Responsive Management™

WASHINGTON SCORP

Results of the Public Input Received at the 2013 SCORP Town Hall Blog Website

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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND – THE SCORP TOWN HALL WEB SITE

Part of the 2013 revision of Washington's State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was the use of an Internet blog web site, named the SCORP Town Hall, to collect general public input. A blog (short for web log) is a discussion or informational web site consisting of discrete entries ('posts') and, in the use made here, displayed in reverse chronological order and without the option for a give-and-take discussion between the contributors.

The format was to pose questions asking stakeholders to provide narrative answers offering their opinions about the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities, especially those funded by the Recreation and Conservation Office under a SCORP (Figure 1). Before a comment was posted for public viewing a moderator reviewed all comments to ensure a civil discussion (not a serious problem for this SCORP) and to ensure spurious posts (e.g., spam) did not get posted.

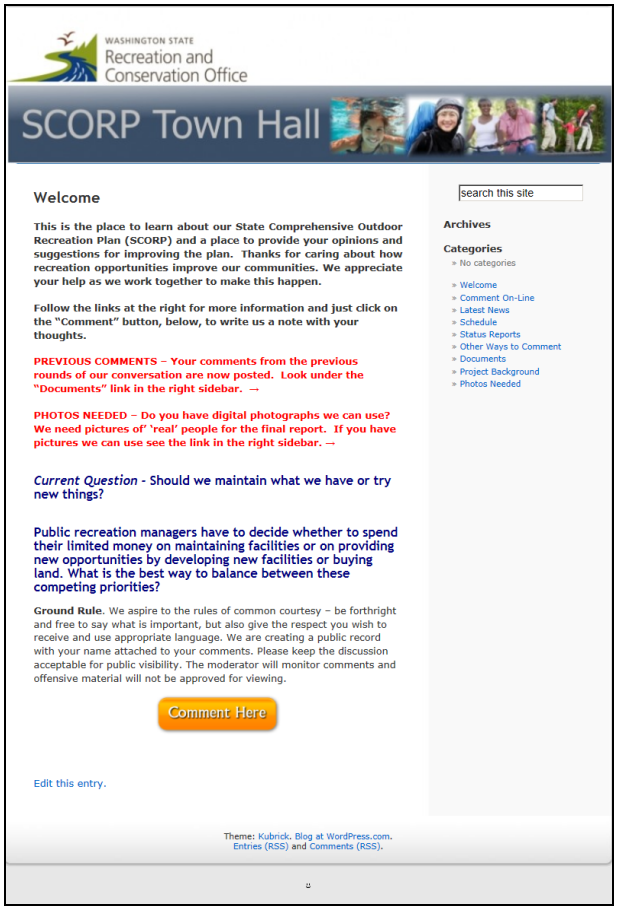

Figure 1. The home page of the SCORP Town Hall blog website.

The Town Hall was active from November 2012 through January 2013. Across that time the pubic was asked to respond to series of seven questions posted at the site with each question remaining active for approximately two weeks. To get the word out about the Town Hall, RCO sent nearly 300 news releases to media centers across the state. The RCO asked about 30 partner organizations to post a notice about the Town Hall on their Web sites or in newsletters, and sent informational emails to the federally-recognized tribes. In addition, for each round of Town Hall questions, staff distributed emails to about 800 potential stakeholders and all previous Town Hall participants were notified of the new question and also asked to invite others to comment on the new question. The Town Hall received 14,191 visits and 738 people provided 1,146 comments for this SCORP.

Caveats

- ***Do not extrapolate these comments to the state as a whole***. In a blog discussion participation comes from respondents who self-select. This means there is no effort to sample stakeholders in a scientifically valid way (i.e., random sampling). Consequently, it would be inappropriate to ascribe quantitative meanings (e.g., percentages, majority/minority sentiments, trends) on any issue. Treat these results as valid opinions of individuals, not as a summary of results that are generally applicable across the state.

- ***The results are informative***. Despite the qualification above, the stakeholder input is valuable much in the same way as are results from a focus group (i.e., as qualitative descriptions of the core issues that surround the questions posed to stakeholders). This form of input is useful in naming the issues that are important to stakeholders and for gaining first-level insight about why the issues are important to them. A value of this method for collecting public input is that people can react to each others' comments and, in so doing, they stimulate additional thoughts from one another.

- ***Adding the participation rates from each round will not equal the totals presented above***. For the total number of participants: Because many people participated in more than one round, the total number of participants reported above has these duplicates removed. For the total number of comments: A small number of people provided e-mail comments with a request to not post their comments for public viewing. Therefore theses people are omitted from the counts below but are included in the grand total (above.

With these cautions in mind, below are the results from the Town Hall public input received for the 2013 SCORP.

ROUND 1 QUESTION

We have a three-part question for you:

Park providers need money to operate and maintain their facilities. One solution is to change the current experience visitors have in a public park to generate revenue (such as zip lines in a nature park or concessionaire/gift shops). Another solution is to generate revenue through advertising, naming rights, concessions, etc. We would like your thoughts about,

a. What do you think about advertising in parks or corporate names for public parks?

b. Is it ok to have commercial businesses, such as small grocery stores and gift shops, or should they stay completely natural?

c. Should public parks embrace new types of recreation (zip lines) and new technology (wi-fi access) or remain more natural?

Summary Observations from the Blog Facilitator

Participation was robust with 166 comments received. These came from 164 unique e-mail addresses which is the best estimate of the number of stakeholders who participated in this round (i.e., there is a small possibility that a single stakeholder may have responded from more than one e-mail address.

Overall there are strong opinions on both sides of the question of whether or not to develop or refrain from developing new infrastructure, services, and experiences at public-sector recreation sites.

If a business activity, like zip lines, is sanctioned at a publically-owned facility it is necessary to approach it as a rigorous business decision—one that considers the

capital, operation, and maintenance costs against projected revenue generation and liability exposure.

If small concessionaires, such as grocery and supply stores, are considered there is sentiment that they should be in support of the mission of the facility and not for general commercial purposes. In other words, the enterprise should be complimentary or consistent with the predominant use of the recreation area. There was also sentiment that if allowed these business activities should be small, discretely placed, and visually consistent with the theme of the facility.

Development of new recreation activities, such as zip lines, was embraced by some stakeholders and disapproved by others. Development that is outside the theme of the facility where it would be located was criticized but development that was in harmony with the mission of the facility might be acceptable. Similarly, development that is not intrusive on the experiences of other visitors (e.g., wi-fi access) could be acceptable to some of the people who responded but other respondents see these as not in harmony with the purposes of sites and facilities that feature nature experiences.

Corporate branding, such as naming rights, was criticized, especially if it was for the sole purpose of promoting the commercial purposes of the business purchasing those rights. These respondents prefer naming of recreation sites to convey the sense of place that is naturally associated with the site or its historical origins. Naming that is only for a commercial purpose was not acceptable to these respondents. There was partial acceptance of acknowledging corporate contributions in support of the mission of a facility with a caveat that this branding be unobtrusive and fit within the look and feel of the facility.

There was a highly mixed response to the introduction of modern technology such as wi-fi access at a facility. There is a sizable population for and against such additions to the recreation experiences provided. Supporters tended to say,

- Making these improvements is providing a positive service to visitors since technology access is part of who we are in our contemporary society,
- This new capacity could make it easier to visit recreation facilities since their work schedule requires nearly constant Internet access and on-site connectivity would mean they could visit without feeling at risk for managing

that other part of their life, and

- Users could take advantage of 'on-line' interpretive opportunities such as using a smart phone application along trails to read/listen to interpretative messages that were keyed to benchmarks long their walk, much the same as museums do when they give visitors the opportunity to carry and listen to audio interpretations as various stations as visitors walk through a gallery or series of displays.

Non-supporters of adding technology to recreation sites tended to say,

- When they visit a recreation site, especially those that feature nature and natural landscapes, these users are visiting precisely for the reason of getting away from these intrusions in our lives (i.e., technology access is antithetical to the mission of many recreation facilities that were explicitly designed to be oriented toward 'back-to-nature' experiences),
- Concerns that providing such a service is not economically viable, and
- It would, in fact, be an intrusion since people in their party would be distracted from the group as they 'plugged-in' to the Internet instead of participating fully in their recreation at the site.

There was recognition of the financial needs of public-sector recreation providers. Though this recognition was present there also was stakeholder concerns that recreation providers should not stray from their mission in general and, especially, at specific sites that were created with a specific purpose in mind (e.g., a site should stay true to its back-to-nature experience if that was the original purpose for the site). These stakeholders are concerned that this array of purposes has been arrived at for good reasons and to compromise these for the sake of financial stress at this time is not appropriate.

There is stakeholder understanding that public-sector recreation providers have a duality in their mission. One of these is certainly a responsibility to provide diversity of recreational access. The other, however, is to manage many recreation opportunities as a heritage responsibility (e.g., think of battle fields, historically important parks, wildlife viewing areas, fishing access).

Below are the unedited comments received from stakeholders in the first round of questioning with the vast majority being posted on the Town Hall web site itself and a few coming via e-mail.

Comments Submitted on the Town Hall Website

Ty Walters

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Submitted on 2012/11/19 at 8:54 pm

a. no advertizing

b. no bussinesses exept mobile ones. Mobile parts store, and burrito's perhaps.

c. free for all recreation.

Nick Newhall

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Submitted on 2012/11/19 at 8:14 pm

Keep the concessions out of the Parks. Alright.with an advertisement or two at the entrance/trailhead. Some places may lend themselves to alternate activities like zip line. Would prefer that to be in a very few Parks and wouldn't personally participate. Might actually be more worthwhile to partner with organizations such as BSA, kayakers mountain bikers, hikers clubs and have them adopt Parks.

Jon Ferrian

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Submitted on 2012/11/19 at 8:00 pm

I have just recently moved into this beautiful state from another beautiful state of Minnesota. I personally would love to be able access parks in multiple forms. Hiking, Climbing, Biking and Snowmobiling. I am just now beginning to learn what is all available for summer and winter recreation. In many places across this country many people are trying to eliminate motorized recreational opportunities for others. Many

believe that some how Snowmobiling causes damage to the natural environment. I have only gone on a couple of his locally, however I noticed right away that the hiking trails have in many cases been worn deep into the forest floor. Snowmobiling if done in appropriate manners leaves little to no impact on the forest floor since you are not in contact with the terrain that you ride on. From an emissions stance, New technology snowmobiles have the same or less impact to our environment tan the cars that we all drive to the trail heads. My point is that I feel that parks should be available and open for many uses and one group should not try to dictate how an area should or should not be used.

Brittany Fleming

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Submitted on 2012/11/19 at 6:13 pm

a. The whole point of going to the great outdoors is to get AWAY from commercialized America! Keep it natural!

b. Regarding businesses near or in the parks – In my opinion, I would only want to see SMALL stores/businesses, not big-box stores. My preference would be to promote the stores that are already existing, locally, to the parks.

c. Personally, I like to go to nature to get AWAY from much of daily life – technology, people, etc. We like to go to be in the quiet of nature. Things like zip lines would disrupt the natural setting of a state park. WiFi, I don't care one way or the other, I would possibly use it while there if I wanted to look on a satellite Google map or something, but I don't want to spend a ton of time on the internet in nature, that's the point of getting out to nature is getting away from technology for a while!

Chelsey Henry

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Submitted on 2012/11/19 at 6:07 pm

A. I am not in favor of corporate naming or advertising in parks. I think that this would detract from some of the beauty and historical significance of the park. The name should be descriptive & representative of the park location, its history, and its community.

That being said, I understand that the Parks need money. I think small types of advertising would be acceptable. For example, “This bathroom brought to you by, ” or, “this bridge donated by”. No billboards or gross displays though.

B. I think this could work for some parks, but not most. I’d prefer the parks without them, but done correctly it could be a way to bring some revenue in without greatly affecting the park experience. A good study/understanding of whether this kind of action would actually be beneficial should be taken before choosing this path. Businesses should be select, and locations limited.

C. I am very much in support of opening recreation types. Ziplines are especially great because of their minimal footprint. I would support more mountain biking, adventure parks, kayak parks, rock climbing, ice climbing (man-made), cross country skiing, dog sledders, hang gliding/paragliding, etc… Parks could generate significant revenue by making it easier to hold events such as races and competitions.

ken

khoekema@prillus.com

Submitted on 2012/11/19 at 5:17 pm

One of the primary purposes of the public parks system is to protect public lands from being commericialized and potentially ruined by private development. Early natural attractions, like Niagra falls for example, were overwhelmed by private interests trying to capitalize on the public attractions. The only way to avoid this is by keeping the private sector out of the parks when it comes to concessions. Our parks are a public treasure that should be protected for the use of future generations.

Shaina Cox

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Submitted on 2012/11/19 at 3:28 pm

I feel like when people visit state parks, it is supposed to be an outlet, or a way to get away from the hustle and bustle of every day life… It is supposed to be focused on nature… Not on the quickest way to make a buck. As far as renaming things go, they have historical names for a reason… I feel that that kind of thing is priceless. I don't feel like any dollar amount could replace the meanings behind the names.

As far as grocery stores, gift shops, and zip lines go… I feel like those could be extremely beneficial. For everyone. If you forget something at home it'd be okay, tourists could have fun in the gift shops, and zip lines would attract many people. Especially the teenage kids who would rather be playing video games at home.

But wifi…….. Come on people, can't you give up Internet for a small amount of time an enjoy the wilderness???

Just my thoughts… Thanks for giving people a chance to voice their opinions.

Matthew Mead

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Submitted on 2012/11/19 at 3:07 pm

a. What do you think about advertising in parks or corporate names for public parks? I wouldn't be opposed to small advertising opportunies – an example would be a small corporate logo on kiosks and restrooms. I am opposed to a park name changed to represent a corporate entity. Subliminal is OK, assaulting is not.

b. Is it ok to have commercial businesses, such as small grocery stores and gift shops, or should they stay completely natural? I hve no problem with this if done tastefully. If the park area consisted of log structures, then any business should conform. I don't want to see McDonald's and the Golden Arches, but a smaller local-feel business that blends is OK.

c. Should public parks embrace new types of recreation (zip lines) and new technology (wi-fi access) or remain more natural? Yes, but I'd caution against using public funds for these items. If there is a need/want, let the users find the funds and manpower to create. We see these volunteer projects occuring more frequently and they form great, longlasting partnerships. (I like the wi-fi idea… but again, not subsidized by the State.) It is important that any additions to not take away from or interfere with popular traditional uses.

Sonya Rodgers

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Submitted on 2012/11/19 at 3:02 pm

You forgot to mention a third option, which is to fund state public lands with public money. Our legislators are giving huge tax breaks to corporations, then telling us they can't fund essential services, like education, libraries, healthcare, and access to open spaces and recreation? The money is there, it's just not being spent in the public's interests.

I don't want to see any corporate branding, period. I go to the woods to get away from that.

I'm generally okay with parks providing extra fee amenities, like canoe rentals, but not at the expense of established businesses nearby.

Peg

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Submitted on 2012/11/19 at 12:30 pm

I agree with all the statements Chris posted on Nov. 19 at 9:30 am. The replies he/she posted were spot on.

Lindsay F.

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Submitted on 2012/11/19 at 11:45 am

While ideologically I am opposed to all three of these proposals, the State budget is suffering and if we are to keep our State Parks open we need to seek alternate forms of revenue. With that in mind, my feelings are the following:

a. Corporate names for parks would seriously disrupt the sense of place that a state park provides, limiting people's personal and emotional connection to the place. When we are on our way to Mount Pilchuck State Park we know that we are going to an area that is special because of the presence of Mount Pilchuck. If we were on our way to the Boeing State Park at Mount Pilchuck, our sense of place would be seriously distorted, the name leaving the impression of corporate ownership. Corporations should not have ownership over public land, even if it is just in a name. A small placard under the parks name saying "sponsored in part by XXX corporation" would be more acceptable.

Advertising in state parks would need to have very careful guidelines in place. Putting up large billboards would be extremely disruptive to the natural environment. Smaller ad banners on buildings, bulletin boards, kiosks etc. would be more tolerable.

b. Commercial businesses would need to be carefully matched to appropriate parks. Heavily visited areas might benefit from a snack shop or restaurant, and may even draw in more users. State Parks that have a campground might benefit from a concession providing camping gear. More isolated state parks that might only offer a few hiking trails would be less appropriate choices for concession stands. Concessions would need to be small, and cater to the needs of users.

c. New types of recreation need to be matched to existing uses. It would be inappropriate to install a zipline near horseback riding trails, but it might work out well near a campground heavily used by families.

In summary, there is no blanket answer to these questions. Each advertisement, commercial business and new recreation use need to be matched appropriately to the State Park it is proposed at. Just like the urban-planners use form-based code to determine whether new development fits the vision of an area on a case-by-case

basis, our State Parks should adopt a similar approach.

Dolcideleria

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Submitted on 2012/11/19 at 10:56 am

a. I really don't like the idea of corporations getting naming rights over parks and public/community resources. The name would tend to imply ownership, even when this wasn't the case. And what happens when a corporation changes it's name or gets acquired? Qwest Field in Seattle will always be Qwest Field to me, despite that it's now CenturyLink field, which only confuses me and everyone I talk with.

b. I think I'm ok with select (limited) small businesses within a park. There should be local alternatives outside the park, as well. We visited a lot of national parks over this past summer and it was really helpful that there were restaurants and supply shops within the parks, since sometimes that worked out best for our day of exploring within the park. But I wouldn't want the commercial options within the park to crowd out or overwhelm or take precedence to the natural wonders of the park.

c. Limited wi-fi/cell service is good. It's helpful for getting additional info about the park so visitors can plan their visits. Also, some cell service could be helpful for people needing to call for help (lost, injured, etc). I don't have a problem with other activities as long as they make sense within the context of the park and, as before, don't overwhelm the natural offerings of the park. They shouldn't impinge on views, wildlife, dark night skies or the natural sounds. I'd say no to thrill rides (like roller coasters) or immersive video experiences, or anything else that detracts from or obscures the natural offerings of the park.

Nate

nathanp@orfh.org

Submitted on 2012/11/18 at 11:10 pm

a. Absolutely not! There are precious few places we can escape advertising and sponsorship as it is. The 'branding' of our natural landscapes would be an abomination. I cannot believe this would even be considered.

b and c. Shops and/or things like zip lines in discreet locations could make sense. We already have similar things in some areas and if they were used to support the conservation and restoration of our natural landscapes then it makes sense. Obviously something like a zip line should not be allowed just anywhere but if it is done well it could be a positive amenity. As for Wifi, I can see both sides to this argument. I love being able to get away from all my electronics but, it could be very helpful for things like search and rescue amongst many others. Also, unlike advertising or branding, Wifi effectively disappears into the landscape if you are not using it. I could see this making more sense on a case by case basis rather than one blanket policy.

But please don't start advertising in the parks. I don't care how discreet it is, that's a terrible idea.

As a side note to all three: Public parks ought to be funded and supported by the public not by private enterprises. I understand there are many budget crunches right now and public parks have taken their fair share of cuts but can't we at least recognize and (financially) support the value of preserving our public assets?

Tom Baker

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Submitted on 2012/11/18 at 7:38 pm

I would survey other state parks and see what they have done and what is working, Idaho SPs each have posts by staff on whats going on.

Naming – is there that much interest from corporations? In Bremerton we have Lions Park and that for the Lions, also Kiwanis Park, each mention or visit is promotion for those organizations.

Small commercial stores can generate revenue, and at the parks where they are at

now, seem to be popular. Some small SPs would have a limited market,

Recreation and Technology – absolutely. Zip lines would be a huge draw. Technology, well most parts have electricity and many will not camp without it. If WI-FI fills spots, then I am for it.

Sharon Wilhelm

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Submitted on 2012/11/18 at 7:11 pm

I'm opposed to corporate logos on any state park. We don't need more advertising.

In the case of small stores, most national parks have them near the entrances or near the parking, and I've found them to be very useful. Oregon state parks have them, too, and they maintain their rustic look and feel, selling camping items, rain gear and so forth. So I think small stores would be fine if they are kept close to the park entrances.

I have no experience with zip lines so I can't comment on those. I will say, though, that I have no interest in using electronic gadgets when I'm in a park. It's fine with me if we never have internet access in them.

girl

r-m-j@wildmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/18 at 7:07 pm

Advertising and corporate names – absolutely not. Just the thought is disgusting. Don't prostitute our parks.

Commercial businesses – very small concessions could be helpful for visitors if carefully limited. Snacks, boat rentals, that kind of thing.

Zip lines? no. Ridiculous. WiFi? maybe, it's pretty non-intrusive. Really people need to unplug once in a while but it might help some people look up weather reports, animal identification, stuff like that.

Jim Tuggle

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Submitted on 2012/11/18 at 5:49 pm

I think we need to look at the current fiscal failures of our parks, and create new or additional ways to bring funding into our parks. However, I'm not for supporting billboard type corporate sponsorship at any of our existing parks, but would support a plaque or something similar as "The Microsoft Family Outdoor Theatre" if the donation of this item was memorialized on a small plaque, or something similar and non-intrusive.

I think it is essential to have a few small businesses inside the park, especially small grocery stores and possibly souvenir shops. The challenge here is to keep them away from the natural areas, and in an appropriate locations. If funding is the biggest challenge for our parks right now, this would be one way to gain some. I went to Yellowstone last year. You have to wait in line at Old Faithful to buy souvenirs or snacks and groceries. BUT, 99% of the rest of the park is kept as natural as it can be kept given the millions of visitors. We need to market our parks. Different people's perception of parks differs greatly. Some of the comments I've read here certainly want peace and quiet. But I've been to parks with noisy swimming areas, and racous baseball diamonds. That didn't bother me. Put in a boat launch at Flaming Geyser Park on the Green River to promote floating the river for wildlife viewing or fishing. Put in a zip line across a river.

So why not offer activities such as zip lines in a few of our parks? Let some private company construct it to strict specifications, and pay the park a portion of the proceeds. Let that company deal with the insurance, etc. Unfortunately, the people who enjoy peace and quietude don't amount to enough of a support community to pay the state's park bills. I think we need something for every one, almost.

"If you build it they will come."

Dave Troup

DukYuk@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/18 at 12:21 pm

Yes

Yes

and Yes.

Private sponsors have had their names all over public property for decades. Corporate funds for the same plaques in the same places (so to speak) would provide a continual source of income rather than a “one hit wonder”. Taken to the extreme it could be the undoing of the concept of a public park. We could leave the physical foot print of sponsorship tastefully sublime and still cash in on it.

I don’t think parks need “generic” retail stores. I have however on MANY occassions taken advantage of “commercial” type facilities in or just outside entrances to parks. These usually stock items relative to the area or experience. Firewood, fishing gear, trail maps, batteries, assorted sundries. Also housing the enterprise in a structure complimentary or consistant with the predominent use of the area adds to the experience rather than creating an eye sore too closely depicting the things we are trying to escape. High use areas are already over run. You can’t destroy a wilderness that is no longer there. Lake Chelan State Park would be a good example of this. All things in moderation and relative to the predominate use of the park would be ok in my book.

Eco tourism would be a great business for the state. Not everywhere of course. Only in designated areas much like ORV parks are designated with user specific trail designs. The idea being, (in my opinion) to raise cash for self perpetuation of course, also to fund other more remote parks. Look at the UW Huskies football program.

Wi-Fi is already more or less everywhere. It’s part of our lives. The same people who say no to that are likely carrying GPS in their packs.

Ashley Harrington

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Submitted on 2012/11/18 at 10:59 am

1. NAMING RIGHTS/ADVERTISING, I think it would be terrible to trade our beautiful, descriptive, and traditional park names for Verizon State Park, etc! I'm pretty sure I'm not the only one with this opinion. I'm in love with the beautiful outdoor places in this state, partially because it's a great way to escape the constant drone of the TV (especially commercials) and everything else we're exposed to in our normal lives. I'd hate to see the same tired distractions in my wilderness areas! Not to mention that outdoor advertising in a state park probably won't realistically inspire anyone to switch their wireless plan, etc. "Gee, I didn't even consider Verizon until I saw that tacky park bench in Verizon State Park!" So in conclusion, I'd have to give a negitive opinion on any corporate rights to naming or advertising. I'd suggest SMALL plaques on existing benches acknowledging corporate contributions or 'sponsership', and also getting the employees of said companies to donate volunteer hours for trail maintenance, shoreline clean-up, etc. Then the employees would gain the benefit of fresh air and blessed silence while they worked, maybe a few would even recognize their dream job is in simple work outdoors and start to work towards that! And we'd be left with a park unmarred by their tacky loud advertising. 2. ZIPLINES/RETAIL, I firstly recognize that installing ziplines will cost a good sum in the first place, along with some sort of mandatory insurance in case if death/injury. So it sounds expensive, and who knows how long/if these initial expenditures will take to pay off. I own a small business and pay my industrial insurance bill EVERY month. I'm curious as to how much revenue a zipline would really generate in the three month of WA summer, and if that would be enough to even cover the year's insurance, maintenance and construction, and the employee's pay who supervises it's use. Plus additional funds for equipment like helmets. My thought is that people can already go elsewhere to Zipline, and the state should spend some serious time watching traffic at those places, to see if there's even a need for a rural zipline in a state park. Would there be enough customers to generate MORE revenue than is needed to cover costs? If not, the State Park loses. As far as concession stores go, as long as they're small and constructed to look like traditional neighboring park structures, I think they would be unobtrusive and on occassion, helpful! Campers in resorts often have little

stores, AND they seem to actually purchase from them while vacationing! So I think small stores could be a positive change to the park system. However, they may only be profitable in the summer months, so it might take some effort to find a merchant who only wanted to work seasonally. Also, I'd suggest a small 'made in WA' section where local artisans could sell crafts, foodstuffs, and books. I'm constantly looking for good souveniers on my vacations! 3. INTERNET, choosing to pay for internet would be the least destructive to the park of these three options. However, I question how it would increase revenue, unless the assumption is that more people would come to state parks if they/they're children could surf the web? Basically, my feeling is that those people aren't trying to use the space for it's main purpose, outdoor recreation. And also, that you can get internet in the parking lot of Home Depot and McDonalds, without having to even make a purchase. So why would someone travel to a state park to use it? My thought is that it will not attract additional visitors, and maybe that the park service should focus overall on improving services for the part of the population that DOES value an internet-free escape in the woods! We're your loyal customers! And rather than downgrade OUR experiance by trying to attract one-time-zipline-riders and internet obsessors and corporate sponsership, you should be trying to CUT costs and bring them down to a level that can be sustained with existing revenue and government funds. Also, we should, as a state, realize the unreplaceable value of our many acres of state parks, and bring that message to our state government and ask them to fund a set portion of operating funds each year, and make up the difference with volunteer hours and donations. We could set it up like a nonprofit business who hires someone to organize fundraising and community involvement.

Dennis Cobb

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Submitted on 2012/11/18 at 10:32 am

a. Please keep the advertising out of the parks including corprate sponsors. If a private group or company would like to"adopt" a park to provide volunteers to assist

the rangers, a recognition sign would be acceptable.

b. I avoid parks with concesson stands. I would be against adding more then the current number, but would be willing to look at individual park needs. Not for increased revenue.

c. Keep the vip lines and WiFi out of the parks. Keep the parks natural and quiet.

Dale Montgomery

dalemontgomery1@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/18 at 10:20 am

1. With regards to the first question, I feel ok with advertising in public park with a caveat that the Park Dept be in charge in the manner displayed. I would expect to see a natural blend of advertising to nature and the great outdoors. I also think that the advertising or corporate names should have a standardized look that has no bought out differences. No big fancy colors to compete for your attention. ect…

2. In terms of groceries and gifts, I think a better way of addressing funding can be a achieved. However, i would be lightly opposed to it.

3. Im all in for new types of recreation. Due to the fact that culture of recreation changes with new generations. With that thought, wi-fi should be essential in recreating. Especially a some kind of recreation involving social communtication. There are many different ways that could be a whole new topic. For now I will leave it at that. I would like to specifically bring up Mountain Biking. Although not new, mountain biking can be approached in a new way. Take Larrabee State Park for example. A new approach could be taken, in terms of advertising and accomodations, to make it more of a destination or micro-hub for mountain biking on the hills just above the park. An example of accomodating mt bikers could be providing shuttle services to the top for a fee.

Shannon

sfj@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/18 at 10:02 am

I think there is room for different kinds of uses in different parks. If there can be places for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians, then why not people who want to use zip lines? As long as they are managed responsibly and safely, their use can be balanced with the needs of others.

Also, there are concessionaires in national parks, so I can see them also operating in state parks. Again, they would have to be managed responsibly.

Sharon

bermoo@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/18 at 8:44 am

A. Absolutely not. We don't need our parks to look like sports fields with logos plastered all over.

B. Possibly, depending on the park, if tastefully done and limited to certain items. Our National Parks seem to do this quite well.

C. No to ziplines and wi-fi. We need places to go be away from all of the tech.

Also, I am willing to pay more in taxes for our parks as long as it is just for that purpose. I buy the Discover Pass but really it is exclusive because not all folks can. We need for everyone to share, this is what community is all about.

Mike Kasper

ipaforme@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/18 at 8:33 am

NO, NO, NO, NO!!!! No more 'enhancement'. I'm tired of this line of thinking that 'vew enhancement' = cutting down trees. IMO,, the 'mitigation' effort on the Cape Horn Trail top is a waste of tax money. Enough with the 'enhancements' already. No

to all of this stuff. No to all 3 ideas here.

ANTON WOODY

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Submitted on 2012/11/18 at 8:01 am

A: NO

B: NO

C: NO

I pay so much for ORV tabs, Boating tabs,Fishing licensing, Hunting Licensing, Parking passes of all types for my family and I. If all this money went to what i bought them for the money should go farther.

Michael Wingren

mugende1@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/17 at 9:47 pm

I'm fine with any of the three, as long as they are done tastefully (in the parking lot, not on the trail)

Mike Ames

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Submitted on 2012/11/17 at 9:41 pm

Mostly no on A. I think allowing logos and corporate advertising should be kept to a very bare minimum.

B. Reasonable utility type stores that serve a practical purpose are great…gift shops and other junk stores are tacky and bloong at Disneyland…not a state park.

C. The more activities the better.

george strampher

george996@wildblue.net

Submitted on 2012/11/17 at 1:28 pm

A. NO

B. Yes to small stores and gift shops, no alcohol sales.

C. Zip lines and other recreational sports are ok depends on location. I would like to see more disabled access to public lakes in Eastern WA.

David Anderson

asutinzoo@wavecable.com

Submitted on 2012/11/17 at 1:02 pm

No to corporate names and ziplines. A small “country store” would be OK as long as it doesn’t take away from available camping sites. Wi-Fi, as it may be a good thing in certain settings, I don’t think belongs in a campground. When going to a campground most people’s mindset is we’re trying to get away from that ball & chain to begin with. Furthermore not many parks are going to be able to get a decent signal.

Art

Aschick2@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/17 at 9:53 am

A – No to Corporate names. We the Public own these parks.

B – small stores and gift shops are OK in or adjacent the parks that will suport them. Blake Isl, Penrose Point and Jarrell Cove are good examples.

C – If unobtrusive and it pays for itself give it a try.

Lori Lennox

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Submitted on 2012/11/17 at 9:26 am

In an ideal world I would say 'no' to all three. This is not an ideal world. The days of being able to fund our recreation opportunities from state taxes is gone (for now at least) and I can only see shut downs and erosion of facilities and opportunities of our state parks in the future. So reluctantly, yes to all three but in only limited ways and areas of the parks. Say around the entrances of the larger parks only. If you look at many private parks, zoos, museums, you will have amenities such as food, gift shops, bike rentals, etc. when you first enter but when you get a bit further out you are away from the corporate world. Many large parks have areas that are not used and if a zip line would fit in without detracting or endangering hikers, bikers and equestrians and if the profits generated go directly back to that particular park, then I say yes.

I would like to see more 'adoptions' of trail and facility care offered to organizations who specialize in that: WA Trails Assn, Back Country Horsemen, etc. And locals might come together to form an alliance for a specific park, such as the Friends of Schafer and Lake Sylvia have done. http://www.theschaferstateparkteam.org/

Marion

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Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 7:23 pm

All these ideas are really objectionable. Parks should be set up for people to enjoy natural beauty and quiet, the little bit that is left. In fact, I have yet to see a Washington State Park that is adequate to this idea. Every one I have visited is WAY too overdeveloped, with elaborate campgrounds, boat launches, acres of mowed grass, stores, you name it. Think Dosewallips or Kitsap Memorial, parks that have everything I do not want to experience. Trails and walks should be the essential

element, with lots of natural vegetation. I suggest that the entire effort be radically rethought to get rid of these expensive and old fashioned features. Young people and active older people do not want or need this expensive junk. And DO NOT expect me and other park users to pay for maintaining this dead white guy approach to parks. Nature with a bit of trail building is enough, and in fact, ideal. RETHINK!!!!

TW

wardti2@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 7:03 pm

I think public parks should remain without ads or corporate names. My hope is that we can fund them without ziplines. Small concessions would be ok, but not past a trailhead. Wifi seems unobtrusive and if it can raise revenue, good.

Rose

roxanapeace@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 4:05 pm

A) No, I do not support advertising in Parks. Corporate names? Like “Verizon Riverside State Park?” Please, please, please don’t ever go that route. That would be terrible.

B) I would rather not have concessionaires in the Parks. They have done this federally with the NPS and I dislike the direction that is taking. They are in it for business and profit more than for conservation and protection. I think small gift shops with local information/books on the history, flora and fauna and geology, etc. of that area would be alright. Similar to a Visitor’s Center in the National Parks. For State Parks with camping facilities, a small shop with camping supplies or food that people may have forgotten may even be a good idea. It takes manpower and paychecks to run a Visitor’s Center but it can be done and may help add revenue to the Parks. Is there something like an NHA (Natural History Association) for State Parks? I don’t know the facts but it seems like the NHA assists the NPS with book sales and such in National Parks but they’re not necessarily federal employees. I’m not sure. **Can volunteer

associations (not private retailers) assist in running small gift shops or grocery stores/bait shops without being paid State Money but with revenue going toward the Parks?**

C) I think public parks should remain natural and not include wifi or tourist attractions. Instead of zip lines (which sound fun to me but I saw some horse people with good reasons against them) how about good trails that lead through a nice area or provide a nice view? That's good enough for me. I don't think people need to be using wifi in the woods in a State Park. (For someone who said they're not wilderness lands I disagree somewhat. They're as public as the Nat'l Forest and for some they are easier to access and still provide a natural experience!) For the most part I think WA State Parks get decent satellite coverage and if it's any deeper in the wild than that, it should remain techno free (as much as possible). I think on a park by park basis this could be different depending on popular opinion and a look at who uses the park the most.

Nadia Gardner

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Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 4:02 pm

a. Advertising: Limited advertising could be allowed in more developed parks, like those with campgrounds or big motor boat launches. No big billboards, but a kiosk or 3 with ads would be fine.

Corporate names: Absolutely not. A wall of supporters and public thanks at events and in press releases should be sufficient.

b. Concessions: Only in more developed parks like campgrounds or big motor boat launches- cafes and gift shops

c. New recreation: Ziplines should be concessions and only in very developed parks. Better to focus on other amenities to draw visitors, like off street bike trails, swimming areas, kids play structures, docks. More yurts and cabins would bring in more money and would also provide room tax to local communities. But tent camping

in natural areas should always also be provided at low cost for lower income people.

Technology: Wireless internet in campgrounds only. Maybe charge for it. Also, having a computer cafe with 2 computers in campgrounds could bring in extra funds also.

Pat Powell

pat@wclt.org

Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 3:53 pm

a. No to advertising and no to corporate. Parks are for being outdoors and away from all these commercial things.

b. There are a few parks this might be okay in but for the most part, no – keep them natural. Those parks that are heavy on organized recreation with swimming pools, ball fields, and have a commercial feel already might. But, I don't go to those parks because they are not very natural.

c. Leave them natural. If folks want zip lines, WI FI, etc., let the private sector businesses provide these. Again, keeping parks natural provides such a respite from the busy world we all live in day-to-day and state parks should be a place to get away from all that and be part of nature again.

Uli Steidl

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Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 2:33 pm

1) Naming rights to Park is not OK. Naming buildings (like The Microsoft visitor center) is OK. It's a public park, not the Wells Fargo Bridle Trails State Park.

Any advertising should not be "in your face" and detract from the experience.

2) a SMALL consession stand or conveniance store right next to the parking lot would be acceptable. It should blend in with the park with their architecture….

2) Zip lines and playgrounds and wi-fi would ba acceptable in SOME more urban Parks,

like St Edwards. Limit wi-fi to the parking lot area / near buildings.

Jim Eychaner

jim623mo@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 2:28 pm

Yes to commercial activity. Campgrounds could offer stores, for example. Yes to activities such as zip lines. Yes to keeping up with technology.

Katie Trotter

katie_trotter@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 1:45 pm

While I would prefer to keep our parks completely natural and pristine, I know that money must be generated in order to preserve our parks in the first place. My response to the following suggestions is as follows:

a) This seems fine to me

b) I don't like this idea. If it must be done, it should be a small store in a contained area, near the park entrance-expansion at any time (present or future) should not be an option.

c) There are other places specifically meant for this kind of activity. I would say that, unless the park lends itself to this type of recreation (parking/recreation area for large groups, noise tolerant, etc), it should not be considered.

J Schiessl

jschiessl@ci.richland.wa.us

Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 12:12 pm

Some state parks would lend themselves to these revenue enhancements more than others. I would support these new ideas provided there was a public process to

identify which parks are best as natural areas and which could accomodate limited provision of goods and services, new revenue generating recreation activities, and low-impact corporate sponsorships.

Eva Tyler

tylerpawjesse@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 12:08 pm

A. Advertising or corporate names? Absolutely not. Parks should remain places where people can go to get away from that type of thing. No one wants to see advertisements in the parks. Corporate names for parks just smacks of commercialism. If a corporation wants to make a donation to a park, then they should get acknowledgement with a small, tasteful plaque.

B. For some parks a small store or gift shop could be appropriate. But it needs to be done with the nature of the park in mind. No one wants to go to a park and find a mall. National Parks have gift shops and small stores with groceries and camping supplies. This model could work for some parks.

C. Keep the parks natural. People should go to parks to get out in nature and nature provides many things to do without adding activities, such as zip lines that are better left to a commercial enterprise. A definitely no to wi-fi. People today, particularly children, are too disconnected from nature as it is. Adding technology will defeat the purpose of having the park in the first place.

Jeremy

52hikes52weekends.blogspot.com/ x

stubbs.jeremy@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 11:22 am

a. I go to public parks to escape the made up world where we all spend most of our lives. We cannot allow corporations to invade every area of our life. These places

should be left as natural as possible.

b. I feel my response to this question is the same as above. There are plenty of grocery stores on the way to parks. I like the idea of an online store for stuff parks related, but I don't want to hike past stores and gift shops when I am trying to escape the commercialism of my daily life.

c. Parks should remain completely natural, other than amenities that ensure access for all people. I am okay with ramps and sidewalks that give all people access, but WiFi is ridiculous.

Betty Wagoner

yakingfannies@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 11:19 am

a. No, parks are areas of public recreation. A place to try to get away from the tensions of everyday life.

b. Small commercial activities, appropriately placed have worked well within the Federal Parks program; and, they can within the State's system.

c. Yes, assuming the goal is to generate greater use with minimal impacts on liability and commercialism. I would encourage inclusion of horse camping & trails to facilitate increased access by the large community of horsemen within and without our State. For instance, Pearrygin Lake State Park, in size and location, provides an excellent opportunity to facilitate both camping and trail riding with horses in mind.

As a side note, it would be of greater value if the State would quit buying additional properties; and, focus on maintaining and enhancing existing properties.

E.L.M.

scottnerika@frontier.com

Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 11:13 am

A – No corporate naming rights for our parks . Plaques or nameplates for sponsoring

things like a stage (i.e. Larrabee) or other large infrastructure would be ok. Individuals already get recognition for benches and such, corporations or local business could be encouraged to sponsor pre-existing things, or things that are planned anyway, in a similar fashion.

B.- This depends on the location and type of park. Keep it related to the park, equipment rental or sales, (sunscreen, snacks etc.). A small business selling the appropriate pass would be fine, there is so much confusion on passes these days. Maps, books, visitor info type business would probably be ok, once again depending on the park.

C – Canopy trails, zip lines, groomed ski trails in winter, or guided tours that the visitor would pay for could be ok in certain parks. Wi-Fi would be fine, could even enhance visitor experience on nature trails, near the business /parking area, at arenas or sports fields. Please no Wi-Fi in campgrounds, or in remote areas intended for "getting away from it all".

Most of our state parks are already crowded and over used in the summer months. Generating interest and increasing revenues during the off season would be a good strategy.

Pat

phtower@earthlink.net

Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 10:42 am

I think the answer to all of these would be that it would have to be determined on a park-to-park basis. We definitely need more funding for our parks, but I'm opposed to charging people to use a public park, as it is the only recreation low income families have. In order to increase funding, I think that all three of these could be considered depending upon the park.

For advertising, while I can see it in some parks, it would need to be limited so as not to disturb the beauty of the park.

Groceries/concessions would also have to be limited to those parks that would

support them. The small concession at Fort Warden comes to mind. This is a park that something like that would work in, but they definitely should not be put in passive parks.

Adding activities, again, could be considered selectively.

Every park is different, usage is different, people's needs are different. Any changes would need to be consdered carefully. I do feel, though, that these ideas might be good options for some parks. Something needs to be done in order to be able take the general usage fees off of the parks.

J.L.

bowlbarn@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 10:39 am

a. What do you think about advertising in parks or corporate names for public parks? I don't think advertising is appropriate in natural parks. We are so bombarded by advertising in our lives that our parks should be a sanctuary where we do not have to contend with the prevailing commercialization of the rest of our lives.

b. Is it ok to have commercial businesses, such as small grocery stores and gift shops, or should they stay completely natural? If near the entrance or camping area where they would also offer a convenience to visitors and some measure of security for the park and the design of the building was in keeping with the nature, I could see some limited use of this vehicle to help subsidize our parks.

c. Should public parks embrace new types of recreation (zip lines) and new technology (wi-fi access) or remain more natural? No zip lines.

Wi-fi access could be a real asset for safety/security and for the enjoyment of visitors with the ability of visitors to identify plant material, birds, etc. or even have a guided tour of the park similar to those of museums.

Forsman Jim

jifman@embarqmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 10:38 am

a) No

b) No

c) Only in limited areas with similar uses; so as not to disturb historical users.

MikeW

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Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 9:26 am

Great survey. Yes to all 3, but obviously not everywhere and obviously with limitations. I feel the strongest about C. Having recreated around the US and the word, I feel WA (especially Western WA) has really shut down too many opportunities to expand outdoor recreation to younger, newer and more diverse users. If we don't get younger generations and a more diverse demographic to love and care for the outdoors, it'll just be a matter of time before we lose it entirely. We need to give up a little "nature" here and there to save it all in the long run. Giving up a little nature could mean some form of advertising in a few places, a cafe near a few trailheads or new trails or amenities for new user groups. Can't help but spill on this topic…

A) Yes – obviously with limits. If I answered from a purely selfish perspective, my answer would be a huge NO! I hate the way we are bombarded with advertising all day long and it's nice to get away from it. But as mentioned over and over again, Parks have a problem to solve: not enough $$ to stay open. It's unrealistic to think increased fees will cover it all or enough of a tax increase to cover it will go through without a civil war. So subtle private/corporate sponsorship of parks, trails, benches and other features is an awesome and minimally intrusive way to generate revenue. Please no large billboard ads at the trailhead or along the trail. And please no video ads running in an endless loop at the ranger station.

B) Yes. Same thing. I personally prefer to never set foot inside a gift shop. Can't stand 'em. But lots people must like 'em and they must be making lotsa money or

there wouldn't be so many of them at tourist destinations. If the business model works, go for it – with obvious limitations. Small grocery stores and cafes… much better IMHO.

C) Yes. Huge Yes! We must attract more diverse users to parks. I've attended the last 3 WA State Trails conferences and have seen the aging population of trail and park stewards (I include myself in that). I've heard the many presentations dealing with that issue. I've seen it on the trails and at volunteer work parties over the last 2 decades. It's real. We've got to find new ways to get kids and families away from the couch and back into parks and taking an interest in the outdoors. And we have to find new ways of empowering volunteers and community groups to take more ownership of parks and trails. Once again, personally I have no interest in zip lines, but if the business model works and it can help fund parks and it can bring new younger more diverse users into parks… go for it. Wifi – sure. Mountain biking, rock climbing, trails designed for running, etc all need to be considered. How many peaks are there next to large population centers that only have radio towers and buzzing concrete shacks on them? What else could be done on those peaks that could generate revenue for parks and entice more diverse users into parks?

But not everywhere. Every single park can't serve every individual's needs and desires. But across the spectrum of parks in WA… State Parks, DNR, NPS, USFS, County, Municipal… we can! From active recreation parks like Marymoor serving hundreds of user groups (baseball, soccer, cricket, velodrome, rock climbing, off-leash doggies, etc) to remote wilderness (there is over 100 million acres of designated wilderness in the US and 4.5 Million acres of that is in WA), we need to find the right balance.

Mary

mmccluskey@cityofpoulsbo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 8:36 am

a. This is a tough call, as I know how difficult funding is for parks, and advertising dollars would help boost available funds to make improvements. But, I would not like

the use of signs throughout the park. Maybe acknowledgements just at the entry way and then noted in brochures.

b. No concessions/food shops, as the problem with garbage will increase. Shop before you hike!

c. To add an activity such as a zip line must be assessed on a park-by-park basis. Some areas/communities may support the concept while others may not. I don't think there is one answer for all parks/communities. Wi fi is okay is it is non obtrusive.

Darcy

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Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 8:14 am

1. Yes. Naming rights might be appropriate for specific areas or especially facilities within parks, such as amphitheaters, guest houses, yurts etc. Actually changing the names of existing parks less acceptable.

2. Yes. As a private campground owner myself, I know the value of a small convenience store near in the park, or easily accessible from the park. Today's state park visitors are not looking for a "wilderness" experience. They want hotdogs, marshmellows, espresso–even a small cafe'–and snacks. A smart organization (especially a cash-strapped one) provides that. There are tens of thousands of acres of DNR, USFS land with no conveniences to cater to people looking for a truely wild experience. State parks are often tucked in more populated areas and along heavily traveled routes. Take advantage of this with smartly placed concessions! National parks do it, and they are premier "nature" destinations, too.

3. Absolutely, yes. Again look at the success of yurts. Wash state parks are not wilderness areas. People looking for a wilderness experience go to the national Forest. These "adventures" could be tailored to tie with the scenic features of each park and include interpretive elements. Many national parks do this: Crater Lake boat rides, Grand Canyon mule trips and raft tours, Dune buggies (Oregon Dunes nat. Rec. area) or even riding a ski lift in the summer. Zip lines in timber could help folks appreciate the diversity of the canopy. Boat or raft tours are the only way to feel the

power of a river. People want experiences–they are tired of going to public land and being nagged “don’t touch”. Successful eco-tourism requires opportunities for unique experiences. That they might make more money is a bonus.

Michael Higgins

LopezIsland x

michaelhiggins@rockisland.com

Submitted on 2012/11/16 at 7:44 am

I do not support advertising or corporate naming of parks. Though I would encourage corporate donations, I favor public funding of our state and county parks.

Commercial businesses don’t belong on public lands and can function effectively off-site on adjacent properties if they want to serve park populations.

I believe that parks should remain as natural as possible and provide recreational enjoyment that should not include park-sponsored wi-fi.

Matt S.

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Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 7:50 pm

Yes to all three. Since voters in this state have approved measures making it near-impossible to raise taxes, and public parks’ budgets are already near breaking, the only alternative is to find new revenue sources. Don’t want corporate-sponsored logos or revenue-generating businesses in parks? Write a check or convince your legislator to restore parks funding. Otherwise, we’re facing a future of parks closing because ideologues refuse to accept fiscal reality.

Susie S.

sseip@centurytel.net

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 7:48 pm

Horseback rider:

a. no, please no corporate advertising or intrusion

b. grocery, gift shop only ok

c. wifi ok, no zip lines or anything like that that takes away from the nature experience on horseback or scares horses

Tricia Foster

Triciaann777@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 7:22 pm

There are very few places to 'escape' to that are beautiful, and close to 'home' for many people. Keep them natural and clean as possible. Consession stands 'sound great' but you'll invite much more garbage in the areas. Places like Marymore park and others where there are baseball dimonds/soccer fields/basketball hoops are appropriate for little stores/consessions,

No corporate logos. Swing sets, pools and more cabins to rent out. No wifi or zip lines needed. The most important thing to me, more trails, and clean (cleaner) water .

Scott Fortman

scottf37@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 7:10 pm

A – no corporate names on any parks. Small tasteful nameplates for sponsors of certain amenities like a picnic shelter or bench would be OK. Nothing on trails or in natural areas. No billboards and such eyesores.

