

RECREATION PLAN

# Baker to Bellingham



## Comment Card – Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan

We invite you to share your ideas, values, and concerns about the Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan by filling out this comment card and returning it to any of the staff here this evening or to the comment card box. If you would like more time, you may send your comments to Dana Leavitt via e-mail at [BakertoBellingham@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:BakertoBellingham@dnr.wa.gov) or mail them to:

Dana Leavitt  
Washington State Department of Natural Resources  
1111 Washington St. SE  
MS 47014  
Olympia, WA 98504-7014

I would like to suggest limiting size of horse groups on trails. Groups larger than 4 horses ~~are~~ are disruptive to the experience of other recreaters. (Including other horse men)

Thanks for including public input.

For additional information about the Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan, please visit DNR's website:

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

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I am interested in being involved with the planning for trails on Red Mt. I have done extensive hiking, trail running, & trail riding on Red Mt.

Much of that I have mapped with my GPS. I am very familiar with that area & would love to be apart of the trail planning on that area.

Please let me know what I need to do to be considered for this.

Thanks  
Scott & Margaret Hamstra

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# ex·tor·tion noun

the practice of obtaining something, especially money, through force or threats.

*synonyms:* **blackmail, shakedown;**

*formal exaction*

"arrested on a charge of extortion"

At the April 10 working meeting of this committee, numerous comments were voiced by committee members regarding the responsibility of illegal trail riding on Sumas & Red Mountains. At the heart of these comments was the sentiment that the residents were responsible for illegal trail riding.

The argument was based on a view that if we would only give the ORV community what they want, the ORV community would thereby stop their illegal activities. And of course the counter point was given that if the residents did not give into the demands of the ORV community, then the illegal riding would escalate. ***This is the essence of extortion.*** You dared to demand that we give you something **OR** you would not only continue your illegal behaviors but in fact **increase** them! One of the committee members in lamenting the residents' fight against ORV illegal riding was going to result in the '**wild west**' again, and that we only had ourselves to blame!

On top of this, a committee member publicly announced that he & his friends ride on his private property (legal) on Red Mountain, but that they also participate in 'dispersed recreation' (not so subtle euphemism for illegal riding) on DNR lands that he borders. It should be that this was the most outrageous moment of the meeting...a committee member admitting he participates in illegal riding on DNR lands right in front of DNR staff. But it was not. More outrageous was the chuckle given by many committee members in response to his audacious comment. Clearly you people find illegal trail riding humorous. WE DON'T.

And what was the response of the DNR staff participating in this meeting? Did they address the comment about illegal riding? Did they point out that this very committee member had promised to self police his community? **NO.** DNR staff were utterly impotent. The DNR silence was appalling.

You promise this community that you are here to protect our mountains, natural resources. **Damn it, Step UP!!**

And your plan to have a trail from Maple Falls Park to Red Mountain needs to be rethought. The trail that is there (and showing on Park maps) is on private property. This trail is not open to the public; it is private. The property owners (I am one of them) do not give permission to access our land.

— Kathleen Levalle

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No ORV points  
enforce the current illegal ORVs in  
DNR land.

Gay: Margaret Salmi  
Maple Falls, WA

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