



## Recreation Planning Committee Meeting Notes

June 12, 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
Dana Johnson	Becky Peace	Wendy McDermott
Doug Huddle (absent)	Walden Haines (absent)	Buck Bouck (absent)
Eric Brown	Chris Tretwold (absent)	Lance Hansen (absent)
Glenn Gervais	Mark Harding	

#### *DNR Staff*

Dana Leavitt	Glenn Glover
Hyden McKown	Rick Foster

**Meeting Purpose:** Review and discuss the Draft Concept Map, public access objectives and establish implementation priorities.

**Welcome:** Introductions by DNR staff.  
Review Agenda – agenda approved.  
Review May Meeting Notes – notes approved.

**Public Comments:** Public comments were taken at the beginning of the meeting and after the presentation of the Draft Concept Map; they are provided on the planning webpage.

### Working Meeting:

**Discussion on Draft Concept Map:** Dana presented the revised Concept H Map, outlining the major components of the plan (very similar to May’s meeting presentation):

- 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 Unit, connector from trailhead, added using this location as a scenic overlook too
- Water Access Site – small site on the North Fork Nooksack River, look at working with neighboring landowners and other stakeholders, understand this is a priority to the kayaking and rafting communities
- 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 picnic site, removed the fishing site that was shown as part of the picnic site; the second is the Conditional Use zone on the north side of Slide Mountain, which is dependent upon the marbled murrelet strategy not having any restricted areas precluding recreation trails, have to wait until the

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Washington State Department of Natural Resources

[BakertoBellingham@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:BakertoBellingham@dnr.wa.gov) | [www.dnr.wa.gov/BakertoBellingham](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BakertoBellingham)

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# Baker to Bellingham



final strategy is available before deciding to develop trails in this area, final strategy may be completed in 2019, unsure of timetable

- 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 for Stewart Mountain 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; provide a scenic overlook on Stewart Mountain

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

- Mon-motorized trail corridor – concerns expressed by committee members that the proposed text for the concept map does not expressly commit to the Middle Fork corridor; there are many groups pushing for this connection; language should not tie the development of the trail corridor to the Pacific Northwest Scenic Trail; DNR staff will go back and look at rephrasing the note and provide the committee members with a copy of the final text
- Committee members reiterated 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 Public Access Objectives and Strategies for Implementation:** Dana reviewed the objectives for public access with the committee which provided comments for DNR to address in finalizing these objectives and strategies:

- Stewart Mountain access is critical for developing trails in the unit
- Provide access to all recreation zones for all types of vehicles – especially trucks pulling horse trailers
- Consider access to Red Mountain through Silver Lake Park and to Stewart Mountain and Mirror Lake from Whatcom Lake Park

**Establish Preliminary Phasing:** Exercise with poster and dots placed by committee members for prioritization in phases. May ranking exercise was reviewed first and formed the basis for developing phases for implementation. Committee members discussed the ranking from the May meeting, then rated projects for establishing phases. The final phasing plan will be shared with the committee.

**End of Meeting:** Meeting was closed as the end of the planning committee’s work for the planning process.

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