B.- Depends on the location and type of park and the type of business. May be OK for some urban parks but not for natural areas, especially out in the mountains. When OK, these businesses should only provide simple food and drink or items related to use of the park like equipment rentals – rent a kayak at a lake for example. Don't

turn our parks into malls. We go there to escape that crap.

C – Once again depends on the location and type of park. None of this belongs in a park of hiking trails or a setting intended for solitude. An already busy or noisy park would not likely be harmed by a zip line. Wi-fi should be limited to active areas like sports fields.

For all of these, don't let the brain dead or greedy ruin it for everyone. All of life is not about making money. We don't need to be connected all the time. Some things like parks and education just need to be funded properly. Let's use taxes to maintain our parks the way they were meant to be. Keep user fees low or non-existent for low income people.

arbordoun

gravatar.com/arbordoun x

arbordoun@rockisland.com

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 7:02 pm

No concessions, or small stores; keep it natural.

No Wi-fi.

Perhaps corporations could donate/ support the parks, but have an ever-so-small acknowledgment somewhere in the park/or park brochure..?

Sondra J

sgjohn1234@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 6:33 pm

No corporate logos in state parks. We're overloaded with advertising on roads, ball parks, etc.

No stores or any kind, there'd be garbage, then a bigger charge for park use to hire someone to pick it up

No zip lines or wifi–leave parks as natural as possible with trails for equestrian, hiking and bikes and minimum roads.

Benay

kbwenger@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 6:33 pm

A) Public parks should not have advertising or corporate names, however, if an company/organization donated funding or purchased a particular item for the park I think it would be acceptable to have a small plaque/metal label identifying the donor or funds provider on the item.

B) Parks should stay natural.

C) I am an equestrian and Backcountry Horseman member and am strongly opposed to ziplines, especially in any area that I may be riding or handling a horse–that's a recipe for disaster.

Ina Ross

msmzwiz@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 6:17 pm

I support WiFi

maybe a small store for hiking supplies

Nancy Doran

nhdoran@charter.net

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 5:38 pm

I would prefer not to have corporate logos on parks but various businesses (gift shops/ zip lines etc)might be acceptable depending on the nature of the particular park

Dennis Rudek

drudek@nctv.com

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 3:44 pm

NO to question a : No to question b : Maybe to WI-Fi access

Alyson M I

alysonindrunas@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 3:04 pm

No way would I ever want to a corporate logo in a state park. Public parks should remain the one place we can go to without the ever-increasing ubiquity of corporate logos.

No. Let's follow the "Pack it in, Pack it out" rule here. We have plenty of stores on the way to state parks.

No Wifi. No Zip Lines.

Dick Price

dickprice@nctv.com

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 2:45 pm

State parks are an important part of bringing tourism to the state, as such funding sources are important.

Advertising ok if done discreetly

Store/Gift shop good way to get local items available for park visitors.

Commercial activities that can be incorporated without causing a disruption to the "park experience" could be tried.

perry barrett

biparks.org x

perry@biparks.org

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 2:41 pm

A) Advertising in parks is a 'no' for me. We have advertising in almost every venue and parks should generally be a refuge free from commercial messaging. A corporate donor as part of a general donation commoration that includes other donors is sufficient in my mind. Naming rights for a park in honor of a corporation is not acceptable unless the organization is no longer in business. Today's venerable businesses can make bad future judgments just as admirable living people occasionally make poor choices.

B) Grocery stores are acceptable in certain settings for a specific category of park, for instance, a marina, or other destination where groceries would be expected. That said, the control on facility design should be decisions retained by the agency rather than delegated to the grantee/company. At no moment should the park experience be associated with identifiable corporate architecture. "There's a Denny's" moments should not be tolerated and detracts from why people go to parks.

C) New types of recreation should be reviewed from time to time, depending on the purpose of the park. Something like a zip line might add to the experience in one park but detract from the intention of another park. Natural areas or scenic designations are less accommodating to recreation re-tooling by their mission to offer experiences in context to specifically protected landscapes. On the other hand, parks located near or in urban areas may have a higher level of human interaction in the park space; re-tooling portions of the landscape for different experiences may be more acceptable and timely, subject to public participation processes and covenants.

Charlene Schwartz

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cls4salmon@frontier.com

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 1:02 pm

Your questions are very timely. In the past National and State Parks have done all of those things to increase revenue. However, there seems to be things that were done that impacted the long term ecology of the parks and others that did not. For instance, in the early years of the Olympic National Park, many things were done to encourage big game hunting, like introducing Rocky Mountain Goats, building lodges etc . This was also done in Glacier National Park. I remember my Mom talking about riding on horses to Many Glacier National Park and the evening entertainment was watching the bears eat the garbage. I know we have come a long way since then. So my answer to all three is will they impact the park heavily in the future.

A. No-to stop people from using a park name exclusively prohibits smaller businesses from identifying their services with a certain park. I do not want big business to be able to buy out something that can be used by all.

B. Small gift shops are iconic. I am all for them. Perhaps we could make sure that most of the gifts are local. Read the history of the Grand Canyon gift shops and the increase in Local Arts. This could be an outlet for all kinds of local products including jams and jellies, etc etc

C. Recreational things like zip lines etc. no, but river rafting companies that get permits etc and touring companies yes who lead ecofriendly hikes yes. Perhaps there could be a process where people pay for permits but also that in order to get a permit have to be certified in some way that they know what they are doing? Oh well may be getting too compulsive here but I really want our parks to survive for future generations.

Robin Dobson

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Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 12:09 pm

Advertising can be done tastefully and low key; but if that is not possible, then it should be excluded. The concept of the parks is to maintain more natural settings for people to enjoy. To begin to degrade the natural setting would be to defeat the

original purpose of the parks. Zip lines etc should be left to the private sector as these developments typically destroy and cause irreversible impacts to the natural system, including faunal communities. As less and less land is left in a natural state, the demand to access these lands becomes higher. The only lands controlled by and accessible to the public are those public parks and Federal lands which become more and more critical to preserve in their more natural conditions.

Verna McLeod

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Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 11:51 am

When I was growing up, we camped at lots of parks in California. Whether they were county, state or federal, they were uniformly signed, manned and maintained. They were named after an important geological or historical feature and camp stores sold necessities and memorabilia relevant to that park. When you went to a different park, there was a comfort in being familiar with the basics, then exploring that park's uniqueness. I would like to see Washington's parks run this way. Wi-fi, like hook-ups are a necessary evil that allow more diverse people (they won't leave home without them) to enjoy nature. Leave zip-lines, waterslides and bunjee jumping to commercial enterprises outside the parks.

Tom Linde

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Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 11:42 am

A. I do not agree with advertising or business's naming parks.

B.It would depend on the park. Some small urban parks could benifit from small business as long as they would take on maintenance duties. In Rural parks small business's would not be desirable. Many rural parks could generate funds by expanding opportunities to the public. One idea would be to allow hunting and fishing access for a fee.

C. In the urban park setting I could see new opportunities fitting into the public demand. In rural parks I would say no. PArk should remain as natural as possible but need to serve their user group.

Bruce Fletcher

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Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 11:14 am

A. No to advertising, but yes to naming rights only to family friendly sponsors.

B. Yes to appropriate business to match the park users (such as bike rentals, sail boats, rollerblades…).

C. Yes, change creates new opportunities.

Theresa

cowgirltns@rockisland.com

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 10:53 am

I believe the point of parks is the outdoor experience and peace of mind. I believe in multi-use; hikers, cyclists, equestrian non motorized use of our trails. I believe advertising, shops, rentals, zip lines, etc have no place in a peaceful setting where the community can go to fend off stress for use of their valuable free time. WiFi is fairly non intrusive but expensive to install. I think most go to Parks to get away for a short time from the stress.

PS Zip lines are a fad, already falling into disuse in the places they have been for a while. Then all you have left is a tree-top-less decimated forest with us paying for the liability ins.

Nick Aldrich

aldrich@speakeasy.net

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 9:51 am

Using discretion is the key to all of these. If the name of a corporation is on the entrance to a park on a wooden carved sign and not “in your face” and it would mean services for the park and public, fine. A refreshment stand could be a real asset and could be a draw and a convenience for park users. Part of the mission of a parks department is to provide recreational opportunities. Washington State has great parks (I have been to all but 6 of them and will be going to those next year) and if things like limited wifi and zip lines can enhance the experience, I believe it is encumbent on the parks department to move forward with the times and provide that type of service. Even if there were unlimited funding, I believe that B&C could be pleasant assets to the parks. Our local parks have a small free zip line. Kids enjoy it so why not have a bigger one that everybody can enjoy.

A previous contributor mentioned the variety of the parks and not everybody is aware of it. That is true. Some parks on lakes are beehives of activies in the summer and so a refreshment stand would just help. Another is the size of a couple of mountains and so there should be different criteria there. Then there are two that are just gravesites. I don’t think that Washington State Parks would ever put up a sign at Ranald MacDonalds grave site saying that it is is brought to you by MacDonalds Restaurants.

marilyn

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Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 9:25 am

I’m absolutely opposed to the commercial naming of parks or advertising in parks. This is a truly terrible idea, and is antithetical to an outdoor recreation experience.

As far as concessions, it may be appropriate in some parks (town, urban) to locate some concessions, probably related to snacks/ coffee/ gifts. But most parks in natural areas should be left alone.

Zip lines don’t belong in our public parks.

Wifi may be useful in some areas where telephone access is limited such as campgrounds.

I buy a state parks pass every year to avoid seeing corporate names plastered all over the place.

Don L. Brickey

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Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 9:19 am

a. No commercialization of public parks

b. No gift shops

c. Zip lines ? , are you kidding no. no fees for use, we need more public access to hunting opportunities on state lands not less as has been the trend

Chris Greacen

chrisgreacen@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 9:13 am

A. No advertising please

B. Only the types of vendors that would be allowed at a farmer's market — focusing on local products. No franchises please.

C. public wifi in parks would be nice.

Peter Montgomery

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Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 9:05 am

a: No commercialization in parks, in my opinion.

b and c: Complicated. Much depends on the park size. A store or other amenity useful

to park-users, I think, is a good idea as long as the addition to the park can be sufficiently separated from the natural areas. Wi-fi would be a good addition. Recreational areas, such as zip lines, tennis courts, horseshoe courts, again, good additions as long as any one addition is appropriately separated from quiet and natural areas.

Michael Haseltine

haseltine@moscow.com

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 8:51 am

I definitely don't want item A and don't really think B should be done either. I'm split on C. I agree with another commenter that wifi should everywhere, but as for zip lines, that's entertainment, and can be done elsewhere. The park itself is the reason people are there, not other entertainment.

Funding should be through taxes. Entrance fees are not egalitarian so should be minimal.

audra

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Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 8:50 am

a. no no no never have advertising or corporate names.

b. the small gift shop and ice cream kiosk at Lime Kiln State Park, San Juan Island, works just fine, fits in well, feels appropriate.

c. please no ziplines, wifi, etc. Instead, update current displays and info panels, add pix, info, etc…

Dawn

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Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 8:02 am

Obviously, I'd prefer to keep my parks completely natural. However, I also understand the financial burdens our state parks are facing right now. That being said,

A) Advertising, only if it is suttle and only below the trail head. Such as in the parking lot.

Corporate naming of parks: Not sure what I think about this. If they were to completely change the existing name to something totally different, I'd have to say absolutely not. But if they were to add a corporate name into the existing title somehow, I'd be open to it only if it was a last resort prior to having to shut down the park due to lack of funding.

B) stores and gift shops: again, only if they were below the trailhead such as in the parking lot area. Absolutely not if they were within the park itself. For instance, look at Snoqualmie falls. They have a gift shop and a restaraunt right off the parking lot and I don't think it takes away from the beauty of the park.

C) Sure. I actually like this idea.

Bill Denholm

billdenholm@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 6:41 am

We need to support what has been established. Making an areas like State Parks the cost goes up and we have less. Continue to us volunteers by making it easier for handicap people to help. Try and develop a program like the highways to establish a clean up and maintain area by business, clubs,etc.

Thanks for your willingness to ask the questions.

Jill and Bob Kassa

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Submitted on 2012/11/15 at 6:39 am

I would really be disappointed to see our beautiful parks commercialized in any way. Please keep the advertisers out. Our parks provide us the unique opportunity to experience nature in all it's beauty and wonder. We can always go to malls.

In our fast paced culture, it is important to have a place to go where one can slow down, be in the moment and enjoy. Our state parks add to our overall physical, emotional and spiritual health and wellness.

I believe our state parks are worth every penny that is spent on them. We need more funding from the legislature and I would hope that the public would invest in their future.

Chris Enrico

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Submitted on 2012/11/14 at 9:58 pm

a. No corporate naming but some advertising around the entrance (especially if there are concessions) would be okay.

b. Commercial enterprise is okay so long as it remains near the park entrance and does not intrude on the overall park experience.

c. Zip lines do not belong in a nature park or other setting such as where horse riding occurs (horses don't like strange flying objects that make strange noises.) We don't need to spend money so Joe Blow can have wi-fi access everywhere he goes. If he has a smart phone he can use his cell provider's data stream. You will end up with people hanging out just for the free wi-fi access and causing other problems just by their being there. Will they buy anything? Maybe a glass of water! Ask your local coffee shop what their experience has been offering free wi-fi.

Depending on the park, other rentals would be okay; boat, bike.

Parks have historically been a way for us to connect with nature. It helps us relax. Over commercialization will take that away. Zip lines and other such things will take that away. I personally don't want to be observing the local wildlife and hearing

whooping and yelling coming from the tree tops. I'd never come back.

Linda

wa-archery@live.com

Submitted on 2012/11/14 at 7:36 pm

I don't like the idea of advertising / corporate naming in public parks. Let the good-spirited among the private sector contribute quietly, or create their own parks and attractions.

Within reason and as it suits the particular park, some storea and concessions / souveniers would be appropriate. Postcards and etc, would be nice.

Attractions like a zip line, canoe / kayak rental, bikes and strollers would be beneficial for families that can't afford / store / transport those recreational items.

Reading some of the responses above, I'm not sure people are aware of the diversity of state parks. Some of them are quite natural, and should probably remain so, and others can be developed even more than they have been. Variety is the spice!

Gus

skookumrdr@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/14 at 5:21 pm

I would not have a problem with advertising or corparate nameing of parks if it takes the burden off the tax payer. I think the price to name or advertising fees should depend on the popularity of the park IE more popular park higher fees. Other wise shut down parks that can't support them selves.

Stores should be allowed in parks, I have yet to see a natural state park, I would not consider manicured lawns and defined campsites with showers and bath rooms natural.

I believe the parks need to evolve to meet the desires of the state population, weather it be bolted rock climbing routes, ATV and dirtbike trails, or Moutain bike

freeride parks. Make the parks fun to lure the kids away from video games and malls.

kellvblotter

gravatar.com/kellvblotter x

hansondawny@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/14 at 3:23 pm

a. Depends – if it is a company that promotes outdoor recreation, such as REI, then maybe (if it means more funding for more recreation and natural area preservation). If it is a company that has been promoting many of the ills in our society (i.e. obesity), such as McDonalds – then, Heck NO.

b. No – stay natural – that is why you visit cities/towns, not why you visit outdoor recreation areas.

c. No – if someone wants that crap they can visit an amusement park or stay home for Wi-Fi, doesn't belong in the wilderness/natural areas.

vicki black

jim_vickyblack@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/14 at 2:43 pm

I think we do need to keep up with technology and changing expectations for people, but would still like to see more remote sites remain natural and less commercial. I would rather pay higher taxes to support public parks than worrying about whether I have the right "pass" when I want to go hiking or picnicing.

Don Bihl

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Submitted on 2012/11/14 at 2:39 pm

I oppose naming our State parks for companies, even if that would bring in more

revenue. The present way of naming the parks is appropriate. The State parks do not belong to companies as would be implied by using their name.

I have no objection to minor commercial stores. Signage should be regulated by the Parks administration, not up to the vendor, and should be adequate to inform visitors of the store but not obtrusive to the environment of the park. The store venue should be compatible with visitor needs appropriate with the nature of a park.

I have no objection to minor expansion of recreational activities if they have minimal impact on the park environment; e.g., zip lines, rental of manual driven watercraft, manual bikes, maybe skateboards in some areas. The allowed activities should be tightly regulated by the Parks administration and compatible with each park's environment. Offroad motorized vehicles of any type should be limited to existing roads and areas presently allowed; no expansion. They are intrusive to the native animals, create noise pollution, and pollute the air and ground.

JK

jkennedy@diamondback.com

Submitted on 2012/11/14 at 2:16 pm

A.) I think advertising of corporate names is a great idea as it's little to no cost to you so overhead to implement is lower.

B.) Gift shops sot money to operate. Lets try and find solutions that have little overhead.

C.) I am oky with new recreation so long as it fits the character of the park. Try to identify with the outdoor activities of the youth today (mountain biking, skateboarding, etc.) or it will not work.

John

quack0905@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/14 at 11:39 am

1. there is no reason to sell park names to the highest bidder – find another funding source.

2. A small mom/pop type food store is fine, but keep gift shops out of it. Look at Yellowstone, Devil's Tower, Mt. Rushmore and other parks to see how "over-commercialization" has taken the fun out of going to them.

3. How do zip-lines improve the quality of outdoor recreation? They don't – they only (a) generate revenue, and (2) create liability in the event of injury/death. I am not willing to accept that kind of liability just to generate revenue. Tax the users … charge a user fee or raise you user fee if you already charge a fee.

Don't do anything that would detract from other outdoor activities, i.e. fishing and hunting. If I want to go on a ride I'll go to a carnival, not a city/county/state/federal park.

Tom Fitzpatrick

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Submitted on 2012/11/14 at 9:45 am

A. As a general rule, no. I think it's ok to have a sign (not a billboard) saying "this bridge was built by volunteer group X with significant support from the Y Lumber Co." The only way corporate naming rights should happen is if a corporation donates the land outright. I might feel queasy riding trails in Bain Capital Park, but if they donated the land they'd be entitled to a publicity benefit.

B. As a general rule, no. Sure, kayak rentals where there's water access, or something like that as long as it's low-key, but it should be severely limited in size, and related directly in scope to activities in the park.

C. I'd leave this stuff to private amusement parks.

Corey White

bema_mt@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/14 at 9:17 am

The more natural and pristine the better – let private industry remain private, public lands remain public. Thus, no to A, B and C. Nature provides enough of a playground and state park lands are limited enough as it is.

m j margoni

mjm4mjm@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/14 at 7:47 am

Camground vending with some advertising in commercial.areas great. Corp naming not so great.

When its 10-20 miles and hours to get supplies a half circle of businesses would be very efficient and helpful. Not a ten story mcdonalds sign tho.

Linda Roe

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Submitted on 2012/11/13 at 10:35 pm

Absolutely NO corporate naming rights to our public parks! We go to parks to enjoy the outdoors, we don't need advertizing here. Small gift shops or concession stands and grocery stores would be OK. Zip lines etc. might be a good idea, if the company is responsible for their own insurance.

Jerry Schelling

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Submitted on 2012/11/13 at 7:54 pm

a. Do not agree. b.Agree with some services/ but not far into the parks. c,No to the artificial recreation.

underthegrass

underthegrass@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/13 at 6:30 pm

a) Absolute no, please! Parks represent an opportunity for solace away from the corporate world, away from being a targeted demographic. The freedom for retreat somewhere in America is priceless.

b) Within reason. Please, no plastic Mt. Rainier snow-globes, or Jack Kerouac action figures. Certainly no gas stations or fast food.

c) I feel like rental shops, etc… placed strategically could actually be conducive to enjoying our parks and would be happy to see my money help to keep parks funded. But disrupting the natural environment for recreation such as zip lines seems like an unnecessary compromise.

As for wi-fi… I feel like Facebook/work can probably afford to wait on you a few days, but to each their own.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to make my voice heard on this subject.

Machiko Threlkeld

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Submitted on 2012/11/13 at 5:51 pm

As much as I become desperate for a grocery store when I realize I forget to pack crucial ingredients for the first-of-year camping trip, I am afraid easy access to such a convenience changes the parks. I do believe those things bring more people to enjoy the great outdoors, I am afraid to see more trash (hence more expense to clean it up) by those unfamiliar first timers. I am sorry, I don’t mean to sound snobbish on this regard, but education will be required for them.

Similar opinion on zip line parks. I go to parks for hiking/camping to escape crowd. It will change the look of parks completely.

However, I know technology is something I can see. If the parks can earn some revenue by letting cell phone towers to be built, I might be totally OK with it. I am not sure how the parks earn revenue by wifi-ing, though.

Kyra

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Submitted on 2012/11/13 at 5:33 pm

I am in support of keeping parks protected from any sort of development, advertising, retail, etc. I believe that the value of a public park or any sort of protected public land lies in the therapeutic nature of it being undisturbed and in its natural state. Natural spaces are a way to get away from our daily lives that are filled with media, advertising, business, etc. Nature is best left as it is, without technology encroaching on the last places where we can get away from it.

Larry Kiser

lkiser@air-pipe.com

Submitted on 2012/11/13 at 3:31 pm

I recommend a guiding principle that nature protected by public parks should continue to be protected for current and future generations, and it should be accessible to everyone without regard to income.

If voters are unwilling to pay taxes sufficient to guarantee this principle, perhaps advertising, commercial enterprises, and income-generating amusements, such as zip-lines, can help. These additional revenue sources, however, should never be allowed to diminish the natural condition of the parks. Such revenue sources must be confined to a relatively small area within each park set aside specifically for generating revenue. Effects on natural conditions should be hardly noticeable. Park users, who want to enjoy nature without having to see these revenue-generators or their effects, should easily be able to do so.

Rita Kepner

rita.kepner@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/13 at 2:20 pm

Parks can be both natural and offer food and “rides.” But not all of them. Some should remain totally “natural” scenic, quiet, rustic — no amenities. At the other extreme, some can have and should have all sorts of “extras.” Please put brain in gear. Don’t ruin the natural wilderness. Go ahead and add “stuff” to the ones already citified.

Eric

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Submitted on 2012/11/13 at 2:17 pm

Our State parks are in a real conundrum. Their average users tend to be older (some as old as mid-50’s) and the public’s support for funding them is dropping. The parks obviously recognizes that they are sitting on an incredible asset with some of the most beautiful areas of our state. I just feel they aren’t being utilized by enough people.

1. Advertising in the forms of billboards and banners? No. Advertising in the way of subtle sponsorships? yes, if done right..

2. Yes, small commercial stores for supplies and equipment rentals (kayaks, rowboats, crabbing gear, mt. bikes, etc.). Maybe even guiding services.

3. I think, where appropriate, the parks shouldn’t rule out any type of outdoor recreation – including zip lines. Who’s to say that one person’s form of recreating is more or less viable than the next persons? One of the state parks directives is: “A dedication to outdoor recreation and public enjoyment that welcomes all our citizens to their public parks. “

For instance, more youth are mt. biking and the sport is growing overall. We need to

focus on activities that make people want to get off the couch or computer and get outside into our parks. Rock Climbing is another example of a growing outdoor activity. Beyond getting more revenue (and different buyers) from Discover Passes, they will also attract more people to camp in the parks. Only 8% of parks users are overnight visitors and that should be the way they should be generating more revenue.

There's a great speech by Brady Robinson about the marriage of conservation and recreation that every parks employee should see.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j8dT1w5sp74&feature=youtu.be

Merry

bluemarii@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/13 at 1:55 pm

a. no advertising or corporate names.

b. smalls stores, mom and pop style are OK for providing camper needs.

c. zip-lines, kayak rental or similar outdoor recreation OK. no loud machines. no Wi-Fi.

Marla

Equiart2@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/13 at 12:10 pm

I don't see a problem with corporate names for parks but not obvious advertising in the park.

Small stores with items useful at the park would be fine.

An area of the park for ziplining, etc. would be fine as long as part of the park can be used separately for hiking, biking, horseback riding in a more natural setting.

Mandi

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Submitted on 2012/11/13 at 12:09 pm

I am not interested in having our public city, state or federal parks renamed because of corporate sponsorship, however…..it is more important to me that the parks remain open….so I suppose if there were strict rules that limited any influence from these so called sponsorships, I might be ok with it.

The only stores I could support would be small country style stores that carry basic food and camping items. I want to maintain the integrity of the outdoor experience.

I like to hike, but I also like to ride ATV's and go exploring in my Jeep. I am fully supportive of parks that are developed to enhance all varieties of outdoor experiences.

There are enough logging roads available that little to no damage to the environment would need to be done to install cell towers. I think in the long run it might lower the costs of search and rescue events if people had a way to call out for help when they need it.

Sue Ranger

sranger@fs.fed.us

Submitted on 2012/11/13 at 10:52 am

a. No.

b. Small stores, with items for sale in keeping with the intent of that particular park, would be fine.

c. Depends. I would be more inclined to support an activity that promotes movement of the body or enjoyment of nature at the park. I do not see where Wi-Fi access fits into this.

Mary

Marylynne888@msn.com

Submitted on 2012/11/13 at 10:48 am

The greater majority of parks that are within 25 miles of a major urban area can have advertising, WiFi, zip lines etc IF that protects other parks that would then be able to remain as natural as possible. All parks should have restrooms and where possible cell phone service for emergencies.

Corporate or individual naming of parks is fine. Some small, independently owned/operated stores/restaurants that blend into the environment would be fine. (No McDonald's, etc.!)

Becca

becca@polevaultpower.com

Submitted on 2012/11/13 at 10:14 am

A. I don't have a problem with some advertising in parks.

B. I support having appropriate businesses inside of parks. They often provide valuable services to visitors, like being able to buy snacks for the trail or fresh batteries. As long as the purpose of the business somewhat pertains to the park or to meeting the needs of park visitors. No one wants to see an adult video store in the middle of a park, but a hamburger stand can be a nice treat for the family.

C. Yes, as long as there are still natural areas of the park where people can go to get some peace and quiet.

Ken Carmichael

kcarmichael2225@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/13 at 9:31 am

All of these questions are too general in nature. Every one of them starts with the comment "it depends". Yes we need to broaden our approach to funding the parks and in some circumstances it may require corporate support and in return some

recognition. This will depend on the type and extent of support. There are also situations where commercial businesses are appropriate in our parks, particularly where they are of service to the visitors or provide recreational opportunities that the park can not provide. Again, it depends on the size and type of park. As for recreational opportunities, the use of a zip line as an example has been taken too literally by some respondents. We have to remain flexible to new recreation always keeping in mind the affect on other visitors and the park. Multi-use recreation is possible when the activities are compatible, there is good management and the resources are capable of handling the activities.

I feel that this survey identifies some issues pertaining to the funding and management of our parks but does little toward answering the questions of what to do. This will come only when we sit down with individual park systems, and specific parks and address the issues.

Lys Burden

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wpburden@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/13 at 12:13 am

A. Definite NO

B. Yes, discretely done.

C. Yes, but not over done, rental canoes, kayaks, non-motorized vehicles and zip wires A-OK.

W.W. Bell

WW.BELL@COMCAST.NET

Submitted on 2012/11/12 at 8:34 pm

A. Advertising does not fit with what parks are supposed to be. We are supposed to be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Washington State Parks in 2013 and for 99 years

these parks have been free. It's time our state government steps up and funds the parks as they did for the first 99 years.

B. Many of the parks currently have small stores and/or gift shops. These are not a money maker for the parks but they are convenient for the parks customers. I would not like to see this grow beyond today's standards.

C.Things such as zip lines I don't believe belong in our parks. Some parks such as Fort Worden rent kayaks at this time and that seems ok to me but adding bike rentals and other things could get out of hand very quickly.

C2. I believe WIFI should be in the parks. Many of our senior campers live in their RVs traveling from park to park and their only way to stay in touch with family and do their banking order meds. etc. is on-line. Yet in most cases it is not possible in our parks. We also have many volunteers that spend months volunteering in our parks and having volunteered in Washington State Parks, I have found it ridiculous that I've had to drive into town (a 20 mile round trip) with my laptop and to find a local library or Starbucks or someplace else where I could get on line to stay in touch with my family.

Wayne Mohler

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Submitted on 2012/11/12 at 11:23 am

A. No, Parks should not be commercialized. The legislature should fund Parks for all under the general fund. They are for the benefit of all and should not be seen as being "only for those who can or will pay" and they should not have to be dependent on advertising by commercial entities in order to survive. Parks should be one place that a pperson can get away from rampant commercialism.

B. It is ok to provide some services at some parks, such as groceries and gift shops. The gift shop products should be of a decent quality, well thought out, and relevant. Not a bunch of throw-away plastic products.

C. No, leave the zip line opportunities to the private sectorat private venues. If it is economically viable there will be plenty of them. No need to saddle everyone with

the cost for liability insurance to satisfy relatively few visitors with a high liability recreational opportunity.

Yes, on the wifi. There are apps that can be very helpful to provide visitors with much better informaiton about a park or specific attraction. It would be a way to do away with some of the interpretive signing that is expensive to provide and maintain. Overall it could give the visitor a better quality experience.

anno

osin@methownet.com

Submitted on 2012/11/12 at 9:58 am

A. NO

B. NO

C. NO

Parks should be completely natural. They should not be amusement parks or "convenient". They should be free to the public and funded by higher taxes.

evoc

donnanew22@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/12 at 8:31 am

I say no to a., b. is not a bad idea if the shop is 'small and discrete' as posted by another commenter; c. is worth consideration. Ziplines in a park which is large enough would be fun and a draw, as well as a revenue source.

Of course the zipline owner would need i to be well insured in light of the young woman in the news not long ago who was cut, became infected and most some limbs.

Wi-fi should be everywhere IMHO.

Mike Slevin

mikeslevin@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/12 at 7:52 am

A) I do not agree with advertising or naming.

B) I like the idea small country type stores, need to be careful that over time they do not turn into mini walmarts…..

C) Yes, zip lines, ATV rentals, boat rentals, etc…. There is more than one way to enjoy our public lands. Parks are parks they should be played in. If people want wildness let them go to the Wilderness areas where they can be one with nature. I'm looking for family fun!

Jo Beachy

svchickadee@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/12 at 6:41 am

A. I do not like the idea of advertising in our parks. that is one of the things we go to escape, ie be with nature…

B. Small, discrete grocery stores and gift shops are appropriate in some parks, particularly those with campgrounds, but they should follow the national parks guide and fit in to the parks style of building, small signs, etc.

C leave these types of sports for outside the park please. Perhaps bicycle rentals if there are appropriate trails.

thanks

Andrew Reding

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Submitted on 2012/11/12 at 6:37 am

A. An awful idea. What are we not going to commercialize in this country? Are we not going to be able to escape from corporate overlordship even when we try to escape it

all by going into what until now has been wild land?

B. Independent businesses supporting park users are fine provided they maintain the buildings, that all exterior styling and signage blend in with existing park buildings and signs.

C. WiFi is acceptable, because it is invisible. No zip lines or other physical alterations of the parks. These are public parks, not wild Disney attractions.

Davis Steelquist

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drs98376@embarqmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/11 at 5:10 pm

A. I concur with Jeff that discrete advertising would be OK. say a few lines on a brochure, smallish plaques for benches, play ground equipment, restrooms. If say a company or club adopted a trail, or beach, including that for a small fee on any signage. As to selling naming rights to whole parks or parts of parks, no. If say Pope Resources paid $50,000 a year to support Fort Warden preservation, an acknowledgement sign would be ok as long as it was subtle.

B. Commercial businesses supporting park users and visitors are OK provided the maintain the buildings, are not blatant in color, design or exterior advertising. and in park signage is similar to existing park signs. If the park has geothermal, skiing, snorkeling, canoeing, horseback capability, even bicycles (provided they are restricted to designated paved trails,) having a concessionaire develop and maintain them is OK. But no KOA campgrounds. If camp grounds are involved, have some walk in tent only sites away from the motorized campers.

C. NO modern technology as recreation.. yes for displays (and funded by companies is OK) but no Wi-fi, no zip lines, no paint ball zones, air soft zones. no spectator sports, and curtail off road bicycles from trails. Also no areas devoted to free ranging pets. On the other side benches at 1/4 mile intervals on trails that seniors might prefer (Advertising OK as “Brought to you by:…..”)

Jeff Chapman

bbbranch@olympus.net

Submitted on 2012/11/11 at 12:03 pm

a. Tasteful promotion of Parks and materials through logos or name sponsorship is okay. For example, “Donated by Coca-Cola” is okay for a plaque, or logos on brochures. As to blatant advertisements, I would say it is okay in the advertising world outside of the public facility itself. For example, an advertisement ahead of a Parks video on You-Tube is okay. But no billboards in Parks or advertising flyers left around the park.

b. Small grocery stores, food stands, and gift shops open to walk-ins are okay, and this is already being done. However these businesses should perform a function typically tied to the visitation of the parks. Also renting space to outside businesses and non-profits that don’t provide a storefront is okay as well. This is also happening and has not been a real problem.

Perhaps the biggest controversial topics I’ve been dealing with are first, should Parks facilities be run by outside concessionaires rather than Park staff. What kind of mark up should be allowed for use fees to cover business management, like with a campground? Second, should Parks provide long-term storage for RVs? This would be the situation where a motor home could be left on a Park’s grounds through the off-season, and the Park would receive rental/storage fees. This is now being considered for our National Parks and Forest system. The argument is it cuts down on fuel use for visitors like snowbirds (driving the large gas guzzlers less). A similar situation would be boat storage. My feeling is I’m not against either of these as long as they don’t interfere with the natural environment within the Park. So good concessionaire management with low additional fees is okay. And having some storage buildings tucked away somewhere that houses private recreational vehicles/boats is okay AS LONG as the security isn’t an issue and the existing use/ambiance of the Park isn’t compromised.

c. Ziplines, Frisbee Golf, and even Mountain Biking are relatively new to Parks. As an

equestrian and leader in the Back Country Horsemen, these have presented extreme challenges to us. The advocates are often not aware of or insensitive to existing heritage uses, and relentlessly attack those uses as subordinate to their own. Then the displacement starts. No doubt when jetpacks become a sport where users hover above a trail, the JetPackers will point out how little impact they have on the ground and should displace mountain biking, horseback riding, and hiking.

That said, I have absolutely no problem with providing for new recreational pursuits on public lands. The agencies need to be very firm on finding ways to accommodate new uses without abandoning the uses that pre-existed. Or in shared use situations, that the shared use is strongly adopted and rules are set and enforced that provide for all of the users (as well as plan good trail design). This is how it works on private timberlands open to public use. Everyone gets along or they are kicked out. Unfortunately, this has not been happening effectively with agency officials who have their own biases or are vulnerable to fashionable pressure and user paid studies. There is definitely a rise in user frustration to other user's newly imposed sports on public lands particularly after decades when no controversy existed. There is also the problem with safety. What infrastructure and sport is fun to some users can be extremely hazardous to others. So again, accommodate the demand for new recreation uses if they seem to be more than fads, but do it with good planning and a firm hand. Also give classes in humility and multi-user sensitivity.

Bill Clark

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Submitted on 2012/11/11 at 10:09 am

#1: Advertising can bring in a lot of revenue. Just look at television, (which I hate to mention but it is the most visible and best known example of the money involved). If there was some control over the amount of advertising, restrictions on placement and overall integration with the surroundings, it would be okay. Look, these parks are here for our entertainment. Period. In my opinion, the state does a lousy job of managing anything. Why should we expect different. Sell the operations of the parks

to individuals/consortiums with an interest in making it a viable business. If they fail, then the state can sell the concession to someone else. The state has no skin in the game, to use a common metaphor, and has no incentive to be creative nor efficient until jobs are threatened, (jobs which I believe should not be state jobs to begin with).

#2: Small non-obtrusive, individually owned stores would be fine. As long as most of the revenues are returned to THAT park. The majority to the owner, and nothing to the state except sales tax on sales of goods, services, and concessions. And that tax generated should be dedicated to a small office in Olympia that manages the parks. We have all seen how THAT works in reality. Just ask anyone in Eastern Washington. The owner has to make money to keep it going and to pay employees and their SS/Medicare/Medicaid taxes etc. It is not an inexpensive proposition. If an owner does it right, the revenue will come and the park will thrive. In the case of the state ownership and operation, it sucks revenue from other more important tasks. Such as education. Oversight, regulation, employees and their benefits all come at a cost to other programs in the state budget.

#3: There are two distinct user groups in this discussion. Both groups have distinct visions of how the parks should be run and what they should be. I will venture out on a limb here (without doing any deeper research) and say that the recreational users, as in weekend family campers, boaters, ATV and snowmobile users, skiers and snowboarders, people who hunt and fish, etc, are the vast majority of users of state parks. They also pay a serious amount of tax revenue to the state which does not come back to the parks. If the parks catered to the majority of users, and the state didn't use the fuel and user taxes they collect as a cash cow for other uses, they would probably make more money for the department. And if this means zip-lines, or other adventure destinations, then do it.

The people who want a natural experience and environment when camping, and understandably so, are in the minority of users. If this is what I want, there are options within the jurisdiction of the state and federal lands within the state where I can get away from it all. It takes work, but it is there as an option. If the operations of state parks were sold as concessions, the different groups could get their folks

together to purchase a concession and make the park whatever they want. And they will succeed or fail on their particular business model.

Final thought: I think the Discover Pass was a great idea with poor execution. The pass should be transferrable between vehicles owned by the same person. If you are going to have more than one vehicle within the park, then it is reasonable to expect to pay a user fee. (Not a third of an annual fee. People are not stupid and will find a way to get around it). If the pass was transferrable, I believe it would do better in sales. Also, I believe usage of the parks would possibly go up.

I own three vehicles. One is used for work. One is used for family stuff, and the other is a road motorcycle. If the family vehicle happens to break down, or friends come to town and I want to show them a park and their vehicle accomodates everyone better, why shouldn't I be able to transfer it. Or ride my motorcycle into a park. I am not going to pay $90 a year just to cover all eventuallities, (sp). Charge $50 a year for a transferrable pass, $5 per day user fee, or like the National Park, offer lifetime passes, (transferrable), for $350 or something like that.

Karen

kjrjatprairierim@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/09 at 9:53 pm

a) Please, no advertising or corporate naming for any parks.

b) Small businesses, such as a store with camping supplies, food, souveniers, etc. would be acceptable. Canoe, boat, bicycle etc. services would also be acceptable. Museums, educational attractions would be appropriate.

c) I would not favor zip lines. I think they belong in an amusement park setting. I would favor WiFi in areas that are not served by other means of communication. It could be a safety feature.

C

candl90@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/09 at 6:48 pm

a) No advertising or corporate naming. Period!

b) Small context-appropriate shops would okay–like the “summer store” at Pearrygin Lake State Park in the Methow Valley.

c) Ambivalent about zip-lines for reasons already stated above.

WiFi – as a self-employed web worker, I can only holiday where I have Internet access–same for my spouse who does translation–so we would like to have WiFi available in some parks. However, most access should be “for fee” rather than free, and available only where it makes sense.

For example, places like Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend should have (free) WiFi access everywhere, as it’s essential to operating a successful conference center.

Other parks should have “for-fee” WiFi available near the park office. This would allow access, for people like us, without disturbing those who feel that seeing/hearing computers (and other WiFi-enabled devices) diminishes their park experience.

More remote parks should remain WiFi-free.

Thanks for the opportunity to contribute my 2-cents.

Paul

pcd@olypen.com

Submitted on 2012/11/09 at 12:02 pm

a) I am ambivalent about corporate names for public parks. It seems like a way to get money without increasing the tax burden on the citizenry, but there is something terribly wrong with “Safeco National Park!!!” Or, deep in the woods, relaxing, away from the hustle and bustle, “Allstate: You’re in good hands!” Still, it sounds like creativity is in order to increase funding…

b) I’m not against commercial businesses at trailheads, but I have trouble envisioning

what kind of business might succeed at park trailheads.

c) I am a member of the BCHW and I DEFINITELY do not want any zip lines across horse trails. To allow such activities could be life-threatening to the horseback rider and those around him/her. Neither should the sound of a zip line cross a trails. Horse can be spooky. And I am against new-fangled stuff in national parks and, obviously wilderness areas. On the other hand, such modern ways might be alright in a county or city park, or newly designated park designed for such activities.

Phil Baumgaertner

photobyphil.com x

philbaum@msn.com

Submitted on 2012/11/09 at 9:19 am

a. I'm completely opposed to corporate naming or advertising. I haven't seen recent numbers, but in 2310, the AVERAGE tax rate for all corporations was 2.3% and 2/3 of corporations paid no taxes AT ALL. Taxes on corporations should be paid at the same percentage as citizens, or they shouldn't be allowed access to the state to sell their products.

b. I'm sort of ok with small grocery stores at large car and RV camping sites. No land should be for sale and the retail rights should be for lease only. No long term leases should be allowed. A private firm could also rent the operation of equipment booths for things like ski equipment, snowshoes. I'm concerned that this could be overdone, however. Olympic National Park, Hurricane Ridge currently has a nice visitor's center at 5,200 feet. During weekends, a small cafe operates on the bottom floor. Out in the parking lot, a shack is operated for equipment during ski season for snow shoes and skis. This is a very pristine area, and i would hate to make the drive up the mountain some day to see a mini-mall and a gas station – there is so little "pristine" wild areas left anymore.

c. Very limited wifi and no ziplines. In parking lots and trail heads, wifi can provide a safety feature for hikers to report safety problems and get last minute weather

reports.

Toni

tch@Well.com x

tch@Well.com

Submitted on 2012/11/09 at 8:46 am

a. I don't see a problem with naming rights as long, as many people have said, it is done in a moderate way with the sell being how good it makes the company look to be associated with this lovely park.

b. Again may be incompatible with a above in some way, but allowing in locally run stores and concessions seems great. Obviously more money would probably be made through allowing chain business to open in all X# of parks across the state, but I think the public is better served by local independent business.

c. New tech isn't incompatible with state parks, neither are commercial attractions where they fit in to the use of the park. What is of concern is giving away state lands and resources to "private non-profit/corporate partnerships" such as is being contemplated at Fort Worden and other state parks. The public should continue to own these resources and continue to mandate public access however the parks are managed.

Sylviane Petersen

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Submitted on 2012/11/09 at 7:30 am

A. Parks should not be a place for business advertising.

B. Small stores/gift shops should be only allowed in the larger parks and should only be allowed if they are profitable for the park.

C. Zip lines should be on private property not in our parks. Parks should not spend any money on internet access for the public.

Why do we go the parks in the first place? Beautiful natural solitude! Not for advertising, shopping, thrill rides or internet access.

Linda Johnson

cha@worldfront.com

Submitted on 2012/11/09 at 6:27 am

a. Not keen on commerical advertising in general. I would not like to see Mt. Rainier be remamed Mt. Micrsoft nor would I like to see my local parks such as Lake Sylvia, Jarell Cove or Penrose Point become Lake Toshiba, Starbucks Cove or Lowes Point. Parks to me are a back to nature experience. That said, some parks are in more urban areas and small signs imbedded in picnic tables, for instance, giving credit to a local company for donating material would be OK.

b. Small gift shops and convenience stores for camp supplies are OK as long as they visually fit in with the environment. Once again these would better fit with more urban areas. Wilderness and remote areas should remain “wilderness and remote” as that is a big part of their attraction.

c. Zip lines are a fad and I question how long they will last, how much it costs to implement one versus how much revenue one would collect. Also if I am hiking or riding my horse along a trail, I certainly would not like a zip line over my head. As far as WIFI, I go to parks to escape electronics, noise and blaring videos. I don’t even like to hear someone’s radio playing while I am there so I say “no”. How much revenue would this produce anyway? B

John D, Wegmann

maryjohnwegmann@msn.com48

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 8:20 pm

A. Advertising and corporate naming: Absolutely not!! State and Federal parks are places people visit to get away from commercialism and the humdrum of urban living. Corporate naming of sports stadiums is bad enough. We don’t need to go to “Wal-Mart

State Park."

B. State parks should stay non-commercial. Most state parks are not that far distant from commercial establishments in urban or rural communities that people can't drive to them. Gift shops or convenience stores are a foot in the door to commercializing the parks. People go to parks to experience the natural environment.

C. Parks should stay "natural." Zip lines, wi-fi, water slides, go-cart tracks, one could go on and on, are readily available. People go to parks to experience the natural environment and to "get away from it all." It is hard enough to escape all the trivial entertainments of modern life. Keep the parks free from this type of commercialism.

Al Pelletier

sekiusweep@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 7:08 pm

When any entity makes a donation designated for certain uses, or for certain parks, some recognitions, such as plaques or signing would be appropriate. Such as "John Doe memorial bench, provided by chapter 87 IOOF and Doe family."

Concessions: Most private businesses would be best advised to locate near, not in state parks. The $30 entry fee will limit customers inside the parks. But some concessions, with a clear policy, should not be ruled out.

I recently noticed a future state park site has been ruled "off limits" to virtually all use, including hunting, camping, wood cutting and harvesting any plants. That's just because it may someday become a state park, With no good cause to limit public access and enjoyment of the land.

I think there can be a wide range of activities in public parks, just not all in every park., or at the same times. For example. allow gold panning in historic-themed parks. Snowmobiling in mountain areas in winter. Hunting or trapping when nuisance populations of native or feral animals exist.

ORV Clubs might have access one month, then equestrian groups the next month. All other activities may be curtailed during some hunting seasons. On-site park staff will

be needed, but usage will provide funding.

Darin

dablist@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 4:07 pm

Would we rather Nike, RedBull etc. pay atheletes millions or keep our parks?

No need to shelter our children they already know.

Darin

dablist@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 3:38 pm

Parks need money to stay open. Of course the answer is yes, yes, yes.

Ryan

reparr1@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 2:54 pm

For a, b, and c, I think all options should be on the table to get the necessary funding. Ultimately, fees to use parks should be raised until they meet revenue needs, so that the people using them the most pay the most.

Jeremy Przasnyski

gravatar.com/jeremyprz x

jeremy.prz@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 2:33 pm

a. Our public parks and natural spaces are our last bastion against the corporate world. Let’s keep it that way.

b. I don't mind shops along main roads and highways, rest stops, and heavily trafficked park entrances, but nowhere else. Trailheads and other areas should remain as natural as possible.

c. Zip-lines and other such recreational technology should be examined on a case-by-case basis – it should be run by the state, but only if profitable without corporate/commercial involvement (no giant Red Bull signs everywhere, etc).

D2

deetwotoo@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 2:22 pm

a. No. Please don't advertise. We are flooded with advertising and it is worthless to me because I ignore any advertising I am exposed to.

b. Yes. As long as it is only one and it is located in a high traffic area assuming a nearby town does not exist.

c. Absolutely. Anything to get people out in the forest.

Peg

ramblin_rose@live.com

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 2:08 pm

a. Advertising would be acceptable, as long as it was inobtrusive to a visitor's experience of nature. e.g. advertising in the restrooms would be OK, noisy bigscreen electronic billboards in the forest would not.

b. Commercial enterprises would be OK, again, if tasteful, unobtrusive, and complementary to the nature experience (e.g. a small REI vendor, etc.)

c. Zip lines and other enhancements to a person's experience of the great outdoors would be welcome, as would wi-fi access, particularly in the less natural and pristine parks.

William

reson46@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 12:11 pm

a. Completely opposed to corporate advertising or naming rights. This is one of the reasons I go to public parks, to get aware from advertising, etc.

b. Small gift shops could definitely improve parks where appropriate.

c. Yes, new types of recreation and technology would be very beneficial to the user experience.

Pete

wiz636@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 11:51 am

If done in such a manner that it does not change the experience of the park then advertising/naming rights would be okay.

Small concession stands would be great.

Clearly the wifi access would need to have an associated fee for it to generate revenue but I just don't see very many people willing to pay an access fee for wifi while at a park. Pretty much defeats the purpose of going to a park.

Beth Blay

bbinaz@earthlink.net

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 9:27 am | In reply to David Seibel.

I agree with all your comments, Dave.

Beth Blay

bbinaz@earthlink.net

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 9:24 am

1 & 2. Advertising/commercial gift shops/convenience groceries/etc. is already being done for road side rest stops in many states. It is a method for keeping those open and available for travelers and I appreciate that fact. There is no reason why any public park could not avail itself of that funding in order to remain viable and open.

3. Zip lines and such should be restricted from “wilderness areas” as should helecopters, etc. that destroy the illusion of nature’s wonders. However, that said, there is little reason to restrict them as fund raisers from parks already compromised by civilization.

*Back country areas should remain pristine in nature!!!

Tod Petersen

tod701@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 8:58 am

A. Advertising within parks would degrade the visitor experience.

B. Small stores in the larger parks would be acceptable as long as they are visibly unobtrusive and revenue positive.

C. Parks should as natural as possible. Commercial entertainment and amusement facilities should be left to the private sector.

