



March 8, 2016

In Attendance:

Committee Members

Ari Bezona	Doug Huddle	Mark Harding
Arlen Bogaards	Eric Brown	Mike McGlenn
Bert Isaacson	Eric Jacoby	Shawn Lucke (for Becky Peace)
Bill Lawrence	Glenn Gervais	Walden Haines
Carole MacDonald	Kevin Vanderhorst	Wendy McDermott
Dana Johnson	Lance Hansen	

DNR Staff

Chris Hankey	Glenn Glover	Kyle Galloway
Cory McDonald	Hyden McKown	Laurie Bergvall
Dana Leavitt	Jason Goldstein	Rick Foster
Eryn Akers	Jean Fike	

Meeting Purpose: To introduce Recreation Planning Committee members to the recreation planning process and DNR staff; members to gain a common understanding of the committee's charge and DNR's mission.

Welcome: Jean Fike, Northwest Region Manager, opened the meeting with a review of the agenda and general housekeeping items.

Introductions: Dana Leavitt, DNR Recreation Planner, introduced the DNR staff; went over history of recreation planning in the agency, discussed the importance of the Recreation Planning Committee (17 members), and encouraged the committee members to work with their respective user groups/affiliations to share information and bring outside ideas to the process; noted that the meetings are primarily working meetings, however, time for public comments would be part of the monthly meetings. Glenn Glover, DNR's Recreation Planning Manager, asked the group to introduce themselves, describe the user groups they belong to and why they want to be on the Recreation Planning Committee.

The following is a brief overview of the committee's introductions:

- Lance Hansen – ATV
- Arlen Bogaards – Washington Trails Association
- Mike McGlenn – Back Country Horseman of Whatcom County
- Doug Huddle – Citizens for Forest Roads – Assisting USFS to keep roads open
- Glen Gervais – Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition – Hike, Mountain Bike
- Shawn Lucki – representing paragliders – (Becky Peace) – Board Member on North Cascades Soaring Club
- Bert Isaacson – Northwest Quad Association – ATV
- Carole MacDonald – Mount Baker Chamber of Commerce – Bed and Breakfast Owner



- Wendy McDermott – Conservation/Environment, Water Based Elements, representing the paddling community, Rafting – works for American Rivers
- Dana Johnson – Mount Baker Motorcycle Club
- Ari Bezona – Mount Baker Motorcycle Club – Unnamed Riders Group on Facebook – Dirt Bikes – Cross Country Riding
- Mark Harding – Trail Running Community – 3 main clubs – 2000 members
- Eric Brown – Mountain Biking – Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition
- Bill Lawrence – Around the Sound Jeep Club
- Kevin Vanderhorst – Rainier Ridge Rams 4x4 Club
- Eric Jacoby – Hunters and Fisherman, live in the area, property abuts state lands, wants to see rural character maintained, safety of forests maintained, timber cruiser
- Walden Haines – President of Whatcom Chapter of Backcountry Horseman, hunter, fisherman, owns motorcycle, and quad

Committee Ground Rules: Jason Goldstein reviewed the committee ground rules and the committee accepted them.

Public Comment: No comments were provided.

DNR Regional Context: Chris Hankey gave a thorough presentation on current and upcoming timber activities in the planning area, covered the Habitat Conservation Plan relationship to timber sales, staffing in the district and how there is room for timber management, recreation, fisheries and wildlife conservation in the planning area.

Committee Charter: Dana Leavitt reviewed the committee charter, focusing on the Recreation Planning Committee's mission, commitments – both in participation and time for meetings, and the limits of the committee's authority. Questions about the schedule were deferred until later in the meeting.

Overview of Planning: Dana, defined the key elements of the plan and goals of the agency. He explained DNR's land suitability modules and the three phases of the committee's work:

- Data gathering
- Assessment
- Recommendations

Dana gave additional background on previous planning efforts by DNR and how the resulting recreation plans were being used to lead development projects in the state forests. Additionally, he talked about the planning looking out to a 10-15 year horizon for implementation, focusing on types of recreation and where they should be on the landscape.

Dana reviewed the planning timeline and where the committee fits into it, referencing the three main phases he presented. He talked about the linear process and how all of the committee meetings and public meetings fit into the process. He also offered to provide committee members with a copy of the planning process chart from the



presentation. There was a brief discussion with on how the process leads from a plan being developed to future projects being implemented.

Small Group Breakout: Dana presented the format for a breakout activity to allow committee members to get to know each other and talk about recreation experiences in the planning area. The groups then provided summaries of each discussion:

Group 1

- USFS Roads – Maintenance keeping roads open – out in the wilderness, lost in the woods, fires, loggers can use them
- Being alone in the woods is a quality experience

Group 2

- Alone time, having respect for each other and the land, good conversation and why they are enjoying the land
- Don't want to be sneaking around
- Parking
- View destinations

Group 3

- Challenges of single track with friends
- Needing parking
- Access by road and where to park – need 60' to turn horse trailer and truck around
- Roads we can tow horse and trailers, trucks,
- Trails
- 50-150 miles
- Ride all year round – some below the snow line, some above the snow line – assortment of challenges
- Do some events

Group 4

- Interesting features and destinations, falls, creeks, diverse trails, more/less physically challenging
- Decent access, good public access for take outs, good LZ's, good signage, user education for kiosks, i.e. timber harvests, sustainability in design, loops are preferred, connectivity, solitude, good trail design

Homework Assignment: Dana went over the planning area maps found in the notebooks, shared the concept of the assignment with them – to work with user groups/affiliations to start mapping existing recreation activities in the planning area, and explained how the homework would be shared with the planning committee. A discussion followed on what information already existed, how the mapping would be used, providing the maps in other formats, and that providing the information to the committee and



staff would be considered when the conceptual planning was developed. Staff noted members concerns over sharing maps and having the areas shut down by DNR.

Meeting Schedule: Jason Goldstein reviewed the meeting schedule with the committee. There was concerns expressed about holding the meeting on the second Tuesday of the month due to conflicts with other activities or meetings. DNR staff and the committee agreed to revisit the meeting day at the April meeting. The next meeting is on April 12th from 6 – 9 pm.

Parking Lot: Research the Sumas Mountain ORV Plan and SEPA report and report back to the committee on the findings.