



Recreation Planning Committee Meeting Notes

May 8, 2018 | 6 to 9 p.m.

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

In Attendance:

Committee Members

Arlen Bogaards	Mike McGlenn	Carole MacDonald (absent)
Dana Johnson	Becky Peace	Wendy McDermott (absent)
Doug Huddle	Walden Haines	Buck Bouck (absent)
Eric Brown	Chris Tretwold	Lance Hansen (absent)
Glenn Gervais	Mark Harding	

DNR Staff

Dana Leavitt	Tim Stapleton	Rick Foster
Chris Hankey	Kyle Galloway	Glenn Glover

Meeting Purpose: Have a discussion on the proposed Concept H, review objectives and strategies for implementation and implementation priorities.

Welcome: Introductions by DNR staff. Glenn Glover explained that three committee members have officially resigned and there was a recent Whatcom County ordinance code change docket fee paid by a private citizen, which DNR is not part of.

Review Agenda – agenda approved.

Review April Meeting Notes – notes approved.

Public Comments: Public comments were taken and are provided on the planning webpage.

Working Meeting:

Discussion on Concept H: Dana presented Concept H map, outlining the major components of the plan:

- Red Mountain – open to all types of non-motorized recreation, has full access rights, large trailhead to accommodate large vehicles with trailers, access will be off Silver Lake Road (full access already in place), and provide access to the para/hang gliding launch site
- Launch Site – part of Red Mountain, minimal changes to landscape to accommodate use, connector from trailhead
- Water Access Site – Small site on the North Fork Nooksack River, look at working with neighboring landowners and other stakeholders
- North Fork – two zones, the first being the upper area, open to all types of non-motorized recreation, includes a trailhead at elevation and access to the fishing/picnic site, most likely will have limited or no access in the winter; the second is the Conditional Use zone on the north side of Slide Mountain, which is dependent upon

DRAFT – Subject to Change Without Notification

BAKER TO BELLINGHAM RECREATION PLAN
Washington State Department of Natural Resources

BakertoBellingham@dnr.wa.gov | www.dnr.wa.gov/BakertoBellingham

Baker to Bellingham Recreation Planning Committee | Meeting #18 | DRAFT 5/8/18

Baker to Bellingham



the marbled murrelet strategy not having any restricted areas precluding recreation trails, have to wait until the final strategy is available before deciding to develop trails in this area

- Stewart Mountain and Mirror Lake – the two units around Lake Whatcom Park, open for all non-motorized uses, potential to connect through the county park to create long trails; public access is needed prior to developing any trails or trailhead; opportunity to work with Whatcom County Parks and Recreation to create a network of interconnecting trails on a large chunk of public land

The committee and DNR staff further talked about the following topics regarding Concept H:

- For the water access point work with the Department of Transportation, address safety concerns in and out of parking area, address issues around listed fish species, how to mitigate for potential impacts and to use Doug Huddle as a part of that process would be helpful to DNR
- Potential connections made around Lake Whatcom Park are wonderful, need to make sure public access is taken care of to open this area up
- Middle Fork Nooksack corridor – concerns expressed by committee members that if a corridor is not shown on the final concept map, it will get lost during implementation over the next 10-15 years; further discussion between staff and the committee resulted in an offer to include a note on the concept plan identifying the trail corridor as objective to be implemented by a multi stakeholder group
- The fishing facility in the Upper North Fork zone won't work as the pond cannot sustained fishing populations, so it will be removed from the concept plan; the picnic idea will continue to be shown there though
- Using grants to pursue priority projects is very important to the success of the recreation plan, so a priority list is needed to getting trails and trailheads built
- Multiple committee members expressed the importance of connectivity and working with Whatcom County Parks and Recreation to make sure all these potential connectivity opportunities will be looked at

Review Objectives and Strategies for Implementation: Dana reviewed the objectives for Trails and Facilities with the committee raised several comments for DNR to address in finalizing the objectives and strategies:

- Use volunteer hours towards grant matches
- Volunteer groups can contribute to maintaining forest roads for public access
- The objective on participating in a group to consider a Middle Fork trail corridor is included to ensure the idea gets brought forward during implementation
- Strengthen the language that emphasizes protecting the environment on strategies in both the Trails and Facilities objectives
- Road access is key for the free flight community
- Good signage and trail maps are critical

Identify Implementation Priorities: Exercise with poster and dots placed by committee members highlighting priority areas; next meeting the prioritization list will be finalized and phases created.

End of Meeting: Next meeting in June on the 12 at the Mount Baker High School library.

DRAFT – Subject to Change Without Notification

BAKER TO BELLINGHAM RECREATION PLAN
Washington State Department of Natural Resources

BakertoBellingham@dnr.wa.gov | www.dnr.wa.gov/BakertoBellingham

Baker to Bellingham Recreation Planning Committee | Meeting #18 | DRAFT 5/8/18