Sandra Coen

rgcoen@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 8:46 am

A. Advertising should be only at the entrances and with descretion

B.Vendors would work but only if they were not too far within the park’s inner area

C.NO wifi. We are hammered daily with folks who don’t want to release their phones

from their clutched fists' Zip lines would work only if they were located out of the equestrian trail areas. I am a member of BCHW and zip lines would cause major wrecks with the riders below.

Eric Kackley

jeneric09@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 8:44 am

I'll start by saying that there is no perfect answer and everyone has their opinion on how it should work. In my opinion this is going to require compromise and creativity.

A) No corporate names for parks. That would look odd. The Microsoft Mt. Rainier example is a good example of what I would not like to see. (nothing against Microsoft)

B) Only certain parks would be able to support a grocery store or gift shop and in those cases I think it would be fine as long as it is located in a developed area of the park (next to a parking area or ranger station). You could also tier the parks based on their visitor stats and then only the tier with the highest population of visitors would be allowed to develop these types of facilities.

(I like the answer above so I copied it)

C) Remain natural. I don't see the advantage of having wi-fi. That's not going to generate revenue and that's what we're focused on.

I like zip lines but not in a State Park.

I live near Beacon Rock so I will use it as an example. It is 5,100 acres and only has 28 tent campsites and 5 RV sites and is open seasonally. That's not a sustainable business model.

It fills up in the summer so I think they should consider making more camp sites with RV's being more of a focus because RV owners will pay more.

Some people are not going to like this but with few options I think everyone needs to open their minds to a "working forest". Use Capitol State Forest in Olympia as an example. It is a self sustained forest that generates annual profits for state schools.

This will require logging, permitted gathering of forest products (mushrooms, slough, trees, etc…). No, I don't mean clear cut the whole forest and rape the land of it's resources. Again, use Capitol Forest as an example. It works there and that same plan can work for other state forests.

Create hike and bike trail systems in the state parks to draw more people and continue collecting the Discover Pass FEE of $30/year. Yes, I know it's a form of double taxation but this is where compromise is needed. Let different user groups create and maintain the trails so there is no additional expense for the Forest Service.

Allow permitted events to take place in the forests for a fee. If someone wants to put on a bicycle race on a State Forest trail system they should either pay a flat fee or a certain % of gross revenue. Yes, the participants would be required to buy a Discover Pass.

Please don't complain about the Discover Pass fee if you buy more than 6 latte's / year. I can give a lot of examples why $30 is not worth complaining about.

Each state park should consider promoting their own event each year to raise revenue. Example: The "warrior dash" style events are very popular and would draw a lot of people. This would be a good way to collect corporate sponsorship money without renaming the parks. The "Wikipedia Warrior Dash". Just an example.

Another way to save money is to fire 50% of the politicians and distribute their salaries to the state parks. There's an answer most people can agree on:)

There is no single solution that everyone will agree on but please try to compromise and work together so we don't lose the state parks altogether.

Chuck

chuck4788@live.com

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 7:29 am

a) No advertising.

b) Vendors running parks and operating related retail will improve the user

experience for some locations. A very good example is Sun Lakes Resort vs Sun Lakes State Park campground; the Resort is packed during the week, the campground nearly empty.

c) If wifi is provided do it right, almost all areas with wifi that I have visited were so deficient in coverage area and speed to the point of being useless.

David Seibel

daveseibel@sbcglobal.net

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 6:48 am

A– advertising is ok at the entrance to parks, not throughout.

B– small stores are a great idea near the park entrance.

C– new tech like WI-FI is a plus. Being a member of Back Country Horsemen of Washington, the thought of a zipline over trails is a scary idea. I've Ziplined before and is a great money maker but it must be in an area set away from any trails. The noise would freak out a horse and cause lots of problems.

Thank you…Dave S.

wade youngs

wadeyoungs@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/08 at 2:01 am

I think small level advertising on park kiosks etc could be slightly beneficial, I also think that the money involved with implementing such a thing could easily surpass the revenue generated from such a venture. corporate sponsors for parks I do not agree with, some smaller parks with less of a history maybe, I think tax reform and better spending habits could remedy alot of money issues the parks have.

zip lines, wifi etc really should be taken on a case by case basis, some areas would benefit from such things, others not so much. to general of a question to answer in my opinion.

as far as grocery stores/gift shops, the local impact of such stores in some areas of the state would negate the benefits, lots of small business relys on tourisim of parks and outdoor hobby to stay in business, I would rather see my money spent to a small business, supporting local economys, then see a larger corporation come in and run a raquet with commerce in parks.

Jena Lacomis Garcia

facebook.com/photokitten x

sweetmog@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/07 at 11:52 pm

What do you think about advertising in parks or corporate names for public parks?

Rather than looking at short term, fleeting solutions that will not provide significant revenue and provide potential integrity issues, I think parks should look more into education and community engagement to bring revenue and renewed interests to the park system.

b. Is it ok to have commercial businesses, such as small grocery stores and gift shops, or should they stay completely natural?

How will the revenue of these private businesses contribute to the budget needed for parks resources?

c. Should public parks embrace new types of recreation (zip lines) and new technology (wi-fi access) or remain more natural?

The parks are natural classrooms- use them wisely! Wi-fi is at every cafe and restaurant; there is no need for it in parks, especially since it has nothing to do with revenue contribution to the park system. Create educational events like bird watching tours, nature hikes, inquiry based nature classes for children, lectures about the history of the parks, watersheds, biomes, the species that live in parks, etc. Charging nominal fees for these types of activities will give back to the community and create a longterm connection with community members, as well as give them a sense of

pride in their neighborhood park. As opposed to invasive, harmful recreational options like ziplines (which destroy wildlife habitat, create unnecessary and excessive noise that deters wildlife and will be unwelcoming for community members) look toward the many options that protect the natural beauty (flora and fauna) of these neighborhood gems.

Patti wible

pwible@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/07 at 11:50 pm

I dont agree with a or c. Parks need to remain natural settings, I go there to not see corporate ads. If I want wifi there are plenty of places for that. A few concessionaires are fine. Option b. they provide services appropriate to visitors and tourists. I am an equestrian with BCHW.

Kyle Dewey

K.Dewey2311@edmail.edcc.edu

Submitted on 2012/11/07 at 10:21 pm

A-I dont think that advertising would hurt the parks as long as I dont see billboards while walking down trails, but naming a park after a company would be ok.

B- I think it would cost more money to run and maintain a store or gift shop in a park than profits could cover. You would have no revenue.

C- Leave a park the way it is, don’t turn natural lands into amusement parks or starbucks’!

The best way I think to gather more money for maintenance and to properly run parks is to Promote the park itself, more publicity on TV, radio, billboards, encouraging people to get out in the woods. Also you can promote volunteer days, depending on the time of year, you could gather hundreds of volunteers with some simple food and fun

Lori Flemm

loriflemm@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/07 at 9:15 pm

A. I think limited and restrictions on advertising (outfield fences with all banners the same size) in select locations is appropriate (advertising on benches at each tee on a golf course is ok, but on a bench along a regional trail is not desirable). I don't approve of corporate names for parks, but in some instances corporate names on an athletic field, or picnic shelter is acceptable. I prefer to see parks named after notable citizens or geographic significance.

B. Small stores and concession stands, of the "Mom and Pop type" are a convenience for park visitors. (I would NOT want a fast food chain or grocery store).

c. wi-fi would be nice: would it be offered free, or would a park patron be charged to get the password? I would not pay to get a password. For example: my child is Playing in a sports league and has to arrive 45 minutes prior to the game to warm up. I would walk the park trails until the game starts – but if no trail, or have work to do wi-fi would be great to have. I have only been zip lining once in the past 5 years – It was a blast – and I drove 1.5 hours to get there. I would probably only go at most every other year.

I had local parks (city and county) in mind while answering the questions. IF a park is natural, open space, wildlife habiatat, a state or national park, I would say no to a,b, and c.

Thank you for asking our opinion.

Phil

kdxbound@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/07 at 8:29 pm

I think we all know there is a set limited amount of funds avaliable for recreation.

Although recreation is important for all of us – certain recreation activites should fund themselves

Advertising would be a good method to generate revenue

Concesionaire operation of certain facilites would be another method to at least cover costs of operations

Zip lines / para gliding lift assisted mtn biking, free ride parks – sure in the right place. This would bring in toursim $$ as well. These activites should be revenue positive

Wifi – why not its all about the place

Kari Fagerness

kfagerness@skamania-edc.org

Submitted on 2012/11/07 at 1:39 pm

a) I think some advertising would be good if it generated revenue for the effort (didn't cost more to have someone from parks and rec administer it then it generated); it would also need to be limited, I think, to information kiosks, bathrooms, ranger stations, etc. and not be out in the park or natural area. Corporate sponsors are not a good idea, each park has a name based on history and I think it should stay that way.

b) Only certain parks would be able to support a grocery store or gift shop and in those cases I think it would be fine as long as it is located in a developed area of the park (next to a parking area or ranger station). You could also tier the parks based on their visitor stats and then only the tier with the highest population of visitors would be allowed to develop these types of facilities.

c) I think wi-fi is very important even if it is just for safety or emergency services. My comments under b) are the same for zip lines or other types of commercial development.

Leslie Bryson

cob.org x

lbryson@cob.org

Submitted on 2012/11/07 at 1:04 pm

All three ideas have some merit, but must be done in moderation, and based on input from the community. If it is a choice between closing parks, or generating revenue through limited, compatible commercial activities, sponsorships and advertising, it's a no brainer.

Jeff Yeckel

yeckel@televar.com

Submitted on 2012/11/07 at 12:50 pm

a,b&c I do not support these ideas …it seems the parks are getting out of their area of expertise…and into an area that would require a whole bunch of new laws and regulations…ending up costing the tax payers more…at what end….WiFi access in the parks?…I thought people were trying to get away from tech when they go into the outdoors!! To generate moneys…sell some of the state and federal land back to the public…and get the land back onto the tax rolls.

Herb Gerhardt

hgerhardt@wavecable.com

Submitted on 2012/11/07 at 10:39 am

a. Rather than blanket advertising, I would support sponsorships and displaying the sponsors name or logo on the items they sponsor, like a Kiosk or an interprative sign. This would be sort of low key advertisement and not deter from the looks of the park or make it look comercialized. I would even look at one big corporation sponsoring one specific park and their sponsorship would be displayed on the info board in a non-overbearing way. I would not support any name changes of the parks to reflect the

corporate sponsor.

b. Yes, I would support small busnesses operating within a park under a vendor's license from the park. That way the park could control the type, size and estetic appeal of that business to the specific park.

c. I would think that Wi-Fi access would be a good idea since it would be a drawing card for some users like those who go to the park for lunch. Zip lines would be a huge liability issue and not sure that would be a good idea but the concept of allowing vendor controlled entertainment/drawing card activities is worth while exploring. Kyak rentals or small boat rentals at stratigic locations might work just fine but again these would have to be operated by a licensed vendor and not by the park.

I consider State Parks an asset that the state cannot reduce. The Discover Pass was supposed to solve all of their problems and it has not. The problem is State Parks are fat in personel and services. I think the staff can be reduced and more of the services switched to volunteers. Each State Park does not need a gun carrying ranger who will always call for local law enforcement to come and handle the situation. I think a local warden should suffice. That warden can asses the situation and call the appropriate authorities as needed.

bruce emmons

emmons7bm@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/07 at 9:41 am

i am in favor of b and c ….anything to get rid of the discover pass….i don't like being double taxed!!!

nancy

nlbnlb2@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/07 at 8:24 am

a. no advertising I go to the parks to get away from this.

b. if they are small and look good

c wifi yes zip line no it open's up to much to other thing like then they would want a place to rent bikes not that I don't think that they should ride bikes on the trail we ride horse on ours. it also takes away from the natural beauty of the parks

Ann Stanton

stanton@ci.snohomish.wa.us

Submitted on 2012/11/07 at 8:24 am

a. Advertising in parks or corporate names for public parks:

Please do not allow advertising in outdoor areas.

Please do not sell names for public parks.

Parks are our visual refuge from the constant bombardment of corporate selling that occurs nearly everywhere else in the public realm. Selling park names implies that the corporate sponsor paid most of the costs, but in fact, they pay only a fraction, with the real sponsor being the taxpayer.

However, paid advertsing on paper products like camp area maps and rules pamphlets would be fine with me, especially if ithe advertising related to services connected with the site or park activity, such as a nearby restaurant, recreation activities, etc. Also okay with me is a small, factual acknowledgement on an interpretive sign stating that it was "provided by X Corporation" but not in the format of an advertisement with logos or product listings.

b. Commercial businesses, such as small grocery stores and gift shops, in parks:

Small grocery stores and gift shops in parks would be fine with me, as long as visual pollution of the natural environment was avoided: no flashing signs, no buildings looking like corporate billboards (think gas station paint schemes), etc. Design standards requiring compatibility with the locale could control this.

c. New types of recreation (zip lines) and new technology (wi-fi access) in parks:

Yes, I support new types of recreation (zip lines) and new technology (wi-fi access),

but not necessarily in every park. The more remote parks should have correspondingly fewer “enhancements”. Less is generally more, as a rule, in our natural parks.

Thank you for asking!

B

Burnett x

holnam@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/06 at 4:19 pm

what ever it takes to get rid of the fees for stuff we already were taxed for.

Richard Hazelton

48north.com x

richard@48north.com

Submitted on 2012/11/06 at 10:33 am

a. Advertising possibly at an entrance would acceptable, but throughout would ruin the experience. Might as well be at the mall.

b. Businesses seem fine if they blend in, as they do in National Parks. They would have to be in the larger parks.

c. WiFi is invisible but where’s the income? Zip lines etc. depend on the parks. No marine parks or smaller parks where zip lines would change the dynamics of the park.

Russ Cahill

woodardcreek@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/06 at 10:22 am

Concessions should provide essentials for park visitors. An example is the small store at Lake Wenatchee which provides food and basic supplies; allowing campers to avoid

long drives to a store. In my experience, concessions do not provide revenues of significant value to keep parks financially stable. Short seasons and highly restrictive contracting rules do not make for substatial return.

Zip lines are faddish responses to serious fiscal needs. While I hold no animosity for them there are plenty of places outside the public parks to site these entertainments.

Public parks, libraries and museums are small consumers of tax money. They are a part of the disappearing social contract we have enjoyed for nearly two centuries in the United States. In them we share a heritage and a safe mixing bowl for the many diverse components that have made our country great.

Eliminate subsidies and assess fair taxes on all segments of our state's commercial, Industrial and personal income and keep the parks available to all.

Byron Stuck

WOHVA.org

nmatrust@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/06 at 10:10 am

a. I'm fine with it as a piece of the solution. It hasn't changed my baseball experience going to Safeco Field.

b. Stores are OK but location and storefront should be regulated.

c. I don't understand how these technologies even fit in the mission of the park. Embracing nature is the opposite of embracing the web …

Jim Sprott

sprott.j@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/06 at 7:34 am

a) Advertising is okay as long as it isn't too much. It seems like it would be better served to have local businesses advertise so visitors can find them, "corporate" sponsors at a small local park don't seem feasible. I think this would be a small source

of revenue.

b) It will depend on the park. Deception Pass is a great place for it's beauty and should remain that way. Other places are better for recreation so there is more opportunity for amenities to make it more accessible for families.

c) Parks are competing for patrons. There needs to be a healthy mix of activities and amenities that attract users of all sorts. I don't believe there is one approach that will fit all of the parks. The local communities should be engaged to find volunteer groups and businesses that will support any amenities and uses consistent with the park. If an area lends itself to a zip line and there is a steady stream of users that like that activity AND it will bring visitors there to bring in businees to the community then it should be there. If a park is known for it's beauty and that's why people come there, then it should remain that way.

Tim Dustrude

dustrude@mac.com

Submitted on 2012/11/05 at 8:28 pm

I don't like the idea of Corporate Naming or Branding at all, but I think small grocery or concession stands, snack bars, etc would be fine. Also, I think wi-fi would be good.

Geoff Kirk

gkirk91@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/05 at 5:38 pm

a. I don't like the idea of ads in a park or Microsoft Mt. Rainer.

b. Some small stores might be okay. I would limit them to locally owned small businesses.

c. I want to go to a park to get away from yahoos screaming on a zip line and/or the blue light and tapping keyboards of people on their computers and phones.

We need to reform our state's tax system so that we don't have to consider these ideas.

Todd Hansen

toddghansen@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/05 at 4:09 pm

a) I would not want advertising that blocks views or that overly interferes with the natural experience. So it would be most appropriate in sporting recreational areas, i.e. athletic fields, frisbee golf parks, and so forth. Naming rights are kind of cheesy though. It distracts from the original names and history. You can't change Ike Kinswa SP, for example.

b) I think concessionaires are appropriate when they do a good job. Xanterra operates some fine facilities, but they are in top tier national parks, so you cannot assume that level of professionalism across the spectrum. If you could maintain the original feel of the park, then I believe concessionaires could be possible. Just leave it to them to install infrastructure, or use mobile buildings when possible.

c) Zip lines would be cool in some areas, but you have to be careful to not get caught in a fad. They seem to be popping up everywhere. It would be more fun to do temporary routes, for example; use non-destructive anchor webbing from tree to tree in Federation Forest and change the routes monthly.

When it comes down to it, are there enough people already visiting natural parks? Have those that support a natural park been more supportive of nature or the park? If you can be creative in your quest to find lucrative joint park-private ventures, then I think you have to do what you must to maintain the parks. People will learn about or remember fun experiences in a park, and return. It works even better if people can enjoy it in the rain and cold, like running or biking, or a Tough Mudder race.

Todd Welch

jtoddwelch@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/05 at 11:25 am

a. I believe all options are on the table, but I don't see where this would bring in enouch revenues to support a park.

b. A very good option at the busier parks and camping areas to generate revenues.

c. I great option depending on what a privite managemement company would like to use at a specific park where it would work. We must find ways to draw more people and it may take some extra to get that done.

Sarah

scuttlebutt777@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 7:05 am

a. I would really hate to see a park named after a large retail corporation. Our family tries to support local businesses not retail giants, so it would really bother me to have to go to Target State Park. Target does not need more advertising, I would prefer to see less. * If the advertising was only small businesses that are nearby to the specific park, I could consider it. That would help support the local businesses advertise more and hopefully bring in more business. I will be honest, if Costco names a park after them, I may never go there.

b. I think they would be better off near the park, but not within the park. My fear is that the parks are going to become come trash receptacle for a wide variety of things, not just cliff bar wrappers. I also think it takes away from the nature of the park. If I were a parent, I would rather take my child to a place where food and purchases were not an option. I would want them to remember we went to Mt. Rainer and how beautiful it is, not that we bought a snow globe in the gift shop. They need long lasting memories of nature, not temporary ones that go out of style.

c. I would prefer not to have wifi in parks, I think they should be a place where people go to disconnect from our very connected world. I think a zip line would be great or other types of recreation, possibly ropes courses, obstacle courses for kids and adults. This could bring more events to the parks. However I do fear that these

are the things that bring in the future concession stands and gift shops, so if they can stay as close to natural as possible, I would approve them.

Comments submitted by e-mail:

Margie Loomis

Margie.K.Loomis@centurylink.com

Submitted on Nov 12, 2012 4:28 PM

I'd like to comment on the issues concerning the parks and in particular the zip lines. I realize there is a new generation of outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy the x-factor experience. That's great. Set up those types of activities like zip lines, power mountain biking, etc. in an area such as a snow ski or snowboard area. Those places have open trail systems, are set up to handle the more mobile type of recreationists and are seldom used in the summer months. As for myself being an older equestrian type recreationalist, I don't mind sharing trails with hikers or other types of mellow activities. The reason I go out in the parks and woods is to get away from the hustle and bustle of noisy people. I'd like to think that the few equestrian approved trails we have out there would be left to the more serene activities such as hiking, horseback riding, llama packing, etc.

As for the funding, again this issue isn't easily resolved. I would support small commercial businesses like grocery stores, gift shops, or things that would be park related set up in a centralized location near the park entrance. I would not support strip malls, fast food chains, or crap that's put there just for the purpose of entertainment (the park should be the focal point of entertainment). Advertising, especially in the form of signage should be kept to a minimum and sized appropriately so you aren't starring at it from every prominent spot in the park. As for commercial names branding our parks – a big fat NO. Let them have the sports arena's. We need to continue to recognize our natural wonders and those great American's of the past who made these parks possible. If a big commercial business wanted to donate land

to create and maintain a new park and wanted that park named for them, go ahead. Don't rename our existing familiar parks.

Unfortunately parks were never meant to be a source of income, therefore there was never a financial basis established to support them over the years. Charging a daily usage fee, encouraging people to clean up after themselves and overseeing them with volunteer PARK HOSTS offsets some of the costs. I'm not sure installing zip lines, which would require huge insurance liabilities, is the answer to gaining more revenue.

Eric Guenther

PenMet Parks

eguenther@penmetparks.org

Park providers need money to operate and maintain their facilities. One solution is to change the current experience visitors have in a public park to generate revenue (such as zip lines in a nature park or concessionaire/gift shops). Another solution is to generate revenue through advertising, naming rights, concessions, etc. We would like your thoughts about,

a. What do you think about advertising in parks or corporate names for public parks?

We generally don't like it, but that may be necessary to attain fiscal sustainability.

b. Is it ok to have commercial businesses, such as small grocery stores and gift shops, or should they stay completely natural?

We think having items available that visitors might want is convenient for them and potentially beneficial to provider through needed revenues and helping with the park visitation experience (i.e. equipment rentals)--with appropriate respect for the "natural" aspect of the site and also meeting local zoning guidelines.

c. Should public parks embrace new types of recreation (zip lines) and new technology (wi-fi access) or remain more natural?

Wifi can enhance the experience with the addition of educatinal content. People are also doing (managing/maintaining) the rest of their life everywhere they go and are more apt to experience places where they can continue to deal with the rest of life--

while getting this new experience. Like the theaters, request appropriate respect at appropriate times and locations.

The new recreation is acceptable, again, with appropriate balance, protection, and respect for the natural aspects of the site.

Questions 2 & 3 are somewhat related to an earlier topic RCO presented which related to expanding allowable use of structures in the water access category.

For instance, kayak rentals at a water access property would enhance the experience, so a storage facility would be beneficial, not only for kayaks but for other water experience equipment.

ROUND 2 QUESTION

We have a two-part question for you:

Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

Are they maintained well enough?

Summary Observations from the Blog Facilitator

Participation was robust with 345 comments received. These came from 306 unique e-mail addresses which is the best estimate of the number of stakeholders who participated in this round (i.e., there is a small possibility that a single stakeholder may have responded from more than one e-mail address).

Overall, a consistent theme was stakeholder appreciation of the recreation resources available in Washington and the opportunity to express their needs and concerns via this blog. One respondent put it this way, "Good questions, great subject, as we all love to be in the outdoors and we live in such a diverse part of our nation." Another person said, "First, I appreciate that you asked for our opinions. This is the way our government should work!" And there were comments about the broad, shared interest that exists across stakeholders as said in one comment, "Last, I reiterate that hikers, mountain bikers, OHV motorcyclist, horse-back riders, and others need to work together to share land... We are all simply short-term borrowers of nature. We [are] working together to enjoy it."

Conflict Management

Many respondents commented on conflicting use for the same site. One respondent put it this way, "The multi use areas can make it hard for all types of users as they all

feel they should be there but not the other due to _____(fill in The blank)." In response to these kinds of conflicts, respondents noted that, to a degree, people are making active choices to self-manage their experiences. An example is the horsewoman who said, "I understand the need for public lands that are multi use but I find riding with motorized vehicles too dangerous for my liking." The difficulty of managing the challenge of conflicting uses was described by another respondent who said, "...accommodating newer uses without displacing existing heritage uses can be a challenge without adequate recreation planning and new site development."

The need for cooperation among user groups was also expressed as when user said, "Yes we need more useable trails for all groups I realize that keeping these trails repaired is the largest issue we have to getting more trails put in, this can only be resolved by all user groups to work harder together." Another respondent called for a kind of cooperation, but in the context of sharing opportunity when he said, "Whatever decision is made [about allocations to different kinds of recreation], it needs to be made to balance the rights we all have relative to each trail and it's natural suitability. … Can't we all just get alone and share?"

There were a variety of aspiration statements about lack of cooperation creating missed opportunity due to in-fighting among users. One mountain biker said, "We can share the trails – bikers, hikers, runners, dog walkers and equestrians – I always enjoy to see other people's way of enjoying outdoor. We should be allies." A hiker said, "We lack respect or [...acceptance...] for what other people enjoy. User groups lobbying against each other instead of banding together for everyone." And a horsewoman said, "My second concern is compassion and respect for all user groups. We all have the same common interest – the natural outdoors and protection of this asset. Working together and building on our common interest will get us much further... Bicycles and horses probably shouldn't share the same trails, but this doesn't mean we can't work together to help save or build trails." Similarly, a mountain biker commented, "Bikers, equestrians, hikers, dirt bikers all have one thing in common: a love of playing outside. With so many pressures on the local land

and with so many open spaces disappearing we all need to recognize what we have in common – protecting our open spaces and keeping them healthy enough for all to enjoy."

Themes that emerged across the comments included,

- Trail users who need 'heavier development' such as equestrians, report a decline in the number of opportunities available to them,
- Motor-sport trail users report a decline in the number of opportunities available to them (e.g., increased gaiting of logging roads),
- Comments that made a case for preferential use by one type of recreation over another,
- Comments that made a case for expanding the recreation resource base and its diversity as a way to manage conflicts, and
- Comments that made a case for area or time-based zoning to separate conflicting uses

Interventions mentioned included:

- Interest in zoning to separate uncomplimentary recreation activities and
- Sequestering days to separate conflicting dual use (motorcycles versus mountain bikers) on the same trail.

One supporter of zoning put it this way, "In a perfect world, I would like to see individual parks designated for specific uses (i.e. mountain bike parks, hiking parks, equestrian parks, ATV parks, etc.), but I know this is not feasible. As a trade off, areas of each park should be segregated by use." But a cautionary note was sounded, as articulated by another respondent, "Dividing trails up for individual user groups creates a charged environment with one group attacking the efforts of another in order to protect an area for one user type."

Is there enough?

Opinions about whether or not there is enough recreational opportunities varied to extremes,

- from beliefs that there is a serious shortage of opportunity,
- to opinions that we have an adequate supply,
- to opinions that we have an adequate supply but the geographic distribution is

not right,

- to opinions that we have adequate supply, generally, but there is a shortage for some recreation interests, and
- to opinions that we have more opportunity than we need and/or can afford.

The increasing Washington population was the demographic change most cited by respondents who believe there is a shortage of opportunity. One respondent put it succinctly, "Populations are growing, with the consequence that public lands seems to be diminishing."

There also were highly divergent opinions about the merit of various direct fees (e.g., Good To Go Pass) and indirect fees (e.g., allocations of gas taxes) that support recreation development, especially for trails and associated infrastructure. Opinions ranged from support to pay more to get more access, to recognition that the current state government fiscal situation means new money has to come from somewhere if supports are to remain in place, to opposition to fees because of concerns that too much money is being spent already or the money would not be used for supporting these recreation opportunities. A repeated message that appeared in the comments was from users who questioned the value they receive for the fees they pay. They, essentially, were not able to see the use of their fees 'on-the-ground'. A mountain biker put it this way, "I paid extra attention after I bought the Discover Pass, and found that most of the recent work involved putting up the signs requiring the pass. Beyond that….not allot of other work being done...".

There was sentiment that the distribution of opportunity by type of recreation is not appropriate. Some people expressed this in the context of there not being enough recreation opportunity and by others who felt there is enough it is just not distributed adequately. An example of the latter was the commenter who said, "We have adequate trails in some areas, but remain hopelessly lacking in other areas." A frequently cited criterion for locating facilities is the typical driving distance for users to access their style of recreation. One mountain biker put it this way, "However there are simply not enough trails and back country opportunities to meet the need, particularly within a reasonable driving distance (1 hour) from the major population

centers." There also were calls for multiple-use trails but often these were stated with qualifications like the comment from a horsewoman who said, "I advocate for multi-use trails -with trail user education." Some respondents observed that there are missed opportunities because there are too few private-public partnerships. One mountain biker put it this way, "Maybe work together with logging companies to leave areas for riders."

Connectivity of trails was on the minds of some respondents. They, basically, were making a case that opportunity can be improved by connecting trails in a way that allows access at one point and egress at another, thereby increasing both the quantity and diversity of opportunity. At the extreme of this thinking was the person who articulated this objective as analogous to building an interconnected transportation system when she said, "Trails need to be thought of as regional transportation, same as roads, that connect areas and communities."

Some comments offered a recognition of the limits on government spending that are a reality but also observed that against that reality is,

- Increasing demand as Washington's population increases; e.g., one person observed, "According to WSDOT, WA's population has grown from roughly 4 to 7 million in the last 30 years" and another person summarized this impact by saying, "What that means then is the per capita amount [of recreation opportunity] (with a growing population) is actually shrinking".
- A desire to provide meaningful outdoor experiences for youth who spend too much time tied to television, video games, etc.

Recreation opportunities were frequently defined by respondents as an asset; one that provides a diversity of values, such as,

- Economic Asset: "…I feel that we have a responsibility to continue improving our parks and trails. They are an invaluable asset and a great marketing tool when working with companies looking to relocate to our area."
- Health and wellbeing asset: "This is key as [mountain] bikes is a draw for kids to the outdoors and away from TV and video games and drugs. We need more trails to support that draw to the activity in nature."
- Quality of life asset: "Parks, trails, and recreational facilities all add to the

quality of life in any town...".

- Moral meaning: "I endorse all outdoor activity, because it brings us closer to the creator who built this planet."

Adequacy of Maintenance:

There were different opinions about how to manage the dilemma of choosing between spending limited funding on creating new recreation opportunities versus spending that same money on maintenance. People felt strongly in both directions as these opposing comments illustrate,

> "To allow new trails when existing ones exist but are not brought up to par is irresponsible."
>
> "As 'development' gobbles up more and more natural areas, we need to protect as many remaining natural areas as possible..."

There is a level of recognition among stakeholders that they are part of the solution. One user said, "I think that as users we need to help maintain the areas or contribute to the costs in some way." A frequent solution they put forward is to use more volunteers. Tempering this suggestion other respondents expressed concern about the efficiency of using volunteers (i.e., if volunteers live far from a recreation site recruiting them to work at that distant site may take more effort than is cost effective), about sustainability of relying upon volunteers for maintenance over a long time frame (i.e., volunteer burn-out), the cost of managing volunteers ("Volunteers are not free…"), and the reality of land owner liability if a volunteer is injured. Several people suggested that a legislative remedy is a solution. An example is the comment from a mountain biker who said, "If legislation could be drafted similar in concept to RCW 4.24 (recreational immunity for private land owners) we would open the door to more groups and individuals assisting with O&M."

There were comments about the challenges of maintenance in an environment of retracting government funding for this kind of public service. One mountain biker put it this way, "The trail that is accessible is not always well-maintained because the USFS and DNR simply don't have the funds to handle this."

Divergent opinions existed about whether or not facilities are maintained well enough versus not well enough. There was recognition in the comments that people have different attitudes about how much maintenance is enough. Some folks using more primitive areas like lower maintenance since that is part of the 'back-to-nature-experience they are seeking. Others, who feel maintenance is inadequate, make the case for 'safe-and-serviceable' facilities. One person summed up this divergence of opinion and then added his own feelings when he said, "Adequate maintenance is in the eye of the beholder. The standard should be such that those values we sought to protect in the first place [are] not degraded or irretrievably damaged." One respondent noted that maintenance is a two part commitment. "First, the physical aspects – access, cleanliness, function and second, the work needed to maintain relevance and keep the areas interesting for future users and needs."

Below are the individual comments received in response to this question:

Comments Submitted on the Town Hall Website

Joshua Marvel

joshuamarvel@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/04 at 8:53 am

I would like to see more trails for mountain biking in and around the Seattle area. Specifically, I would like to see more trails within 30-60 minute's drive from downtown that are under 2500′ elevation so that they either remain rideable in the winter or become rideable in the springtime. We can see that the few good trail systems near to Seattle (like Duthie Hill, Grand Ridge and Tiger Mountain) are seeing huge numbers of users. Mountain Bikers are a distinct user group and need the space to build more legal, sustainable trails for their use.

mrweirdwrench

beatmatched@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/12/03 at 10:29 pm

Would really like to see more trails for off-roading enthusiasts (e.g. off road motorized vehicles,cyclists,etc)

Tyw509

slubogger@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/03 at 9:06 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

NO.

I would love to see more ground allowing ORV's. as well as 4X4 vehicles. people complain about others not on the right trails. but what has been happening is people who do not understand are closing down ORV parks and trails. so by doing that they think that orv enthusiast will just disappear but that is not the case, these anti-whatever people are just causing people to search for other areas to enjoy the outdoors which in some cases forces orv enthusiast into areas they should not have been.

The major disappointment i have with our current government is i have been paying licensing on vehicles for the BLM and forest service to maintain trails and our state government decides to grab money designated for trail maintenance and spend it where they wish.

shame on government.

therefore maintenance would not be a problem if the money was spent where it should be.

once again shame our government lets hope you get it right this time.

you are not here to manage people only to help manage OUR lands fairly among the outdoors men/women as we see fit.

Ned Higgins

nedhi@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/03 at 8:32 pm

Enough recreation resource? My general stance is that more is better- better for broadening scope of opportunity, better for spreading out user load and better for representing WA state as a true unpoliticized recreation hotbed and draw in user/tourist dollars. Unfortunately WA state front country is suffering from competing agenda and the liability lawyers who have closed down a lot of opportunities.

Maintained well enough? I participate in many forms of recreation ranging from simple dog walks to backcountry hiking to mountain biking to off road motorcycle riding. Generally speaking, the areas for lower intensity activities are reasonably well kept (easy) while the facilities for high intensity activity are languishing or being tied up by political agenda (read: designated offroad motorcycle areas such as Gold Bar) to eventually choke out those particular activities. Last I heard, only a small fraction of my WA Discover Pass fee is making it to DNR's hands and I won't even get into the NOVA funds misappropriation, I'd prefer to keep the discussion productive…but you get the point.

I'll be out working on the trails I use if you need to reach me.

Herve Burnel

h_burnel@frontier.com

Submitted on 2012/12/03 at 6:34 pm

Do we have enough parks and trails ?

As(1) a hiker , mountain(2) biker and(3) dirt bike rider I will say (1)Yes ,(2)not too bad but could be better and (3)without hesitation not even close to enough .As already noted by some ,the lack of trails for motorcycles or others actually hurts nature and damages the trails from overuse .Open more trails specific to off-road vehicles ,contrary to popular belief we are not out there to destroy the environment !

The key is responsible use and it seems that we are paying for the few that have no

respect for Anything and the zealots of this world .

Are they well maintained?

How much maintenance does one need?

When i hike I am not looking for groomed trails, same for mountain biking(or I would be road biking?) same for dirt bike .It's about exercise , nature and challenge .

regular use of a trail will maintain it as far as hiking is concerned ,Most mountain bike trails are well taken care off by user groups and off roaders also have some active groups although not as well organized .(not counting funds misappropriated that if properly used could do wonders .

As a side comment on trail maintenance the only ones I have never seen (but I could be wrong) do any maintenance are the horse riders (and they do some serious damages to trails)

Greg

greghalberg@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/03 at 3:08 pm

Study after study shows the conomic value of trails and access to outdoor recreation. It is worth the investment. The tendency in 2012 is to restrict access using lack of funding as a reason. So yes to more trails, and yes to more maintainence.

Lori Lennox

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Submitted on 2012/12/03 at 1:34 pm

I am a trail maintenance volunteer and a member of Back County Horsemen of WA, the Pacific Crest Trail Association and Washington Trails Association. Thank you for this wonderful way for being heard.

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas? I doubt that any of us really feel like there is enough! Seriously, that varies around the state and where

there is ‘enough’ today that will probably not be so 10 years from now the way WA is growing. And there will always be the problem that if people live in a big city they typically will have to drive further to recreate since everything around them has been developed. More urban bike trails connecting areas are needed and should be taken into consideration when any changes are made to a cities infrastructure.

With the financial situation the way it is I can’t see that acquiring new properties is wise. Neither is adding more designated Wilderness area to the already cash and manpower strapped USFS & NP’s to figure out how to manage. There is already a big backlog of expensive (vs. non-wilderness) Wilderness trails that are not being maintained, either to standard or at all, and those trail miles are growing.

What I do see when looking at maps for many of the existing areas is that they have large areas with no developed recreation but that the opportunities are there if the land managers would allow it. In many cases the local volunteer users would do the work. Most users groups have great, very experienced people who could come up with viable plans and crews – this is what they DO! – but many land managers will not give them the go ahead to get it done. Legality issues? Job security? It would be nice to see what is stopping this.

I also know of several areas with trails where horseback riding is allowed but the parking needed for trucks and trailers is not there. Or it is there but horses are not allowed in the parking area itself, such as Griffiths- Priday Ocean State Park at Copalis.

One group that I see as really needing to start to be considered as a separate user group are the extreme and downhill mountain bikers. Their needs are quite different from the bike riders who are out to quietly enjoy the land and scenery and are in no great hurry. Horse people have their ‘extremes’ also, the cross country riders who want jumps and ditches on trails. The horse people have worked primarily with private land owners throughout the state to get jump courses built and usually hold competitions at those sites as well. This group of bikers don’t seem to have those same facilities and so they use multi-user designated trails. This is where I see a lot of conflict and the opportunity for people to get hurt – quiet and speed mixed with hikers and horses, often on narrow trails, is not a good combination. Personally, as a

horseback rider, I would rather ride with motorized; I can hear them coming and prepare myself plus they don't have to focus as much attention on the trail right in front of their wheels so can look see what is up in front of them better. If bikers would put small bells on their bikes it would help, quite a few are already doing that I have noticed.

This group of bikers is large and growing. If I were younger I would probably be right there with them – this looks like fun! Most are quite organized and ready and willing to do the physical work necessary, maybe even help fund projects. I would like to see land managers work with them to come up with areas for designated courses. Other states are utilizing ski areas for this and offering downhill resorts, Utah in particular. Maybe there are motorized opportunities at those places as well? How about ski park trails? Some thinking outside the box is needed I think.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

That varies. On many USFS lands, Wilderness in particular, there are huge backlogs of unmaintained or minimally maintained trails. Usually that is in the more remote areas where many volunteers have to use their vacation time to spend several days on site vs. urban trails such as the DNR's Capitol Forest. There people can go up and work one weekend day here and there. Making it easier for experienced volunteers to do routine trail maintenance should be addressed. There are often times big differences in management methods from district to district also, many times on the same Forest.

Mark

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Submitted on 2012/12/03 at 9:02 am

As an outdoor recreation enthusiast I dont think there could ever be enough parks however with limited budgets I understand the limitations. Its unfortunate that there is little recognition of just how much volunteer work mountain bikers put into building and maintaining areas that they want to ride. Given the oppotunity and access to open land, many more trails could be built and maintained with little to no burden on tax dollars. As our sport continues to rise in popularity we need more

approved areas to ride with more diversity.

As for maintance, most new (mountain bike) trails that have been completed in the last few years are built to a standard that helps create lower maintenance trails. Most of the older trails that are ridden by bikes tend be in ill-repair even with effort to keep them up.

The argument that new trails cost money to build and then create a burden to maintain has changed in significantly in the last decade (at least speaking of mtb trails). There is a vast population of bikers who are willing to volunteer with building and maintenance (large and small scale). There is a high demand for more, and more diverse trail systems and I would love to see more access given to the biking community.

Chad

cda89xj@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/12/03 at 8:00 am

I have been enjoying the outdoors since childhood. Mostly then was by way of hiking or dirtbike, since past years I am unable to ride or hike long distances, I have moved towards 4x4ing as a way for myself and family to enjoy the PNW. And now I like to take my two kids out into the PNW outdoors to share my past experiences with them. I am a 4×4 enthusiest and so are my daughters. While there are only a few places we go, Naches, Elbe, Evans Creek, that are within a reasonable distance and thats driving up to 1-2hrs. We also go on FS roads and such to explore and find creeks and hi up lakes also. Those OHV areas are well maintained thanks to volunteers and clubs. But is there enough trails for this sport/hobby, not at all in my opinion. And I am a fan of the Trail Watch program to help regulate abusers of the trail system instead of the state shutting more places down due to not being able to fund law enforcement ect.

There is so much land for one to enjoy in the great state, but only by certain ways that some of us are not physically able to do so. I hope the state one day can expand the trail availability for those of us who enjoy exploring the outdoors by way of capable 4×4 vehicle. And I personally have no doubts that if they allow/build it the

users and volunteers to make it happen will come.

Wayne

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Submitted on 2012/12/02 at 9:00 pm

Given the lack of funding from the state general fund there are plenty of parks. There isn't enough money from the discover pass and limited amount from the genreal fund to adequately take care of the parks that presenty exist. It is non-sensical for additional lands to be purchased, just because the money is there.

As for trails – depends on what kind of trails are being referred to. Basically there could be more trails of all types. Especially since no seems wiling to share – the hikers don't like dogs on "their trails", The mountain bikers don't like horses or people or dogs on "their". The hikers, horse people, and mountain bikers don't like motorcycles, ORVs or ATVs on "their" trails. Basically the motorized community seems more willing to share the trails; however, until the various user groups become wiling to share, there never will be enough trails.

Q 2 – maintenance seems to be lacking to some extent at most parks and on most trails. Money should be spent taking care of what is already in the system and new lands should not be aquired until the routine maintenance needs are met.

Chris Marsh

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Submitted on 2012/12/02 at 8:46 pm

Another comment is that the state needs to stop these lawsuits from rebuilding existing roads and trails that have been damaged. These small groups need to find something else to do then waste tax payers money in friviless lawsuits. We have paid for these roads…..lets fix them. Suattle river road and the Mt. loop hwy are prime examples of areas that were caught up in red tape. These areas are highly benifitial and it is tragic for us to lose them. i am glad the courts saw the reality in saving

them.

Chris Marsh

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Motocross riding is the 2nd most demanding sport out there. We are not riding cuz we are lazy. just an fyi

Sharon Rodman

sharon@ilanga.com

Submitted on 2012/12/02 at 7:11 pm

a. Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

I'm always on the lookout for new hiking trails in the Seattle area–for day outings. Many of the available trails are overused on weekends and thus the more trails available, the better. Motorized vehicles on trails ruin the outdoor experience for me. I prefer hiking-only trails, or to share with horses where appropriate.

Dogs, when allowed, should be kept on leash unless in designated off-leash areas.

As "development" gobbles up more and more natural areas, we need to protect as many remaining natural areas as possible–for future generations of native plants and the birds and other wildlife that depend on them. Parks in natural areas provide important ecological and life-support functions–for humans and wildlife–and we must be sensitive to the impacts of recreation.

b. Are they maintained well enough?

The heavy reliance on volunteers to maintain parks and trails is problematic because of sustainability issues. Volunteers are great, but there's often an overwhelming amount of work required. Volunteers are not free because they typically require training and management. The removal of Invasive plant species and trail maintenance require public investment.

Ralph Loewen

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Submitted on 2012/12/02 at 3:43 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

No we do not have enough of these lands and facilities. The increase in the population of Washington since 1970 has been huge. The amount of parks, trails, and especially campgrounds has failed to keep up with the demand for recreation. Even if lands we acquire now, or should acquire now, can not be developed at least they would be saved from being paved over. Saying no to expansion of park lands and preservation of open space even if those lands can not be soon turned into parks, trails, etc is shortsighted thinking at its very worst. After all when was the last time a 1500 acre park with trails was needed and a shopping mall and hundreds of houses were demolished to make that happen? Open space once lost does not come back.

As for specific needs there is a real and undeniable shortage of trails for mountain biking and campgrounds. This is especially true for those areas close to most of the population of this state. If you have to have a reservation system for campgrounds you have a problem.

There are plenty of hiking and horse riding opportunities. Many hiking-only trails should be opened to mountain bike use. In a few places having no bikes allowed makes sense. Most of the time it does not. Shared use trail systems that allow horse or motorized recreation do not work especially if there is any significant volume of users. The high impacts of motorized and horse trail use frequently render trails unuseable and undesirable for other users. I have no problem agreeing with the horse and moto user groups saying they need more receational areas but such use should happen on trails and parks set aside for that. On the other hand mountain biking and hiking have the same very low impact on a trail system. Also these two types of trail users desire a similar experience and should be allowed together.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

In some places maintenance appears adequate but overall it is a problem. The mere fact that this question is being asked speaks volumes. Were it not for the large

amount of volunteer work being done in federal, state, and county lands many trails and facilities would be unuseable or nonexistent. Over dependence on volunteers is also an indication of a problem and cannot be a desired method of operation. It is obvious that there needs to be a larger public investment in outdoor recreation facilities for both construction and maintenance. The demand is clearly present and will generate additional economic activity in rural and small town locations that most need it. Given the current financial problems faced by government entities alternatives such as specific user fees, event venue fees, food concessions, supervised community service/inmate labor, business sponsorship, or even advertising ought to be considered.

Brandon

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Submitted on 2012/12/02 at 12:38 pm

NO we don't have nearly enough trails in washington state i would love to see way more!!!!!!!!!! I also feel that none of the trails are maintained as they should be. it would be nice to have some state of some kind of help keeping the trails nice and it would be nice if we could have some more groups come together and build a recreation area just for the people who love the out doors and motorized vehicles.

Adventureweiner (@Adventureweiner)

Adventureweiner@twitter.example.com

Submitted on 2012/12/02 at 12:20 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

Yes for hiking. The trails available for mountain biking is very limited and almost non-existent in the winter (as most currently open in the summer are closed. I would assume the Washington Recreation Office is also concerned with promoting the fitness, health and wellbeing of Washington residents. Hiking isn't the only physical activity. Many people only mountain bike so these people are being essentially forced

to being couch potatoes in the winter.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

I don't have a really informed opinion on this but by observation I would say yes…although I know many of my favorite trails are cleared in the spring of trees and brush by volunteers, not the State.

Norm

normansounddisp@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/12/02 at 12:01 pm

If you take a look at Orgeons trail system and compaire it to ours, Washington has alot of work to do. I think Washington should look at Orgeon to rewrite our comp plan. We fall way short.

Gus

skookumrdr@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/12/02 at 11:39 am

We do not have enough trails in washington. I grew up riding dirt bikes and mountain bikes in places like the Crater/Victor Falls Tanwax lake and several other places that closed do to development. I remember when there was alot of trails open to dirt bikes on the Oly national forest.

The OHV crowd needs more ohv trail on the west side. The OHV crowd needs a couple of large OHV area on the sage step of the east slope of the cascades.

The Mountain Bikers need more trails in Central Washington. There is a vast amount of WDFW and DNR land near Yakima, Ellensburg,and Wenatchee to build some great trail systems. WDFW would need to have new laws put in place to allow for trails.

I have seen several trails and systems degraded from use. These trails get maintenance but will never be as good as when they had less traffic on them and were 12″ wide. The Majority of the trails on the National Forest were never designed,

they followed a game trail or a ridge line or some other feature. People started hiking, dirt biking, mountain biking or driving 4×4's on them. These trails were generally to steep, poor drainage or had some other problem so they are hard to maintain

Lynn C Jasper

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Submitted on 2012/12/02 at 1:15 am

Of course we do not have enough parks and recreational areas. But we need more areas that are really out in the wild. We probably do not need a lot more parks in towns. We need parks for activities such as snowmobiles and ORVs. We need parks that offer real activities and challenges as well as easier access for disabled and children activities. They need bathroom facilities with showers. Many people do not partake in outdoor activities because it is a little rough for them. Some people want the tougher experience. Need a balance, something to encourage those less able and challenging areas for those who are more able. The more people we can encourage to experience the great outdoors, the more support we will receive.

Michael

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Submitted on 2012/12/01 at 10:07 pm

I would like to see more trails developed for motorcycle use. The number of miles of single track trail in WA is decreasing every year due to many factors including management by closure, watershed expansion, and concerns over liability by private land owners. This focuses an increasing number of motorcycle riding citizens on the fewer miles of trail which leads to more degradation of those overworked trails. This trend needs to be reversed.

Most of the trail repair and maintenance work I have seen had been performed by the users. Obviously, more maintenance could be done by the associated agencies.

Matt Meyer

sunnee31swanby@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/01 at 6:51 pm

I would like more off road trails and parks. Its becoming harder to find a place to ride my dirt bike. In fact my entire family rides and it is something we like to do when ever posble,

Lyle Anderson

lyleand2@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/12/01 at 2:42 pm

I would like to see the American Alps Legacy Project created; I realize it is an addition to a national park, but i would like to see the State do whatever it can to encourage it.

The trails I have hiked have been maintained well enough. I actually like some obstacles on the trails; they make one appreciate the work it takes to keep them in good shape.

Verna McLeod

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Submitted on 2012/12/01 at 11:42 am

Until the economy improves a great deal, more parks should only be acquired if the land is very special and imperiled. Any available money should be spent maintaining and improving those in existence.

