sounds like we have one concept that shows motorized and one for non-motorized. DNR talking to internal staff. Talk about this – especially after we get through the community meetings. Really two sides to the issue here. Not ready to be resolved.

**Mike McGlenn** – that's fair to say. On Red Mountain you need to talk to Mike McFarland about their park.

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**Arlen Bogaards** – that is one of my concerns. Motorized fits on Sumas a little bit better. Because of the bowl the noise goes up. As an advocate for hikers, I don't really see both of them flying.

**General question** - Electric motorcycles? Technology is out there? You aren't going to have a rush of everyone going to sell their bikes. Same as cars. Some people who love them and ride them. In the next 5-10 years without legislation not going to be a rush.

**Upper North Fork – Concept E – non-motorized Recreation Zone – a lot of conversation about whether the trailhead belongs up there or down lower for easier access?**

**Dana Leavitt** - Do we want it accessible further away or down lower for access longer during the year? Or acknowledge it is shorter seasonal use up there? It provides a lot of opportunity – a lot of different uses up there. How do you folks feel about that – upper or lower?

**Kevin Vanderhorst** – low – once you hit about November – you are very restricted with up high – limiting access to that area with areas for 4WD. Acknowledge that area – place the trail head at that area – November from March to April it is snowed in.

**Becky Peace** – part of me likes the area at a higher elevation because it increases access. But I wonder if DNR is prepared to maintain that road it has a lot of steep pitches. It is kind of loose in there.

**Eric Brown** – trail corridor from a lower elevation – 6 month window under snow – don't want to use the roads – logging on the roads. Reality is it doesn't make sense to have it lower. Silver Lake Park – whether or not it is motorized or non-motorized – I would envision any trailhead in the DNR proper so you have a buffer. Even non-motorized you don't want to be affecting the neighbors.

**Mike McGlenn** – There is a horse camp and trailhead accessing Red Mountain. Friends and family campground – not a very compatible fit to me for motorized. I know that you plan to put a trailhead somewhere else – that 's fine.

**Dana Leavitt** – we like to put our trailheads on our property – access funds, not put a burden on other people – look to locate trailheads on DNR. Have a dialogue with the County based on the final use there. We will explore that with the county.

**Partnership Opportunities – Flip Chart**

**Education and Enforcement Strategies – Flip Chart**

## Discussion on Objectives and Strategies

**Do we need to add more objectives to this? Are these going to capture what we need to start out for Partnerships and volunteer coordination?**

**Carol MacDonald** – more active words there. Very passive. Say Create, not encourage.

**Dana Leavitt** – see what we need to add based on the flip chart comments and comments we receive.

**Glenn Gervais** – add a strategy for adding events? Like race events.

**Arlen Bogaards** - what about an outreach component? Helping the agency be a bit more transparent. People don't necessarily go to the DNR website for hiking information. A group that does outreach for the DNR.

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**Mark Harding** – a lot of people here don't feel represented. Sit back and consider all the stakeholders – covering all the bases.

**Carol Macdonald** – does the recreation plan include fishing?

**Dana Leavitt** – yes it does. Dispersed recreation includes fishing – allows for fishing.

**Eric Brown** – one water access point out of Maple Falls – thinking of it more of a put in or pull out for rafters but also for fishing.

**Dana Leavitt - education and enforcement – this is a beginning – there is work to be done. Do we need to add to it or strengthen it?**

**Mike McGlenn** – it doesn't seem like Objective D fits into the plan. I expect me to take care of me when I climb on my horse.

**Doug Huddle** – I agree with you. I expect me to take care of myself when I go out in the field. I need to make judgments when I go out – I don't think that is shared by everyone as you get to a urban setting. I do know that emergency services are always concerned about emergency responses into areas. Contact local volunteers fire departments. Names are terrible – local names. Latitude and longitude are preferable. Lay of the land map.

**Mark Harding** – people should look after themselves – we had a plane crash in the Chuckanuts yesterday.

**Glenn Gervais** – Galbraith – checkpoints. They know they are coming in and close to that area.

**Mark Harding** – very important – stressful situation.

**Arlen Bogaards** – emergency services

**Eric Brown** – 92% of people use that system

**Kevin Vanderhorst** – Walker Valley also uses that system. Signage has been put up there. Emergency services knows exactly how to get to that spot. If a person's injury hasn't been put in that spot they can agree on a mutual area and that works.

**Dana Leavitt –Move onto resource restoration. Restoration a means to take care of the forest – improve from unsanctioned past use – those areas need to be restored.**

**Dana Leavitt** - Those illegitimate trails have to be restored back to the natural environment. It is pretty basic. Identify areas that are damaged. Communicate about restoration activities, Protect the areas. Drill down on some of these strategies. Resource restoration. Any areas we can add to it or do we have it covered?

**Doug Huddle** – Educated on a number of additional things – not only doing all of this stewardship work, but for those people who are willing, positively adding to the knowledge base – lack of direct information that is hard information about the distribution of amphibians. Fauna and amphibians. Sensitive and rare plants. Use Science.

**Eric Brown** – Why is the trail not good here – if you are trying to get from A to B – let's figure out a better way and there is other stuff happening. I want to do this trail and not thinking about the ramifications, environment, other issues.

**Update on Zoning Amendment Request, Community Meeting and Public Comments**

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The agenda will not be set until the 21<sup>st</sup> if it is going to be coming before the council on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Don't know if it will or not.

**Public comments that we get at the meetings next week will be fit into general categories for the March meeting. Maple Falls 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> Port of Bellingham. Presentation and listening stations.**

**Next meeting in March on the 13<sup>th</sup> at Acme Elementary School tentatively.**

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