The parts of parks and trails that are open are for the most part well maintained, but there are so many parts that are closed due to wash-outs, landslides, vandalism, blowdowns, etc. I'd like to see available funds used to have those areas restored and reopened, which would provide more park area to the public without spending money

to acquire, develop and maintain new parks.

Rob T

tappstractor@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/12/01 at 11:02 am

I agree intirely we need more roads to trails access to connect existing trails.

Rob T

tappstractor@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/12/01 at 11:00 am

Everyone deserves access to public lands to enjoy their recreational pursuits. There does seem to be an imbalance to that access. Right now there is a serious shortage of places to ride (be that dirt bikes or mtn. bikes). While we seem to be making some progress with trails for mtn. bikes orv trails look to be moving the other way. Of all our trail sports orv is the only one that shares all its trails and pays its own way we need more trails and more locations.

Jerry Lemke

klondikeacres1@juno.com

Submitted on 2012/12/01 at 9:59 am

Great answer. Well stated.

Jerry Lemke

klondikeacres1@juno.com

Submitted on 2012/12/01 at 9:58 am

For me the question misses the point. As an ORV enthusiast I think Washington should

model Idaho's take on recreational activity. Open the forests to people who have the equipment to enjoy it. Idaho doesn't limit people to tiny, spotty, spread out parks to go and play. They tell people to buy an ORV sticker, open the woods and tell people to enjoy.

1) So, to answer your questions No, we do not have enough parks. Especially, ORV parks. ORV people spend 5 to 10 thousand dollars just on the vehicle to play on, let alone the safety equipment and vehicle to get it to the ORV area. A lot of money is spent by ORV people. Yet, ORV people are ostracized as the lowest of the low when it comes to land use rights. So to be more specific, there are plenty of trails, just very few ORV trails.

By the way Washington. A lot of ORV $ is going to Idaho because of the ultra restrictive rules imposed on us.

2) And yes, the parks in Washington are maintained well.

KTM Guy

Pat

Gottaorv2@juno.com

Submitted on 2012/12/01 at 6:36 am

The simple fact is that there isn't enough single track opportunity out there to meet the demand. I am old enough to remember when the NOVA funding was created and its intent was to provide more off road opportunty; as soon as the first orv tabs where sold the the signs of trail closures where put in place. Many of these very same trails that have been mentioned here were started and created bike motorcycle enthusiasts. the funding is there, it is been proven when Washington state took the money that was ear marked for off road opportunities and spent it on items such as lake Sammmamish state park.To broaden the varitiy of all the user groups

Segregation is not the answer. Spending the money that the state take from us for what it was intended to be used for does .

John Traeger

john-traeger@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/30 at 11:06 pm

No, there are not adequate trails, especially for mountain bike riding. As the “last user group to the table” the mountain bike community has the least amount of trail access available relative to the size of the user group. Multi-use trail conflicts are occurring on the west side due to the inadequate trail mileage for all user groups given the size of the Puget Sound population.

Despite valiant efforts by volunteer groups, post storm repair has been slow to non-existent after major events and maintenance due to wear and tear from users has also not kept up.

There is a need for full-time paid trail crews similar to what they do in Canada to address the above issues.

Tyler S

tyler@evergreenmtb.org

Submitted on 2012/11/30 at 8:35 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

Nope, and the trails we do have are getting loved to death, by the moto, horse and mountain bikers . Which is a good thing if we can get more trail for these user. Lots of people, more then ever are getting out in to open spaces. which is why we need more. There is lots of public land and timber land in WA. Most of which is only open to foot traffic, more then any where I can think of. Seems like 90%+ are foot traffic only. More of these exist trails need to be opened up to other users. Some need to be rerouted/ updated and more user specific trails need to be built for Mountain bikers and other over looked user groups. Mountain biking is the most popular over looked user group and has the biggest opportunity to bring in more economical impact. In short we need more trails near Seattle for bikes as well as big high mountain trail network(s) near Seattle that let you travel many miles with out riding the same trail

or area twice in a day (+50 miles if you want or bail outs for shorts rides).

b) Are they maintained well enough?

Yes and no. Some are over maintained by some user groups because they have a lack or miles. Although lots of hiking only trails that are more then six miles from a trail head are not maintained that well. When I use trails I am ether running or riding them. Bike trails are maintained very well because there are so few. While hiker only trails are among the leased maintained because there are so many that are not used as much any more. Open some of them to bikes, they will be in tip top shape fast.

jeannette

jetobin13@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/30 at 8:20 pm

There are not enough orv parks and capgrounds. My family and I love riding our dirt bikes and camping. We love enjoying the wil life and nature as well.

ron ringuette

ron.ringuette@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/30 at 6:54 pm

we have enough parks fo sitting walking but for off road motorcycle the areas keep getting smaller and the types of trails gets lower. as a trials motorcyclist I've been reduced to zero legal trails for my sport outside of privite propert. As far as cross county type trails unless you are on the east side of the mountain I don't know of any.

The condition of many of the existing trails is going downhill fast from over use because there is only a handfull of ohv and the acerage of each is low. I live in the northern area and most of my money towards ridding ends up in canada! Would be nice to support my state.

Chris Marsh

thehouseofccccc@msn.com

Submitted on 2012/11/30 at 5:32 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas

No there is not enough trails for Motorcycles and 4X4. More and more it is the Hikers and the Bikers that claim the land for themselves and shut out the Orv user groups. Reiter Pit is a prime example of that. Mt Pilchuck is shut down in the winter to satisfy the hiking user groups. It was one of the safest snow 4x4ing avaible to all. I have miles of gravel roads to use around where I live but they are all closed to the public. What happened to being able to use public lands???? It is for everyone. I am sorry that one or two user groups do not like the others. But it isn't right for them to shut the others out. Especially when the tabs and the passes I have to buy support the majority of their trails. Any of the illegal dumping found at the closed sites where not done by the user groups…..it was done by the inconsiderate people who feel they do not have to follow the law. The Orv'ers take the brunt on that as well. It seems that theses sites were closed on purpose for the reason of getting them over to the east side of the mountains, which is expensive. This is a very sore subject for a lot of Orv'ers.

What we need is Education for all. And we all can share the land. I love to look at viewpoints and nature as well. How I chose to get there should not be left up to the user groups because they do not like the others. My belief is if they want to hike and bike. They can get there by the same methods…..not drive to an area and then go do it. That itself is pretty hypocritical.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

I feel the maintainance is excellent. For the lack of money and the wonderful volenteers and the paid staff…..They are doing an excellent job for the tools that they are given.

I know that my comments may upset the user groups, but they are the feelings of all of the people I have been in contact with that are in the motorized ORV sport. PUBLIC LANDS ARE FOR EVERYONE!!!!

Beverly Masteller

bamasteller@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/30 at 4:54 pm

It would always be great to have more trails, but I think it is more important to maintain the present trails than to add new ones. However, that being said, I think it's becoming crucial with more & more people using trails for varied activities to have enough trails to keep a variety of users safe. I am an avid trailrider and Back Country Horseman, and realize the importance of horses being safe on the trails, but no more than hikers and bikers and ORV users. There need to be enough trails for people to be able to use different trails for different uses. I think each group of users needs to do its share of trail maintenance. I know BCH does hours of volunteer work keeping trails open, and helps fund efforts to do the same. With our shrinking economy I think it comes down to having some designated trails for different groups and then each group finding ways to help keep those trails open.

Bob Langley

hondaride@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/30 at 3:39 pm

We do not have enough ORV parks or riding areas for ATV and dirt bikes.We also need to have more volunteers to maintain our riding areas.

Don Larson

larson_don@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/30 at 3:35 pm

Scott, I think Cougar Mt. is primarily a King Co. Parks resource and not state or DNR. I live right in the middle of all that and while we differ in our recreation and dreams of using the area, it is effectively taboo to discuss anything more then a heartbeat and a hiking boot when talking about apropriate uses. I am a 45 yo native and I can tell you

outright, with 100% certainty, that the majority of the trails that exist today in the so-called “Issaquah Alps” were developed by off road motorcycles in the 60′s, 70′s and 80′s. Its a shame that any one user group can take their elitist ideals and make them law, omitting not only other user groups but the very group that created the opportunity in the first place.

justin fernandes

justin.fernandes@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/30 at 12:14 pm

1. as a MOUNTAIN BIKER there are NOT ENOUGH trails. Coming from the east coast where trails are plentiful (in connecticut) i was very surprised at the lack of legitimate, maintained trails in the area.

2. of the few trail networks i know of, i believe maintenance is done well and adequate.

I moved to washington because of the great bike community here. i was awestruck at the lack of available trails.

I know that there is a significant community of educated trail maintenance/building volunteers that would be available to create a sustainable and environmentally friendly trails if they were given access. This is true in multiple parts of teh state. specifically around Seattle, bellingham, leavenworth, and wenatchee.

Drew Ryan

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Submitted on 2012/11/30 at 10:37 am

Parks and lands for recreational vehicle use are becoming more and more scarce, forcing enthusiasts into fewer and smaller areas to recreate. This has a negative effect on the existing spaces as more and more people are funneled into fewer and fewer areas which often results in damage from overuse and eventual closure.

Recreational vehicles put their gas tax into the NOVA fund which should be used for development of new areas and maintaining existing areas. This state has consistently raped the NOVA fund account and used it for purposes for which it was not intended.

Rocky Johnson

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Submitted on 2012/11/30 at 10:27 am

We do not have enough trails for ORV use in Washington state. The westside of the cascades with the majority of the states population has the fewest opportunities. The majority of the riders travel to eastern Washington for a place to ride. The young riders need places to go where the parents aren't required to pack up the RV just so the kids can ride for a few hours. Most of the forest roads require require license plates, The kids many times are under age and will not have drivers licenses for years in some cases.

The few areas that have access for the kids on the westside exceed the expectations of the kids. More area is wanted not a higher level of manicuring.

Brian Johnson

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Submitted on 2012/11/30 at 9:00 am

First, I appreciate that you asked for our opinions. This is the way our governement should work!

I am a OHV (Motorcycle) user primarily, but also hike, mountain bike, and in general appreciate all users opportunities to use our natural resources.

Importantly, I would like to see more efforts to connect user groups to share land instead of competing. But, that's a different soap box.

A) There is not enough motorcycle OHV land located in close proximity to the population (tax base). Anyone driving I-90 on any given weekend will see many OHVs

on trailers heading East. Similarly, many travelling South on I-5. This is evidence that the greater Seattle area has no land available – yet there is much land opportunity available. I know, as I served on county commission for many years and we identified many areas. One of the limited areas we have (Walker Valley) is considerably North – but a least closer – yet it continually is a battle for use rights, and recently ridiculous imposition of environmental impact regulations. Seriously, I've ridden for 40 years, and if not for motorcycles and other users traffic, all of these trials would simply work back into natural state within 5 – 10 years. In summary, there needs to be less red tape, and more land opened or made available.

Also, of the land we have, there is seriously limited camping sites and facilities for overnight. A topic for a different day.

B) Of the lands available, the maintenance is "adequate" including the help achieved by volunteers. I volunteer on trail maintenance teams and talk with rangers frequently. Any ranger will tell you that if not for volunteers, there is no way trails would be maintained. This would result in closures of trails we have. As it is now, many forests have limited openings – trails that have been removed from maps – and other because there simply is not enough resources to maintain all the trails available. I am NOT advocating for more taxes, I still upset about NOVA funds. I would much rather see the taxes and fees currently collected be actually applied to the purpose they were charged for….then see what short-fall there is in funding.

Last, I reiterate that hikers, mountain bikers, OHV motorcyclist, horse-back riders, and others need to work together to share land. I am supportive of noise regulations (and fines), tire type restrictions (trials instead of knobby on trails) and other that make our sharing of resources more compatible. We are all simply short-term borrowers of nature. We working together to enjoy it.

Rick Mogstad

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Submitted on 2012/11/30 at 7:24 am

I don't think we currently have enough trails and open areas. The bigger problem is

not the lack of trails, but the lack of accessible areas in which to build trails. There are many groups (motorized, MTB, horse, etc.) who are more than willing to build and maintain trails on their own time, from their own budget, if we could only get into more areas to build them.

The current lack of trails creates a situation in which the trails are overcrowded, and to some extent creates drama and strife from people expecting to use them for different purposes.

I support more trails for all groups (Dirt Bike/ORV, MTB, Horse, Hiking, etc.) to use OUR land for the type of recreation we choose.

There are many trails that are not maintained enough, though I think if use was spread among more trails, the damage to them would be less, and more easily correctable by the user groups that are more than willing to put forth the effort

Troy Turner

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Submitted on 2012/11/30 at 6:50 am

1) We need more space. I have been an ORV enthusiast for 45 years. Like my father before me (who is 75) and my son who is now 18, we have enjoyed the outdoors and have spent many hours sitting around the camp fire talking about life instead of playing Xbox. It’s becoming quite clear that we are being squeezed out. The forest belongs to ALL of us and for the most part we get along great we just need more space. You know you are in trouble when you have to leave on a thursday night just to get a campsite for the weekend.

B) The trails are wonderful and in some cases much better than when I was a kid. We do need to make it easier for volunteer work. Most all of us would love to help and that doesn’t cost the state anything.

Allan McDonald

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Submitted on 2012/11/30 at 6:16 am

We do NOT have enough trails for off road use. The lack of trails for dirt bikes has created an over use of the current trail system. This then causes more damage due to the lack of funding for repair. I have spent hours and hours repairing trails on my own time in order to keep the trails open. PLEASE create more trails for the off road rider.

Everett Lewis

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Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 9:51 pm

I am cought in the middle on this one, do we have enough receration,the public owns the National forest land which we are being locked out of. As far as state parks, I am a horse packer and hunter so the parks are off limets for my Rec.

We have formed Friends For Public Use as a volinter groupe, we work on the West side of the Cascades to keep the roads in safe operation so we all have axcess to the PCT and other high country trales.

We all have to work together to maintaine multi use trales and to do this see http://WWW.what a horsesees.com for safe passage on trailes for hikers and MTB and horses.

erik

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Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 8:43 pm

Are there enough parks, trails etc.? It is hard to believe that near Seattle there are only a few spots to legally ride mountain bikes. When ever I visit Oregon I am amazed at how many trails they have access to. It seems like DNR land is really under utilized here in Washington and that the rules for DNR land is different all over the state. The Dry Hills area in Port Angeles seems to have excellent cooperation with the land

manager but Bellingham seems to have no cooperation. I would agree with other posts that the highway 2 corridor from Monroe to Stevens Pass should be an area that is looked at for future mountain bike trails.

Are the trails maintained? It has been my experience that when user groups are involved, the areas they use are very well maintained.

Scott Wipp

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Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 7:05 pm

We moved here from the East Coast a couple of years back, and I remember looking at Cougar Mt. on Google Earth thinking… REALLY? Is there anything we can do to open up a positive conversation about developing a neighborhood friendly bike loop there? Is this a taboo subject?

One of the great ironies about biking is that you increasingly have to increase your carbon footprint by driving further and further to ride well designed, sustainable singletrack. Do we have enough trails, well yeah… if your that user group at that time, in that far off neighborhood, sure. Are they well maintained? From my newbie(ish) Eastsider point of view, tip of the hat to WTA and their efforts at Grand Ridge and to Evergreen for their efforts at Tiger and Duthie. That's been an intense effort to observe and the surrounding neighborhoods have in my opinion benefited.

As a near by Cougar Mt. neighbor, I'd love to see the same level of effort and enthusiasm toward developing sustainable, multi-use trails at Cougar Mt. I think of this every time I'm slogging up the 405 to ride PVCA or East on 90 to ride Grand Ridge, Tiger or Duthie. More is better, it lowers impact for all user groups.

Jessica Harris

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Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 2:40 pm

1. I do not believe there are sufficient multi-use trails. We have some extensive options for hiking, but both ORV and mountain bike trails are much more scarce and this puts more burden on the few trail systems available for ORV use. This is especially problematic in the winter months.

2. Maintenance could always be better, but with budget constraints it would be good to leverage the volunteer organizations and ORV clubs who would be interested in helping.

r.j.herd@boeing.com

r.j.herd@boeing.com

Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 2:39 pm

I am a avid mountain biker… family of 4… two small children that will grow up riding trails in the local areas. I not only want to take them out with me on my local trails, but I'll be planning mini-vacations revolving around mountain biking all over the state. My focus will be mostly on mountain biking, but I have friends that moto and hike and want them to have places to enjoy their sport. There is a lot of land in Washington – my perception is that there should be more places available to everyone than there currently are.

Luke

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Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 2:22 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

We have a good amount of parks and etc. What we don't have enough of is mountain biking access. This is mostly due to the fact that mountain bikes are for some reason not allowed in places where hiking and etc is. Seems sad that we are spending our tax money maintaining those facilities but aren't allowing them to be used to their full capacity (thus also lowering the use on other trails overall).

Having said that, we could definitely use more technical MTB areas. This is very clearly visibly by looking at the tremendous success Duthie Hill has been. I ride there very often (living in Sammamish) and I have NEVER seen it empty. Considering that the place is tiny (compared to other recreation areas) it is simply amazing at the growing amount of mountain bikers in the area. We need more, bigger and legal places where mountain bikers can build more technical options. Places such as Tokul would be awesome if they were maintained in the same way Duthie is (I personally miss Tokul greatly now that is has been forested).

b) Are they maintained well enough?

In most cases yes although this seems mostly due to the organizations (such as evergreen mtb alliance and etc) that put in their own time/money/effort to maintain places for their use. We mountain bikers love our sport and we spend endless amount of time and money to keep the trails maintained.

swanny32

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Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 1:45 pm

I'd love to see more mt bike trails. I love to hike and bike, but find my self constantly having to revisit the same trail series over and over when mountian biking. Sure there are some good trails close to Seattle, but there aren't nearly enough to keep the variety. There are plenty of places to add more trails for mountain bikers or hikers. I have no problem with mixed use in urban areas.

Jamie

info@taskysmetriccycle.com

Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 12:45 pm

A) I am a motorcycle dealership owner and have seen over the last 10 years availability of ORV trails and parks be squeezed down to next to nothing. The one's that are open are over used and as a result the conditions of the trails are less than

ideal. In this hugely forested state of ours it definately seems that there should be more than a handful of parks to offer recreation for motorcycles, atv, horse, hikers etc.. Think of the revenue generated in areas that have ORV parks. From the gas stations, grocery stores, restaurants, to the motorhomes, campers, and dealerships affected by the impact of areas that do or do not have these parks. We need more parks for recreation definately. Stimulates the economy!

B)The maintenence is satisfactory, but the state should embrace the users enthusiasm to take pride in helping and building new trails through work parties. We have a long list of folks that would volunteer.

Ivar Chhina

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Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 11:59 am

While there are tons of hiking trails in the state, those that are multi use or mountain bike specific are few and far between. Mountain bikers are typically among the most active trail stewards, and can accordingly fill in the gaps where trails cannot be maintained by govt agencies.

There are also many of us who, in addition to being avid mountain bikers, are also active hikers and equestrians as well, and who believe strongly in working together to protect and enjoy our scenic outdoor lands in a cooperative and productive manner.

Jennifer Bond

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Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 11:07 am

Though I have hiked and rode (horses) trails all across the state my comments relate to the Olympic Peninsula which is my home.

A bit of background on me: My husband and I grew up on the Olympic Peninsula and returned after college (as soon as employment options enabled us to do so). We had

been avid backpackers since high school and while I have owned horses all my life it wasn't until the birth of our second child that we began horse packing. Our local Backcountry Horsemen chapter taught us the skills we now needed to get our young family (now three children) into the backcountry. Our children did their first Leave No Trace training when they were 5 & 6 years old and the skills they learned at that course are evident every time we set foot (or hoof) on a trail.

A) Regarding the number of trails/parks/recreation areas – I feel that everyone could benefit from increasing recreation opportunities on the Peninsula. While I don't often use "front country" trails I do believe there should be more of these trails that offer easy access for the general public, specifically young families and retirees. Ideally these trails would have parking and access that would accommodate multi-users (walkers, bikers, horses). The huge success of the Olympic Discovery Trail confirms that people want trails that are near their home and/or work. While we are blessed with beautiful trails in the National Park and other State and Federal lands, many young families and retirees are not going to brave extreme driving conditions often required to reach these destinations (example – Upper Dungeness Trailhead, Whiskey Creek Road). I would also like to see more horse camping opportunities at trailheads on the Peninsula. Of course, I fully support more backcountry trails, especially trails that are located in areas that can be maintained for stock access.

B) Trail Maintenance – I would very much like to see more funding for maintenance not only on trails located on the Peninsula but also on the roads that access these trail systems. The road to the Upper Dungeness Trailhead is great for most Suburas…that is until they meet my 40-foot truck and trailer along one of those ridiculously tight corners. In addition to improvements to roads, I would like to see improvements to trailhead parking areas too. Many trailheads do not accommodate truck and trailers during the high use season (Dosewallips, Upper Dungeness trail systems, Bogachiel, Quinalt to name just a few). I would love to see Olympic National Park maintain a cross-park trail system accessible to stock users. Our local BCH club dedicates hundreds of hours each year to trail work and in the current funding crisis I feel that Federal and State land managers are going to need to work closer with local user groups on trail maintenance issues. It is very important to me, my husband and my three young children (ages 9, 8, 4) that we continue the tradition of stock use in

the Olympic Mountains.

Kell

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Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 10:55 am

A. As an OHV (motorcycle) user I feel that the trail systems in WA are becoming limited as they are continualy facing permanent closure or closure to Shared Use. Removing trails while the population, as well as the sport, grows can only lead to one thing: over use of the trail systems left in place.

Also, I think that changing trail designations should be minimized. If one user group has such a large issue with other groups (usualy the group responsible for building said trail) then they should cope with the issue or work with state to create their own trails. Fair is fair…

B. As mentioned in my answer above the over use of trails has definitely left some areas in poor shape. One of the largest contributors to this issue is Washington's history of stealing the NOVA funds for use in state parks or else where. These funds are largely the contribution of OHV gas tax and registration tab money so using it in parks where OHVs are largely prohibited is frustrating. This frustraion is then multiplied when our trails are closed due to lack of maintenance.

While there are trails in disrepair I think its worth mentioning that clubs and organizations (not just OHV) are a huge resource in fixing the trails and keeping them in a usable condition. If the state could make it easier for these clubs to get involved, instead of creating more hoops for them to jump through, we would all be better off!

Thanks for the opportunity to weigh in.

Troy K.

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Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 10:55 am

A) We need more trails/access for mtn bikers across the state. As a hiker I can go on just about any trail, and I often wish I could ride the trails that I hike. Motorcycles need separate trails where they can do what they do, but also maintain the trails at the same level that they degrade them which is a much higher rate than other users.

B) I think in general trail maintenance is good in WA due to the amazing volunteers through Evergreen, WTA and other user groups.

Jim Hudak

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Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 9:36 am

Are there enough trails? Not for cross country mountain biking. I believe, with the amount of designated and expanding wilderness areas, that hiking and equestrian trails are sufficient. I would like to see a N/S (Canada to Oregon) biking trail established as well as continued improvement of the John Wayne Pioneer trail especially the section from Vantage to Idaho.

Trail maintenance, in general, is well done on the places I've hiked and cycled.

Scott Trout

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Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 9:09 am

we need more bike parks like duthie hill

Rob Rice

robr54@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 9:09 am

There are not nearly enough trails for off-road motorcycles, and what areas we do have are getting overused as we lose land to ride on, creating more of an issue.

brit

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Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 9:04 am

We have a two-part question for you:

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

No, we currently do not have ‘enough’ – we definitely need more options to choose from!

b) Are they maintained well enough? I think the dirt bike riders out there do a spectacular job of maintenance, and garbage removal, even though they didn’t intend to spend their day doing either of those.

travis

dirtbikejunkie@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 8:21 am

Hi, I am an avid trail runner and off-road motorcycle enthusiast. I run 20-30 miles a week and have a good selection of parks within an hour of my house (Snohomish, WA).

I cannot say the same for off-road motorcycle riding and often have to drive 4-6 hours round trip to achieve the same variety. The areas available are congested and dangerous for families due to increased possibility of collisions. The trails in many areas are deteriorating faster than they can be repaired due to over-use. There is little opportunity for families during the winter months. I urge Washington parks recognize the strong contingency of families who support this recreation.

Todd King

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Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 8:12 am

I think we have a excellent array of hiking trails in the state, but not nearly enough for Mountain Biking…in my area it gets very old riding the same trails over and over (Tokul, Tiger, Tolt, Soaring Eagle), and I would love to see more. In contrast, I could hike every day for a year and probably never have to see the same trail!

Also, we need Winter biking options. The soil and system in WA in general is not impacted greatly by biking as it is mostly loamy and rooty anyway, so why close trails like Tiger in the Winter? Our clubs build and maintain the trails so let us have the option year-round please.

In general, trails around WA are in great shape, both for hikers and bikers. I appreciate the natural beauty, and not making trails excessively easy or dumbed down like they do in CA.

Matt Rose

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Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 5:01 am

A) Are there enough trails? As I am both a hiker and a mountain biker, I have to answer two ways. As a hiker I have access to the vast acreage locked up as wilderness which I have been using for forty years and there are still many trails on my “bucket list” I have yet to hike just in Washington State alone, given that I have to say that there is an abundance of hiking trails; enough?….never. As I mountain biker for just over twenty years I have ridden nearly all the trails on my wish list and repeated many. Of the trails I have yet to ride, I see no point in driving four or five hours for a 10 mile ride. Mountain bike tourism in this state could be huge is there was access to all day rides worth the longer drives. There is certainly a need for mountain bike specific trails designated as non-motorized. There are many of us in the mountain bike community that dislike moto recreation as much as those in the hiking community. One way to help this would be for land managers to limit the motor size of trail bikes, to reduce noise and trail damage.

B) Are trails maintained well enough? That can be subject to location and the type of experience the user desires. I have had many enjoyable hikes and bike rides exploring

old forgotten trails that by current trail standards would be considered unusable. On the other hand most users prefer trails where blow down trees and rutted tread does not exist. I have to applaud groups like WTA and Evergreen for the amount of trail work done by volunteer users. This is the way of the future for trail maintenance given the shrinking budgets of land management agencies. The bottom line with trail maintenance is that trails need to be built sustainable to reduce environmental impact and maintenance cost; and trails must be maintained to accomodate traffic volumes, some simply see more use than others and need to be maintained accordingly.

jojotherider

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Submitted on 2012/11/29 at 1:05 am

I think we need more mountain bike trails that exist in steeper terrain as mentioned in a post before. There are no trails with any sustained descents off of i90. Tiger mountain is a great riding location but is closed for a large portion of the year. I would like to see 3 or 4 steep and/or fast one way mountain bike trails. making it directional and mountain bike only would reduce risk for hikers going up or down and also reduce risk for any bikers going uphill. There are several hiker only trails, there's no reason that can't exist for mountain bikers (or motos/equestrians). Hikers don't want to worry about getting hit by bikers and bikers don't want to worry about hitting hikers. The hikers have the Preston and issaquah side of Tiger, let the bikers/motos/equestrians divide the trails on the hwy18 side.

I really only use the mountain bike trails at Tiger and Duthie and feel they are pretty well maintained. I also believe that Duthie and the Tiger projects are a great example of how the mountain bike community can come together and provide volunteer labor. I've never done any volunteering, but have put in a little time at both spots that I frequent.

Kat

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Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 11:48 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

I would really love to see more mountain bike trails in Washington. It's been incredible to see how much community parks like Duthie Hill have created. I'm seeing kids choosing to do trail work parties for their 14th birthday parties, families riding together, and top level competitive athletes training all in the same park. Mountain biking is good for the community and we could really use more space to enjoy our sport.

Scottt

Fumanchu43@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 10:13 pm

More technical, steep, legal trails are needed for mountain bikers. Start by legalizing and updating the illegal trails that are filling this void. Second, we should be to share trails. Multi use trails can be a great success, but it comes down to the users acting appropriately. I think most trails should be multi use, perhaps with case by case exceptions.

Finally, I think trails are typically maintained enough for me.

Thanks for the opportunity to be heard!

Mike Petro

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Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 10:09 pm

We need more places designated for mountain bikes. We need more people to step up and help maintain these trails and places. We need trails connecting interurban and wilderness. Mountain Bikers need to stop riding trails that are designated to hikers. I

feel that has been a problem for awhile and we need to find a way to open more areas up to bikes.

slugsmasher

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Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 9:43 pm

a) we have plenty of recreational opportunities for all disciplines.

b) most of the trails and parks are maintained adequately either through existing funds or volunteers.

Folks who live near metropolitan areas are at a disadvantage and it shows in the comments. Outside the Seattle area there are more than enough areas to enjoy every outdoor sport imaginable. It appears more focus is needed to support parks within the Seattle area especially mountain biking.

I fortunately do not live near Seattle and do not see a problem with the areas that I go to for biking, running and hiking around the state. Washington state has one of the best park systems in the entire country when it comes to mountain bike and motorcycle access to near wilderness areas. The only issues I have seen lately is conflict with DNR land use for recreation vs timber harvesting. We have demonstrated in areas like Galbraith and the Pilchuck Tree farm that resource development and recreation can coexist through active involvement and cooperation from all interested parties. We should all strive to cooperate in this manner for all multi use areas and limit urban growth into forest lands.

Bill W

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Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 9:38 pm

Do we have enough trails? Of course not! Can there ever be enough? Trails are the primary means for my family to enjoy the Pacific NW’s beauty and amazing

recreational resources. Although I rarely find trails too crowded to be enjoyable, there's no doubt that more trails would spread out users and certainly enhance everyone's outdoors experiences.

As a enthusiastic mountain biker, I am completely dumbfounded however by the conspicuous lack of mountain bike trails along the highway 2 corridor. Reiter is a good start, but it's a long way from completion. Given the large, and ever increasing MTB community, it will surely and quickly become quite crowded. More suitable and maintained single track bike trails between Monroe (Lord Hill) to Stevens Pass are badly needed.

Trail maintenance is really quite good here. There are clearly a lot of conscientious users: hikers, bikers, horse folk, and ORV people alike who work effectively with government agencies. Kudos especially to organizations like Evergreen for their diligence and organizing ability. Duthie and Tiger Mtn are strong testaments to how well effective stewardship can work.

Daniel Keiley

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Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 9:16 pm

Had the good fortune of riding MTB in Bridle Trails 20+years ago. It was fun! The Equestrian community promoted no MTB and eventually got their way in the early 90's. I never had an incident with a horse rider in the park, other than being told it was off limits to MTB's fully 3 years before the state ruled it such and posted signage.

These days I ride by horseriders frequently on the Pipeline trail out of Woodinville and sense no tension at all. We all like to get away from cars and noise while we exercise and recreate on foot, on horseback, or on a bike. I've heard informal talk of opening up Bridle Trails again to MTB, but nothing official.

Dave Schuldt

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Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 8:37 pm

We need more trails open to mountain bikes. Winter time riding close to Seattle is limited. It's getting better with the new projects at Tiger but just across HWY 18 there's lots of space. No hikers over there.

Spectre

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Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 8:20 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

There is a lack of trails that allow mountain bikes. This is especially true in more remote areas that would have less impact on other trail users.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

Generally trails are well maintained, but some areas do have the tendency to get damaged in the rainy season. The trails at Duthie Hill have held up well in the rain. I can see specific things that were done in the building of the trails that encourages water to drain rather than pool on the trails. Building or reconstructing trails to withstand wet weather is the most effective form of maintenance.

Glen

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Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 7:44 pm

1) Do we have enough trails, etc.?

I think we need a much wider availability of mountain bike trails. Some areas have high concentrations of bikeable trails but other areas like Tacoma require a significant drive to get to any good area. Capitol Forest is great but so muddy it's unusable much of the year so we need more options. The general consensus among government agencies these days is that biking is good for people's health and for the environment, and should be encouraged. So that should extend to promoting biking

off-road, too. One of the major frustrations I have is that national forests in our state have massive miles of trails that could be ridden, but yet are illegal to ride. It seems to be totally up to the whim of the individual forest managers, who make autocratic decisions without influence from the public. For example, how many singletrack trails in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest are legal to ride between Highway 2 and the Canadian border? Only one that I know of (Canyon Ridge, near Glacier). And that trail is barely maintained, plus the access road is washed out. You can get an idea of the lack-of-access in this huge forest region by viewing this map (although that trail isn't shown): http://trails.evergreenmtb.org/wiki/Main_Page

That one legal trail is also open to motorcycles, which I think illustrates another problem; mountain bikes are "lumped in" with motorcycles as similar vehicles. In reality, they are nothing alike. Although motorcycles should have good trails too, mountain bikes lack the "horsepower" to cause anywhere near the damage of motorcycles, or even horses. When I visited the Canyon Ridge trail (albeit several years ago) there was an extremely rough, steep section near the beginning that motorcycles had been powering up, but a normal mountain biker would have to push. So the damage from "biking" that section would be much less than riding up on a horse or motorcycle. Because the impact of mountain biking relatively minor, it should be legal on many more trails than it is now.

2) Are they maintained well enough?

In general I think so, because the primary problem is lack of legal access, not lack of maintenance. This state has active volunteer organizations who will step up and build and maintain trails where needed (for all modes of transport), if they are legally allowed to. Let's be real, budgets are tight, and I know that. So let's prioritize increasing legal access for mountain bikers.

NickN

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Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 7:15 pm

Yes for hiking trails. We need more trails for biking, both mountain biking and touring

(John Wayne trail–wouldn't it be great to have a contiguous trail across the state?). Mountain bikers have shown there is a pent up demand that still remains largely untapped for trails, and the ability to maintain and build/re-build trails to be sustainable and enjoyable.

More collaboration is needed with the user groups for maintenance. Many of the close-in hiking trails to Seattle have been re-worked in the last several years and are in good shape, but more can be done to work with user groups further out to re-build/maintain or create new. Mountain biking seriously needs to be considered as the terrain is available close to Seattle and would make this area a bigger draw from those from out-of-state. Local business as well as the state benefit as a result.

Jay

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Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 7:15 pm

No, we do not have enough park space for native habitat or for recreation.

Pro-suburban sprawl planners have left us with pocket-sized parks scattered through the region. Are they useful at all? In all too many of them, the tiny little plots are planted with grass that requires maintenance but you never see kids playing in the muddy field, and there's hardly a native plant or animal peeking out from the blackberry bramble borders.

While volunteers from biking clubs & hiking groups do a really outstanding job where they are welcomed, overall most parks in Western WA are poorly designed or maintained for any recreational activity except of course letting dog walkers have their way with the parks & trails. Local & state agencies need to do a far better job coordinating resources and pushing back against developers who want to pave it all.

Kurt F

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Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 6:48 pm

My personal interest in more in trail development, rather than parks or other recreational opportunities.

A critical part of quality trails is ongoing maintenance of current trails, and development of new trails for the variety of users. I've had experience working with a couple of the volunteer groups, and funding from the state allows these groups to do good things with creating/maintaining trails – but it takes money to acquire materials and tools to get this done. Most volunteer groups can't afford all of this on their own. If the state can provide more of this, then the groups I've worked with have shown through their efforts that they can provide the labor needed to create wonderful opportunities for all members of the public to enjoy their efforts.

Given the size of our state and the abundance of beautiful places to enjoy trails, I think there are plenty of opportunities for all users (hikers, bikers, equestrians, ORVs). Of course, having trails closer to the population centers would certainly be of great benefit to more users. As much as I would like to experience opportunities some distance from where I live, it simply isn't practical to do so.

In addition, to increase the quality of the experience, and the safety of all, I think it is sensible to consider the types of mixed use trails. In short, mixing bikers and hikers on mixed-use trails is probably fine in the vast majority of places. Mixing hikers and equestrians also seems to work well. But (based on my girlfiend's nearly 4 decades of equestrian experience), mixing bikers with equestrians can be a safety issue for the mtn biker, the equestrian rider as well as the horse, should there be a surprise encounter. In some areas where there is good visibility and both types of users can easily see the other approaching, it would be fine to have a mixed use trail for bikers and equestrians. But in areas where there is limited visibility due to the nature of the trails and nature of the land (i.e. trees/brush limiting visibility), it would probably be better to consider keeping horses and mtn bikes on different trails or on the same trails but at different times. I've seen this done successfully in the maple valley/black diamond area where both sets of users seem satisfied being voluntarily segregated. As another example, in Banner Forest on Kitsap Penisula, I've had a couple of encounters where equestrians and my group of mtn bikers met up suddenly. Fortunately, nothing

bad happened, but certainly had the potential. Perhaps some sort of even/odd day system for some of the mixed use trails use would work well (like is currently used for the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie trails for mtn bikers), or a sensible separation of trails that provide all users with quality access.

Also, it probably makes the most sense to have trails for ORV enthusiasts that are not mixed use, again for safety concerns. By that I certainly don't mean to exclude ORV enthusiasts. But from my experience, having a well built area designed specifically for ORV folks, it would likely create a better experience (not unlike having Duthie Hill near Issaquah being a mtn bike park and not mixed use), allowing for maximum enjoyment of the ORV experience (knowing it's motorized only, and no non-motorized users would unexpectedly be on the trails creating a potential risk for both). The Tahuya area seems to do this well, and having more opportunities throughout the state that are easily accessible would be a great solution. I think the main issue is ensuring ORV users have trails spread throughout the state so access to ORV opportunites is improved (i.e. having trails close to population centers so that travel and use of the trails can be done in a day trip). And again, by having materials and tools provided by the state to established volunteer organizations, much can be accomplished for ORV users in developing trails systems well designed for the intended use.

Josh

Engstrom427@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 5:28 pm

The state needs more area open to mountain biking. As a resident of the Seattle metro area, access to trails generally requires travel by car in Seattle area traffic. More trails closer in would improve quality of life and help reduce carbon emissions.

Parks are reasonably well maintained.

Terry Lillybridge

lillybridgejt@msn.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 5:00 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

I feel as if we will never have “too many parks, trails and recreation areas. So, we don’t have enough. Our ancestors will never look back and say that we set aside to many natural and recreation areas but they will despair if we don’t.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

In general the maintenance has declined with the state’s budget. Many access roads are ungraded and make use difficult. This is true across most ownerships and agencies. I have seen a general reduction in services with along with increases in out-of-pocket costs.

thedieselone

d-tao@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 3:51 pm

We need way more mountain bike trails!

Jesse G

jessegrissom2002@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 2:29 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

I feel that we as a state could benefit from establishing more trails and recreation areas. My opinion is that communities and their citizens would benefit from more trails that connect to urban areas to encourage people to get outside without having spend so much time on the freeway. Please develop more trails for the full spectrum of users that promote connections between communities and public lands.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

Generally yes trails are well maintained in large part to the vibrant volunteer community that exists in the state. However, one challenge is “opening” trails in the spring that have been effected by the winter. I think establishing a “adopt a trail” program could be a vehicle for improving trail quality.

DaveH

davemutton@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 1:54 pm

My wife and i are avid outdoor enthusiasts. My wife hikes and trail runs, while I prefer mountain biking. I am actually quite surprised at the lack of mountain biking opportunities close to the Seattle area. There are a huge number of areas that could be developed to make this area one of the best mountain biking regions in the country. Biking is such a healthy and fullfilling sport, it amazes that more is not done to encourage our youth.

One only has to look as far as Grand Ridge trail in Issaquah to see the popularity of a well built, sustainable and fun trail that can be enjoyed by one and all. Unfortunately, its own success and popularity and the fact that there are so FEW alternatives make this trail quite crowded at peak times.

Gone are the days of poorly built and unsustainable trails. Organizations like Evergreen Mountain bike alliance have proven they can manage and deliver on significant projects. More legitimate trails and opportunities will result in less illegal trails and riding.

I look forward to hearing more about positive news about trails connecting various communities (E.g. Issaquah,Fall City, North Bend and beyond) and riding areas (Duthie)to create an awesome network of trails that will allow people to get out and enjoy our beautiful surroundings.

Byron Stuck

nmatrust@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 1:52 pm

But getting more OHV trails thru a special pass to fund these is a program we ALREADY have. That ORV permit you bought and those gas taxes you gave up the right to receive back are going into your NOVA fund to create and manage your trail OHV trail system already. We don't need more funding schemes, we need to keep these funds from being stolen and direct them to where users like you are EXPECTING them to go.

JD

jdusto@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 1:48 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

Absolutely not. I would like to see the state get eventually out of the forest products business (at least for Western Washington); the sale of which get turned over to education and the general fund. In its place, the emphasis should be switched to utilizing these public lands for recreation (hiking, biking, equestrian, and ORV) to generate revenue accordingly. While the presence of trails and people has an environmental impact, it is significantly less than the effects of clear cutting.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

For the most part I would say yes. High usage parks do have their various issues but I believe on the whole park system at the state level works well.

Zookeeper

jeffse666@msn.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 1:36 pm

Appreciate the chance to provide feedback on the process.

Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

While I believe that overall we don't have enough parks or trails within reach of urban

areas I don't believe that the various agencies have the funding to expand. From the perspective of an avid mountain biker, I hate the idea of having to pile my bike into my car and drive 1-2 hours to get to trails that I'm allowed to ride. Often drive time is greater than ride time and it seems to defeat the purpose of a low-impact activity such as mt. bikes. Lack of locally accessible trails also inhibits families and kids from participating in the sport. We should provide as many different opportunities to kids to enjoy the outdoors as possible from the POV getting kids off the couch and building future advocates for our parks and outside spaces. Let's improve and open up the spaces we have. Not just for bikes but for other forms of outdoor activity as well.

Are they maintained well enough?

I don't believe so but I won't put the blame solely at the feet of agencies. Maintaining large open spaces isn't easy and users need to get involved. I look to my home town of Vancouver at a great example. Almost all of the mtb trails on the North Shore are user maintained. A large and vibrant community of riders contribute to building some of the best trails in the world. I'll go back to my above argument whereby the more users we have the bigger the pot we can pull from to help maintain now and to be the stewards of the parks into the future. Bikers, equestrians, hikers, dirt bikers all have one thing in common: a love of playing outside. With so many pressures on the local land and with so many open spaces disappearing we all need to recognize what we have in common – protecting our open spaces and keeping them healthy enough for all to enjoy.

Robijii

huki01@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 11:37 am

We could use more mountain bike trails and access to trail that exist. Trails are adequately maintained by the user groups, but there is always room for improvement and more funding

Bikeschic

Bikeschic@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 11:10 am

There will never be enough trails for mountain bikes!! As for maintenance there could definitely be some improvement.

Mark Quinn

midequinn@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 11:08 am

A better question might be, how much more recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat will be lost as our population continues to expand and consume space and resources in the name of growth. We should continue to use every opportunity and avenue to protect our natural resources and spaces while we can. We can always change our mind about those reservations in the future. On the contrary it is difficult and expensive to reclaim areas that we let slip trhough our grasp and are now industrialized or otherwise developed.

Adequate maintanenace is in the eye of the beholder. The standard should be such that those values we sought to protect in the first place and not degraded or irretrievably damaged. After that, the need for maintenance should be dictated by the amount and kind of public use. We should always hope that all of us that benefit from these public lands and opportunties treat them like they are ours, becasue they are.

Kelley Hinkle

k2kelley@tds.net

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 10:45 am

I am an avid hiker and mountain biker. I would like to see more trails open up to mt bikers and see more trails developed for mountain bike use.

Mountain bikers will ride just to ride and trails can be designed for just that.

Kathy Hardy

kathyhardy@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 10:43 am

As an avid mountain biker, hiker, and cross country skier, I chose to locate in Issaquah, WA to be close to the great opportunities we have nearby. However, with the exploding popularity in mountain biking, I think we have a severe shortage of mountain bike trails in the area. I think hikers and mountain bikers and equestrians can peacefully coexist, and I would like to see some of the thousands of miles of hiker only trails be opened to mountain bikers, in addition to the creation of new trails. That said, it would be great to have more cross country trails that were separated from snowmobiles. While I think these two groups can coexist as well, the noise and smell associated with snowmobiles is a little off putting.

Jimba

jimcfii@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 10:34 am

Mountain biking is expanding continuously and has been for years. More and more kids are getting into the sport. Complete families are seen out at Duthie park. But as the population of mountain bikers is increasing, the placed to ride decrease. in just recent past we have lost Griffin creek, South Seatac and a few places have gone to user pay which pushes many riders away.

Lets make Washington THE place for mountain biking and lead the way for all other states to follow.

trail maintenance is pretty good, I think the mountain bike community could do a bit better at getting out and volunteering some trail work hours.

Suzi Parr

rockin-np@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 9:27 am

I'm going to answer from a very specific viewpoint of an equestrian. The majority of equestrians are pleasure riders-trail riders-people who enjoy horses and the great outdoors.

*No we absolutely do not have enough parks, trails or other recreation areas related to horses. The areas we do have experience a significant amount of traffic. I advocate for multi-use trails -with trail user education. We share trails with hikers and mountain bikers quite often and try to engage them all in conversation. Technically, right of way goes the horse, but if we're meadering along and some bikers are courteously covering ground, we'll get out of the way. Same thing with hikers or joggers who might be moving faster than us. We try not to kick up dust when we know other users are behind us. Its really not that hard since we are all after a pleasant outdoor experience.

*The areas we do have definitely could use more maintenance. I work as a volunteer to maintain trails that can be used by multiple users. A lot of trail maintenance is done by volunteers. There is only so much volunteers can do-we also want to be able to enjoy the amenities and not be constantly cutting logs, clearing brush, building bridges, etc. I'm concerned that as less people volunteer, less opportunities will exist for recreation. That will increase the strain on the areas that are maintained-in both physical wear and tear and multi user conflicts that can arise.

Jerry Schelling

jjschelling@msn.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 9:24 am

I think we have enough parks but do need more trail development and parking for horsemen.

Bryan Stempson

stempson@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 9:02 am

I'd like to throw my vote in for more mountain bike trails! I would also like more access to state owned lands in the mountains. Maybe work together with logging companies to leave areas for riders. Trails seem generally well maintained we just need to open more up to riders! My vote is for the mountain bikers! I would like to see some new trail opportunities in the Taylor Mt./Raging River areas as well…lots of potential!!

Darcy

djmitchem@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 8:58 am

Reading through these comments only makes me feel stronger about one of the major road blocks to good recreation management in our state: We lack respect or exceptance for what other people enjoy. User groups lobbying against each other instead of banding together for everyone.

I hike mostly in Wilderness, but don't mind horses, bicycles, or motorcycles in other areas. I can enjoy a city park. I've seen good trail systems shunned because they allow "multi-use". Areas where logging has occured are thought "not natural enough" for recreation use. Urban and suburban recreation is ok, too. Anything to get people (especially kids) connected, in their own way, to the outdoors is good–even if it is not "perfect" in someone's mind. So as it refers to the questions: more diverse recreation is needed in more diverse places for more diverse users. Don't be afraid to try something different!

Steve

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Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 8:46 am

Do we have enough parks and trails?

Our region will become increasingly urbanized with over one million people being added in the next 25 years. It will be vital to continue to not only keep the parks and trails we have, but also develop new facilities to accomodate the inevitable influx of new users.

What do we need?

I am a Mountain Biker, hiker, and father of young kids and use the parks/trails accordingly. My wife is an avid hiker. My son and daughter both mountain bike. Of the dozens of kids we know, they all bike and I can think of 25 of the top that mountian bike on trails. That used to be with their parents but as they get to 11 or 12 years old, it's with their friends.

This is key as bikes is a draw for kids to the outdoors and away from TV and video games and drugs. We need more trails to support that draw to the activity in nature. This is especially true in urban areas where inner-city kids have a tough time getting to Tiger Mountain. Building trails in parks for teenagers to ride can replace hanging-out and causing trouble in the parks.

In addition, the mountain bike demographic now spans over 30 years of riders that until recently, have had a shrinking selection of trails to ride that weren't 2-5 hours away. This group is now motivated, organized, and relevant. They are coming out in force to build sanctioned trail systems that are used in mass by the general public. These become county/regional assets that cost local governments little, but drive tremendous economic activity. Duthie HIll Park for example was built for $500,000 in grants/donations and generates 100,000 visits annually. Why would we not have 10 similar parks all over the puget sound. It's obvious they are needed and wanted.

Speaking for bikers we need more trails; specifically along the I5 corridor and in Pierce/Snohomish Counties. There is tremendous progress along I90 but there's no reason why this area couldn't be a draw for hikers/bikers nationwide. The I-90

corridor should be connected with single-track trail from Issaquah to Snoqualmie Pass and back. It could and should be the best major-suburban trail system in the world.

I cannot speak for hikers as I don't hike enough to find a lack of trails but I'm sure they would want more also. Variety is always good and it spreads out the users which protects the trail integrity.

b) I don't have a problem with the mainenance. More is always better with trail maintenance. It would be amazing to have roaming trail crews (beyond what EMBA and WTA provide) that would be constantly improving and upgrading trails.

The parks in my area (Sammamish) are well maintained by the city.

Thanks

Scott Marlow

swmarlow@seanet.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 8:44 am

a) We have lots of public land in Washington State. However, the land needs to be better managed to provide access for more recreational user groups – including mountain bicyclists and ORV enthusiasts.

b) In my experience, most trails are maintained well enough. However, some trails – for example: Duthie Hill, Preston Railroad on Tiger, and other mountain bike trails – often require more maintenance since they receive a disproportionate amount of traffic due to limited access to other trails – see a) above.

Jason Van Horn (@bermstyle)

bermstyle@twitter.example.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 8:18 am

As someone who would ideally spend time on trails everyday when not at the office, having more trails to ride is key, and why I regularly volunteer time to maintain them. Having places to recreate closer to home makes the difference between sitting on the

couch and being a potato and being able to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Any efforts in increase recreational opportunities for (all) users that enjoy narrow, natural surface trails is appreciated.

Doug Walsh

dougwalsh@centurytel.net

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 7:57 am

Thanks for the opportunity to provide input about recreation in WA.

1) Do I think there are enough trails in WA? Though I am very impressed by the abundance of trails in WA, there are far too few that are open to mountain biking. My family is one that is interested in a variety of activities from hiking to mountain biking to snowshoeing, yet time and again we find ourselves returning over and over to the same select handful of mountain biking trails in Washington. While we may never see the "mechanized transport" wording lifted from lands falling under the Draconian Wilderness legislation, National Park, State Parks, the Forest Services, and DNR must acknowledge the ever-growing segment of the population that wants to recreate — peacefully and safely — in the backcountry, sidecountry, and frontcountry via mountain bike.

2) Do I think trails are maintained well enough? I do think that the trails are maintained very well in WA, thanks in large part to the variety of user groups, their volunteers, and their paid staff.

Jim LeMonds

seattle0@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 7:26 am

There is very little trail access for mountain bikers, particularly in Southwest Washington. The trail that is accessible is not always well-maintained because the USFS and DNR simply don't have the funds to handle this. That's why I think it is very

important to get user groups involved in an “adopt-a-trail” type program.

Paul Norris

bikekayakhike@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 6:58 am

I would like to see more trails for mountain bikes in the area. I believe there are enough parks, we just need to use them better.

As an avid rider and trail builder in southwest WA, I would like to see more trails closer to Vancouver.

Part 2, not so much. Every trail I rode maintained by the state of WA needed work. I paid extra attention after I bought the Discover Pass, and found that most of the recent work involved putting up the signs requiring the pass. Beyond that….not allot of other work being done except for the work done by mountain bikers.

Kevin Golic

kgolic@comast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 6:41 am

We do need more mountain bike trails. They are limited and frequently require long drives. Overall the trails are kept up reasonably well given the huge amount of rain we get.

rtheinz@comcast.net

rtheinz@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 6:20 am

Live in Maple Valley. Avid mountain biker and trail runner.

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

I will speak to trails since that is primarily what I use. We have a lot in the puget

sound but I feel we can always us more since they are such and easy means to get out and enjoy the outdoors. Various user groups of differing skills and needs can all enjoy them. They are a great way for families and friends to do something together!

b) Are they maintained well enough? From a trails perspective buiding them right (sustainable) from the get go minimizes work on them later. But, not all were build that way so many of them can always use some TLC.

Lori Flemm

loriflemm@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/28 at 5:47 am

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

Parks: NO. Our municipal parks and recreation dept. has many acres of undeveloped land for future parks, but lacks funds for development as well as O&M. In some neighborhoods in our UGA, we have no undeveloped park land. Acquiring land prior to density development is critical in some communities/areas.

Trails: NO. There are some existing trails that could be widened to allow for additional capacity, but adding impervious surface triggers storm water reports, retention, etc. and that additional cost defers some projects.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

I think each person could identify a park and trail that is maintanied very well, as well as some that need more attention. It is a balancing act, those parks and trails that get used more frequently get more maintenance attention, and as we direct resources away from those areas that don't, people use them less frequently because they are not maintained as well. Volunteers have been the "life savers". However, the cost of insurance for some volunteer groups is too costly, and thus land managers may be unable to allow volunteers to tackle some projects, or the use of power tools by volunteers on some projects. If legislation could be drafted similar in concept to RCW 4.24 (recreational immunity for private land owners) we would open the door to more groups and individuals assisting with O&M – as well as building new trail

corridors, park amenities, etc.

susan copner

scopner@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 11:21 pm

I would like to see equestrian trails developed in the Wenatchee Heights/Colockum area. As of this writing, there are just unimproved forest service roads. It is a beautiful treed area which would afford riders from the greater Wenatchee area a nearby spot to enjoy the forest.

Joe Wildenhaus

drivinjoe@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 11:06 pm

As a mountain biker I feel like we do not have access to enough trails. The mountain bike community continues to grow and riding areas are not keeping up. Duthie Hill park is a great example that shows what a partnership with EMBA can accomplish. It is a tremendously popular park that was built and is maintained through massive volunteer hours. Galbraith Mountain in Bellingham is another riding area built and maintained through volunteer hours.

Gated roads just work to keep out potentially legitimate users. Managed access to lands will allow the mountain bike community serve as stewards of the land.

As far as trail maintenance, I find that the trails that are opened are well maintained.

Marcin Porwit

mkporwit@porwit.net

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:56 pm

While the parks and recreation areas that I have been to have in general been well

maintained, I think there is a shortage of areas and trails that are suitable for motorized recreation. Especially in the Puget Sound area, there are only a handful of places where dirt biking is allowed, and they are often crowded and a pain to get to from the major metro areas.

The loss of Reiter Pit (one cannot really call the few miles that have been rebuilt anything more than a token) is especially hard-felt, as it was the closest place to the Seattle area. Opening up more trails and areas for dirt riding would be high on my list.

Karen

kbailey4280@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:50 pm

I fear we are losing many trails and recreation areas due to private land purchases and funding cut backs. Due to these cutbacks most agencies and private land owners charge fees to use there lands, but these funds don't seem to be applied to keeping the trails open and maintained. I am willing to support our parks and trail system though volunteer efforts and funding but there needs to be accountibility to the use of these funds. My second concern is compassion and respect for all user groups. We all have the same common interest – the natural outdoors and protection of this assest. Working together and building on our common interest will get us much further. As a member of BCHW (Backcountry Horsemen of Washington) we volunteer countless hours to keep our trails open for all users groups. We enjoy working with other groups to help pack in equipment/food or teach Leave No Trace principals and share our love of the outdoors. Bicycles and horses probably shouldn't share the same trails, but this doesn't mean we can't work together to help save or build trails. I used to hike and ride bicycles but I can't anylonger- my horse is my legs and companion, please have compassion for the horse and rider also. Thank you for requesting our input.

Kim s

Ksturts@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:28 pm

As an avid mountain biker I have found the trails in the Seattle area to be lacking. Although the recent addition of Duthie hill and the new trail on tiger have been great, I still find myself traveling many hours and sometimes across the Canada boarder to find the trails that I really like to ride, the more advanced, steep, and technical trails. It would be great to get more of these types of trails in the Seattle area, to fit with the advanced technology if the bikes being built, and how far the sport has progressed in the last 10 years.

tom wichert

mojodog38@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:08 pm

As a mountain biker I think new trails are important, but i would like access to trails that already exist. There are many trails that mountain bikes are not allowed on. I think mountain bikers do lot of good work on the trails in washington. We all want the same thing, to enjoy the outdoors.

Robert L Jones

nasaillc@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 9:42 pm

I'll start with the second question first:

b) For the most part, yes the trail systems for hikers are quite well maintained. I hike much of the year, in all seasons, for both day hikes and overnighters. This said, many of the trails can use regrading, but I like the difficulty many provide. Given the range of opportunity, I don't see how it's possible to take care of everything to the degree I'd like to see. Still, I think it's amazing we have so many opportunities in the first place.

Now…… that being said:

a) There aren't near enough opportunities for the mountain biker or even (God forbid, I can hear the naysayers scream) the ORV rider. Because trail systems have been unfairly limited, bikers of all kinds are left to poach existing trail systems after hours or off season, and/or build illegal trail systems that should never have to be considered in the first place. This is wrong. Tax dollars and/or federal funding of any capacity is not for a specific group. It is for the enjoyment of all. ALL. Let me say that again. It is for all. ALL. Yes, I'm shouting. It's unfair, it will continue to be unfair, and all bike bans need to be repealed. Everywhere.

If someone breaks a law, causes serious damage to a trail or person, they need to be punished and/or banned (and fined) from a park or trail system. However, to start off that way, with all bikers being dangerous or unsavory is beyond unfair. It's beyond profiling. It's offensive to the highest degree.

I hike. I bike. I ski. I snowboard. I rally race. I build trails, near and far. I endorse all outdoor activity, because it brings us closer to the creator who built this planet.

Everyone needs access. On all trails. For those that say "I don't want to see bikers on Mailbox Peak," I can say… no problem. It's not that fun a trail to consider the pain of pushing a bike up 3 miles. I don't want to ride everything out there, but I want and deserve access to everything. Heck, set a few rules that must apply to all trail users, or again… severely penalize those that don't.

The snobby desires of a few have unfairly pushed the system into it's current state of unbalance. Bring it back to the way it was intended, Congressionally, years ago.

Ron

radm1f@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 9:26 pm

Mountain biking in our part of the world is a rarity only enjoyed by a few and desired by many more. I would love to see more mountain biking trails. This could mean more folks traveling to our neck of the woods and more business to help to our local

economy. The beauty, natural elements and local weather for mountain biking can not be reproduced anywhere else, please lets cultivate this treasure.

steve kelly

stevekelly@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 9:05 pm

as a mtn biker AND a dirt biker I find it appalling the few and far between trail systems we have for motorized orv's. This sport isnt going away anytime soon its only growing. Where will all the extra riders go? I am all for new mtn bike trails too but right now mtn bike trails easily outnumber motorized by 100 to 1.

Oh and anyone concerned about "damage" by orv'rs has never seen what a few horses can do to a muddy trail.

Andy Voight

avoight@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 8:10 pm

Like others have already stated, I don't think we'll EVER have enough parks and trails. Mind you, there are definitely a good assortment of both throughout King County, but lots of unrealized potential lies out there for all users.

Being an avid mountain biker and an amateur (at best) hiker, I appreciate and respect all that currently lies out there. I do feel that it would be nice to have more user-specific trails evenly disbursed throughout the area – in many/all cases, those user-specific trails could all be in the same regions/parks/etc.

As far as the maintenance is concerned, I feel things are well cared for and taken care of on a regular basis. Thank you for doing all that needs to be done and keep up the great work!

Sincerely,

Andy Voight

Daniel Keiley

dankeiley@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 8:10 pm

The more the better. Seattle is an active community, I lived 17 years in the Salt Lake City/Park City area, also active communities. I know my trails, I know where I like to go, I cherish what we have and participate in trail building and maintenance.

It saddens me to chat with 95% of the population that does not get out on our wonderful trails and public lands. Most people think starting an exercise program means going to a health club, and that walking (even with a baby in a stroller) or bicycling is always a “share the road” (with automobiles) experience, on pavement.

A Huge % of the population doesn’t know that the Bridle Crest, Puget Sound Energy, or Iron Horse Trail even exist.

Pavement is not a natural surface for the human body to walk or jog on. Much safer, and healthier for our joints, to walk and jog on dirt and gravel.

I’ve had recent conversations with locals, at the workplace and around town, who think being off pavement is dangerous, that an occasional fall on a trail is more serious than a fall on a paved road. The public is in need of serious education, there is no such thing as “trail rash,” road rash is a serious injury. Much safer to bicycle on a trail, with no automobiles around, than on the street.

More Trails! More publicity of our trails! Get more people involved!

Joel Lavin

joel@lavinconstruction.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 8:08 pm

#1 I am a heavy user of parks, I feel that there are enough “parks” I do feel that there is a grave shortage of trials in the Seattle metro area and the east side of the mountains as well. 90% of my outdoor recreation time is devoted to mountain biking,

that community is suffering greatly with restrictions on access to trails.

#2 I feel like parks are well maintained, I would promote user group involvement to help in that respect if a user group has a need allowing them to maintainer makes sense to me. They know what they need.

Bill H

w_hemmen@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 8:05 pm

Riding a mountain bike should be available here, and can share the trail with others. These locations are destination spots for riding while as a hiker my wife and I go to other locations.

Dave M

dmasino@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 7:55 pm

a) No, there is not enough. More trails and recreation opportunities for singletrack motorcycle riding and mountain biking, please. Given the amount of public land in WA state, the current opportunities for off road motorcycling and mountain biking is significantly lacking. I would like to see the available trail mileage for both activities increased, especially on DNR lands which are working forests that are logged. As a mountain biker, I'm happy with current developments at Tiger Mountain thanks to Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, and would like to see such developments continue on Tiger, and along the I-90 corridor as well. As an offroad motorcycle rider I feel downright ripped off by the state. $10 million dollars were misappropriated from the NOVA funds in 2009 to fund State Parks by the legislature. I don't know how this was legal. Aside from that, 85% of Discover Pass revenue goes to State Parks, where only 7.5% goes to DNR lands where off-road motorcycling is allowed. For a user group that pays so much to ride (Discover Pass, ORV tabs), the return on the dollar is extremely weak.

b) I feel that volunteers and state employees do a great job of maintenance, however more trail opportunities are needed for off-road motorcycles and mountain bikes to reduce trail impact, not more maintenance on existing trails. Both user groups are growing, and trails are becoming more crowded. The public land is out there. More trails please to help maintenance issues.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

digitaljanitor

megancapon@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 7:47 pm

1. More Mtb please. If one looks at a map of Washington with no-go wilderness and national parks overlaid (see wilderness.net) and grok that we can do 20-30 miles/day even in pretty rough country, it becomes quickly apparent that our opportunities are limited. Husband and I are now in the process of trying to put together multi-day bikepacking routes here in Washington state and it's surprisingly difficult to find nice, contiguously wild routes that are legal to access.

I would strongly support the idea of a long term 'connective trail' strategy… this ultimately may offer the most bang-for-buck.

2. Most of the trails we ride are maintained very well, but only because of MASSIVE volunteer efforts by either mountain bikers or motos. I like to think that the younger generations will continue in this spirit as best they can, but I'm always concerned that the ad-hoc nature of said maintenance means the future of these routes is fragile.

And on that note: it's worth considering that because a bike can pack more in (yes I've pulled a bike trailer in the mountains on singletrack, up to #50 even- it's slow but actually not terrible) and cover more distance in a day than a person on foot and in some cases maybe even a horse, mountain bikes may be the very best non-motorized method to keep your deeper trails in good shape.

beccaroo

lostshopper@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 7:46 pm

I do think we have enough – meaning our priority should be to keep what we have cared for, clean, patrolled, and repairing storm damage, keeping roads open, and enforcing regulations.

Mike Handron

mikehandron@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 7:06 pm

I think we have an amazing amount of hiking trails but the growing mountain bike user group is severely underserved by existing limited trail access. I believe there is plenty of opportunity to create more trails for ORV's as well.

Walter Sholund

wsholund@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 6:59 pm

no & no

Mark

herrklinke@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 6:04 pm

I appreciate Neil Morgan's insight and agree with his experience. As a hiker, trail runner, and mountain biker, I would like to see the trail maintenance and building methods to take into account these most common forms for trail use where these user groups frequent. It makes no sense that some trails are built without regard for mountain biking and as a result are not sustainable. When will we get an agreement

on the standardization?

The areas where trails can be built is more than enough room for current or new trails. The caveat here is that no new trails should be undertaken before existing ones are brought up to snuff. Only then there should be no restriction on new trails in the already reserved areas such as Tiger Mountain and other such areas. To allow new trails when existing ones exist but are not brought up to par is irresponsible. Despite this, I would like to see more mountain bike access to either existing trails or allow Evergreen to move on new trails as they are a proven entity in these pursuits.

John Bremer

john.bremer@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 5:52 pm

We need to do more to protect and restore shorelines and marine habitats. New instruments are generating data about the environment under the surface. Historically, armoring, marinas, piers, etc. have fragmented habitats and done horrific damage to ecosystems that we are beginning to appreciate and understand. Think of the horribly wrong decision to site the coal-carrying railroad through intertidal zones or the diking of the Skagit Delta. Restore shorelines to rejuvenate fishing and beach walking. Read “Walking the Beach to Bellingham” by Harvey Manning.

This summer, I hiked Heliotrope Ridge, Skyline Divide and Chain of Lakes Loop at least once, and that was enough for me. As I have for several years, I spent two or three Saturdays working with the Washington Trails Association to maintain trails. I encourage everyone to help maintain the trails we enjoy, particularly the mountain bikers, who owe a bit more payback than the hikers.

brian

bkchef2000@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 5:45 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

I think we have a good start of trails but the variety truly leans heavily in favor towards the hikers and horse back riding. Which is great because that group has existed since the beginning of man kind! Recently the increased amount of mountain bikers has just boomed with the advent of Whistler, Stevens, and Duthie Hill… I think it is time that the mountain biker be given their share of the prize. Duthie and the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance have proven what is possible with such a strong community dedicated to the creation and preservation of the trails we have and we, as a group would love a new challenge in reworking places like St. Edwards, Wellington Hills, Exit 27, etc… or creating new ones like the other opportunities near Issaquah.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

Duthie seems to be self sustaining, but places like St. Edwards i say no. So I think if given the chance Evergreen would welcome the chance to be overseers of the building and maintaining of the trails as they have done at tiger mountain and duthie. Hiking wise (as I partake in both) places like lake serene and such have great systems of trails but foot traffic and run off have beat these up. I would love to see more work done to walking/hiking trails as well. The Biggest Issue that I find on our trails systems is quiet frankly PARKING… there is never enough, NEVER… For example, at Duthie Hill the lot is full often two deep with friends or family stacking up in the lot. The congestion is really bad. People waiting for spots, others leaving to head to nearby neighborhoods which require you to ride on a very dangerous section of road. also these neighborhoods have made it very clear they do not like the road sides littered with cars, bikes and people… often having cars inappropriately parked or in illegal spots, ticketed or towed. Parking is the issue, the maintenance on the majority of the trails we use.

Jackie Yereance

jjyy@earthlink.net

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 5:38 pm

Recreation areas sooth our soles and rejuvenate our characters and in some cases keep us from being down right crazy. We need every bit that we can manage for ourselves, other species and future generations.

Based on the responses it appears that more trails are needed for mountain bikers. I would like to add that more education for them is also needed and some specific instruction from parks departments on acceptable conduct. Mountain bikers tend to travel much faster than other users and that makes them scary and sometimes dangerous. As one of the bikers said it is a difficult dynamic when they share trails. Serious thought needs to be put into keeping the trails available and safe for all users and that is the big need at this time.

mikef

fraid@earthlink.net

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 5:02 pm

This post is by the Moderator at the request of Brooke and Jason Guthrie who e-mailed in the following comemnts:

We think there can never be enough parks and trails in the community. We have many, but there is always a need for people to be able to get out into nature to explore and learn about the environment and get some exercise. The parks and trails seem to be minimally maintained, we have gone many times when the bathrooms are closed or not working properly. One of our favorite parks, Tolmie is on permanent winter hours and not open Monday or Tuesday, several times we have driven all the way out there (45 minute drive) to find that it was closed, which is, to say the least frustrating. We also went out a few months after the winter ice storms and it was closed, with no indication on the website of the closure.

Brooke and Jason Guthrie

mikef

fraid@earthlink.net

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 4:58 pm

This post is by the Moderator at the request of Mr. Neil T. Morgan who e-mailed in the following comemnts:

From: Neil T. Morgan

To: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Dominga Soliz, RCO Policy and Planning Specialist

1111 Washington Street SE

P.O. Box 40917

Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Subj: In response to the question "Do we have enough parks and other recreation areas?" and "Are they maintained well enough?"

1. This letter is my comments concerning subject question apparently being asked by Washington State Office of Recreation and Conservation (RCO). I understand these questions will be used in connection with and the 5 year updating of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

I also understand this update will be presented to the Federal Government in an effort to insure continued specific federal funding. I hope it will also be used to better recreation areas in Washington State as well.

My comments are based on my 60 years of state residence and being extremely involved in various forms of recreation and associated issues affecting both the recreational user and issues effecting our environment. I have been involved with and instruction of educational programs associated with recreation conservation.

2. I am very familiar with and participated in and applying for, the federal and state recreation grants associated your agency has the responsibility to manage. This familiarity has enabled me to better understand the issues and needs associated with recreation areas and has given me insight in what is takes to maintain those areas for the public for now and for the future.

3. My answer to the first question, "Do we have enough recreational areas?" is

without doubt "Yes we do have enough recreation areas". My reasoning and comment follow:

a. Given the available funds, it is totally irresponsible for land managers to acquire new areas for future development. I am aware of lands being acquired for future parks and other recreation areas without funds to actually put these areas into operation nor for their maintenance, once established. Why do we want to provide for the future when we can't seem to pay for the maintenance and operation (M&O) of those areas presently being used by our recreationalist?

I have inquired on several occasions reasoning why funds are not available for maintenance and operation yet available for acquisition, the answer seems to be consistently answered by "acquisition funding is from another pot". "Let's buy it today and worry about the operation and maintenance cost later" is being used too much by our land managers and elected officials. This, is in my opinion is a very irresponsible approach to the issues.

b. The implementation of Discover Washington Pass made it quite clear managers in Washington State do not intend to wisely use funding but rather to find new avenues to tax those who recreate. Where do managers intend to get funds to acquire new areas? Are new taxes or in the words of our land managers and elected officials, "User Fees" being considered for acquisition?

c. I realize that the number of areas is in direct relationship with the increasing number of recreationalists, their needs and the ability of our areas to sustain this increase number of users.

In reality, the majority of our population recreates in one form or another and I believe the increasing number of recreationalists is proportional to our population growth but I continue to believe new areas are not needed. Managing present areas more effectively is a better choice than compounding the problems acquiring new areas.

The needs of users are complex given the vast forms of recreation and I believe land and program managers has been lacking in understanding or considering those needs. It is hard for me to understand the reasoning for wanting to acquire new areas when

the needs are not fully understood.

The ability of our are present areas to sustain the number of users is dependent on numerous issues including, type of recreation, both positive and negative impacts, land compatible with varying forms of recreation it is intended to provided for and the ability to fund maintenance for those areas.

I understand that many forms of recreation with minimal needs provide for many users, particularly in higher populated areas. The areas used for these forms of recreation suffer from lesser degree of impacts equating to a reduced funding in operation and maintenance. I believe these areas tend to be smaller in size yet have the ability to serve more users.

In reality, their continuance as a recreational area is largely dependent on the ability to continue maintenance. I do not believe those responsible for maintaining these areas have taken the time to incorporate user participation as a part of their programs. At times, I have witnessed areas closed due to lack of maintenance thus creating user panic and support for additional taxes. If an effective comprehensive manager/user management program were implemented many maintenance issues would be avoided.

I do however; understand there are forms of recreation with needs that inflict increased negative impacts to the areas. One method to minimize these impacts is to provide for larger areas to insure areas can adequately provide for user needs yet sustain itself for continued use. These areas tend to be larger in size and provide for a smaller number of users. The downside is increased maintenance and operation costs. Interesting is my opinion that user involvement in the maintenance program is not extensively used. The reasoning will be expanded on in my summary.

4. My answer to the second question, “Are they maintained well enough?” is they are not maintained well enough to protect our environment and provide a safe area for the users. This is a very complicated issue and involves several separate subjects including M&O, law enforcement, public safety and providing an environmentally friendly area. My reasoning and comments follow:

a. I believe the most important reasoning for inadequate maintenance is the lack of

individual user involvement with maintenance programs. I do applaud those who involve organized user groups but I believe the vast majority of users are not part of any organized user groups and not targeted for involvement in a comprehensive maintenance program by land managers. I do not understand the reasoning or this tremendous resource not being considered or incorporated.

If one would consider who is responsible for the vast majority of the negative impacts one would find these impacts were created by individual users. The reasoning for the most part is individuals are not always familiar with the consequences of their actions and what is actually involved in keeping areas open for the public.

b. Why aren't individuals involved in maintenance programs? Why aren't individuals being incorporated in user agreements thus taking a more active role in maintenance? Why are land managers of the opinion that user agreements cannot include individuals? Why isn't there more education programs directed towards educating the unaware?

c. I personally have identified negative impacts in recreational areas effect the direct safety of users but have been told sufficient funds are not available to mitigate those impacts. This should not be the case.

I have helped develop, implement and participated in a management/user management agreements and have witnessed firsthand the positive impacts of this management tool. The agreement establishes the roles and responsibilities of each party, one being identification and plan of action concerning maintenance issues. I will expand on the management\user agreement a bit more in summary.

In summary,

5. I question if these question concerning the number of areas is for the purpose of bettering recreation or used for justification for new areas.

As stated above my answer to the question "Do we have enough parks and other recreation areas?" is "yes". This means I do not believe Washington State should acquire new areas. If the question was "Shall Washington State acquire, implement and maintain additional recreation areas only when acquisition, implementation and maintenance funding is fully provided?" I would say Washington State should.

I cannot in good conscious indicate new areas are needed without additional information including funding sources and positive/negative impact statement.

6. Maintenance and Operation (M&O) of trails go hand in hand with Education and Enforcement (E&E). In my opinion, education is the most important, as users must be aware of their role in recreation. They must be familiar with both positive and negative use impacts and how they can become a partner in providing for a safe, environmentally friendly area for the present and for the future. Education is not being given the priority it deserves. I believe an education plan be mandatory when E&E grants are submitted and reviewed.

I understand funding for enforcement is primarily through E&E grants. These grants may be or may not be granted therefore the quality of enforcement suffers. I believe E&E programs should be permanently funded. In essence, when E&E grant funding is unavailable, maintenance costs escalate.

7. As state above, small recreational areas tend to serve large numbers of users quite well while large areas are at times needed to serve the needs of a smaller number of users. This is primarily due to forms of recreation enjoyed by the users.

Too often is the number of persons served tends to control the acquisition and development of areas without taking into consideration of all user groups and their needs. Simply, the phrase “Its easier and financial more responsible to provide for twenty five thousand users recreating in a hundred acre area than ten thousand users recreating in a two hundred acre area”. True, this does make financial sense but I don’t consider it providing for all those who recreate.

8. Management/User use agreements have been used extensively across the nation and been identified as a very important and useful tool to achieve recreation areas for all. These agreements tend to strengthen land manager/user partnerships, decrease negative impacts, enhance education, lessen the need for enforcement and insuring maintenance issues are identified and addressed.

I have witnessed these agreements changing individuals attitudes towards the environment and towards area managers, allows users to better comprehend the consequences of their actions, educate users in what is involved in provided areas,

and foremost of all, consider themselves part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Pure and simple, manager/user agreements reduce the cost of maintenance. At times the cost of maintenance is so great, issues are not corrected and continued to further develop to a point where closure is warranted. I personally believe this is used too much for closure justification throughout Washington State.

For an unknown reason, these user agreements are not implemented in Washington State to any large degree. I has discussed the reasoning with many and the greatest two obstacle issues. One being governmental agencies see themselves as “the absolute power” concerning areas and it seems beyond them to share this responsibilities with users. The responsibilities of managers are very well acknowledged and accepted by those participating in such agreements and we are fully aware of their bottom line responsibilities yet the team management approach adjusts. Secondly, many responsible agencies tend to strongly object to individual users to become part of these agreements. They do not believe it is their responsibility to include individuals as a player in any user agreement.

9. Questions or comments to this letter can be directed to me at the indicated address above or at (360) 385-03915 at your convince.

Respectfully

Neil T. Morgan

David M Taylor

taylords@starband.net

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 4:24 pm

I am a Back Country Horseman in Okanogan County. I think the trails we already have are not maintained as well as they should be because of the lack of money to suport them, Some roads to the trailheadsare in poor shape because of the lack of money. Until the powers that are incontrol of our public lands can come up with ways to generate funds to suport the systems we all ready have, I don’t think we need more

trail systems. One idea I thought would help is go back to loging, only treat our forest like a garden and not clear cut them. That would generate good revenue. When I use the term garden you weed a garden.

KP

kord247@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 4:08 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

I think there are enough parks and recreation areas to meet the traiditional demand – fishing, hiking, walking, camping, picnics, etc.

What is severely lacking are trails suitable for mountain biking. An area like Duthie Hill Park is great for a lot of reasons. What is not great about it is it's size is a limiting factor. While it serves as a good training ground the the trails are short. There need to be long mountain bike rides in and/or near the mountains.

Mountain bikes can travel greater distances in a single day outing than hiking. Trails (if new) need to be longer or existing trails have connectors so longer loops can be pieced together. With Hansen Ridge and South Fork Snoqualmie it sounds like the I-90 area has been getting some attention. What about the Hwy2 area and areas north of there?

Like it or not but the mountain bikes of this day and age are built to jump. Backcountry freeride trails should be legitimately recognized. More importantly areas for these types of trails should be identified, allowed, and encouraged. It's probably a good idea to appoint a different trail "ambassador" for each of these. In my mind an ambassador would say a local bike shop or bike group – not an individual that could lose interest after time and their interests have past.

Another factor I think about relating to trails is the use of Greenspaces as connectors. Be open minded about the use of greenspaces. Use them to connect to different parks whether they are city, county, state, heck even if they're owned by say a utility company.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

What is currently there sure. Of course there are always issues of bathrooms and outhouses being smelly. On the whole my perception is there are varying levels of upkeep from park to park. Maybe that's a reflection of the managers themselves or maybe its areflection of the level of funding.

Fish

mfish71@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 3:51 pm

I've been a Mountain Biker since 1991, Hiker since I can remember… 30+ years. My primary choice for enjoying Washington trails is mountain bike.

Washington could definitely use more trails and access for mountain biking. We are one of, if not THE, best and most varied states in the union when it comes to natural topography and climate. It seems we are sorely lacking when it comes to recreational opportunities. Opening more of these areas to other forms of recreation such as mountain biking, and getting more user groups involved in the planning, funding and maintenance can only help our state as a whole.

Most areas that I ride and hike are well maintained, usually by user groups who have a vested interest in doing so. Educating users and advocating shared responsibilities for the few areas we do have is incredibly important as well as rewarding and infectious.

Expanding opportunities to enjoy nature, whether hiking, mountain biking, on horseback, or motorized vehicle is something we should be striving for.

Bill Somes

billsomes@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 3:13 pm

The state of Washington could always use more trails for recreation as the population in the state increases. I am a Backcountry Horsemen of Washington member. While

using stock in the backcountry I have noticed that many trails are being closed to all user groups except hikers. Due to the lack of trail maintenance? My suggestion is that the existing trails be better maintained. There are trails in the Cascades that have been closed fof years due to the lack of maintenance.Why construct new trails if the existing trails can not be maintained ? BCHW members put in thousands of hours each year maintaining existing trails. They, also, help support other user groups maintaining trails with the use of stock for packing in tools and other supplies.Their work is never done. Other user groups have their own issues.Other user groups (mtn.bikes,motorized vehicles) should have their own trail systems.I can not speak for them as to whether or not they need more trails, parks,and other recreation areas.I would like to see the existing trails in the backcountry and wilderness areas be kept open for stock use and hikers only. It is impossible to “Leave No Trace” while using mtn. bikes and off-road vehicles in these areas. The issue of more trails would be partially answered if all existing receational trails were maintained and kept open in a timely fashion.

Randy Wright

wright_randy@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 3:07 pm

We need more mtn bike access in Wa State. Mainly of the more aggressive trail style similiar to trail systems in Squamish, BC and Bellingham, Wa. Dedicated trail systems are needed that allow vert. drop and access via shuttle roads. These trails cater to all mountain bikers when designed and built correctly. Tiger mountain has huge potential to be a mountain bike mecca!

Steve Randock Jr

jr@hbmodular.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 2:58 pm

Yes we need more parks and trails for both snowmobilers and atv’s. I live in

Washington but spend more money going to Idaho or BC to ride as they have better riding trails and parks. Look at trail systems in Priest Lake Idaho, McCall Idaho, and Island Park Idaho this will give you an idea. My family and I would much rather ride in Washington and keep our $ here working instead of another state or country.

Brandon

metalman457@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 2:38 pm

Well said Michael Sylvan.

There needs to be more access for everyone, not just one group. We all need our own places to go outdoors and do what we love to do! I've been riding dirt bikes my whole life and sharing the trails with everyone else, and yes it is nice to have areas for just dirt bikes, I belive that the mountain bikes, equestrians, and hikers need there own areas too.

I have ridden my bike all over the state and the trails I do ride are kept in great shape by the people who ride them.

Mike Decker

decker_m222@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 2:31 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

As an avid ORV (motorcycles only) user, the simple answer is no. The ORV community is growing yet we are being forced into fewer and smaller areas which compounds issues signifcantly. More miles available, less stress on trails. Within S. King County, the nearest ORV area is at least a 90 minute drive yet I can be on hiking / mtn. biking trails in minutes. There are a lot of DNR working forests that can support ORV use.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

The current ORV trails that I frequent, yes they are maintained.

Dan

dscarf+scorp@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 1:55 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

I'd like to see more mountain bike trails.

I don't understand why bicycles aren't allowed in Bridle Trails SP. This would be a perfect place for me to take my daughter on some easy mountain biking, and is really close to our home in Bellevue.

Separately, I'd love to be able to go through the Cedar River watershed. From what I can see, it's beautiful and unspoiled.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

I suppose so.

Craig

craigcpowers@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 12:46 pm

I would like to see more trails built for Mt. Biking in particular. We have such a spectacular area in the NW with many different trail conditions to experience. There may be an opportunity to create a sustainable trail network along the I-90 corridor or the 410 corridor that would be similar to Whistler, BC or Bend, OR. Bike parks are good however, in many cases are not feasible due to building, maintenance, operating and insurance costs. With that, more cross country type of trails could be cheaper and more immediate.

I believe the user groups that volunteer to build and maintain trails do a fantastic job and in particular the Tiger Mt. trails open to MTB…we need more of that!

Ann

anndav@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 12:17 pm

I do not believe that there are enough trails for mountain biking in the close proximity of Greater Seattle area. Mountain biking is an activity that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. I have helped teach classes to the youth and many times the parents end up seeing how much their kids enjoy biking that they too decide to pick up the activity.

I also would like to see more parks and recreational areas available for orienteering. Cascade Orienteering Club would like to be able to offer meets at more parks where there is no restrictions to only stay on designated trails. Orienteering, like mountain biking, is another fabulous family activity

will fernyhough

willfern@earthlink.net

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 12:16 pm

I am an avid mtn biker and racer. I use most local areas on the eastside. We could always use more trails. The trails system is a great asset to the local area and must be a huge draw as evidence by the crowded trails particularly on weekends. I think they are generally well maintained.

Erik E.

eje_snow@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 12:12 pm

Avid mountain biker (10 yrs) and hiker (30 yrs) here.

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas? As a hiker I think there are plenty of trails available. I have no issues with finding great trails for hiking. As a mountain biker there is a severe shortage of trails from which to choose.

If some existing trails were open to bikes then that would help immensely. Ideally construction of new trails would be an important part of the solution. Rehabilitation of “abandoned” trails would also help.

b) Are they maintained well enough? I think they are. I believe resources should be put into new trail construction.

windsurfhr

jshawk@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 12:05 pm

#1 I think we need more mountain bike trails.

#2 Trails are very well maintained.

JN

neffj@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 12:02 pm

More singletrack trails accessible and designed to accommodate bikes should be created/allowed in Forest land on the west side. Not converted logging roads. Real singletrack trails. The users will build and maintain them. If we are allowed to design and route them properly they will have all the ecological impact of a string of floss crossing your lawn.

Gregg

gbergstrom22@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 11:55 am

I want to say how much I appreciate the efforts of Evergreen and Friends of Capitol Forest to build, maintain, and provide a community for local mountain bikers. I would like to see access closer to Tacoma. Currently, we travel over an hour to reach Duthie

or Capitol Forest. The geography of Duthie (minimal elevation gain) makes it ideal for riding with kids and famiy. Supporting Evergreen's efforts in the Swan Creek area of Tacoma would be great. Additionally, a Colonnade-type park in the Tacoma area would be fantastic for family riding during the winter and rainy months.

Chris Wood

treylrunner@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 11:54 am

More trails for mountain bikes please.

Existing trails seem to be properly maintained.

Thank you

NF

naokof@earthlink.net

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 11:33 am

If you go to Duthie Hill Park or Paradise Valley trails any day of the week, you will see so many kids and families riding their mountain bikes. It shows that Mountainbiking is a great way to enjoy outdoor and if there are easy access and more trails, more kids and families will be riding and getting healthier. We can share the trails – bikers, hikers, runners, dog walkers and equestrians – I always enjoy to see other people's way of enjoying outdoor. We should be allies.

Lee

itslee95084@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 11:10 am

I think clear cutting would be a larger cause of erosion the a bicycle. I ride motorcycles off rode for the thrill, adventure, and solitude of the wilderness. I've

ridden right up to wildlife SLEEPING on the trail. I've shut off my motorcycle and watched deer walk 20 feet up the hill only to stop and watch me start my bile and rise away. Just as I've come up on elk backpacking. We have a desperate need for more recreation trails other then for hiking . Sorry but this comes crime someone how love hiking and backpacking

Franco

faudia@excite.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 11:10 am

I am an avid mountain bike rider and have recently been enjoying Duthie Hill Bike Park with my son and friends. I would love to see additional MTB parks and trails. There is a big community of users (evidenced by the number of cars parking around Duthie and internet forums), who are very active in maintaining trails and reducing environmental impact.

Steve

stevecole7777@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 11:07 am

The raging success of the Duthie Hill mountain bike park has demonstrated that the huge and growing mountain bike community can build, sustain, and enjoy its sport in relatively small allocations of cherished space with financial benefit to the local economy. My family would like to see more bike parks like this in convenient locations, as well as maintenance and growth of high mountain biking opportunities.

TK

Tkads11@gamil.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:59 am

edit: I would make MORE mountain bike trips away from my home area if more access

were to open up.

Brad

brad@jibthegnar.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:58 am

Mountain biking is something that I can do with my three kids and would love more trails that support the mtb community. Duthie is a great example of what we can achieve and I'd like to see more dedicated trail areas that I can get out there with the kids on.

TK

Tkads11@gamil.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:56 am

I enjoy hiking, mtn biking, snow shoeing, and skiing. I feel that there is no shortage of trails available to hiking. In fact I don't feel that I'll be able to set foot on every available hiking trail.

However, as a mountain biker I feel like access is limited. I would definitely make mountain bike trips away from my home area if more access were to open up.

I generally find that access points and trails are well maintained.

Carrie Sunstrom

Carrie_Greece@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:55 am

No, there are not enough trail systems, both large and small. Washington has an amazing landscape, yet compare our miniscule trail development with England or Ireland, countries with similar landscapes, where the countries are crisscrossed with "Long Walks" and equestrian trials that allow public access, even through private

lands. This is the example that we should be striving for.

Trails are not just an amenity for WA state residents but they are a draw for the tourism industry as a whole which used to be a 15 billion dollar industry (the 5th largest in WA state) before the State Tourism office was eliminated. (WA is the only state in the U.S. that has no State Tourism office.) For example, the more Oregon develops their trail systems, the more tourism market share they capture from Washington, yet our landscape is more compelling!

To not fund trail development and maintenance, and keep existing trails open to all user groups …. is like shooting the state economy in the foot.

Government agencies writing rec. and trail grants would do well to acknowledge that equestrians are a major user group and include them in the process.

John Wendl

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Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:53 am

I believe we need more dedicated mountain bike trails. The MTB population has exploded with the addition of the Duthie Hill Bike Park which shows the audience is there. Ideally there would be more options available to avoid over crowding and reduce environmental impact. While hikers, equestrians and bikers can and do co-exist on trails with proper education and trail etiquette, it's a difficult dynamic to maintain especially when it's crowded. The mountain bike community has been extremely proactive in building and maintaing trail networks through organizations like Evergreen Mountainbike Alliance. I personally contribute generously to this organization every year because I see the difference they make in creating and maintaining trail networks that reduce environmental impacts while cooperating fully with private land owners and government agencies.

Martin

sj_martin@live.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:49 am

We need more Mountain Bike Trails. Duthie is an amazing place and has already outgrown it's capacity. There is never enough parking.

The MTB community helps maintain all the trails which is great.

However you rarely see equestrian or hikers pitching in the same way.

I think the trails are maintained well. There needs to be some sort of law that prohibits horses from pooping everywhere.

Some trails have poop every 10 – 20 feet. It's disgusting.

Lee

itslee95084@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:47 am

We already do. Its called ORV tabs, Discovery Pass, and fuel tax refund. ORV users always get ripped off and put down.

Bill Koonce

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Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:39 am

As a trail runner and bicycle rider, I'd like to see more trails for mountain biking. The sport continues to grow and support from riders for maintenance and access could be better directed. Why not look to Colorado for guidance and ideas? They have thousands of miles of trail that are well maintained. We aren't re-inventing the wheel here.

Michael Sylvan

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Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:36 am

I am primarily a mountain biker, but also a hiker and occasional offroad motorcyclist and I will say only this. These trails don't belong to any one user group. They don't. They belong to all of us. The idea that there is some kind of sovereign right to the trails because you are part of user group X is selfish and wrong.

Whatever decision is made, it needs to be made to balance the rights we all have relative to each trail and it's natural suitability. There are some trails that can't stand up to horses and motorcycles, and some trails that are truly best for rolling tires as opposed to hiking boots. And, there are trails that are hiking only and that should probably stay hiking only– the problem is that most hikers I've spoken about this with, especially folks from the Issaquah Alps, believe this to be all trails.

Can't we all just get alone and share?

AC

anthony.cree@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:36 am

Re mountain bike trails, one thing we do NOT need more of is parks like Duthie. We need access to trails, trails that connect to other trails, trails that go places, that meander through the woods, etc. Not parks full of jumps and stunts. More WTA trail, not more EMBA stunts, and certainly not more stunt parks at the expense of trail mileage.

Cary Clemenson

cary.clemenson@bp.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:32 am

I have seen lots of userbuilt MTB and moto trials in my time. Most of the hiking trails I have seen were installed by people being paid by tax dollars. Just sayin….

DN

drdodi@bellevuesmiles.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:32 am

Would love to see more singletrack, doubletrack for mt biking. There are only a handful of spots to go ride on dirt. When i want to hike I have too many spots to choose from. It would be great to see some more trails for cyclists to use.

nomeato

nomeatoburrito@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:24 am

I agree with the sentiments that there are nowhere near enough parks and trails to satisfy the demand of the many users and different types of users without creating conflict. Populations are growing, with the consequence that public lands seems to be diminishing. In a perfect world, I would like to see individual parks designated for specific uses (i.e. mountain bike parks, hiking parks, equestrian parks, ATV parks, etc.), but I know this is not feasible. As a trade off, areas of each park should be segregated by use. Intersecting trails of different uses should be kept to a minimum. But trails for all uses should be expanded with an eye towards preventing over-development of park land (i.e. we need more parks).

Regarding maintenance, volunteer efforts are the way to go. If a community of users can’t maintain the trails they use, the trails should be designated for other users as a consequence.

Jeremy O’Grady

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Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:23 am

Need more mountain bike parks!!! After seeing what EMBA can do with Duthie Hill

park I'd love to see more. Duthie is great for all ability levels and ages. It's a great environment that we definitely need more of.

Hiking trails seem to be everywhere. I used a different one every week last spring/summer and don't have any complaints. They seem to be well taken care of.

Thank you for caring enough to ask our thoughts.

PS. More mtn bike parks in case I wasn't clear enough.

Paul Knowles

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Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:20 am

In Spokane County and Eastern Washington (East of the Columbia River) in general, there are not enough parks, trails, and recreation areas. The potential for recreation in these areas is huge – the Channeled Scablands with impressive basalt cliffs, dry falls, creeks, and other features are probably 95% privately owned. We just are completing our Park Plan and have received plenty of public input regarding this issue.

Public access to creeks, lakes, and other water bodies is limited as well and needs to be expanded. Trail availability and access to those facilities are lacking mainly due to the lack of public land (again, east of the Columbia River) and the improvement / development thereof. Some of this is beginning to change with increased signage, better public information, etc. However, there's still a dearth of trails South and West of Spokane.

Maintenance and care vary dramatically. Some locations are clearly well-cared for and maintained. Other areas appear forgotten and down right scary. Overall, condition of built structures (infrastructure) is ok, but appears to be declining due to the apparent lack of capital funding to replace many of the aging structures, roads, etc.

cb

corinnabolender@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:13 am

I don’t believe either Washington state or the Seattle area have even close to the capacity of mountain-bike trails in Washington that we need to support the ever growing user group. If you consider year round riding and free-ride/dh trails there is even less. We continually need to drive way too far in order to recreate, including other states and provinces. This results in not being able to support the local economy as our business gets taken elsewhere, not getting enough exercise impacting our overall state of health, and having more of an ecological impact, due to the necessity of needing to drive a lot more additional miles. Mountain-biking is a great way to keep kids healthy and out of trouble and shows them how to embrace nature and preserve this for future generations.

AC

anthony.cree@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 10:01 am

WA has a lot of parks, trails, and open space. We may have enough parks in terms of land space, but definitely not in terms of trails, and they are definitely not maintained enough.

I don’t know if more space is necessarily needed, but very clearly more multi use trails are needed, with more connectivity between systems. In particular, there is a severe lack of trails open to mountain bike use, particularly compared to those open to hiking. Many, many more miles are needed (and could be had, for free, by merely opening existing trails to more users). Trails should connect to other systems and communities, such that users can access the trails without driving whenever possible, and link multiple smaller areas into epic days on the trail, whether on foot, bike, or whatever.

Trails open to motorcycle use are also severely under served. There should be more

ORV park type opportunities closer to the urban areas. Plans should be underway now for Duthie like parks to accomodate electric bikes that will be common in 5 to 10 years.

Many trails seem to cater to equestrians, while that sport is dying a slow death. Equestrian use should be managed such that the huge mudholes and piles of horse crap inhererent to their use is limited, or the user groups should do a better job of cleaning up this mess.

brian

dirtdude21@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 9:30 am

we need way more access for bicycles.. the hiking community already has about 200 miles of trails to the bicycle communitys one, our hiking needs are completely fulfilled.

BH

brent@hulinginc.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 9:23 am

I would like to see more mountain bike trails. As a member of EMBA and volunteer, the resources and volunteers are there to help build sustainable trails.

Mark Brent

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Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 9:22 am

The mountain bike community has been given the opportunity to show that we get behind legal and managed ride areas. Many of us drive up to an hour to ride areas like Duthie Hill. It would great to have legal ride spots in places like West Seattle or south of the city. When we have legal access to ride spots, the riders take care of the spots.

In short, a Duthie Hill type spot north of the city and one south of the city would be used greatly. Thanks for asking.

Jeff Cummings

jsclmber@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 9:11 am

I think we have alot of parks, but we can always use more, but I know that with more parks comes more maintenance. I think there should be a push to have “parks” that are left in their natural state,meaning the trails that are there should not be covered in gravel and any “structures” should be maintained by the group that uses that park/area, there by reducing or eliminating any funds needed to “maintain” that area!

Motorized use should be severely restricted if allowed at all, they create more damage,and hence maintenance/upkeep then a whole army of hikers and bikers!

Thanks

Jan Breuel

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Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 9:01 am

My husband and I are Back Country Horsemen members in Okanogan County, Washington, and backcountry stock users. We can’t respond to the question of enough trails and other recreation areas because we are only familiar with our local area. However, we can respond to the poor condition of most of the trails in our County and in the wilderness areas, the Sawtooth and Pasayten. Most trails have been abandoned by the agencies that maintained them in the past, thus restricting use for all but hikers. Failure to maintain trails is squeezing foot and horse traffic onto only a few, over used areas. Dispersed use would be better.

And it is our contention that if the Back Country Horsemen weren’t out there for tens

of thousands of hours every year across the country more areas would fall into unusable condition. Other user groups, such as motorcyles and snowmobiles also spend tens of thousands of hours maintaining recreation areas. We are all willing to do so but not if our access to public land continues to be taken away. We live in an area where State and Federal land is leased out for cattle grazing. We have no objection to that at all, but there are quite a few areas, especially those controlled by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife have old, locked up fencing that restricts use onto public land where cattle are not being fed.

Appreciate the opportunity to add our thoughts to this dialog.

David Ripp

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Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 8:59 am

As a public employee and a user of our Washington trails and parks, I feel that we have a responsibility to continue improving our parks and trails. They are an invaluable asset and a great marketing tool when working with companies looking to relocate to our area. Companies research what the benefits are of moving and what is available for their employees in reference to outdoor activities.

eric stobin

stobstar@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 8:47 am

we need more trails for mountain biking, especially up on tiger mtn where evergreen mtn bike club proved they could build new, sustainable trails of the highest quality. mountain bikers spend money at the communities they visit, whether it is cle elum, roslyn, bellingham, orcas island, anacortes, leavenworth, sammamish (Duthie Hill Park), Juanita (St Edwards Park) or Paradise Valley Conservation Area. In fact, mountain bikers work more on the trails at Paradise Valley than the other two groups combined. we would like more trails at PVCA as we are working with experienced

trail builders who are really taking care of the trail all year round, especially in winter where we are putting in over 200+ of volunteer hours. there's plenty of room at Tiger Mtn for more mtn bike trails as well, and the more people we get mtn biking the better it is for our local economy in seattle and the eastside, especially bike shops.

Logan

logan.riggs@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 8:27 am

We always need more trails. Areas near Seattle can be very crowded on weekends, reducing the enjoyment.

I would love to see more motorized OHV trails. I think OHV users would be willing to buy a special pass to fund these trails if they were close to the Seattle area.

Jeff

jeff@ics-support.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 8:22 am

We need more mountain biking trails in this state. I have seen encouraging signs in recent years in terms of various government agencies beginning to realize that mountain bikers are good stewards of the land and put forth tremendous constructive effort working with other stakeholders to produce wonderful outdoor recreation opportunities. Thank you to all those that have contributed to this very tangible effort and result!

However there are simply not enough trails and back country opportunities to meet the need, particularly within a reasonable driving distance (1 hour) from the major population centers. The number of good mountain biking trails accessible via our main transportation corridors (I-5, I-405, I-90, Hwy 2) is a very small number indeed. Yet the amount of land and potential for creating local and destination quality riding

opportunities is immense.

The quantity of mountain bikers in our state continues to rise. The sport offers young and old alike (I'm in my 60's) the exhilaration of being able to experience the outdoors in ways that cannot be replicated any other way. Mountain biking encourages and rewards physical activity and stewardship. Mountain biking is a win-win for all concerned. Let's do more to encourage and embrace it by building more great riding challenges and opportunities. Thank you.

frrider26

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Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 8:17 am

I'd like to throw my vote in for more mountain bike trails! I would also like more access to state owned lands in the mountains. Maybe work together with logging companies to leave areas for riders. Trails seem generally well maintained we just need to open more up to riders! Maybe to help with multi-use areas have some trails designated for bikers, hikers, and moto riders on the same mountain or in the same area. My vote is for the mountain bikers!

Mike Jacobs

mikej@teamnelsoninc.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 8:15 am

Question #1 – Do we have enough trails, parks, etc??

No, we do not. Washington State has huge portions of public land that we are not allowed access to. And as time goes on all of the user groups are forced onto less and less land. It is a shame that as citizens who own the land, we are locked out of the land and denied access. All user groups have the right to use and recreate on state lands. I spend a lot of time in the woods for various activites, one of my main hobbies is off road motorcycle riding. The ORV community is very large and and it is pretty sad that there is only 2 legal ORV areas in the greater puget sound area. We need our

access back, and more trails and areas for all user groups. ORV, mtn bikes, horses, hikers, everyone. The current open areas have all the pressure, the more open areas there are the less conflicts there will be and the better off and more sustainable each area will be.

Question #2 – Are the areas well maintaned?

Generally speaking yes, largely in part to volunteers and state employees. However, it is a struggle to keep up with the heavy use in such few areas. I do not think the problem lies with the maintenace, but more the fact that we are all crammed into such few areas when you look at how much open land we have in this state.

Peter Sherrill

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Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 8:12 am

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. Washington is truly a unique place to live in large part because of the outdoor recreational opportunities the forests provide.

A) I believe we should be working hard to add trails in the recreational areas, especially for mountain biking. Mtn biking is a growing sport, and studies show that this trend will continue. Mtn biking has the potential to provide a huge economic benefit to areas that embrace mtn biking, and right now in Washington we do not have an area, such as Bend, Oakridge, or Mt Hood in Oregon, which have used mtn biking to draw in folks from outside the area. This in turn provides big dollars for local economies.

Having more legal places to ride with more legal trails will also encourage more people to spend time in the forests and will discourage illegal trail building and riding.

B) More should be done to maintain the trails. The NW climate takes its toll on the trails. Fortunately, we have organizations like The Evergreen Mtn Bike Alliance, the Washington Trails Alliance, and the Backcountry Horsemen who provide countless

hours of trail building and maintenance. The govt. should be supporting and encouraging these organization at all times.

Joan Weaver

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Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 8:01 am

I have been a hiker and backpacker for many years. In my experience, mountain bikers care not about the quiet beauty of any place . . . they are after the challenge, and thrill. Too often, I have witnessed, that this thrill-seeking comes in the form of cutting down trees, laying them across trails, and creating a ramp/jump for more thrills. This is only one negative facet.

Mountain bikers very often come zooming down narrow, or single-track, trails which might be populated by people on foot, horse riders, or wildlife, who have no time to move out of the way. A friend of mine was left with a broken collar bone, and the mountain biker apologized, saying “Oh, I thought you were a kid.” She was at the back of the line of hikers, and couldn’t jump out of the way fast enough.

The noise of these mechanical devices is enough to scare wildlife away from their own habitat – not to mention disrupting the peace and quite for humans! And, it is all too common that we see trails “cut” by bicycles, crossing the existing switchback trail in order to exaggerate the biker’s downhill thrills – destroying vegetation and causing erosion.

Oh yes, erosion. As the mountain bikers careen around corners, the compacted soil becomes loose, and grooves form, making for certain erosion when the rains come. This also happens on up-hill and down-hill portions of trails because of the wheel-spinning and braking actions of the bikes.

One more point – teaching children that it is alright to seek thrills and challenges by destroying the beauty and serenity around us for selfish reasons is NOT alright! Mountain bikers have the same rights to enter these peaceful, beautiful areas as the rest of us – on foot. I advocate for the plants, wildlife, and peace and serenity for all.

Please do not consider allowing mountain biking in any parks, wild areas, or wilderness.

blcman

blciesinski@earthlink.net

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 8:00 am

I'm a mountain biker and would like to see more trails opened up.

Like many other posters have said, it is a good thing to get people out to recreate more. Multi-use trails are fine and user groups can/would take ownership of maintainence. Many good comments here. Let's share the great outdoors!

Margaret Swanberg

peggyswan@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 7:56 am

Of course Washington does not have enough available parks and recreation sites considering how much land is owned by various government entites. And what is available is priced outside what some families can afford. Considering that this land belongs to us, this is an outrage.

I belong to BCHW and am an equestrian/trail rider. I give many hours of volunteer time in order to keep what trails we do have available for all users. But our small organization can only do so much and we continue to see trails become unusable due to lack of maintenance. As time goes by, these unmaintained trails fall from maps because of lack of use, maintenance or people's memory.

McKenzie

doug kelley

doug.kelley@avistacorp.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 7:47 am

I live in Spokane County and we have some wonderful trails started, many miles worth. However, there are significant gaps and opportunities to connect different trails that could prove to be not only significant for our regional population, but actually become economic development drivers for recreation/tourism and lifestyle attractants for relocation. These are pedestrian and bycycle in nature and those are of the highest value. Being on the east side (I don't mean Bellevue folks) we have plenty of motorized areas for people to recreate.

Maintaining should be covered by local juristictions and covered within their growth management planning as a section/addendum.

Andrew Nuez

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Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 7:23 am

While I feel blessed to live in a state with so much access to awesome mountain biking trails I feel like there can never be enough. We need to have more riding areas like tiger mountain, duthie hill, and the trails in black diamond. I use these areas frequently and enjoy the amount of maintenance that their respective builders have put in.

Randee Crisman Blackstone

randeecb@me.com

Submitted on 2012/11/27 at 7:13 am

Love the availability of trails for both riding & hiking. Having grown up in MT, mostly on the back of a horse, I know how valuable the backcountry is. And I love the diversity of trail users. Most people share a love of the outdoors & are courteous of other users. Most of us stay on designated trails & even work together to help maintain them. While there are an adequate number of trails, budgets are tight. Trails close to urban areas are much more heavily used. Let's find ways to make this

an asset in terms of helping hands.

Mike Vandeman

mjvande@pacbell.net

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 7:03 pm

We don't need more trails, which constitute habitat destruction. We just need to remove the bicycles, so everyone can enjoy the trails on an equal footing.

Bicycles should not be allowed in any natural area. They are inanimate objects and have no rights. There is also no right to mountain bike. That was settled in federal court in 1994: http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtb10.htm . It's dishonest of mountain bikers to say that they don't have access to trails closed to bikes. They have EXACTLY the same access as everyone else — ON FOOT! Why isn't that good enough for mountain bikers? They are all capable of walking….

A favorite myth of mountain bikers is that mountain biking is no more harmful to wildlife, people, and the environment than hiking, and that science supports that view. Of course, it's not true. To settle the matter once and for all, I read all of the research they cited, and wrote a review of the research on mountain biking impacts (see http://mjvande.nfshost.com/scb7.htm). I found that of the seven studies they cited, (1) all were written by mountain bikers, and (2) in every case, the authors misinterpreted their own data, in order to come to the conclusion that they favored. They also studiously avoided mentioning another scientific study (Wisdom et al) which did not favor mountain biking, and came to the opposite conclusions.

Those were all experimental studies. Two other studies (by White et al and by Jeff Marion) used a survey design, which is inherently incapable of answering that question (comparing hiking with mountain biking). I only mention them because mountain bikers often cite them, but scientifically, they are worthless.

Mountain biking accelerates erosion, creates V-shaped ruts, kills small animals and plants on and next to the trail, drives wildlife and other trail users out of the area, and, worst of all, teaches kids that the rough treatment of nature is okay (it's NOT!).

What's good about THAT?

To see exactly what harm mountain biking does to the land, watch this 5-minute video: http://vimeo.com/48784297.

For more information: http://mjvande.nfshost.com/mtbfaq.htm .

Daniel

dcollin@pnt.org

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 6:54 pm

Parks, trails, and recreational facilities all add to the quality of life in any town, even when they are not well maintained. More of the above will promote better public stewardship…if those features don't involve lots of tedious maintenance like grass clipping and toilets.

I would like to see the State work closely with their federal and County parks/forest land managers to support the big dreams, the long trails: the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, the Olympic Discovery Trail, the Centennial Trail, John Wayne and other major unfinished systems. And to take this on, I think our Govenor-elect Jay Inslee could create a Commission to oversee a dedicated budget to implement these plans underway.

When these improvements are complete, we will have bona fide trail systems that will inevitibly generate more enthusiasm, tourism, and public stewardship. However, as we drag our heels on these plans that have consumed so much volunteer time we drain the public energy.

I don't see the controversy between trail user groups that some talk about. But I do see that some users feel the resources are not distributed fairly, and this the State needs to put some energy into. Many young people who have worked for me, claim no one listens to their perspective; why not stage a Town Hall with these creative thinkers?

greg

gregmatty@Hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 5:33 pm

More motorized trails please . . .

Motorized users can cover more ground than most recreational groups and yet every year we lose more and more ground forcing more people onto the same trails. This leads to resource damage that could be be eliminated by simply adding more multiple use or motorized only trails. Increasing the density of any user group will lead to overcrowding, conflict among users and unnecessary damage. More trails is a simple solution

KevinD

rhinofromwa@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 5:30 pm

Hello. I have spent my 37 years on this planet living in the Pacific Northwest. 32 of those years have been spent riding motorcycles recreationally with my family (Father, Mother, Little brother, and I) and friends. I remember all the riding options we had in the past and how much access has disappeared. There are very few options in the west side of the state. The ones that do exist are well used and maintained by both government and public volunteers. There is a considerable short fall in single-track motorcycle access in this state, even more so on the west side of the Cascades. Single-track motorcycle trails are available to Hikers, Horsemen, Hunters, and more to use also. Motorcyclists don't need big fancy parking lots or fixtures (outhouses, picnic benches, etc) to be happy. I enjoy getting away from it all in the woods, where we may not see another human being all day. The current reality is the available pool of trails has withered and left us with a congested couple areas. They are used because that is what is legally remaining. I am merely asking for more legal options to enjoy. Thank you for your time spent to read this post and taking my thoughts into consideration. ~Kevin

Seattle fella

josephlaubach@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 5:11 pm

There simply is not enough ORV area in Washington State. If you live in Seattle, the closest legal trail is about 60 miles away. That is way too far. It is a waste of gas to drive so far just to ride our ORVs. Thank you!

Delaine Clizbe

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Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 4:58 pm

Who has time to read all this? This survey is probably eating up budget money…… However, for what it is worth. The State should focus on adding trails to the many many acres of variously held Government land in the state. (ie, DNR, Bureau of Reclaimation, Dept of Interior ect ect). The focus should be on multi-use trails(like Capitol Forest) only and no additional picnic tables. (Read: We have enough “parks”. What we need are more areas to “recreate” in). The focus should be in developing partnerships with user groups to build and maintain trails.

Of course the State should maintain what they have. Again, this should be done with contracts with user groups.

dt

dmthayer@easy.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 4:47 pm

Another vote for more singletrack motorcycle trails. Also would be in favor of more access to state managed lands for any and all user groups and more multiple-use sites where motorcycles are allowed. Keep the costs of maintenence down by letting the users do the work; we are willing and able.

I generally find that the trails we have are well-maintained. Having a perfectly graded/paved path and super clean restrooms at every parking area is not what I want; having access to be able to explore the land is. In the rare case I find a trail that is not in good shape, the motorcycle groups I associate with are involved in fixing them and returning them to good condition. Also I firmly beleive that more trails will disperse our use over a greater area and actually help/improve the conditions on the trails we do have currently.

Don Larson

larson_don@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 4:45 pm

Yes! I too have read all of the public input and DNR comments on this area and Motorized use is not even mentioned let alone considered! Drive north over 18 and look at all locked gates…. I own an off road bike and a Dual Sport Bike, my wife also has a dual sport bike and we love dual sporting. Living where we do, (May Valley near Issaquah/Hobart) we SHOULD be able to just drive out of the garage and enjoy the miles and miles of dirt roads near our house, with any one of the THREE DISCOVERY PASSES the household has had to purchase…. but no, all the dirt roads on public land are locked?

B2

olybronc@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 4:09 pm

More single track motorcyle trails please. Capital Forest has a ton of room and potential for more motorcyle only recreation. I hope that this considered. ST trails are cheap to build and easy to maintain.

Thanks

dawn Kleinhuizen

dawnmantle1@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 3:06 pm

As a horse back rider I would like to see more trails open to horses and the ones that are open remain that way. I would also like to see some public education on the fact that horse manure is bio degradable and usually quickly does so, please just step over it. on the trails. I strongly support leaving the parking area for horses clean of manure and hay or anything else that a horse person might leave behind. I am willing to ride with other trail users. I have found most of them to be very willing to go to the low side of the trail to let me pass.

I feel until we have enough funds for maintenance on the trails we already have new ones seem to be an added stress to an already stressed budget.

David Smead

dave@maildr.us

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 2:27 pm

I grew up riding horses but I'm not a fan of them on hiking trails because of the smell of horse manure and the flys that it attracts. Maybe clean-up rules needs to be applied, or there needs to be more horse-only trails.

Noise, horses and hikers is not a pleasant mix either. More off-roads trails are needed for motorcycles and ATVs. They need to be closer to Seattle to reduce the impact of driving miles just to ride an hour or two.

Linda Mattos

linda@hopti.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 12:58 pm

I have been an equestrian all my life and began riding the back country in 1972. I

agree with Jeff:

It would be great if we could complete the cross-state and cross-county trail systems. These includes:

John Wayne Pioneer Trail (State Parks) (inc. fix tunnels and trestles)

Columbia Plateau Trail (State Parks)

Olympic Discovery Trail (multiple agencies/counties)

Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (USFS)

Darcy

djmitchem@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 12:53 pm

We have adequate trails in some areas, but remain hopelessly lacking in other areas. Where there is abundant public lands, especially USFS land, we have enough trails–if you can get to them. I am working in Cowlitz County to connect community trails to the USFS system, but private timberlands (which own most of our county) are hostile to public access. These private companies sometimes own tens–even hundreds of thousands– of acres wedged between communities and public lands. Sometimes the bulk of a county is held by one or two owners. My community is trapped by the practices of these big industrial landowners. Our county is (or acts) powerless if a timberland owner says “no” to a trail that would benefit everyone, and barely inconvenience anyone. Much of the time these companies do not allow access through their land, which landlocks our public lands, and makes people travel extra miles to reach trailheads. For example, our county is trying to get a trail through a tiny wedge of 100 acres of Weyerhaeuser land to reach 7,000 acres of state land. The company says NO, so the public land is landlocked. In another place official Mount St. Helens national monument trailheads are locked behind industrial timberland gates. To make it worse, landlocked public land is ineligible for ROC grants including NOVA. It is so frustrating to live in a beautiful place and to have industry hold public lands hostage. (They get a tax break from us, too, for providing “recreational spaces.” This needs

re-examined: get a tax break for providing a public benefit, hold them to providing that benefit.

Trails need to be thought of as regional transportation, same as roads, that connect areas and communities. The public needs some tools to get through private land to public land, and trails need the same “rights” as roads. Regional trail systems will never work if they can only pass through public lands, and can be blocked by a single private landowner. Passes that are needed on each landowner (USFS, DNR, Private) would never be tolerated on a public transportation system and should not be needed for trails.

As for maintenance, when has anyone ever said it is adequate? Actually I find the roads to trails in need of more help than the trails themselves much of the time.

Jason

jbabcock@uw.edu

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 11:47 am

While we do have lots of trails and many well maintained trails, there is a ton of land that should me managed for multiple uses that currently seems to be primarily managed for revenue from extraction. While I have no problem with logging or mining, I do think that those lands (thinking mainly DNR here) should be managed for recreation as well. This would put a lot of trails out on mountains and in forests that are currently inaccessable.

Rick

rickrohwer@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 11:02 am

I hike, bike, CC ski, and show shoe on Washington trails. I don’t feel hindered by the amount of trails available. Some trails preclude some activities. Motorized trails are fun on a bike, and all the rest of my activities are compatible with all others.

Improvement could be made regarding maintenance of trails and facilities but I don't feel that they are lagging. Our trails are certainly up to the same or better standards of any other state I am aware of. Thank you for allowing my opinion.

Hurricane Harry

hurricaneharry50@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 10:41 am

We need more ORV trails please.

Kevin

kevin@transitionbikes.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 10:28 am

I see that there is definitely a lack of mountain bike trails in Washington when you look at the popularity of the sport. The growth of the sport sky rocketed in 2001 to 40 million participants annually so it was impossible for state agencies to keep up with demand of this user group. Now we need to look at a comprehensive plan to provide bikers with more access to the mountains that other users currently have. It has been proven in other areas that you can create trail plans where hikers, bikers, trail runners and equestrians co-exist together. Mountain bikers are a responsible user group that have proven track records of putting in volunteer hours to maintain and build trails. The biggest area I see for improvement is access in National Forests and better access in DNR lands which make up some of the most spectacular terrain that bikers want to ride in. Creating more legal trail options in Washington will also cut down on illegal trail building.

Pete

wiz636@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 10:06 am

We need more trail mileage for motorcycles!

100% of the state's trails are open to hiking yet only 8% of the state's trails are open to motorcycling. Any hiker can easily find solitude throughout the state if that is what they want.

As a motorcyclist I can say that more mileage is desperately needed as closures have forced us into smaller and smaller areas creating unsustainable situations. Motorcycle use is on the rise and not going away so it needs to managed, not just closed down.

Motorcyclists are NOT looking for trails in wilderness areas, state parks, or national parks. I think any OHV user will agree that REAL wilderness is no place for motorized vehicles…but what about all the working forests within our state? We have been told that a trail must be closed because of too much wear only to have the area clear cut, skidded, and then the slash piled up with buldozers a year later!

Open up the working forests for public recreation!

Sara Redfield

ktmchick@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 9:44 am

As an avid trail runner and offroad motorcyclist, I am often frustrated by the double standard that I see in Washington's trail systems. If I want to go for a trail run, I simply have to drive 10-15 minutes and begin my adventure. However, when I want to go for an offroad motorcycle ride, I have to drive at least 1-2 hours one way before the adventure begins, and most of the time I have to pay to park my vehicle at the trail head. Washington needs more trails that serve multiple uses. There are a plethora of trails available to those on foot, but a very minute amount for those who want to recreate via motorcycle. I encourage Washington to keep the current ORV areas open and to look at new areas that can be opened to ORV use. The ORV community is pretty good about self-maintaining their trail systems through collaboration with governmental entities such as the DNR and Forest Service. Please consider expanding the ORV use areas.

Lori Taylor

zero_it@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 9:40 am

Washington state is blessed with many national/state/county/city parks, trail systems and recreation areas. The downfall is lack of equitable distribution of those lands to various competing recreational groups. More singletrack and doubletrack multiple-use trails open to offroad vehicles are needed in this state. ORV enthusiasts are crammed into an increasingly smaller number of trail systems, particularly in the Puget Sound area. There is ample land available to re-open and properly manage areas that were once open for ORV use in this state and/or develop new multiple-use trail systems, the land managers and government just have to commit to it. In this world where few people have physically demanding jobs, there are more people participating in recreational sports. That means there are higher volumes of trail users within every sport and this requires proper management to ensure all user groups are respecting the land and playing well together. HIgher volumes of users and growth of new sports also requires the managers of public lands to spend the time to get educated on the needs of all the trail users and actively work toward meeting those needs. This is possible and very much needed.

Joe H

guns_equal_freedom@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 9:39 am

Ms. Herbert, you are wrong when you state “parks stand for…a natural wildnerness.” Parks are developed areas for different types of recreation.

If you want a true wilderness experience then please, head on up into one of the designated Wilderness Areas in Washington State.

Once you are in there a mile or so you won’t be bothered by any of the issues you seem to be concerned about.

Please point me in the direction of the report where ORV's cause fires in State Parks. A lot of Eastern Washington burned this year due to natural causes, the rest were due to carelessness or outright stupidity.

As a taxpayer in Washington State, as an ORV rider who pays for ORV tabs, as someone who has two Discover Passes I feel strongly that we (all users) need to work together to come to an agreement on how to manage the public lands for public use.

No one here is asking that an ORV park be built in Deception Pass or Mt. Pilchuck (even though a lot of the trails in a lot of state parks were at one time dire bike trails).

We are asking for a fair and equal use of the public land.

I think that's something we can work together on.

Robin Nicholson

songbirdranch@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 9:21 am

We need more parks and recreational land.

The land belongs to the people, and should be accessable to the people.

I am an equine trail rider and a member of BCHA the land is of great importance to us. The equine industry is huge in our state and maintanance of these lands is crucial.

Thankyou for listening.

David B.

spirittalk@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 9:21 am

I am an avid hiker and biker and would love more trails however we need to be more fiscally responsible in Washington State first. The State budget is too big and out of control. It is leading to citizens being overtaxed and vast amounts of money being

wasted. Our national trend toward spending more and more is not sustainable. I would suggest that more people volunteer to help maintain trails that we already have through several great organizations such as WTA. More trails should not be added on the public's dime until there is more fiscal responsibility overall in Washington State.

Dolcideleria

christina@dolcideleria.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 9:14 am

I would like more walking and biking (not mountain biking) trails within reasonably accessible distance from urban areas. We're an urban family but would prefer not to bike recreationally in the city. We've found some trails but more within less than an hour's drive would be awesome.

I don't feel that I've seen a large enough sampling of the available trails to speak to their maintenance. Those I've used have been fine.

Elisa Halcomb

joehalco@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 8:51 am

I have been an equestrian enthusiast all my life. Over the past years, I have seen trails and areas that are available for horses diminish in my Port Townsend area. I believe that we simply cannot have enough parks and trails to enjoy our beautiful Pacific Northwest and I would love to see trails that connect state wide.

The maintenance of trails and parks is a problem with all the budget cuts from the declining economy. The Back Country Horseman have helped maintain and build trails. They have done excellent work in helping to keep many trails in good shape for riding.

Don Larson

larson_don@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 8:48 am

No, there is not enough trail in this state. More area is needed for all forms of recreation! Motorized recreation continues to be pushed out of existing areas and into smaller and smaller parks or areas. This is not only inherently dangerous but also creates more impact on the environment.

There are so many areas that are suitable for light weight, single track vehicles, (read: Motorcycles), that simply are not being utilized. Areas where this activity took place for years but now the public is locked out of for other reasons?

Maintenance? I can't speak to trails other than single track motorcycle trails but I can tell you that those trails, in general, are maintained well because most mc riders are more than glad to go out and build / maintain their own systems. (read: low cost for an already "user funded" activity.)

I live with in minutes of two vast state land parks, (Squak Mt and Tiger Mt.), both area's trail systems were basically developed decades ago by motorcycles. Today there are no motorcyclists allowed – Squak Mt. is dedicated primarily to equestrian and Tiger is Hiking / Mt. Biking….. I have to drive 90 – 120mins to get the nearest state ORV park. There is something wrong with this picture and it clearly demonstrates the need for more trails.

Thanks fo rthe opportunity to comment!

Mary

mmccluskey@cityofpoulsbo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 8:18 am

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

We definately need more trails – pedestrian, bicycle and eqestrian. Some areas can support all kinds while the urban areas not so much. I don't have a good feel as to

whether we need additional parks – each community (and the state) have set a level of need and are working towards it. While I venture to say "yes", I also know that all agencies are trying to also maintain what they have during these tough economic times.

b) Are they maintained well enough

The amount of maintenance can always be improved. There is always a need for more maintenance in one place or another. When I see something that is not maintained to its highest level, I am assuming it is because of reduced resources. Other people may think it is a job done poorly by the agency.

Jackazz

timharmon242@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 8:04 am

Question #1

The user groups have spoken and it seems everyone wants more opportunity's to enjoy their recreation of choice. (except for some of the hikers that want it all to themselves, More for them, less for everyone else.) I want more places to ride my motorcycle! For the winter months I have two choices, Walker or Tahuya. That's ridiculous! Sadly if the progress at Reiter is an indication to what it will take to get new trail built we're all screwed.

Question #2

When the state stole the NOVA funding a couple years ago it was a setback for maintenance but right now the areas I ride and camp are in decent shape thanks to the funds back where they belong and also to the people and groups that volunteer!

Tom

tombaker070@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/26 at 7:45 am

a) Parks and Trails. Would like to see more trails for bicyclers and walkers. Would like to see the Willipa trail completed. Any of these trails I have noted are used a lot and bring many visitors

b) Maintained. Some are, for example trails in Pierce County, but others such as the Olympic Discovery Trail , rely a lot on volunteers to maintain.

Carolyn Guske

riverranch@earthlink.net

Submitted on 2012/11/25 at 8:48 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

We need more Equestrian trails PLEASE! I moved here from Los Angeles CA 2 years ago to this fabulous paradise of the PNW. I found more riding trails in LA than I have found here on the peninsula. We trailer our 2 horses to the few trails, please more trails!

b) Are they maintained well enough?

I belong to JEA and Back country horseman both groups are dedicated to create and help maintain horse trails. I would personally do what ever it takes to create and maintain any new and existing horse trails.

Peter Harris

pnrharris@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/25 at 6:16 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

There is a statewide need for more off road vehicle (ORV) parks, trails and roads, particularly on the west side of the Cascades. I also hike, hunt and fish. I believe we need access for non-motorized activities as well. It seems as if more and more PUBLIC land is being closed off from the public for any type of use.

Much more undeveloped DNR and Forest Service land could be opened for off road

motorcycle use with no negative impact on other users or the envioronment. It seems like many of the gates are put up to keep out trash dumpers and meth labs. Neither of which are likely on an off road or dual sport motorcycle.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

The off road vehicle parks and trails are not maintained well enough. There is money available in the NOVA funds. However since the state does not use it for its intentioned purpose of establishing and maintaining ORV parks and trails they then use this money for other purposes.

The lack of ORV access forces larger numbers of users into smaller areas making it even harder to maintain those areas.

Sarah Dean

sarahgsyfan@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/25 at 5:13 pm

I am a horse enthusiast and ride and also drive a cross country carriage. More trails that would welcome horses are needed and it would be nice if the trail systems could be connected.

As a member of BCHW, I have volunteered to help maintain trails and am willing to continue. Please work on making the regulations of maintenance more user friendly.

Llloyd Ge3lentere

lloydkgh@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/25 at 5:10 pm

I would like to see horse camps maintained.I am physically not able to hike but can ride a horse.These horse camps are in Washington

and Oregon.The trails surrounding these camps are good for horses,hikers and mountain bikers.Because of soils, they are not

trails for motor cycles.Separate trails or perferable logging roads should be used for

motor cycles.

Byron Stuck

nmatrust@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/25 at 12:22 pm

I share your vision Mark. And 40 years ago so did folks wiser than us when they voluntarily gave up their rights to gasoline tax rebates to put them in a fund to support their sport, and then added to that fund revenues from a permit system they designed so as to fund their sport … pay to play. That fund, the Nonhighway and Offroad Vehicle Activities, or NOVA fund worked pretty well to fund trail creation and maintenance until recently the legislature no longer agreed with your "users pay to play" concept, and stole those funds to solve a State Parks budget problem. Arguably, you could say that's why this website and process is in place right now, because of the need to demonstrate commitment to that fund and concept. Search the web for "NOVA funds – Washington State" to learn more.

Jeff Chapman

bbbranch@olympus.net

Submitted on 2012/11/25 at 11:52 am

It would be great if we could complete the cross-state and cross-county trail systems. These includes:

John Wayne Pioneer Trail (State Parks) (inc. fix tunnels and trestles)

Columbia Plateau Trail (State Parks)

Olympic Discovery Trail (multiple agencies/counties)

Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (USFS)

cyndyb

cctlbuech@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/25 at 8:23 am

we are very fortunate in the pacific northwest to have so many beautiful areas to recreate. I would like to see our bike paths more interlinked in both city and rural areas to allow safer options for communting and recreating

Tod Petersen

tod701@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/25 at 7:30 am

Good points, but is important not to blame the land managers for the liability issue. To properly resolve the problem RCW4.24.210 needs to be changed. Currently recreational access liability protection is lost if injury is caused by a “known dangerous artificial latent condition”. Even a ditch alongside the road or leftover logging debris can leave the landowner exposed to liability. Last year Senate Bill SB6800 would have fixed that, but the trial lawyers lobbied against the bill and it failed.

Pat

Gottaorv2@juno.com

Submitted on 2012/11/25 at 6:26 am

As an active ORV user for last 35 years I have seen the reduction of single track trails in the state. trail systems that have the ability to connect multiple trails together to make a loop are getting harder to find, putting greater pressure on the current trail system that is left. Installing (or re installing)single track opportunities reinforces what makes our trail system the best.

a concerning note regarding the disclaimer above about the me against you comments. I have always had positive experiences with the other user groups i have met out in the trails. I am with the opinion that user conflict isn’t as prevalent as

some may want you to think. it only detracts from the task at hand

More single track opprotunities

Seth Robertson

redrobertson@hotmail.co

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 10:02 pm

I grew up on green mountain. My folks still live there. I have hiked or ridden my motorcycle all over that mountain hundreds of times. It saddens me when entire sections of trail are destroyed in clear cuts but I have never seen any trail severely erode way from ORV or any other user group use. The rocky terrain that the trails are built on is quite durable compared to most areas.

Karen Johnson

kjrjatprairierim@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 9:26 pm

I am an active member of Back Country Horsemen of Washington, and help maintain multiuse trails in the State Capitol Forest and Scattercreek WDFW area. Unfortunately, these are the most heavily used equestrian trails in Thurston County because we have few other places to ride our horses. In winter, we have only a 2.5 mile trail open to equestrians in the Capitol Forest. With the expansion of land development most everywhere in the state, equestrians are losing places to ride at a rapid rate. Therefore, I would need to say No to your Question #1. We equestrians need more trails that are open for us to ride.

Question #2: WDNR attempts to maintain the trails in Capitol Forest but with the extreme budget cuts in the recent years, they depend on volunteer groups to help out. The BCHW help to support their applications for grant funding by recording our volunteer hours and reporting them. WDNR has a backlog of work needed to be done in Capitol Forest which leaves some trails inaccessible until the funding becomes available to reopen. WDFW has banned equestrian use of the Scattercreek area to

equestrians so we only have one trail across the property to access private timber land which we are allowed to ride on. (WDFW is protecting butterfly and plant species habitat on the Scattercreek land area.)

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Phil

kdxbound@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 8:52 pm

I agree we do need more ORV trails. There are miles and miles of non motorized in the front and back country. The amount of non moto trails is growing along with theme parks for mountain bikes while not much is happening for ORV's ORV recreation provides family fun and for some kids it maybe the only way they are going to get out in the woods with Dad. Not to knock other forms of recreation but the question was what types of opportunites do we need more of – Phil

Ron West

wescnmbkr1@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 8:22 pm

For the past numerous years I've always donated my $5 to the State Parks System at the time of vehicle license renewal; That is until some buracrats forced the use of our State Parks, in the name of "Good To Go Pass" in the amount of $30 per vehicle! That is when I refused to support donations to the State Parks. When you have more than 1 vehicle, you have been forced to purchase multiple Pass' at $30 each! After much public uproar over this, they say 1 "Good To Go Pass" can be used on 2 different vehicles. That is a help, but still not acceptable for many who own motorcycles for several family members, as well as travel trailers, utility trailers, motorhomes, and automobiles. Until they abolish the "Good To Go Pass", I refuse to support that particular fee & use!! Vehicle license fees continue to escalate as a means of getting more money that goes into a "General Fund", instead of being dedicated to Highway

Funds. For the month of November I have already paid license fees for 2 of my vehicles, 1 of which you force the purchase of new plates with an extra $20 fee; if you want to keep a current plate that is in perfectly good condition, it still cost you the $20 Fee!! The State of Washington needs to do a better job of controling it's spending. With the tremendous population explotion within this state you already have gained more tax revenue, yet you continue to raise taxes!! We the people need to control our spending with budgets, it's about time the State Government controls its spending with a better budget!! A good place to start saving money is to cut the pay rate to ALL MEMBERS working in the Capitol in Olympia, WA.

Anita Will

flyingdunfarm@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 7:11 pm

Yes we need more useable trails for all groups I realize that keeping these trails repaired is the largest issue we have to getting more trails put in, this can only be resolved by all user groups to work harder together. I know this is possible for groups to work together to the benefit of everyone. With trail education we could do this and we will have more voices to be able to get more accomplished in a shorter time frame without as much red tape. If the agencies in charge could also learn and work together also to streamline the paper work that it involves for volunteers to actually be able to use equipment that is paid for by our tax dollars already to work on the trails it would help. It is hard to get equipment donated when it is already owned by State, City and County Agencies. We have Many volunteers who have a huge amount of experience and have the proper licenses to operate equipment but can't excess this resource this is something that needs to be addressed

Al Pelletier

sekiusweep@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 6:04 pm

I have story to share about a park the state owns but can't maintain: Last winter on a Sunday, a tree fell across a rural road that leads to farms, forest, a huge lake, and a national park. At least a dozen willing chain saw operators live within a mile of where the tree fell. But this is what happened: I called the Wa state hwy dept, and got the home number of a Dept employee. He couldn't assist or give permission for any clearance of the tree, because it was on (undeveloped) state park land. The County road dept could not do anything either, for the same reason. I was warned that huge fines could result from cutting up a state park tree. Eventually a state park employee was found, but other downed trees prevented him from reaching the site to approve any action. Last I heard a contractor was being sought to bid on cutting up the tree. I never found out what happened, but parts of three are still laying in the ditches, with warning signs that they are state park property. I offer this, not to castigate any person or agency. I just wanted offer an example of why management by closure, combined with no maintenance, is not always a wise policy.

Mark Schooley

markschooley@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 5:50 pm

It seems that there are not nearly enough trails open for the various forms of recreation. Sadly, some forms of recreation are not compatable in the same area. For example, powered atv use (motorcycles, quads, side-by-side, 4x4s, etc) are not a good choice to share an area with horses and in most cases bikes and hikers. Some horses get spooked by the sound of the engines, and the speeds attained by some riders quickly overcome bikers and hikers for the most part. I personally believe this one of the major reasons for most conflicts between users of recreation areas.

I think the best solution would be to allow horses, hikers and bikes (all non-motorized forms of recreation) to have their own designated areas for recreation while requiring those users to pay to use the areas. These areas would also be restricted to non-motorized use only. Fees collected from the users would only be allowed to be used to maintain, improve and expand these non-motorized recreation areas. Additionally,

since most non-motorized forms of recreation are quiet and the speeds are slow, these recreation areas could easily be placed closer to population areas.

Similarly, motorized recreation areas should be set aside and non-motorized uses prohibited. Again, fees should be charged to use these areas and the monies collected should only be used to maintain, improve and expand these motorized areas. If the two forms of recreation are kept separated, this would eliminate the constant conflicts between hikers, horse riders and bikers and those who choose to ride motorcycles, quads, jeeps, etc. The motorized recreation areas would be better suited to rural or wilderness areas.

Additionally, once the monies are collected and separated by use (motorized and non-motorized) this would allow a more scientific means of determining which user group is spending more time and money recreating and thus which group should get more attention when adding recreation areas. It seems that right now all of the monies collected go into a single account and the loudest group gets the most attention.

If a group wants to recreate on public lands, then they should be willing to spend their time and money to maintain their recreation areas. I have spent numerous hours over the years cleaning up trails and parking areas along with other members of my chosen form of recreation (off road motorcycle) only to have the areas which we are legally allowed to ride shrunk more each year. I can honestly say that in all my years of helping out in the woods, I have never met a hiker or horse rider willing to help maintain trails or police for trash or other trail hazards. I am not saying that they do not also spend time cleaning up, I am only saying that I have never seen them in an organized group.

Teren MacLeod

teren@ptproperty.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 5:34 pm

As a horseback rider, hiker, and outdoor enthusiast, I enjoy the many trails we have access to as public trails, and particularly the opportunity to have diversity of use an appreciation on those trails. The trails locally have been used and maintained over

the years primarily by the horse-folk – and sometimes in collaboration with the hikers and cyclists. Now that some of the trail systems are more developed and funded, there are sometimes concerns that horses may not be as welcome as before.

In my experience, the connection that other trail users have with the horses and riders is often pleasant and welcome – so often people will stop and ask – "may I pet yor horse?" Sometimes this is a young person – sometimes someone older who remarks, "I have always wanted a horse" or "I used to have horses years ago, and miss them so much." Horses offer soething that is unique and special – and we need to be sure to allow for optimum use of trail systems and parks for horses and their people.

Some of the parks that do not allow horses would see improved use and even funding by being open to horses using the land. Horses tread lightly, are quiet, usually well-mannered, and bring so much joy to those around them. Please, wherever possible, maintain and expand the opportunitiers for horses to be part of the landscape. We will all be better for it.

Al Pelletier

sekiusweep@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 5:29 pm

I am sure there are places where more recreation places would be welcome, and there sure to be some sites of special beauty or significance that are not now protected from irreversible alteration. However, most of the state park system sites I know of are either closed frequently, have no amenities for staying at them. Some are maintained (more or less) by local "friends" groups, who have limited, if any funding to assist the parks.

A lot of rural people don't welcome more parks, because of the history of "keep out" policies on many rural parks. Fishing, hunting and swimming areas enjoyed by communities for decades or centuries are suddenly off limits, except with special passes or only at limited times of the year. When gates and keep out sign are the only "improvements" done, it can be hard to see that as improvement, or as being for the

good of the communities. Understood, there are limited funds for “developing” state recreation lands. My point is that, if there isn’t funding to enhance the area’s public access, at least don’t just closed it off. The money spent on restrictive gates and signage can be better used at other sites to keep them staffed or maintained or just kept clean of litter.

larry waters

lwwaters@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 4:44 pm

While things seem to be going in the right direction, I think we could use more mountain biking facilities (trails and bike parks/skills areas). Duthie is great (actually, incredible), but I have to drive almost an hour to get there (from south Mukilteo). Both Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace have areas (Lyndale Park in Lynnwood and Rideview? Park MLT) that could be developed into mountain biking skill parks. That would eliminate a lot of driving by individuals or families getting to bike parks.

Donald E. Van Elk

Dutchgrunt@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 4:01 pm

There simply are no where near enough trails to satisfy all the users with different forms of recreation without controversy.

We need many more trails and specific use areas where conflict is reduced or eliminated.

There would be more volunteer effort put into trail maintenance if the legislature had not created a system whereby some users pay double and triple fees while others pay no fees at all.

Kris Kiesel

shop4atoy@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 2:41 pm

Hi,

As a member of JEA and of the Equimasters Pony Club, I am very grateful for the many parks and trails here, but I am so sorry I am not allowed to ride my horse on most of them.

I live near Old Fort Townsend, and I don't know why I can't ride my nice, well mannered horse there. I would be happy to help volunteer maintain trails, and i would be satisfied if horses were to be allowed on just some trails as long as there was a good reason, but I see no sense in the total ban on horses.

I used to live in Massachusetts and rode every week (sometimes more than one time a week) in Callahan State Park. My horse often knew a bike was coming before I did, and was fine with them. I carried chunks of carrot in my pockets, and when I came across family groups hiking I asked the young ones if they would like to feed my horse. They often did, and were delighted. One little girl looked up at me with total awe, and asked, "Is that the BLACK STALLION??" So sweet.

As for dogs, he was fine with them as well. Once in a while we would come across a loose dog with no person nearby, and once the dog got aggressive. But my horse knows dogs, and he put his head down and gave the dog "that look". End of issue. The dog went home.

Kris Kiesel

Sally Houghton

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Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 1:15 pm

I am a Back Country Horsemen member of the Skagit and previously Methow chapters. I feel we need more areas for recreation for equine enthusiasts, hikers, and bikers of all kinds. The BCH members and other horse owners are responsible for (along with other groups) hauling in materials and working on many hundreds of miles of back

country multi-use trails all over the state. Greater numbers are using the trails at all times and buying the appropriate parking passes.

I do feel strongly that gun fire does not mix well in recreational areas that already have heavy visitation regardless of the mode of travel. Hunting and target practicing areas need to be in a separate area year round. It makes common sense to me as it is a set up for tragic accidents. Opening up and maintaining more trail systems may create safer recreation for all.

Jim Eychaner

james.eychaner@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 12:28 pm

The greatest need is in-town trails (think Yakima Greenway) and town-to-town connectors (Interurban, Cedar River) on which people can walk or bicycle away from motor vehicles.

Tom Poste

steeleposte@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 12:26 pm

I am a member of WTA, PCTA & BCHW/BCHA:

I have spent many years as a hiker (began in the 1960's) and have "progressed" to the equestrian mode of travel. There are numerous Wilderness trails for both hikers and equestrians…not so many trails or trailheads in the lowlands and foothills of our many beautiful regions within Washington State. There are definitely not enough safe trailheads where you can find room to maneuver a rig, find stock water and toilet facilities.The heavily populated County in which I reside…Pierce…is totally devoid of any official public facility for equestrians, with the exception of a DNR property in the Elbe-Ashford area.

Regarding maintenance: I and many of my BCH associates have been very active for

years in helping to maintain the Pacific Crest Trail from South of Chinook Pass to well North of Snoqualmie Pass and all of the feeder trails within that area. We are also very active participants in the maintenance of the trails at Taylor Mt., Tiger Mt., Elbe Hills., Pack Forest., Nisqaully -Mashell and many others.

It seems that there is a fair amount of volunteer maintenance accomplished on lowland trails while the backcountry trails along and adjoining the PCT receive much less attention from volunteer organizations.

Safety is always a concern when riding trails, whether it be trail conditions, (maintenance) or multi use challenges, (management).

Existing trails were designed for specific uses. (Hiker, Equestrian, Bike, ORV). They should be maintained and used for those designed puropses.

Dan Petersen

petersendr60@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 12:03 pm

There are enough parks and recreation areas for the state's current population, but many of those areas are far from the main population in the Puget Sound area. Nearby recreation areas need to be more open and accessible to all kinds of uses, not gated and policed.

More attention needs to be made to address the limitations currently imposed on ORV use. It's especially disturbing to see miles of basically serviceable old logging road closed to motorized use. These are facilities that are readily used by the motorized community but are left to be reclaimed by overgrowth, and basically ignored by the non-motorized community.

I think much of the (new or recently designed) trail in Washington is ove rmaintained and over engineered. Often the goal seems to be maximum accessibility by the lowest common denominator of ability. Too much emphasis is placed on removing all risk from outdoor activity. The example of DNR mountain bike trail destruction is a a case in point. The recreation managers in the state focus on indemnity rather than

supporting, or at least accepting, a wide range of sometimes risky recreation.

Part of our responsibility as users is to accept some risk, and to take steps to deal with it accordingly. Mountain bikers, ORV users, equestrians, and hikers can share trails, but it takes an open attitude and an understanding that the trails are for all, and that trail use entails some risk, either from other users, wildlife, or the terrain itself. Risk free outdoor activity seems like an oxymoron to me.

Bradley Cunningham

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Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 11:51 am

A.) There is very much a shortage of legal ORV areas, certainly on the West side of the State.

B.) The locations we do have are maintained too well using too much funds as it is. Cut maintenance to current locations and open up more state land to recreation of all types, specifically motorized. The users will maintain if you give them the opportunity. Reiter Pit is a huge waste of time and $ and should have been left alone to begin with.

davis steelquist

drs98376@embarqmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 11:30 am

Q#1 enough parks etc.. I think there would be better responses if the question restated that it pertains only to Washington State owned Parks.

The parks were generally set aside when we had lower populations using them. So there are some that really need expansion either totally or just in parking and restrooms. At the same time there are some that are under used. Western WA has higher year around usage, but also has tremendous back up with the Federal lands and National parklands.

While there is contention about new uses (bikes, ORV, Zip lines etc.), the state might want to look into unprofitable (timber growth wise) DNR lands to meet some of those needs.

There are also some parks that probably would be better transferred to private use (Anderson Lake which is closed too much, Carroll Park in Brinnon – inaccessible without trespassing).

Q#2 maintained?.. In general most are well maintained and staffed. One area that seems to definitely lag is historic places such as forts that were transferred to the state.. there is a need for better policies for use and some long range maintenance to prevent further decay. Dividing these sites with city/county/PDA groups without an overall plan for total park maintenance could leave holes.

I think the DNR campsites, parks, boat launches would be better served if transferred to the state parks. They would definitely be better maintained and policed.

Chris Enrico

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Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 11:20 am

Do we have enough areas? For some, perhaps. Others like the ORV groups find the pickings slim. I'm not a ORVer but respect their right to access. Some areas have a good trail system, others not so great. (depends on your mode of travel)

Depending on where you are trail maintenance is good or lacking. For the most part I believe it's a matter of which trails get used more. The more use the higher the priority and thus the greater the maintenance. Lately it seems lots of back country trails are no longer stock accessible (or barely hiker) due to blowdowns, slides, washouts and so forth. This I know is due to a lack of funding. So far as wilderness areas it would be great to be able to run chainsaws to remove blowdowns, some so thick the only safe way is to blow them up. There are some that relish taking the old non-maintained trails which can be a good or bad thing. If it's not maintained due to lack of use then yes, use it (at your own risk.) If it's closed because of damage and

was rerouted then please stay off it.

And lest I forget, another probable reason for not repairing roads/trails is the risk of getting sued. Some are “sue happy” these days. No further comments on that.

I’m a hiker/mountain biker/member of BCHW.

Becca

becca@polevaultpower.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 10:53 am

I think we generally have enough parks, though certain user groups could use more areas dedicated to them.

Many state parks are struggling with severe budget cuts, and if they are left in that state we will likely see an increase in crime, vandalism and deterioration of historical structures.

Lys Burden

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Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 10:45 am

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

We definitely need to finish some regional trails, such as the Olympic Discovery Trail in our area. There are some significant missing links. We also have some great locally/regionally significant trails in need of signage, so they can be better located, followed and used.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

Our local/regional trails are fairly well maintained, but can always use more volunteer support.

Byron Stuck

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Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 10:09 am

Well-said!

Terry

terrywentriding@gamil.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 8:56 am

Hi, As a BCHW member I find that there is a great system of trails in some areas then little to non in others. Soma areas see a lot of use and can be hard to get in to at times due to the level use. the camping areas are really used during the warmer months. The multi use areas can make it hard for all types of users as they all feel they should be there but not the other due to _____(fill in The blank). As a back country horsemen member the two over laps the are the hardest on the trail to handle, are the hunter in camo horses can't see it so it's like in the movie "Predator" they only see, I dont know but is unnerve's a solid horse. (Pull your shirt off or something) The other big one is mountian bikes coming down hill. They are too quite and too fast. On a steep trail this could end in injury or death.

So anyway, To the first question, not really !!

The second question, some yes, some no. some people that have guns seem to need to destroy everything by shootiing it (signs, outhouses, you name it). Outhouses/restrooms are a tough one too. They are dirty or not stocked with things you need in there!!

Good questions, great subject, as we all love to be in the outdoors and we live in such a diverse part of our nation.

Julie

gregpo@centurylink.net

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 8:40 am

I'm a horse person. Very thankful for all the State and Counties have left for us to use. I know dollars are short for all programs including recreation. I use a lot of OPM properties to trail ride which are non motorized vehicle. Love it. I understand the need for public lands that are multi use but I find riding with motorized vehicles too dangerous for my liking. I have a lot of very young horses. I would love it if we had more mixed use areas without vehicles. I think that as users we need to help maintain the areas or contribute to the costs in some way. Not opposed to a fee at all. But would like it to be a yearly pass not a pay per use, maybe both? And if improvement projects were put out in some sort of media where I could see them and volunteer to help I sure would. I think bikers, hikers and horse riders co-exist pretty darn well on the trails they use together with very few problems. The horse and bike riders of course cause more wear and tear and we should chip in to help with that.

Robert

randjranch@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 6:54 am

simple no not enough. and no not being maintained well enough. everybody above we must all stand united if we want access. they (the gov.(of the people)). do not like any of us to much liability. we need to quit bickering between the groups hikers, horseman, bikers get along with orv users they have as many rights as we do to be there. orv be more observant on the trail police yourself tell your friends to slow down.and so on. If we do not learn we are sunk. by the way I am a horseman

Jeff Chapman

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Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 1:21 am

I am a horseman (BCHW) and a hiker (WTA). While Washington State thankfully still has a great deal of undeveloped lands, accommodating newer uses without displacing

existing heritage uses can be a challenge without adequate recreation planning and new site development. In order to provide for the various recreation enthusiasts as well as newer recreational interests, a variety of opportunities need to be developed as to parking, camping, and assorted trail opportunities. Over the years, increased community populations have led to a desire to have more accessible recreation closer to these residential areas, which would consequently cut down on driving expenses. Rider enthusiasts (horse, mountain biking, ATV) and runners look for non-road loop type routes, often missing from areas where yesteryear trail development was meant to get to the top of a peak and back. Old logging and mining roads have actually provided alternatives, and should these arterials be decommissioned or closed, serious effort should be put into evaluating them for continued recreation use. Planned development that provides for a variety of recreation including horseback riding and hiking, if done thoughtfully, can cut down on user contention. Washington State DNR really sets the example for trying to provide a full range of opportunities in planned out recreation/conservation landscapes.

Existing trails often developed as social trails, and may not be located in the best places as to unstable soils and riparian areas. Add in the wet conditions in Western Washington, and trails may need to be hardened up or moved to more secure ground with better drainage. Some trails have deteriorating infrastructure such as puncheons and bridges that date back to the CCC days. Added vehicle use to existing shared use trails, such as with adding mountain biking, can require additional work for controlling speed, sight distance, drainage, width for passing, and other design changes. Shared use trails will always be necessary outside of dedicated user group specific “parks” or Wilderness areas so finding the optimum and affordable maintenance design standards is important. Also, each user group needs to be willing to adjust on public lands to the standards that serve all of the users for a given trail. In other words, everyone has to be willing to give up something as far as the trail experience on shared trails. In return, we get the satisfaction of being a community of trail users.

Increased maintenance means an increase in investment and labor. Both BCHW and WTA provide volunteer crews, which along with youth crews and other user crews can tremendously help address the backlog of work. What can be very frustrating is that

the volunteer groups may have the labor, and they may even be able to secure funding through grants, but sometimes they can't get the go-ahead to do the work from the agencies even for existing trails in serious need. Agency rules or management may require oversight of the work, but there may not be enough field staff, rangers, or environmental planners to provide that oversight. During fiscally lean years, management rules themselves may prevent the very upgrades that need to happen.

In summary, for a harmonious recreation community, agencies and politicians should not displacing existing users from public lands that have an established history of use in an area. Set maintenance standards for trails, much like the Forest Service does, and don't down-class trail maintenance levels in order to save money or boost the experience for a particular user type.

Judy Tilley

judy@clikrf8images.com

Submitted on 2012/11/24 at 12:20 am

We can never have enough trails, parks and other outdoor recreation. People need to be connected to the outdoors via trails, parks, conservancies, etc. I think $30 a year for access to Washington state parks is a steal. Other states have higher fees such as Utah.

Joe H

guns_equal_freedom@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 8:14 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

In my opinion there are not enough trails. People will say we need more parks, however, the state can't fund the operations of the parks we already have.

It's obvious that there needs to be more single track motorcycle trails on state lands.

It's my opinion that the DNR should not have to shoulder the burden of ORV parks.

In California the state parks system owns 8 SVRA's and operates many more on BLM and USBR land. Why can't Washington do the same?

Each county in Washington needs to have an off-road vehicle area.

Walker Valley as an example of how to do it, Reiter Pit as the example of how not to do it.

Whatcom, King, Pierce and the rest, there are enough ORV enthusiasts to make ORV parks in those areas viable. People who choose to recreate with ORV's are part of the public and as such should be able to access public lands for their form of recreation.

Another thing I would like to see and that's the end of land management by gate. With the growth of adventure bikes and with the passage of SB5800 it's obvious that there needs to be more roads and trails for street legal "dirt" bikes.

Gates have closed off and are closing off riding opportunities. There should be a managed trail system that connects areas of the state here in Western Washington.

This is a recreation opportunity that the state is losing out on. Look at the popularity of the Washington Backcountry Discovery Route (WABDR). If more land was interconnected via existing roads and trails (end of gates) and some form of easement for crossing private property was established this would help the growth of these types of "adventure rides" and contribute to the tourism dollars coming into the state.

One other item I would like to see is whenever an area is closed to the public via gate or decree that an equal area is opened for public recreation, be it ORV's, horses, Mt bikes or hiking.

I realize that the federal designation of "Wilderness Lands" is not a direct state issue, however, I would also like a like sized area of the land mass that the Wild Sky closed off opened up for ORV and other public uses.

If this means breaking new ground for trails and building fish protection bridges then so be it.

I think that we can all work together to keep the public land open for the public to

use it, not to close it off to keep the public out.

Karen

karencarlberg@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 4:41 pm

Yes, around the Spokane area we have enough trails for cross-country skiing and hiking. I'd like more trails for snowshoeing. Maintenance is fine. Better separation between human-powered and motorized sports would be nicer. I do think it's appropriate for us users to pay our way, either with user fees or with volunteer labor.

Connie

craig@olympus.ne

Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 4:33 pm

I would lik to see more horse trails or have access to existing trails that are not designated for horse use, we are loosing areas to horseback ride in at an astonishing rate. Horse trails require very little maintanance and there are several equestrian organizations that put in many hours of volunteer trail repair, construction and maintenance in many of our parks and have been doing this work for many years.

This volunteer work benefits all users with the improvemets that are made.

shrubitup

ontopofit@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 4:00 pm

Unrecognizable is a result of wearing gear to protect us from the crash. We buy ORV tabs and Discover Passes so we have same right to recreate as you do. We volunteer our time to maintain trails. We write letters and attend planning meetings. We vote. We pay taxes. If you don`t like motorized vehicles then please use non-multiple use trails. There are so many miles of trail open to non motorized; you should have no

trouble finding these exclusive trails unlike a motorized user. There is not exclusive trails open to only motorized that I am aware of nor should there be in my opinion.

One of the reasons maintenance has fell back as bad as it has is that the NOVA fund was diverted to pay state parks` employee salaries. This fund receives cash from off highway vehicle gas tax refunds as well as ORV tab sales. If you don`t like funds being diverted away from maintenance I suggest you contact your representative about this.

shrubitup

ontopofit@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 3:49 pm

Wash State Dept of Natural Resources runs Green Mountain. It is a active working forest with logging occuring right now and future timber sales proposed. I`m afraid the timber sales tear up Green Mountain a little more than the ORV.

Lunell Haught

Lunellh@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 3:01 pm

For me, yes, we have enough. The difficulty I experience sometimes is being run down by motorized or down hill folks, so it seems like more education on how to share – and I don’t see this as an issue with groups as much as the people who are not part of a club or organization.

I don’t mind some of my gas tax going to hiking trails because I drive to get to trail heads.

There should be some proportionality for need for maintenance. I pay extra for XC ski grooming and I would expect to pay extra for downhill mountain biking.

thanks for asking.

Ken Evans

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Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 2:42 pm

Talk of expansion in the throes of public austerity seems to me a precarious carrot. Yet, if it can be so, a welcome addition. As a active BCHW participant in trails maintenance and construction, I find it is my chance to give back to the existing opportunities afforded one in the universe of public lands. Washington has many opportunities for multi use recreation, and we are big enough to keep in mind the safety issues of the various users. The willingness to preserve and volunteer for the common good is a great way to make all a stakeholder in the process. The State agencies I believe should take the lead in being the facilitator of that process. There is considerable maintenance work that is waiting on our existing trails, and the expertise and willingness of the user groups is a powerful tool that, when properly applied, holds great promise. The privilege of participation and preservation is incumbent on all.

Lee

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Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 1:49 pm

Thanks. More proof that these small areas can’t keep up with the overwhelming demand for more ORV trails.

Marion

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Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 1:41 pm

Thanks for the info re ORV use in state parks. I am familiar with a Green Mountain trail in Kitsap County which is torn up by ORV use but it must be administered by some other state entity. Thanks.

Cary Clemenson

cary.clemenson@bp.com

Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 1:37 pm

More trails is the question? Where do I start? 10 years ago in Whatcom County I had 5 different locations I could go ride my motorcycle off-road. North Fork, Galbraith Mtn, Vedder Flats, Sumas Mtn and Saxon. Today I have ZERO, that's right none. To go ride off-road with my family these days in Whatcom County I risk a hefty fine and potentially, I could loose my bike.

Why should I trust the State of Wa and more specifically the DNR? Tough question, to start with the governor stole my NOVA funds and dumped them into the general fund in 2009 and 2010. So they require me buy ORV tabs to ride off-road, even though I don't have a legit place to ride off road in Whatcom County. The state constitution says that money collected for a specific purpose shall be spent on that purpose, period. However our Governor stole that money and dumped it into the general fund to pay for her pet environmental programs. She knew it was illegal and she did it anyway.

The so called "discovery pass", a portion of which goes directly to the state DNR. I have purchased two of those now and the only thing that has changed for me is now the DNR has money to pay an enforcement officer to throw me off public lands. Prior to the discovery pass they did not have the funding to do that.

As recently as this spring the DNR threw me out of the North Fork, for the second time. The first was 7 years ago on my moto and this year they threw my family and I out on my MTB citing "liability" and "trail erosion". Both of which are bunk, the MTB community offered to buy them "liability" insurance indemnifying the state which they promptly turned down. And you cannot tell me or any other clear minded individual that clear cutting a working forest has less "trail erosion" impact than my trail.

The bottom line is its easier for the DNR to manage public lands with a gate and no public access. In reality its easier to work with private corporations (Sierra Pacific and

many more like them) than it is to work with the State DNR and our public lands. For 30 years offroad advocates have tried and failed to get access to public land in Whatcom county, and it continues to fall on deaf ears.

Tod Petersen

tod701@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 1:07 pm

ORV use is not allowed on any trails within Washington State Parks with the exception of 600 acres at Riverside State Parks near Spokane.

Carol Davis

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Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 12:43 pm

Yes, we have enough parks and trails. However, with the start of the Discovery Pass, the parks and trails are not accessible to poor families. The parks used to be the last place that families could go for free recreation. The state parks were b ought and maintained with state funds. It is not right that the state should now charge for citizens to use the lands that have already been paid for by taxpayers. The state parks and trails should be open to all for day use without a charge. What is the point of having more parks and trails if the people buying them can't accesss them? To say that citizens can volunteer to pay for their Discovery Pass is to miss the point. The parks belong already to the citizens, not to the bureaucrats who work for the State of Washington. If the state can't afford to maintain the parks, don't waste our precious tax dollars buying more parks.

Sue Preston

spreston@rainierconnect.com

Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 11:48 am

No there are not enough trails to accommodate the variety of users because many useres are incompatible with each other. Used to be that bikers, hikers and equestrians were considered compatible, but now bikers are often speeding down steep, narrow trails without regard to who is coming UP the trail. Also, motorized vehicles are basically incompatible with any other users…ruining other users experience with the noise, smell, and speeding vehicles ridden/driven by people who are dressed to be unrecognizeable. I am a hikerl/horseman (member of The Back Country Horsement who are most involved in trail maintenance). There is definitely NOT enough maintenace being done on State and Federal lands since the economic crunch hit, and unfortunately, we are not able to personally allocate our tax dollars. There is a major land-use issue here.

Peg Greiwe

peg2@mashell.com

Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 11:29 am

I am a horseback rider. There are not enough front and middle country trails. With the economy as it is, trail funding for maintenance has been cut and trails will be closed (and have been closed). We in Back Country Horsemen of Washington and America have accomplished millions of dollars of volunteer work on the trails and trailheads in the past few years. Last year alone, we recorded 313,000 hours of work. We work with the public land managers and other user groups to keep trails open to recreational users. Yes, we need more trails and more maintenance!

shrubitup

ontopofit@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 10:14 am

I understand your concern but dirt bikers and other non-politically popular groups have NOT suggested using state parks for this activity. Interest in using public lands includes multiple use National Forest and DNR lands rather than state parks. If you

want all out seclusion from this altogether there`s still three Natl Parks and countless existing designated Wilderness areas throughout the state for your use.

lee

itslee95084@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 9:26 am

Thank you Aaron

lisa shriver

lisascranberryriver@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 7:47 am

i am willing to pay taxes for more parks rec/ open space! preferrably numerous small parks with picnic tables and a view. for example new mason county park like latimmers landing shelton, perfect!!!!! parks are well maintained but park rangers are too MEAN/ heavy handed about applying, rules fills like you are at a being watched. they should be there in afternoons and at night not during day. not secure at NIGHT when the real crimanals are out!!! 2-5 am!! prowlers, tweakers. need revolving fund for state park purchases, example olsens resort sequi… parks should at least buy it before developers do! perfect place to pull camper go fish…WHY has parks not bought it yet!

Ray

raynh442@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 7:19 am

We can always use more ORV trails and trail heads. The trails can be over-used close to the current trail heads. Added maintenance is needed in these areas. The trails are much better away from the higher use trail head areas. The point is, adding more trail heads spreads the useage of the trails and keeps the overall trail system in

better shape. I take my family out to ride at least twice a month on DNR trails. Getting out away from the city is a very important aspect of our recreation time.

Aaron

Aarondiedrichs@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/23 at 6:12 am

Please answer the question instead of attacking other user groups. The questions are easy:

A) DO WE HAVE ENOUGH PARKS, TRAILS, AND OTHER RECREATION AREAS?

B) ARE THEY MAINTAINED WELL ENOUGH?

Your reply does not answer either question.

danny stineback

kanddmules@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/22 at 9:03 pm

I am a member of BCHW. We can always use more trails to ride on. I am a willing helper for the PCTA and WTA, for this is a win,win situation. Packing in tools, food and anything else. It is a never ending battle to keep trails open. Very little is done by the forestry community because of cut backs. Being in the mountains is a very special experience, one that everyone should have no matter how you get there.

Debby Herbert

tahoedebby@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/22 at 10:26 am

I understand the off-road vehicle users would like more trails, but a couple of points that I hope will be considered regarding that request:

1) Since these are state parks what percentage of the park-going population use this

type of trail? So I think to be fair, that % should determine how much funding is allotted for that activity.

2) Having more ORV trails will mean more extremely loud, pollution gas emitting, non-environmentally friendly ORV's, which seems to be the anti-thesis of what the parks stand for…a natural wildnerness.

I think most will agree the absolute quiet and stillness in the park environment is one of the main attractions of the parks…to escape the urban jungle of motor vehicles, cars, noise. With more ORV's that would be diminished/lost and back to point #1 above, for what % of the park going public?

3) And more ORV's means more gasoline in the parks and the risk of more wildfires fires is real, endangering all and imposing a huge cost to the system to contain those fires.

The WA. state parks is a huge draw for this state. The better they are I feel the better the state is. They promote family friendly activities and are a healthy outlet for young people, so very much needed. Same for the horse trails, more money there I think is well spent.

Tootie Crowson

crowson2@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/22 at 8:11 am

We are members of WA State Back Country Horseman. As such we ride regularly On joint base Lewis McCord and Capital Forest. Capital Forest closes in the winter, at least to stock use, so we could really use more trails to ride in winter. We horse camp in summer, but the roads to the camp sites and not being repaired and maintained.

Dan Huff

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Submitted on 2012/11/22 at 5:20 am

I have 2 adult children and 5 grandchildren. My dream is to be able to take my grandkids to the places I've experienced in the great Northwest. I enjoy going places and seeing things and I like doing this on my motorcycle using trails and roads in remote areas of the state. As for me and my family, I need very little in the way of expensive improvements to the land – what I need is for the state to keep the land open for me and my family so we go places and see things from our motorcycles.

Margaret Mates

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 11:52 pm

I am a hiker and believe we have enough state parks, trails and recreation areas. The state budget cuts and layoffs of park rangers, however, have resulted in a significant decline in the maintenance of many state park facilities and trails. I would like to see the state utilize volunteers more to assist with park maintenance. Washington Trails Association has been highly successful in recruiting volunteers for trail maintenance and could provide the state with invaluable assistance in setting up such a program. Nature Conservancy utilizes the adopt a wilderness area approach to encourage volunteer participation, which I feel the state could also benefit from.

shrubitup

ontopofit@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 8:29 pm

No, there is not enough places to recreate as an ORV user. As more areas get closed and more ORV users emerge the existing facilities take a beating and result in more closures. Adding or opening up historically used ORV areas disperses the impact and reduces maintenance requirements. If DNR does not add additional acreage please at least consider preserving what few acres remain open to ORV users.

Matt S.

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 7:45 pm

Better maintenance of existing trails is more important than building new trails – with future budget cuts likely, adding new trails in any significant numbers will stretch already-strained trail maintenance resources even further, leaving more trails in disrepair (or deliberately abandoned, which would be ironic).

Linda Roe

lzroe1951@msn.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 7:19 pm

Of course I would love to see more parks and hiking trails. Realistically the money is just not there. I would choose to maintain the parks and trails we already have. Mountain biking trails are OK, but not ORV.

Rus

rusmandery@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 7:08 pm

A) No we do not have enough trail mileage for the amount of users. Especially those of us who utilize the OHV trails systems, particularly the 4×4 user groups. In the Capitol Forest there is a gross inequity with the 4×4 users being totally excluded from the trails systems. As an OHV 4×4 user I would like to be able to utilize a trail system close to my house which I could help to maintain more easily than volunteering my time in maintaining OHV parks 2-3 hours from my home. A trails system like is in place in Tahuya makes perfect sense for the Capitol Forest trail system.

B) Most of the trails are effectively maintained. The state needs to allow increased participation of volunteer user groups to maintain the trail mileage needed by the recreation groups. These groups do not need handholding and micro-management by

DNR officials.

Juelanne Dalzell

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 5:39 pm

I am a horseback rider. I would love it if there were more trails. The nautre of trails requires ongoing mantenance. I belong to Back Country Horsemen and often work on trails to keep them open for all users. We can always use more help!

Tom Mix, Sequim

tom@cuttinggarden.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 3:45 pm

I believe we need more recreation areas and we need to build the volunteer base for follow-on maintenance. Users have the skills and knowledge to safely build/install new areas. We need front, middle and back country areas available to the many user groups. I am a member of WTA, PCTA, PNTA and BCHW/BCHA and am quite active in all aspects of trail and trailhead construction and maintenance. Funding levels need to be maintained along with building the volunteer base to leverage skills to keep camps, trails and trailheads available for folks to recreate.

Some recreation areas are well maintained however – with long term reductions in funding and staff at the land agencies – we are experiencing a decline in trail maintenance and in some cases – trail closures. The “deferred maintenance” backlog needs to be addressed with increased funding levels to at least maintain the infrastructure.

Su

sue@arkless.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 3:29 pm

I grew up in an area where we could walk through the woods all the way to town and sometimes would spend an afternoon doing so exploring along the way. In our fast paced world, we need as many lovely ways to escape the hustle bustle and stress related work environment we seem to have. It would be nice to know exactly how many parks, trails and what types of recreation they support so we could make a better decision as to what is needed. I support all activities (motorized and non motorized) where one can get out into the fresh air and experience their surroundings. I also believe we need places where people can go to escape the noise and just walk or sit and enjoy birdwatching or just contemplating life. We also need places where one can exercise (biking) without worrying about distractions or dangers on their path. Motorized vehicles should also have a place (away from the others of course) where they can safely utilize the paths without hurting others or themselves. So, how can we learn about what Washington state currently offers and then how do we plan to accommodate all users of these pathways? Let's find a way to serve all of the people who want to escape and enjoy what nature has to offer in our beautiful wooded areas.

Ryan

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 3:07 pm

As an offroader I would love to see more trails for 4×4 vehicles. I feel we are loosing access to more and more 4×4 trails every year. As for maintenance, I think the existing 4×4 and hiking trails are maintained just fine. I take my dog hiking regularly and there has never been a problem finding new hiking trails. I go 4×4 trail riding every other weekend. At about an hour and a half away naches and evans creek are my go to trail systems wich can be covered in a weekend no problem. We need more 4×4 trails

Evie Bredeson

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 2:07 pm

Yes, we need more trails and public land areas opened and the existing ones maintained to keep up with the growing number of people who recreate in non-motorized ways on trails. Some areas need better and larger trailhead parking areas to accomodate these growing numbers. As a horseback trail rider for many years, I, and numerous other equestrians, have been involved in the building and maintenance of horse camps and trails throughout the past years and we have enjoyed working with public and private officials to do so. With the current economic struggles that families are dealing with these days, outdoor recreation provides an inexpensive and accessible realm of activities for people to maintain mental and physical health and nurturing experiences for their children. It is imperative that there be more access to recreational trails and to maintain those that already exist.

Stacy Karacostas

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 2:07 pm

While there are loads of hiking trails out there, we are lacking in mountain bike trails. I believe trails and trail heads are more important right now than creating more established parks that require a lot of facilities. And my preference, particularly in areas with a very wilderness feel to them, is that more trails be non-motorized. A big part of my enjoyment and reason for getting out hiking, backpacking and mountain biking on trails is to escape the sights and sounds of civilization.

Given the budget situation it makes more sense to me to spend money on maintaining the park facilities we have, and building more lower cost resources like trails that can be maintained by volunteers and enjoyed by a variety of user groups. Right now there is certainly a lot of backlogged maintenance statewide, though overall I find most parks and trails to be in pretty good shape. I do hate seeing facilities like campgrounds closed due to lack of funding – particularly ones that are close to urban areas as for many families that is the first and best place to introduce kids to camping.

Rudy Adams

rudynjerry@centurylink.net

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 1:47 pm

We in the 4-wheel community need more trails. Between the closures and attempted closures by the Forest Service and the DNR, due to lack of funds, we're finding more closures and less trails to operate on. I believe that the trails that we have available are in pretty good maintenance. This is possible because of our volunteer efforts in conjunction with these two agencies to keep the existing trails open.

We're hoping that our future NOVA funds don't get confiscated again a- then we are left with too little funds to support the trail systems.

We are also lacking in funds to patrol the trails and keep everyone honest as well as cite and apprehend the 'outlaws.' If we don't have enforcement, our whole system gets messed up by the wrong people. Even with these handicaps we try our best to enable the few patrol folks out when we can. I guess that enforcement to prevent trail destruction could truly compound our trail maintenance issues.

Eric

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 1:08 pm

No, specifically for mt. bikers and motorized users there aren't enough trails to legally recreate on. I am a hiker as well and feel that many of the areas that could allow mt. biking without any user conflict were shut down when our sport was still in its infancy. Some of that was our own doing due to a lack of etiquette and showing courtesy to hikers, but a lot has changed and we've matured as a user group.

Since then, mt. biking has grown dramatically in popularity and the local clubs and advocacy groups have done a tremendous amount of work to build and maintain sustainable trails. In fact, there are many world class trail designers and builders in our area that route trails that are both environmentally friendly ans still a blast to

ride.

I live in Whatcom County and on State Trust Land managed by the DNR, there are ZERO places to legally recreate off road for ANY user group. That is a fact and, as a result, the various user groups (motorcycle/ORV's, equestrians, hikers, mountain bikers, etc.) have all gone out and have built the trails that they recreate on because the DNR has had no eye on recreation until very recently. Unfortunately, the motorized community has been kicked out of several areas over the years and mt. bikers have also suffered that fate this past year.

Maintenance and Trail building:

The great thing about when a user group has a stewardship of an area, the trails are often BETTER maintained and don't cost the public a dime. Additionally, having a group (or groups) that is responsible for an area helps keep other unwanted use out! Stuff like garbage dumping, illegal shooting, meth labs, grow ops, etc.

On private timberland in Bellingham, our local mt. bike group has built and maintains 46 miles of trail on Galbraith Mountain. These trails are all non-motorized today and most are open to hikers/runners, but a handful of trails were built specifically for descending on bikes and those are open to bikers-only to avoid user conflict. It's just smart trail design. Additionally, this past year, we've rebuilt 21.8 miles of trail after 1/3 of the mountain was harvested for timber. We've also worked successfully with the backcountry horsemen on Blanchard Mountain and built multi-use trails for Whatcom County Parks and recently with Larrabee State park.

The reality is that if State Parks, DNR and USFS engaged and listened more to the various user groups, they'd find that there are many clubs/groups that are more than willing to help build and maintain authorized trails, trailheads, parking lots, etc. When those groups have a stake in these areas, they also help police unwanted activity. I feel like the more people that can legally recreate on these lands, the more those people would understand and support the various agencies' missions….whether that be timber harvest on DNR land or preservation/conservation on State Parks' lands. Gating them up and locking the public out does not constitute managing recreation.

Ben Prout

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 12:55 pm

We need more ORV trails. The ones we have are dwindling as we lose access (Reiter). The trails can all be volunteer built and maintained, all we need is a place and permission to do so! Duthie Hill mountain bike park is a great example of this. All volunteer built and maintained, and is a wonderful place to ride. I have donated hundreds of dollars to help build and maintain that park, and would do so again for more places to ride my dirt bike. All we, the ORV users, need is access to the land!

Harold Elyea

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 12:34 pm

As member of BCHA I find it hard to find safe places to park or turn around my truck with a horse trailer at most parks. Also many trails are in need a lot more work. I have worked with BCHA on local trails and would hope for more help from the state. Also I would like to see more trails safe for horses. As I get older it's harder to walk into the back country and I'm finding more trails unsafe for my horse. By not keeping trails horse safe you closing them off to many people like myself.

William

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 12:19 pm

a. Depends on your perspective. As a hiker I have more trails than I can explore in a lifetime. As an OHV user I am discriminated against, my funding is stolen to build and maintain hiking trails, and my trails are stolen and converted into hiking trails.

I am more than happy with the amount of hiking trail mileage. I am appalled by the

lack of OHV trails. This puts an even greater burden on the limited OHV trails that do exist, which then results in threats of closure due to lack of sustainability.

It is painfully obvious that more OHV trails are needed. It would be great if the legislature stopped ignoring those needs.

Do we have enough recreation areas? No, it is hard to have too much, as long as specific user groups are not oppressed.

b. This is so much more than a yes or no question. Some trails are wonderfully maintained, others are in deplorable conditions.

Darrell Wallace

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 11:57 am

While we may have sufficient parks in some areas, we still lack them in others. And we need far more trails and trailheads! The explosive growth in mountain biking necessitates some provisions for that recreation, while not impinging on other types – for example, some mountain bikers like to speed down steep trails, which is a little scary for hikers with children, and cause a wreck for equestrians. There should be facilities and provisions for all kinds of recreation!

As to maintenance: there are not enough resources to maintain all trails, trailheads and parks in the face of our weather and other destructive elements. Making facilities available to volunteers who help to maintain them is an important part of the task. WTA, EMBA, BCHW, and various 4×4 and four-wheeler groups all help to keep these recreational opportunities going. State agencies should work to encourage, not discourage, their contributions.

Peter Nielson

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 10:58 am

Yes, we need more ORV trails. We need to use the funding that we, the ORV users, paid in registration and gas taxes for ORV areas. Forcing us to pay for a Discovery pass when our NOVA funds have been stolen for other uses is painful. We also need more dual sport access. With more ORV being sold and less areas to use them, something is going to have to give!

I think the few ORV areas we currently have are fairly well maintained, but we need more!

Lennie Harris

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 10:52 am

I am an active BCHW member, a Leave No Trace Master Educator, and horse rider. I feel that we need more trails that are open for equine use as with the economy being the way it is more equine riders are leaving the arenas and heading for the trails. This is a very good family adventure that does not cost a lot. As for the trail maintenance the trails that I use are good, as we BCH members work close with our county, DNR, and state to help in keeping them open.

Tom Boyer

staynavytom@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 10:40 am

What we need is a dedicated funding source for maintenance of all these recreation properties. Buying and building trails, facilities or whatever are the low cost items. Proper maintenance for the years and years of expected service life is the most expense. So far no legislative body (state, county, city) has devised a sure fire way to finance maintenance of their parks and trails.

Andy Patterson

awp_design@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 10:35 am

1) I do not feel that there are enough ORV trails, trail sytems or access to areas that could be used as such, expecially for 4×4 and motorcycle use on the west side of the state. It seems that popularity of ORV recreation is increasing and ORV areas are decreasing. As such there becomes a cycle of overuse and damage which causes those areas to be closed and the cycle continues.

2) It is my opinion that maintenance is a two part commitment. First, the physical aspects – access, cleanliness, function – seem to be acceptable but declining in the areas that I've visited. Second, the continued work needed to maintain relevance and keep the areas interesting for future users and needs is where I feel that the state is failing.

Ben Gregor

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 10:20 am

We do not have enough ORV areas. I think we would all benefit from a great ORV area in the Snoqualmie corridor. As of right now, they are under way planning for recreation opportunities and changes in the Snoqualmie corridor and I've voiced my opinion there as well with no feedback. I am also a hiker, avid mountain biker and camper. I feel that I haven't even come close to hiking or camping all the mountains off of the Snoqualmie corridor. Mountain biking is doing well with the creation of Duthie Hill and the wonderful job everyone has done at Tiger mountain. For ORV use though, I have to drive at least 2 hours in any direction to get to a spot where I can ride legally. I really think the Raging river/Taylor mountain area on the east end of SR-18 would be a great place for dirtbikes.

Sean

sean_mcdermott@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 10:06 am

a) The state has ample parks, trails and other recreation opportunities, but the closure of these areas and confusing fee structures puts them out of reach to many citizens. The poor management of these resources means that despite ample possible opportunities, many are unavailable to the public.

b) The state does a fair to poor job of maintaining recreational resources. They collect money from one or two groups using fundamentally flawed information from the 2002 Herbert Research project. Multi-use trails open to all users would be ideal and would spread the impact of use over greater areas, minimizing that impact. Opening trails to more users and evening charging all user groups would increase the quality of the assets as a whole. Dividing trails up for individual user groups creates a charged environment with one group attacking the efforts of another in order to protect an area for one user type. We all enjoy the outdoors, let's work together to maintain and use these assets.

C.R.

c.resleff@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 10:00 am

I believe we need much more in the way of trails, parks, and recreation opportunities. At this phase of the state's existence, anything that isn't currently designated for other use should be parkland. The nature of our state as open, wild, and green, which has characterized it throughout its history, depends on this.

Maintenance in some areas is great, in other areas, less so. Outreach programs, to get citizens involved in maintenance, as well as parallel programs to hire professional maintenance crews, should be expanded if possible.

Tod Petersen

tod701@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 9:57 am

Motorized use trails are built with ORV permits and fuel tax funds. They have no impact on general fund spending or debt.

Bob Myrick

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 9:51 am

We still need more facilities, especially linear trails that serve both recreation and transportation purposes. In Pierce County, we have several trails with missing links and several trails that have been planned, but have no funding. There is also a need for adequate operation and maintenance of our facilities.

Kevin Vanderhorst

chevykev@frontier.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 9:50 am

I know there's not enough motorized recreation access in the North Sound…I'd like to see more Motorized areas opened, specifically in Whatcom Co.; There's a HUGE base of motorized (4×4, m/c, atv) users in this area, and NO legal place to recreate. Skagit Co. has Walker Valley, and in my opinion, there's much room for expansion of this trail system for 4×4 use…Said expansion will reduce the amt of maintenance needed on any given trail due to the spread of users from more mileage…

MikeW

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 9:46 am

No (we don't have enough trails/parks/recreation opportunities) and yes (those we do

have are maintained well enough — but that doesn't mean we can cut back on maintenance).

We definitely need more trails and outdoor recreation opportunities — especially close to the Seattle-Tacoma metro area. And especially for alternative, newer, younger, growing user groups. According to WSDOT, WA's population has grown from roughly 4 to 7 million in the last 30 years. We need more trails to accommodate that growth. We also need new and different types of trails to encourage younger generations and more diverse users to get off the couch and get out into the outdoors.

I'm generally happy with maintenance. IMHO, land managers and parks employees should own infrastructure maintenance for roads, parking lots, paved regional trails, trailheads, ball fields and heavily used public spaces. But the user communities should be empowered to really drive most of our trails' maintenance. A small amount of funding to groups like the WTA, EMBA, IMBA, BCHW, WOHVA, etc will generate a lot of volunteer power to keep trails in shape. That will make the entire effort more efficient, provide more community ownership and… show where users really care about their trails. If a trail isn't getting used and is getting overgrown, maybe it's time to turn that trail over to a different user group or find a new use for it to try to bring the public back to it… or decommission it.

Byron Stuck

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 9:34 am

Enough parks, trails and recreational areas? Ha, that's a rhetorical question right?! If I compare today to 20 years ago, the absolute amount appears less due to suburbanization and other demands for land. What that means then is the per capita amount (with a growing population) is actually shrinking … when tech stress, growing health life style pressure and all the other growth reasons should lead it the other way. We need more not less of these outlets. And motorized off road recreation is especially shrinking in available land and mileage. Gravel pits, 4×4 areas and tracks

close to urban areas are seemingly the first targets for apartments and condos … so much for the neighborhood lot you can take your kid to for riding lessons on that minibike. Or to try out that ATV that you justified based on yard/garden work! Nope, we need more outlets for motorized off road recreation … please.

And the motorized community established the agreement starting NOVA … we've got funding and needs … yes please build more trails. The OV in NOVA stands for Offroad Vehicle … we don't want those funds stolen, just used for their intended purpose.

Maintenance is a secondary concern given the above. Volunteers can handle large portions along with NOVA as USFS has shown.

Brian Jones

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 9:26 am

There is a major shortage of ORV riding areas in western Washington. Since the closure of Reiter the remaining areas especially Walker Valley have seen a significant growth in usage. The now concentrated usage at Walker is accelerating erosion. The only way to preserve the current ORV areas is to open more state lands with existing trails to ORV use. Reopen the Machias Trust Land, Reiter Pit, and Stossel Creek to help spread the load.

The current maintenance seems sufficient for the short term, but it is not a long term solution. With the increase user concentration at Walker Vally it is only a matter of time before that trail system is severely damaged from over use. The only long term solution is to open more trail systems to spread the load.

Trail maintenance is costly and we are still in the midst of a budget crisis. Any way to increase Volunteer hours should be explored. Take the current program for volunteers to earn a Discover Pass. If you currently do 24 volunteer hours on a eligible project you can get a free Discover Pass that works out to a pathetic $1.25 per hour. Most people value there time too much to invest 3 full weekend days to volunteer project to earn a $30 annual pass. Revising the program to allow a volunteer to earn a free pass after one 4-6 hour work party is much more realistic and would encourage more

people to show up and work and lead a larger volunteer pool.

The new trail “standard” that has been set at Reiter is extremely costly and there needs to be an alternative. If all new ORV trails need to built to that standard there will be no new ORV trails constructed anywhere in the state due to expense. When trails boarder streams and wetlands it is appropriate to build in extra erosion controls, but does a trail being cut through a recent clear cut need to be built the same way? The clear cut area has already be decimated. How would a singletrack motorcycle trail cause more damage?

I’m also a avid mountain biker and remember how the Snoqualmie Middle Fork Trail was reopened. It was a compromise closed during the most sensitive time of the year to reduce erosion and then open alternating days May-September. Has anyone ever considered an arrangement like this to allow for more access to existing but now closed multi use ORV trails in Western Washington?

Mary Lou

mlradcliff@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 9:20 am

Yes we need more recreational land, for all user groups. The conflict over motorized vs. non motorized use is tiresome. Everyone has the right to their form of recreation. Along with those rights comes the responsibility of helping to maintain those recreation lands. As a JEEP (4X4) trail user I have enjoyed many hours on the trail with my family (and now my grand kids)–AND I have spent many hours on trail manitenance and supporting my association that supports educated trail use. In the 70’s we worked hard to get dedicated funds to build and maintain (with lots of sweat equity included) these trails, and these funds have been used for other purposes over the years. The $$ were there until they were taken away. We all need to work together so we can all enjoy our form of recreation. Thank you for the oppurtunuity to respond.

Tom Plank

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 9:12 am

Question's A&B–yes

I'd like to see gated roads on DNR land be allowed for Dual-Sport motorcycle use. These public recreation roads should be available for use by street legal motorcycles. The gaates keep out the four wheel users who leave trash and dig up the road surface. Just riding down a dirt road is enjoyable

recreation. There are trails and and areas for ORV's, Dual Sport motorcycles should have allowed access also.

Marion

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 8:11 am

Yes, yes, yes we need more walking trails!! I use county parks much more and state parks only once in a while, because of this major deficiency. Public Beach access is so limited in state parks, also a big problem. I am constantly looking for loop trails, 2-4 mile nature trails, in short walking trails for the rest of us. The state parks do little to provide these.

I should mention that I don't use trails open to motorized vehicles. It is dangerous, plus the ATVs tear up the trails to the point that I have trouble walking on them. It would be better to provide alternative facilities for ATVs and for the rest of us, or perhaps leave that activity to the private market..

Marion

Steve G

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 8:10 am

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

I have seen a steady decline in the availability of parks, trails (especially motorized trails), and other recreation areas. I understand that most of this is caused by funding issues. I would like to see an increase of available areas for all uses.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

The remaining recreation areas are maintained as well as can be expected with the available funding. I believe the parks departments would benefit from increasing the role of volunteer organizations to help maintain the land and allow the parks department staff to concentrate on the facilities and access.

Tod Petersen

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 8:05 am

All trail users would benefit from having more trails in our state, but offroad vehicle users are in dire need of additional trail mileage. Depending on who's numbers you use, motorized use is prohibited on between 89 and 84 percent of the trail mileage in Washington State. There are pristine and special places where offroad vehicle use is not appropriate, but the current ratio is truly unfair and is causing overuse of the existing trails where motorized use is allowed. Rather than open more existing trails to ORV use, it would be more appropriate to add more trails open to ORV use. This way the current trails would hold up better, the user experience for all trail users would be improved with less dense use and the potential for user conflicts would be reduced. A win-win for all involved.

Concerning trail maintenance, different levels of maintenance should be applied to different trails. With some trails such as those in National and State Parks there is an expectation for the trails to be kept in a high level of maintenance, but more remote trails don't need the intense grooming. Some ORV trails should only be maintained to a level that protects the environment and the resource since a flawless trail actually

detracts from the user experience for many highly skilled riders.

will

wbedient@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 8:03 am

A. I'd like to see more recreation areas open to motorized recreation. I'm fine with roads/trails being closed during certain hunting seasons to give wildlife a break, but when the DNR puts a road in for a timber sale they should leave access open to ORVs. I think we've got enough parks and developed recreation areas.

B, I think all the developed recreation areas are maintained well enough. If people don't like the condition of the parks, raise the price of admission so those who use developed recreation pay for it.

Tootie Crowson

crowson2@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 8:03 am

The places to ride are slowly being eliminated which is a major concern to me.

The roads to back country camp sites need to be repaired.

Alan

adwesley@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 7:15 am

Excellent post Jeffrey!

Ron

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Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 7:12 am

In a word No, not with our state debt as we now have. Need to develop and maintain what we have at a lower level. I don't believe the RCO is reviewing and managing the allowacation of the funds in a cost effective manner.

Mike Sprague

longdistancemike@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 6:13 am

That's correct, NOVA funds were supported by offroad motorized recreational groups on the (now false) premise that the money would be used towards motorized offroad activities.

Hikers should not get ONE DIME of the funds.

Aaron

Aarondiedrichs@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 5:39 am

There are plenty of parks for recreational use, and plenty of hiking trails, but there is not enough OHV trail riding available to meet the demand of OHV riders/drivers.

Ideally there would be an OHV area in each county for it's residents to use. There would be plenty of support for this from the OHV community and volunteer maintenance work could probably be arranged if the areas are worthwhile to ride (enough trails to keep things interesting for an afternoon).

Current park maintenance seems to be adequate.

Luke

yousk8@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 12:43 am

a. I would like more motorized vehicle trails

b. The trails are maintained well enough

Ty Walters

nucklefuster@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/21 at 12:23 am

We need a lot more land for off road use.

I am not worried about ameneties, or upkeep, just leave the gates open, and let us wheel. The land will repair itself. Dispersed recreation is the key.

Cooper Lange

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Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 10:22 pm

I have been hiking, mountain biking and motorcycling in the forests of this state for many years. The trend for trails being opened (or staying open) here is generally downward. While I wouldn't want to stifle any efforts to create more hiking trail, mechanized users (such as mountain bikers and dirt bikers) are becoming more and more excluded, often times from trails that they were the initial builders of. These wheeled users are being stuffed into smaller and smaller areas, increasing the impact of their activity and causing unsafe congestion. We need more trail opportunities for all, and need to stop excluding the people from their lands because their preferred form of recreation doesn't fit into a certain ideal that some have. User group organizations have become increasingly important in the maintenance of the recreation sites they love and should be allowed to continue to do.

In short: we need more trails and recreation areas open for multiple uses, emphasizing the need for more wheeled recreation sites becoming available. The trail user groups continue to do an excellent job picking up the slack from the government agencies tasked with maintenance.

Marty Bridenstine

gramparacer@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 10:15 pm

Motorized activities are the life blood for many businesses and provide many good jobs for our communities. The town of Sultan was hit hard when the Reiter orv area was closed. There are plenty of miles for hiking only. Make more trail systems available for mountain bikes and orvs.

nrussell

ninarussell13@msn.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 9:40 pm

We need more equine friendly trails with ample room for horse trailer parking. State/County parks closer in so your not hauling hours to get to DNR or forest service land.These areas would not have ziplines over head of the equestrain trails (not safe for riders). Possibly areas could encompass equestrains, hikers & have mountain bike trails. I would think all of these hobbiests would be willing to help do trail work for the greater good or buy a pass. Most of the public land I've visited is maintained mostly by BCH & other private enthusiats volunteer hours as well as state & forest service. State, County, & federal rely greatly on volunteer hours as trail maintaince bugets are slim. I've only visited one equestrian park that's county owned (King Co.) & they appear to be strict on volunteers hours & the trails are so beyond behind of being kept up, much of it has already been lost,overgrown. Although the county has big plans for a trail system, they can't seem to keep the trails they have open with the current staff I see out at the property often.

ELAINE DERRICK

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Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 9:25 pm

There are 3 ORV parks in the state of Washington, NOVA funds have for the most part been used to build them. We need to protect and provide for the parks that we have. With the help of Nova funds and volunteers we will have these parks available for generations to come. if these parks go away we will never see a public ORV park in our state again. Straddleline orv park is in great need of improvements such as trail and track maintenance, building maintenance as most of the builiding on site are dry rot. with roof needing replaced. With the NOVA funds being used as they were intended for we hope to have funds available to keep this park in operation.

Seth Robertson

redrobertson@hotmail.co

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 8:43 pm

I am an avid hiker and off road motorcycle enthusiast. Even in the last 5 years I have seen a general increase in anti-ORV sentiment especially on the western part of the state. whereas when hiking areas around some of our parks may have limited access (ie washed out roads) under duress, ORV areas get completely shut down. When I lived in Seattle someone noted that there were no (nor are there now) any legal,public ORV areas in all of king county. Now living in Spokane I worry that the same policies will make their way east. More access to public land either with or without a motor lies in placing the public as an active steward. Volunteer groups love to keep areas open and maintained, but many are turned off by the process that has systematically reduced or removed access.

Bryan Higgins

Prksguy@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 8:30 pm

Do we have enough Parks, Trails, and other recreation areas? It really depends on where you live. Some local communities (cities and counties) have made large

investments in their parks and trails, through a variety of means. Other communities have not or are in the early stages of development. The actual number existing developed State Parks seems reasonable on the surface, but during the peak season available space for camping and recreation is very limited and overcrowding is common.

Are they maintained well enough?

NO. Many local communities and State Parks suffer from a huge lack of deferred maintenance in their parks and trails. This is mostly due to ongoing budget issues. It could also partially be blamed on a “lets just build it mentality” and worry about the upkeep later, which unfortunately never happens.

Herb Gerhardt

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Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 8:12 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

No, we will never have enough but we must be realistic and do it within our budget restraints. Rather than State Parks which is in a financial pickle since the legislature no longer wants to fund them out of General Funds, I think we need to focus on County and City Parks for recreation. That way the local folks have total control over what they want in their area.

Building more trails on DNR lands fall into similar categories as State Parks, the local tax payer does not have total control for the recreation in their area. The same hold true for trails on Federal lands.

We must look to providing enough recreation areas to satisfy the next generation and the ones that follow. Things will never get less expensive than they are now, so let’s plan for the next hundred years so we and our children and their children, and so one, will have adequate recreational opportunities.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

Yes, I think trails are maintained adequately in most areas. I also am an advocate to

have the users maintain the trails and the agency supplies the material and any heavy equipment that might be required.

Mike

ilovetocode@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 7:50 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas?

We are short on a middle area for off-roading after reiter pit was closed.

It would be nice to have some smaller local parks to practice off-road riding in.

It would be nice to have more open dual sport areas or dual sport access to areas. I guess the feeling I get is like forcing hikers to hike in a park and telling them that is all they get until we do a environmental study, while 100 ft away they are logging…

I would like to see longer dual sport trails. Even if they were maintained by motorcycle groups. I have ridden many amazing roads/trails in Oregon and other states.

Sharing trails could be controlled by set days like out middle fork. Motorcycles get to ride the trail a day, mountain bikers b, hikers c day, ect…

b) Are they maintained well enough?

Most of the motorcycle/jeep trails are very well maintained by private groups.

I guess most the damage I see is from very specific people.

Here are some examples:

-a quad trying to force their way up a motorcycle trail.

-a 4×4 intentionally trying to throw dirt all over damaging the trail

-a dirt biking doing the same as the 4×4 (it happens)

I believe there are more responsible people than irresponsible people, but unfortunately it only takes a few to really mess up the trails.

I think the above problems could be fixed by real enforcement not do you have a

discovery pass, orv tags, or plates. This doesn't have to be 24/7. You see an area that looks like it is getting abused, go their during peak hours and find out who is doing it or if its a design flaw.

The mountain bike community is AMAZING on how well they maintain stuff. Hats off!

The local hiking trails seem to be getting overused. It's nice people are out, but this just means more work needs to be performed to keep the trails in good shape.

Horses pretty much wreck hiking/motorcycle/mountain bike trails I have been on. This is mostly on the wet side and not so much on the dry side.

That is my 2 cents.

Keith

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Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 7:30 pm

No, we don't have enough trails for ORV use. We pay our own way and don't expect a handout. We are willing to share with other users. A great deal of our NOVA funds are used for projects that we aren't able to use. Please think about EVERYONE paying their own way.

william

william@casperson.net

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 7:28 pm

There needs to be more motorized trails nearer major metropolitan areas. The closest motorized trails to Seattle are a good two hour drive away (Walker and Tahuya, Reiter is effectively closed).

I enjoy hiking. There are plenty of places to hike.

NOVA funds are created from ORV tab money. These funds should maintain motorized use trails. If money needs to be used for maintaining hiking trails, those funds should

come from hiking trail fees, and not NOVA.

Mike

ilovetocode@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 7:23 pm

Same and I agree. We need more money for trail maintenance from the hiking, biking, and horse riding community. Horses do HUGE damage to trails from what I have seen, both hiking and riding.

Lee

itslee95084@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 6:46 pm

Id wish you to take a look at who's money you are using (NOVA) before you tell the one's that raised it, they aren't entitled to it

Lee

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Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 6:39 pm

In 1972 the offroad vehicle community supported passage of legislation that waived their right to a direct refund of the taxes they paid for ORV fuel in exchange for having those same funds "refunded" into a dedicated account to promote and protect their sport. Later on, their ORV license tab money was added to this account too. The NOVA program was established to administer these funds.

Thanks for fighting to use our NOVA fund. I hope you put in as much as I did.

Joe H

guns_equal_freedom@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 6:34 pm

Eva, instead of fighting, why not follow the words of our elected President Barack Obama and work together.

NOVA Funding comes from a portion of the gasoline tax and off-road vehicle use permits, in effect the very same people you wish to keep out of the public land are in fact the ones who are funding a majority of the NOVA program.

Advocating closure of public lands to motorized vehicles is in effect cutting off your nose to spite your face.

Multipurpose trails can and do work. We all put up with a little bit of something we don't like.

Ever had to sidestep horse manure on a trail?

Ever had to sidestep dogdoo on a trail?

Ever had a mountain biker come railing down a trail from behind you?

If we work together on the issues we can come to a sensible agreement on how to best use the resources on public land.

Eva Tyler

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Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 6:04 pm

In response to those wanting more motorized trails, that is fine if they are totally separate from non motorized trails. Multi use trails are just not compatible and motorcycles ruin the trails for hikers. Hiking organizations have had to fight to get their share of NOVA fund for nonmotoized uses. Don't give the motorized groups any more of that money.

Tom Linde

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Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 5:57 pm

With a growing population and diversity in users, we will need more parks, trails and recreation areas. It's probably critical now to set aside more land for these purposes.

Maintenance is always a problem and on the bottom of the funding list. Most parks, trails and recreation areas are old and in bad need of upgrading and repairs. I always hate to see funding spent on new facilities when we are not maintaining the existing facilities. Volunteers can help but the state should not be counting on them to carry the load for the state.Funding savings can

be made in consolidating parks, reducing overhead staff and replacing them with tech's and seasonals.

Justin Vander Pol

justin@vanderpol.org

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 5:30 pm

a) Do we have enough parks, trails, and other recreation areas? We need more trails to keep pace with population growth. We need more singletrack mountain bike trails – and specifically those to views or in nice, old forests that don't require a huge drive. Everywhere I bike is crowded, and the best short hikes are crowded. We need trails with short hikes to views or interesting places that are family friendly.

I think mountain bike trails are the most glaring need. We're losing our kids to video games and the "magic glowing box". Close-in places to ride are a great way to introduce them to a life-long habit of using the forest (be it hiking, biking, climbing, etc) and a desire to protect it. I'm really worried about the next generation and what their lack of outdoor activities means for conservation.

There's also a lack of good trails near lower income areas, even if they're near the mountains. Think Kent or Auburn – huge opportunity but a lack of available trails. We need trails to views here, and mountain bike trails easily accessible to introduce kids to the outdoors.

b) Are they maintained well enough?

Yes and no. WA Trails, Mtns to Sound and Evergreen Mtb Alliance to an admirable job, especially on the close-in trails. However, the further-out trails aren't as efficient to maintain with volunteers, and need paid crews. All these sports continue to grow, so we need additional maintenance dollars for our public agencies and also to fund the volunteer management and tools for Evergreen & WTA.

Rocklynn Culp

planner@townofwinthrop.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 5:20 pm

A. From the standpoint of healthy, livable communities, there is much more work to be done in providing recreation space, open and green space, and connecting trails.

B. In our area, I think existing facilities in my community are well maintained, but my concern is our heavy reliance on a constant supply of volunteer labor that can be hard to sustain over the long haul. It's clearly a challenge for agencies/municipalities to provide quality maintenance in a time of dwindling funds.

Mike Sprague

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Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 5:02 pm

I'd like to see NOVA funds used for their intended purpose, according to law, than pillaged for the General Fund due to our state government's shortcomings.

As far as motorized access trails, yes I would like to see more of them. I live in the Wenatchee area and think a lot of the Forest Service road closures need to be reversed, though I know that's not a state matter. It is funding-related, so possibly the state and USFS could work something out.

Let's put all those prisoners to work clearing brush and building campgrounds.

Many of the trailheads and acess points are poorly maintained, again a money thing.

My .02

Daren

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Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 4:24 pm

I think we need more motorized access trails. I am an avid hiker, and have hundreds if not thousands of places I can hike on a weekend. However, I am an avid off-highway motorized recreationist, and I have very few places to take my Jeep for trail running. I have a ton of volunteer hours into maintaining and building what little motorized access we do have, and probably spend more time maintaining than I do using.

If given the chance to make a difference, user groups in motorized recreation can do the bulk of maintenance.

Ken M

ken@svfelicity.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 4:05 pm

I think we have enough parks and trails in general for hiking, though it does seem that in peak times camping can be challenging without advance planning. However, public trails for motorized access by dirt bikes and other ORVs seems to be diminimishing every year, particularly in Western WA nearby populated areas. For example, Reiter Pit was closed and is now only open on a very limited basis in both days and amount of trail access.

I find trails maintained well enough, though it seems there is ample opportunity to better engage the public in these activities. Directing State funding towards public engagement program could have an exponential impact on trail quality versus investing in direct maintainance. Thanks for the opportunity to share my thoughts!

Lee

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Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 3:47 pm

“Too many people crowd into just a few trails”

This it sooo true for motorized trails as well. With the correct education motorized use will cause less and less impact on the wilderness. I too use our land for hiking, backpacking, camping, and motorized use. But for my motorized use I pay over $180 per year in permints and tabs, I don’t see my money being used to its full potential.

Lee

itslee95084@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 3:21 pm

We need more OHV trails, mostly single track dirt bike trails with our NOVA fund supporting the development and maintaining them!! I’ve paid into my NOVA fund for too long not to see it being use for it’s intended purpuse!!

L Peterson

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Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 3:17 pm

Additional parks, waterfront access (lakes, rivers), open space & greenways are needed for urban and rural public access. Expanding trail systems throughout the State to further connect cities and towns together in a comprehensive way are needed to meet current and future demands for a multitude of uses. A recreation strategy is essential to connect State Parks with local jurisdictions so to maximize public benefits and leverage state and local funds.

Public spaces play a major role in tourism, and investments with public dollars create environment that attracts private developers to invest in adjacent properties, all creating good jobs with liveable wages.

Volunteers and State Park staff do an amazing job keeping the parks clean and accessible. However, I would like to see a portion of my personal tax dollars earmarked for on-going M&O of our State Parks. State Parks should receive general fund support and not be financed solely by Discover Passes. That is unrealistic and will cause the park system to deteriorate over time, forcing closures and eventually requiring substantial funds to restore the sites for safe public access.

Sarah

scuttlebutt777@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 2:10 pm

I agree with Julie, more mountain bike trails would be great. The closer to the city the better. Discovery Park? It could be the next Duthie!

Eva Tyler

tylerpawjesse@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 12:25 pm

A. I think we need to preserve as much open space as we possibly can and that may mean obtaining some areas and leaving any development and amenities for another time. We especially need to protect and preserve the environment and to me that means keeping motorized vehicles out of most area. Keep some areas just for motorized use and leave the rest for hikers, bikers and horse riders. They do much less damage and do not disturb the peace with their noise. The same goes for snowmobiles. Keep areas free of snowmobiles so skiers and snowshoers don’t have to content with the noise, speed and pollution. Wilderness areas are especially valuable and need to be increased.

B. Washington Trails does a fine job of maintaining trails on the trails that they work on. However, there are many trails that are being lost because they are not being maintained. Too many people crowd into just a few trails when many others could be maintained and allow the people to spread themselves out over a wider area. Other

groups need to become involved in maintaining trails as there is simply not enough money in either the State Parks, DNR or Forest Service to maintain the trails as they should be.

Scott

boxboy_jeep@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 11:19 am

I don't think there are enough motorized vehicle parks… I would like to see more motorcycle trails quad and 4×4 trails being built also move to a more technically challenging trails. I would like to see less dirt roads being closed as this is also cutting down the access to more back country access. The wilderness areas rules are a joke! The rules need to be changed to allow proper access to maintain trails and historic locations with out needing to go to court… we also need some reform on what can be taking to court remove the parks from liabilities and put them more on the users who do know when out in nature it can be dangerous.

Tim Clark

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Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 11:16 am

In 2011 our county published their six-year Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Plan. Public input was loud and clear: people wanted conservation of natural lands, and more trails. At the moment our facilities are maintained, but budget cuts have hit hard, especially for State Parks. People with limited budgets go to free accessible public land, rather than paying for a pass, which concentrates the use in certain areas.

BW

kbwenger@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 9:30 am

No, definitely not enough trails and natural areas.

Most are maintained sufficiently, but would like to see more maintenance funds spent on trails to avoid closures. Leave areas more natural and allow people good, usable trails to get out and enjoy the nature.

Corey White

bema_mt@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 9:12 am

I don't think there could be too much public land. I also think what we have is maintained fairly well, but largely due to volunteer groups, such as the Washington Trails Association. I would like to see a larger effort put forth to involve students and school groups (in fact, ALL of the public) in the use (education) and maintenance of these lands. Keep the public in public land!

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on this question.

Geoff Trickett

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Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 8:44 am

1. I think we have enough parks but need more motorized vehicle trails.

2.I think the trails are best maintaind by volunteers that way we are not wasting funding on trail maintenance and can better focus it on opening more motorized vehicle recreation.

Julie Lauzon

munichjulie@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 8:39 am

Yes and No. I am an avid mountain biker. I think we have plenty of trails for hiking but for Mountain biking near Seattle, we are somewhat limited. I also think we should put more thought into how to get younger people out. The only way to protect our wild lands is to have a younger generation who cares about them and if we don't get them out there they won't care. As far as maintenance goes, I believe if we build the trails for mountain bikers we could engage groups like evergreen to help with the maintenance.

Suellen Jeffrey

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Submitted on 2012/11/20 at 8:11 am

We need many more park, trails, campsites, and public beaches (lake and river) acsess. I understand that we have had budget cuts that led to some closures. With the high stress state of people and families, more outdoor availability at free or minimal charges is essential for mental and physical health.

Currently most of our parks need more and cleaner facilities.

ROUND 3 QUESTION

Help us explain the following trend,

New research shows that for adults (18 and over) in Washington, between 2006 and 2012,

- Nature-based recreation activities, such as backpacking, primitive camping, snowshoeing, horseback riding, and climbing generally are increasing while
- Activities that depend on built facilities, such as soccer, baseball, rollerblading, football, and boat camping generally are decreasing.

What do you think the reasons are?

Summary Observations from the Blog Facilitator

Participation was robust with 90 comments received. These came from 85 unique e-mail addresses which is the best estimate of the number of stakeholders who participated in this round (i.e., there is a small possibility that a single stakeholder may have responded from more than one e-mail address).

Overall, a consistent theme was that all forms of recreation remain important but there are some intuitive reasons that may be behind this trend, such as an aging population changing recreation preferences and generally lower participation costs for nature-based recreation.

Recognized in the comments was the idea that multiple factors are affecting changes in participation patterns. For example, "There are numerous reasons your studies show changes happening, and no one reason to cover all questions and answers!"

NATURE OF MODERN FAMILIES, LIFE STYLES, AND THE RECREATION SUPPORT

STRUCTURE

"Society in the Great Northwest has changed dramaticly." One theme in the comments was around the changing nature of family activities and the press to time commitments in a modern family. For example,

- "Family's may not want to be tied to a schedule that organized sports require and want more flexible schedules."
- "Organized recreation can be hard to fit into a chaotic schedule; nature-based recreation is typically more individual, offering more options for developing skills without compromising a team, and provide people a feeling of wellbeing."
- "In todays economy more families are recreating in the out of doors. After the initial investment in the outdoor activity equipment i.e the purchase of bikes. It is relatively inexpensive to participate in an outdoor activity vs. the cost of viewing spectator sports as a family."
- "I used to play a lot of golf and attended stadium level sports. Then kids came and spending 4-6 hours and hundreds of dollars on these things became inefficient. Mountain Biking and HIking took over. Fun, excitement, exercise, time in nature, stress relief, all packed into 1-2 hours for free (other than the gear)."
- "The economy in the years sited has probably been a factor. Longer hours at work and less money for team fees, gear etc. Also, when young families want to have time together, they want a family activity, like hiking or biking."
- "I think it had more to do with time. I feel like people are working more hours these days than in the past. My parents only worked 40 hour/week yet I feel like most people i know are in the 45-55 hours per week range. Plus add in families and now you have even less time… Now that we are all so busy, its pretty hard to get a group of 10 friends for a full court basketball or around that many for football or soccer. Outdoor recreation doesn't need that many people."
- "Individual communities and schools have taken much of the burden of support for organized activities away from the state. I don't even know why this is a question. There is no shortage of organized sports where I live, in fact I think it has increased greatly over the years… State parks in or near urbanized areas see less use because of the Discover Pass, pretty simple math there."
- "…I don't think there are always good transitions in place that allow players to move up to adult leagues as they age. Youth sports and adult sports are often governed by very different organizations that don't even think about ways to transition players from one to the other."
- "I think our society is changing in the way we form social groups and share activities. In my own experience there has been a shift in group activities and group forming dynamics with the internet as a gateway to more informal groups of folks with shared interests."

- "Very simply, people are looking for a connection to the natural world as opposed to an urban or competitive experience. Whatever the reason, we look to our public lands managers to respond to the changes."

DEMOGRAPHICS AND THE ECONOMY

Another theme centered on changing demographics changing the demand structure for outdoor recreation experiences. For example, these comments,

- "Baby Boomers. The graying Americans are still healthy and active but want peaceful and relaxing experiences with nature (and their horse in my case), not doing things where they will get hurt."
- "…my own experience is that there are a lot of very active, healthy older citizens in Washington who have long since left their playing- field days behind them but who are interested in doing those outdoor ("nature-based") activities that they can tailor to their own level of fitness."
- "The interest in nature based recreation is a result of an aging population…Grandparents are a major factor in bringing the younger generation back to nature recreation. You can see it on most weekends during the summer grandparents are bringing their kids and grandkids out to rural areas."
- "…TIME is the big issue for most people. Most families have both parents working and with budget pressures there is just not enough time and funds to contribute to recreation activities."
- "A primary factor is the declining economy, increasing gas prices and increasing costs of recreational sports programs. People are choosing to utilize low cost recreation opportunities such as neighborhood parks, hiking etc rather than participation in more expensive sports programs and boating."
- "Additionally … the explosion of on-line gaming, xbox etc, more kids are not interested in sports."
- "I think it's baby boomers discovering it takes good knees and backs to play soccer, hoops, and softball while hiking and biking are lifetime activities."
- "Many immigrants likely come from cultures where family camping is not a tradition, however, as they move into the middle class they may represent a new wave of campers."
- "The economy has been in decline or in the doldrums for over 6 years; in that time, sports which entail small fees (parking, fuel) and less expensive gear are taking a greater role in people's lives than sports which require a lot of expensive gear and greater fees."
- "Boomers have money nowadays."
- "…primitive camping, backpacking, snowshoeing and climbing do not require a specific location in order to participate. Pretty much anyplace that you can get to either on foot or in a vehicle you can then do your preferred form of

"Nature-Based" recreation."

- "In the winter, snowshoeing has become a favorite for us, in part due to the bank busting price tag of skiing for a family of four!"
- "I think cost has a big part. For my son to play soccer it cost me over $150. To take my son out for a hike it costs me a trip to Subway for a lunch to pack."

PERCEIVED OVER-USE OF EXISTING SITES

There are concerns about recreation resources being 'loved to death' as embodied in the comments such as,

- "It is difficult to not be totally self centered when discussing this subject. Seeing areas get over used and under loved or simply closed is depressing."
- "There are fewer maintained facilities than there were just a few years ago. Because of the reduced number of facilities, those that remain have gotten more use and are more crowded."
- Re: built facilities: "Overfull trash cans, locked bathrooms, vehicles being broken into, and general lack of maintenance do not induce me to spend my money visiting these locations."
- "Since the early '90s many of the areas that we would ride have been closed down and placed off-limits to motorized recreation. It has been an ever shrinking area of legal places to ride. Those areas that are still open to off road motorcycle use are also open to hiking and horse riding, and as we are all getting squeezed into a smaller area to recreate, conflicts between different user groups happen more and more often."

SOCIAL AND TECHNOLOGY IMPACTS

Another possible explanation lies in attitude changes associated with the environmental movement. For example,

- "A final factor is that the environmental movement has created a new generation of individuals that enjoy outdoor activities."
- "I am sure there is a 'green' aspect to the leisure shift as reported by the research. However, rather than a 'protect the environment' decision, I think the environmental community has brought a grand attention to the outdoors making it a more desirable activity."

Similarly, the advent of on-line technology has changed thereby empowering people to more easily and more comfortable to make choices about outdoor recreation. One hiker and biker put it this way, "I believe technology is also a factor in increased usage. 30 years ago we relied on Beckys Guide, clubs and word of mouth to find the

perfect places to experience the outdoors. Online photography, maps, GPS, reviews and other tech offers a concrete view of where we want to explore and puts the details in front of a lot more people. Tech also brings a lot more safety (GPS, SPOT, beacons, etc) and that creates a larger user base willing to try something new."

Despite this question being about adults, commenters volunteered comments about the positive benefits to children on outdoor recreation opportunities. A mountain biker put it this way, "Outdoor based activities are right in the backyard of Whatcom County. That would be the one fundamental reason for the increase in younger people seeking outdoor activities, and, why people will always need a safe place to recreate…We don't need kids in Whatcom County growing up in a city where their first instinct to go outside and get away from the computer means going to one of the nasty 7Elevens in town to hang at. They need a place to recreate."

COMMENTS ABOUT EXPENDITURES

As in the last round of questioning, there were comments about the appropriateness of government expenditures for recreation development, sometimes tied to the especially current challenging fiscal environment.

Concern about government expenditures, especially in the context of the current fiscal situation for governments was expressed by one person who said, "The state is broke! We need to cut back in all land purchases and improvements, and let the income catch-up with the spending."

Government fees were also cited as an impediment. An example is the motorcycle enthusiast who said, "Because of the reduced riding areas, increased usage fees (Discover Pass and my ORV tags) and the encounters with other users that sometimes result in verbal abuse, I find it much easier and more pleasant (not to mention cheaper) to only ride on private lands now." Another commenter noted a connection between level of use and government fees when he said, "Are you considering any recent decline in the use of public lands like state parks, DNR land, etc.? That might be due at least in part to the recent implementation of an annual 'Discovery Pass' fee for the use of those areas."

NOVA fund management was highlighted. An example was the frustration ofne off

road vehicle enthusiast who said, "WA State government needs to wake up and realize they are currently squandering millions of dollars from the Nonhighway and Offroad Vehicle Activities (NOVA) fund. Those funds were established and are provided by the OHV users themselves. Management of those funds over the last 20 years has been a travesty of epic proportions"

In contrast the wisdom of making expenditures was considered by others as a beneficial investment, as when one person said, "I disagree with those that say we should not be spending money on recreation facilities in this down economy. Instead, I see it as an investment in public health and preservation of open space which would be difficult to recover in the future. Demographics and emphasis on types of use may shift, but the human need to get outside and move will not go away."

POLICY CAUTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite the potential causes of the trend, some respondents offered cautions that responsible public policy should still consider provision of a healthy diversity of opportunity. One person put it this way, "… I see that organized sports in developed recreation areas are still very important to large numbers of people. Declines in participation might be related to shifts in demographics. But it is always important to provide for a diverse array of opportunities to facilitate people getting outdoors and moving." Another person said, "Multi-sport is the norm now and fields are needed more than ever. Issaquah Soccer Club has 3500 kids on rec and 50+ select/premier teams."

Some respondents believe there are opportunities yet to be captured. One person noted the value of explicitly working on increased coordination when he said, "I'd like to see the state help organize these user built trails a bit more; serve in an advisory role and help resolve issues that would have negative environmental or legal impacts; instead of blatantly shutting them down."

The need for capacity management was often cited. Beyond the management of the total volume of recreationists one person commented on the need to manage existing use as a way of preventing unauthorized use spreading, "The North Fork is a good recent example of a trail system that should have been mitigated instead of shut

down. (Because mtn bikers just moved elsewhere)."

CONCERN RE: THE RESEARCH

There were some comments about the correctness of the research findings or, at least, the subtly of explaining the cause behind the trend. For example,

- "Frankly, I am surprised at 'your' findings about 'built structures.'… So, in many ways I think the research may be correct but to the extent that the palette of choices for leisure is actually expanding more than it is changing. The 'actively' recreating public may be re-exploring the more traditional 'old school' activities, as the opportunity for leisure increases."
- "This seems unanswerable in the absence of numbers showing increase or decrease in overall usage. Maybe overall usage is either up or down, but one of these groups was affected more than the other."
- "I don't know anybody who rollerblades anymore… But why does the question include rollerblading? It hasn't been popular for over a decade before this site was launched."
- "First I beleve the way we track and calculate the date is in question. In this state we use a lot of electronic and email type surveys, this fourm is an example of such an approach. Marketing studies I have seen show that this type of approach shifts the data to the demograhic that would be more likely to focus on the nature based recreation. So I am not so sure your data is accurate."
- "Please provide links to this research. I suppose for ADULTS the results make sense, but I've read different results (see Western Governers Assoc. Get Out website) that focuses on children."
- Concern that there might be inappropriate lumping of activities in the research results. For example,
    - "For example, you included 'boat camping' as a 'built facility' activity. That might be true for power boaters who need a dock or a mooring buoy, and who might desire shore facilities like restrooms, showers, potable water, a pump out station, etc. But what about those of us who camp from a sea kayak or a canoe?"
    - "I think you need to dig one more level down in the nature based activities and look at the time spent at the activity. Is climbing a 500 foot face more popular than scrambling on a 30 foot wall? Are snowshoeing and backpacking engaged in for 3 hours or 3 days? I"

Below are the individual comments received in response to this question:

Comments Submitted on the Town Hall Website

Al Pelletier

sekiusweep@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 8:02 am

This seems unanswerable in the absence of numbers showing increase or decrease in overall usage. Maybe overall usage is either up or down, but one of these groups was affected more than the other.

alan

alan9062shank@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/12/07 at 12:50 pm

As metioned, I suspect it's about an aging population that may be more reflective than competitive.

Andrew Reding

aareding@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 7:08 am

All I can say is that I fit this trend in my own personal relationship with the outdoors, and I can easily state why: I like to encounter wildness. I have a built environment around me at home in Bellingham. When I venture out I prefer to leave that for the most part behind. I very deliberately do not own a motor vehicle – just a utilitarian all-purpose mountain bike. Wildlife photography is my primary passion. Human powered wheels and legs are my means of getting about.

Andy Bishop

bananaco36o@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 8:40 pm

I don't know anybody who rollerblades anymore… More adults are into solo sports today. There are amateur leagues for hockey, softball or whatever but most adults into sports are going skiing, biking, or camping. Team sports are for kids. But why does the question include rollerblading? It hasn't been popular for over a decade before this site was launched. I would like more legitimate Mt Bike areas such as Duthie.

Ashley Harrington

coloradoashley@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 8:04 am

I'm 29 and have recently, in the last 5 years, really started to enjoy the outdoors. I snowshoe, hike, backpack, and ride my mountain bike more often for the health benefits and for fun because it's easy to disappear in our vast wilderness and get away from the stresses of my life. I think there are some people who can exist almost entirely indoors, but that could never be me, however, I didn't recognize my love of nature until I was at least 21. Now, it's one of the things I'm most passionate about! On the other hand, I've never been drawn to team sports or organized recreation.

B. Lorber

jolorber@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/12/09 at 3:02 pm

People have limited time and find organized, structured activities aren't flexible for their changing work/family constraints. Also, people are looking for activities that allow them to relax, reflect, and soak in nature, silence, and peacefulness

ben gregor

frothol@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/09 at 11:10 am

I think it has to do with popular culture, especially in Washington state. People are looking for their own adventures whether its by themselves or with a group of people. Sports such as soccer and football rely on the fact that there must be a certain number of people there in order to achieve any sort of fun. Build ORV trails! Woo!

Bill Somes

billsomes@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 7:04 am

In todays economy more families are recreating in the out of doors.After the initial investment in the outdoor activity equipment i.e the purchase of bikes.It is relatively inexpensive to participate in an outdoor activity vs.the cost of viewing spectator sports as a family. My generation and my children's generation have become more health consciences as adults and are spending more time out of doors recreating. Unfortunately the computer age has ushered in a generation of children who play indoors with electronic devices. The reason for a program aimed at these kids called " Go Play Out Doors" Unless this trend changes maybe outdoor recreation will peak in the not too distant future. I doubt that future generations will suddenly recognize the outdoors and go out and play without alot of interest and help from previous generations

Bj Hedahl

bjhedahl@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 2:39 pm

Cost, yes, cost of getting there too is going up! I look at it like this; it seems that climate change, whether we believe it or not, is not making the earth – and this beautiful Pacific Northwest – any better. Sports, in 'built facilities' can come and go, but once a place is logged or washes-out or becomes polluted, it's almost impossible

to replace. So, people are out there enjoying what's left before its gone. It is like that song, "They paved paradise and put up a parking lot" You could take all the money, time, and talent of pro-sports (especially the facilities) and put it into saving wild places; wow, that would take care of it.

Bob Boyington

bobboyington@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 9:05 am

I believe that nature based recreation would increase if this state quit taxing us in the form of a discovery pass. If you look at what dollars it takes to go on an excursion and realize it goes to the venders or the business owners it further helps our small local business economy thrive thus effects so much in a good way. I do not believe that nature based recreation has increased very much if at all.

Brian Shay

bshay@cityofhoquiam.com

Submitted on 2012/12/04 at 1:55 pm

A primary factor is the declining economy, increasing gas prices and increasing costs of recreational sports programs. People are choosing to utilize low cost recreation opportunities such as neighborhood parks, hiking etc rather than participation in more expensive sports programs and boating. Also, I believe that there are more and more year round traveling sports teams which has lead to more selective participation, not available to all which has lowered the overall participation rate. Additionally the the explosing of on-line gaming, xbox etc, more kids are not interested in sports.

A final factor is that the environmental movement has created a new generation of individuals that enjoy outdoor activities.

Bruce Booker

b_booker@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 1:36 pm

You stated two trends: 'nature-based' activities are increasing, and activities that depend on 'built facilities' are decreasing.

How well defined are those categories? Have you allowed for activities that might fall somewhere in between both categories? For example, you included 'boat camping' as a 'built facility' activity. That might be true for power boaters who need a dock or a mooring buoy, and who might desire shore facilities like restrooms, showers, potable water, a pump out station, etc. But what about those of us who camp from a sea kayak or a canoe? That is 'boat camping,' but all we need is an accessible beach, no dock or mooring bouy. An established fire ring and a simple outhouse help keep an area clean and more pristine, but they aren't vital. You lumped all 'boat camping' into the 'built facilities' category, even though camping from a kayak or canoe (those are boats) is really a 'nature-based' activity. Is your study flexible enough to justify a decrease in spending for docks and buoys, but an increase in spending for kayak/canoe campsites? Or has someone already chosen which activities fall into which categories, and that's that?

A similar question arises about tent camping in established campgrounds. I like 'nature-based' camping with a backpack. But my wife is handicapped, so we do our 'together' 'nature-based' camping in state parks. Are you saying or implying that that is not 'nature-based' because there are restrooms or outhouses and maybe a water spigot and a trash can? It is certainly a far cry from a 'built facility' like a soccer or baseball field or a rollerblading facility (your examples).

Are you considering any recent decline in the use of public lands like state parks, DNR land, etc.? That might be due at least in part to the recent implementation of an annual 'Discovery Pass' fee for the use of those areas. One advantage of a 'nature-based' activity versus some other recreational activities is the cost difference. A family can picnic on state land for nothing more than the cost of a few groceries and some gas, whereas going to a zoo or acquarium or some other family activity can be expensive. Now that it costs $35 a year or $11.50 for a one-time use, some of that savings is gone. Likewise, it adds considerably to the cost of tent camping in a state

park versus taking the family to a motel for a few days. The economy is bad. Discretionary spending makes up a smaller and smaller piece of the family budget. Paying to use state parks and DNR land, over and above what we already pay in taxes and fees, has put them out of reach for some people.

Thank you for allowing people to give you some input. The Pacific Northwest is a great place to live and recreate. Let's keep it that way.

Carol

happiehorsie@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 10:30 am

Some commenteors have stated economics as a primary reason. I agree that it is a factor. However, I feel that the world in general has become very hectic and artificial. People are seeking meaning in life. And are seeking to be "grounded" in something real. As a backcountry horseback rider, I know exactly where to find peace and serenity. Being surrounded by nature is the only place where I feel whole. I feel hope and peace when I am in the woods hearing only the natural sounds. For horseback riders it isn't really a choice of economics. Horses are expensive companions, but they are worth it in my opinion.

carole5154

carole.l.woodard@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/13 at 8:30 am

I believe that nature-based recreation activities are less expensive, require less formal training and can be more individually tailored. People in this area like the outdoors but we don't necessarily want to stay in one area and play on a team in a static setting with a set schedule.

Chris Marsh

thehouseofccccc@msn.com

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 4:16 am

OVERPOPULATION!!!!!

The increasing need to invite people to move to this state, for the reasons of building up the tax base, has led to the overpopulation of our existing sites, closing of our existing sites (due to the lack of knowledge, and increased illegal dumping because it was free to dump where they came from). The greed of local and state governmet has driven this increase of population and thus forced the locals to find activities to get away from the crowd.

Chris Marsh

thehouseofccccc@msn.com

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 3:32 pm

Amen brother!!!

Chris Marsh

thehouseofccccc@msn.com

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 4:08 pm

Beautifully said!!!!

Chris R.

c.resleff@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 9:29 am

1) The outdoors are awesome, being inside is kinda lame;

2) Outdoor activities generally cheaper, more appealing in a bad economy;

3) Indoor activities far more dependent on corporate involvement, and don’t they

already get too much of our money.

Chris Wood

treylrunner@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 6:45 am

More variety is better. Team sports require more people getting together at a set time. The trending activities are easy to participate, freeflowing, less structured.

Chuck Cannon

chuckcannon@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/12/15 at 8:48 pm

Based on my experience there are also trends showing a greater need for more snowmobile and ATV trails as well as parking facilities.

Craig Earl

earlsbikeshop@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/12/07 at 8:38 am

Outdoor based activities are right in the backyard of Whatcom County. That would be the one fundamental reason for the increase in younger people seeking outdoor activities, and, why people will always need a safe place to recreate. Every summer I see more young people participating in mountain biking in the area. This interest is either facilitated by a friend, a parent or both. In doing so, I've seen kids learn about earning money by getting their first lawn mowing job to help pay for a bike or parts, physics by learning how to work on there bike and physical fitness. The list of positive elements absorbed by an individual from mountain biking, cycling in general or any outdoor activity is endless. These experiences lead people in positive directions because they build independent thinking. We don't need kids in Whatcom County growing up in a city where their first instinct to go outside and get away from the

computer means going to one of the nasty 7Elevens in town to hang at. They need a place to recreate.

Darcy

djmitchem@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 8:43 am

Please provide links to this research. I suppose for ADULTS the results make sense, but I've read different results (see Western Governers Assoc. Get Out website) that focuses on children. These results showed less outdoors ie. backpacking, and more organized sports for youth. Of course ADULTS won't use sports fields as much as children. They are designed for school age children in mind. As the population ages activities like birdwatching, day hiking, RVing, driving for pleasure will increase. I have read studies that wilderness backpacking, big game hunting and other highly involved outdoor activity is decreasing overall. This makes sense as economics, time constraints, demographics and OVER REGULATION make it dificult for someone to break into these activities. If you didn't hunt or backpack as a child, you are less likely to just try these activities on your own. While more "simple" activities like day hiking and close in bicycle paths use soar. For children, which your question ignores, I believe there is much more use of organized sports facilities than traditional outdoor recreation like camping and backpacking. As a parent of school age children, I rarely see families in the outdoors. We must make a conscientious effort to NOT enroll our kids in organized summer activities so we have time to backpack, hike, and take the traditional National Park road trip. We see very few other families doing these things. Most of the people on the trails are older–much older.

As a community leader I also see the affects of cost on facilities. Our county has no public swimming pool, and although in surveys citizens site this problem and need over and over, pools are simply too expensive with liability insurance etc. for us to operate. Even with an huge donation of several million, pools long-term costs cause cities/counties to really balk. We need jointly operated community–school district–government facilities and insurance reform for these to be viable in less populated

areas.

Darrell Wallace

exec@bchw.org

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 2:02 pm

As soon as facilities are constructed, they become “crowded facilities”. Many people are seeking activities they can share with a limited number of people.

Dave

dhiatt07@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 9:49 am

I agree with some of the prior postings about the desire of many older people to get back into the woods in relatively solitary settings while staying away from high impact indoor sports and large groups. I am one of them.

Many of us older people are purchasing Off Highway Vehicles and using them to get back into the woods. The sales numbers for simple to operate OHVs have been phenomenal over the past ten years.

Unfortunately, a large portion of those recreational dollars are going out of WA State to states like Idaho and Oregon where non-street legal OHVs can be used on the majority of forest roads. Those states also have significant OHV trail systems connecting with forest roads that make for enjoyable all day rides, thereby meeting the user’s needs for “seat time” in back country recreation settings.

The WA Department of Natural Resources (WA State Timber Company) has wasted millions of dollars on over studied, over designed, over built, and extremely limited OHV trail opportunities that to date do not provide any desirable amount of “seat time” while putting locked gates on their roads at a pace that must be making the steel companies a lot of money, i.e. managing our public lands by locking it up from the public instead of managing it for the public.

WA State government needs to wake up and realize they are currently squandering millions of dollars from the Nonhighway and Offroad Vehicle Activities (NOVA) fund. Those funds were established and are provided by the OHV users themselves. Management of those funds over the last 20 years has been a travesty of epic proportions and WA State residents are taking their recreational dollars to other states that provide the desired opportunities.

As mentioned above in other posts, many WA residents with OHV's no longer support the WA State NOVA program with their OHV sticker money or even WA State revenue in general with their OHV purchase sales taxes (just buy it and ride it in the state where you are going to use it on public land and ride it only on private land in WA and pay no sales tax).

Oregon and many other state governments understand OHV recreation and they are doing a great job of meeting the older generation's desires for OHV recreation. WA State government does not.seem to have a clue and is losing millions of dollars in potential revenue as a result.

Opening nonhighway forest roads to non-street legal OHV use would be an excellent first step in the right direction by WA State.

The WA DNR should be leading the way on opening nonhighway roads for OHV use as they skim approximately 36% of the NOVA funds right off the top every year. However they seem to be intent on locking up more and more land from use by the public and wasting NOVA money at an atrocious rate..

David McNeely

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Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 6:59 pm

My wife and I are sailors in this beautiful northwest. Regulations, environmental issues and the cost of boating are making it more and more difficult to enjoy the outdoors. We would like to tie up to one of those buoys in a bay which are owned by the state park system but the annual fee of over $100 is to much. I even have to be careful where I can anchor because of endangered sea weed. Recreational boaters

even have to pay to come back into the U.S. My suggestion would be to use some of the gambling money and pot money to help with the FEES that seem to be everywhere. I believe those who are younger are taking to the back country because it is less expensive. We can no longer afford the recreation that we once could do for free. When I was young I could hike into the mountains and camp without purchasing a permit and/or camping fee. I would also cut down on the expensive buildings that house pictures at the campgrounds. Cut cost instead of building more buildings.

David Swindale

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Submitted on 2012/12/04 at 1:03 pm

In 2005-2006 the City of Univdersity Place conducted a Citizen Survey as part of the Update of the PROS Plan. Walking and Biking facilites scored highest among those activites that people cared about most. I would be happy to send the results of that survey if you would like it.

davis steelquist

drs98376@embarqmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 9:59 am

Ned makes a good point that the era of the soccer mom has moved to the working mom. I also read the family sizes are coming down. There is also increasing costs of facility maintenance that in some cases (like city and county) get passed on to the organizers, and in turn to the participants families. These have risen to the point that some activities are exclusionary economically. However also as mentioned some facilities are booked solid.. and I suspect that is because while costs may be exclusionary, there are still plenty who can afford them and still a large number of “soccer moms and dads.” Now the boat based camping that’s purely a result of the costs and time of boat maintenance.. however there seems to be more kayakers using the facilities leaving a smaller footprint and more contentious of packing everything

out.

The apparent move to more the “wilderness” activities is probably much the same as when I was able to get out and do it.. just to get away from the crowds.. (however days when one could go 3 days without seeing another soul are probably passed.) As noted in a previous discussion the Federal Gov. does a good job meeting those needs here on the Olympic Peninsula and thanks to the ferry costs that will be sufficient for years to come. However the Cascades are becoming saturated.. my last hike there I ended up in a line of hikers that stretched form the road to the destination lake and back.. no peace and quiet there.

The other aspect is where facility activities are generally team and social based, roughing it is more “survivalist” (even in family groups).. to some it’s doing away with the niceties of civilization (and the noise, light, computers, constant connection) and being alone. (although there are exceptions.) I would expect to see this grow and force measures to lessen the impact (like the Mt. Rainier reservation system.

What wasn’t in either bucket was the old car camping. Where have all those one tent pull-outs gone? Would they provide some relief to crowded campgrounds with motor homes and crowds without the hassle of packing in? And with the new awareness of the environmental issues would users maintain them better?

Debbie

dberto@isspress.com

Submitted on 2012/12/13 at 9:59 am

- Youth sports often come with a big time commitment for both child and parent
- Organized sports are expensive
- State parks/picnic areas are run down
- With social media, people are being less socialized

Deborah

deborahgurney@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/12/13 at 8:55 am

Nature provides an escape from our urban (built environments) can not provide. Climbing and snow shoeing specifically could be increasing due to the fact that more technology (tools of the trade) and information are available.

My family enjoys the connection with nature that primitive camping provides,as well as, it's economy. We also love the exercise and silence of snowshoeing.

Eric

ebxtreme@earthlink.net

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 12:20 pm

I think a lot of folks are missing the "OVER 18" aspect of this particular Question. Yes, youth sports programs such as football, soccer, baseball, basketball, lacrosse, hockey, wrestling, etc. are still extremely popular in most areas and I grew up playing multiple sports as well. I know most of my friends did as well.

That said, when folks were kids, playing organized sports is/was much easier due to their common schedule along with the necessary facilities nearby or at their school. As you get older and busier, it's much harder to align a work & family schedule for the necessary practices and the games/matches that a season usually entails.

Beyond that, a lot of people's bodies (myself: both ACL's replaced) can't take the abuse of running and other aspects of these sports. As such, I moved to mt. biking as my primary way of enjoying the outdoors while getting the necessary exercise that keeps me sane (especially in the winter!!). Where I live, I can easily get in a quick mt. bike ride in 2-3 hours and then still have time for my family. Additionally, mt. biking, hiking, climbing, snowshoeing and skiing are things I can do WITH my daughter as she gets old enough. I've heard friends refer to these activities as "lifelong sports" and I totally agree with that term. I hope to be able to ride my mt. bike well into my 70's as long as I don't keep crashing!

Eva Tyler

tylerpawjesse@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 8:27 am

As the population ages they see the value of the peace and tranquility of nature based outdoor recreation and have the ability to do it in a less structured and scheduled manner. It appears that kids organized sports are as popular as ever, but I think parents can get burned out on organized sports when they run their kids here and there and then find nature activities more appealing. In the future I would hope that we would see more kids doing nature activities, not necessarily in place of organized activities, but in place of having their faces stuck to an electronic device.

Fabian White

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Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 9:51 am

Like other commentators, I'm not sure I understand how the built facilities use is declining with specific regard to soccer? Soccer is alive and well in my areas of Whatcom and Snohomish counties! Having participated as both a parent, coach and adult league player, I would argue for MORE soccer field facilities/support… Indoor and Outdoor! Having come from So. Cal, the growth of soccer in WA these past 12 yrs has been exciting, culminating with a quality professional team that frankly will only further drive kids and adults to get involved. With regard to outdoor use my biggest complaint is the migration of most ALL campgrounds to be 100% reservable with NO First come/First serve spots left in reserve! This feature has eliminated many a camping opportunity for my family since we didn't think about RESERVING a spot 8mo earlier! You would think campgrounds with 100+ sites could afford to set aside a handful of spots for walkup families wishing to camp. In turn though, since we couldn't always camp we have taken opportunities to complete many day hikes we otherwise may have missed out on. In the winter, snowshoeing has become a favorite for us, in part due to the bank busting price tag of skiing for a family of four! Snowshoeing means we're not trapped indoors all winter long and we don't have to

spend a small fortune on ski equipment or lift tickets etc. Hiking, snowshoeing, climbing and primitive camping are all healthy opportunities for my family to enjoy time together for a relatively LOW COST with priceless memories!

Gayle Austin, Langley WA

wavy@whidbey.com

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 2:53 pm

I'll add a 2nd to Bruce Booker's comment. As kayaker, I've been camping both on the shores of Washington and in Canada for 20 years. Often there are several other kayakers at the sites. With all the kayaks we see out there it is difficult to believe there is a decrease. On the other hand, perhaps with the inflated gas prices last summer there was a decrease in motor-boating.

Might there might also be changes because of an aging population? As a retiree, my rollerblading days are long over, but now I have more time for hiking, backpacking, and cross-country skiing!

Gerry Hodge

gnthodge@msn.com

Submitted on 2012/12/04 at 4:03 pm

I think you need to dig one more level down in the nature based activities and look at the time spent at the activity. Is climbing a 500 foot face more popular than scrambling on a 30 foot wall? Are snowshoeing and backpacking engaged in for 3 hours or 3 days? I feel we are evolving into an instant gratification society in our recreational pursuits as well as other aspects of our life. It is too much work to get several people together to engage in activity that requires built facilities and too much commitment to engage in extended activity of any kind. Whatever is happening, just be glad every time you see a younger person engaging with the outdoors instead of their smart phone.

Gus

skookumrdr@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/12/04 at 1:03 pm

I think you are seeing a decline in organized sports and an increase is sports that do not depend on an organized group. Family's may not want to be tied to a schedule that organized sports require and want more flexible schedules. Duthie Hill mountain bike park is a great example of a facilitiy for a non- traditional sport. King County spent 1 million dollars on 2 soccer fields, at the same time spent $100,000 on the mountain bike park and the bike park has about 20 times the use.

Jakob P.

japerry@jademicrosystems.com

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 9:06 pm

Most of my friends are not interested in any organized built trail or indoor activities. The idea of a 'world class' trail system for mountain bikes, motorcycles, hiking, or 4×4 is usually something that users built, not some 2-5million dollar park project. While its understandable some state laws would need to change, the current environment already exists to support this.

I'd like to see the state help organize these user built trails a bit more; serve in an advisory role and help resolve issues that would have negative environmental or legal impacts; instead of blatantly shutting them down.

If you look at major capitol projects like Reiter, you can see what a dismal failure large project can be. While this will cost taxpayers nearly 3m in building costs when its done, its already done millions more in economic impact to the sky valley. And at the same time user-built trails have been growing unchecked. The North Fork is a good recent example of a trail system that should have been mitigated instead of shut down. (Because mtn bikers just moved elsewhere)

So work with users to let them lead what they need, and stop thinking about large

million dollar capitol projects.

James Nagle

jamesandteresanagle@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 4:39 pm

I think cost has a big part. For my son to play soccer it cost me over $150. To take my son out for a hike it costs me a trip to Subway for a lunch to pack.i already have to have a discover pass so I can ride my motorcycle in this state.

Jay

jrouleau@alum.rpi.edu

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 1:07 am

Pathetic parenting.

Our observation is that an increasing percentage of people are becoming couch potatoes, spending far too much money on video games & brain-numbing screen time instead of healthy outdoor pursuits. This is not a judgment, but a verifiable observance that has resulted in a well-documented obesity epidemic.

No surprise that the occasional stout-to-obese person might join a few friends hiking once in a while, but few of them are likely to sign up for a full season of organized intense physical activity.

Jeff Chapman

bbbranch@olympus.net

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 8:37 pm

I think many of the responses reflect my own. When young I played team sports. Later, in midlife I road bicycles across the country as well as climbed and hiked every place in North America I could get while working or during winters off work from the

USFS fire crews. Now I ride horses further distances and hike less distance (weak knees), often riding to base camps I used to climb/hike out of. Not everyone is in a position to ride or own horses, but many of those that do on backcountry trails are actually older gray haired folks who have found a way to stay connected with the outdoor world they have always enjoyed and loved.

Perhaps then, as youth are less interested in outdoor recreation, and as boomers are more interested in staying healthy, there is a corresponding reflection in types of activities that shrink or grow.

Jim Harris

jimharris183@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/12/14 at 10:28 am

Round one summary identified the values of outdoor recreation in categories of:

Economic Asset – attracting businesses and institutions to our area.

Health and Wellbeing – improving physical health and mental stimulation, providing an alternative to passive electronic entertainment.

Quality of Life – playing together builds families, social opportunities, and community spirit.

Moral Meaning – spiritual restoration as defined by each individual.

This is a good foundation of need on which to build.

Thoughts on round one comments:

• Demand for any recreation activity can be driven by;

1) population increase,

2) change in current population's use of time, individual activities perceived as more or less desirable than competing use of one's time, causing growth or decline in demand, or

3) recreation facility availability and quality, if outdoor recreation facilities are insufficient in quantity or quality, it can drive recreationist to redirect their time to a

different activity that they perceive as a better value. They may prefer an outdoor recreation activity, but if availability hard to obtain or facility quality does not meet their expectation, their interest may shift to something else, such as becoming a spectator at a sporting event.

• One must be careful when considering shared use trails. Respect for other trail users, the desire to self-manage conflict, and willingness to share are all good traits, but some uses are incompatible by the nature of the activities. Limits of Acceptable Change data on accidents and near accidents support the intuitive premise that wide variations in speed combined with limited site distance makes for incompatible activities. Widening trails and increasing site distance is appropriate in some locations (heavy use, wide range of user age or ability) but in other locations it changes the feeling of nature that the activity was based upon, whether we're talking snowmobiles and Nordic skiers or casual hikers and downhill mountain bikers. The Forest Service, Recreation Opportunity Spectrum was created in part, to prevent the elimination of primitive recreation as recreation areas went through a development evolution to accommodate greater use, which resulted in the loss of what attracted the original recreationist to the area.

Round Two

The opening statement can lead to an assumption that may or may not be true: Nature based recreation activities are increasing. Facility based outdoor recreation activities are decreasing. Is this a linear statement, the greater the need for built facilities directly results in declining demand?

Participation in any activity will be influenced by:

• Travel distance (fuel cost)

• Travel time (travel congestion and related stress)

• Cost (equipment investment, use/activity fees)

• Availability – this category is influenced by construction cost, maintenance costs, environmental regulation compliance cost, and permitting costs, including potential

litigation.

• Perceived personal value (outdoor recreation values)

Looking at these various factors it would be hard to extrapolate that one factor, the level of built facilities, has a direct correlation to demand for a recreational activity. It may be true that many activities with low travel time, distance, and cost are those that utilize less built facilities, but the decision was not based on the level of built facilities.

• There is a need to focus more resources to the development and operation of trails. This is the most common opportunity for the introduction of youth to the out of doors. Trails provide opportunities for numerous low cost outdoor activities in a variety of settings and support several other outdoor activities that are showing rapid growth, such as nature viewing and wildlife photography.

• If the updated SCORP is to be a true strategic plan it must address the biggest challenge of outdoor recreation – how do we fund outdoor recreation operations and maintenance in the future? This must go beyond redirecting existing funds. It must find alternatives to the "pay-as-you-go" approach, which leads to the outdoors becoming the playground of upper economic classes, and we wonder why lower and middle income youth and young families aren't out participating in healthy activities. This must me a coalition effort. Those developing open space into residential and business must see the value of outdoor recreation to their bottom-line revenue analysis for them and lead to their willingness to be part of the solution.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment,

Jim Harris

Jim Hudak

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Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 9:20 am

This is a personal observation that might be relevant. Not being a baby boomer (BB) but fairly close I have seen a surprising change in who uses the outdoor areas.

On a summer hike to Annette Lake, with my 2 sons, we saw a lot of hikers in the baby boomer age group (55-75). There were approximately 20+ BB's on a Thursday afternoon. These were hikers in separate small groups. We rode our bikes from Cle Elum on the JWPT and encountered another 1/2 dozen BB's during our trip. I believe this age group has more time and opportunity than their parents had to enjoy outdoor activities.

I believe technology is also a factor in increased usage. 30 years ago we relied on Beckys Guide, clubs and word of mouth to find the perfect places to experience the outdoors. Online photography, maps, GPS, reviews and other tech offers a concrete view of where we want to explore and puts the details in front of a lot more people. Tech also brings a lot more safety (GPS, SPOT, beacons, etc) and that creates a larger user base willing to try something new.

joel miranda

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Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 5:13 pm

I think it had more to do with time. I feel like people are working more hours these days than in the past. My parents only worked 40 hour/week yet I feel like most people i know are in the the 45-55 hours per week range. Plus add in families and now you have even less time. Video games are using up a lot of adults time also (im 35 and spend quite a few hours with a controller in my hand).

Now that we are all so busy, its pretty hard to get a group of 10 friends for a full court basketball or around that many for football or soccer. Outdoor recreation doesn't need that many people. You can go out by yourself or even just 1 person if you want to share the experience. Often times ill send an email out to 5-6 people to ride duthie over the summer. Most will say they are joining. However, the day of many people have other things they need to handle. Ive done the same thing over and over.

i like to call it unorganized sports vs organized sports. You dont have to be super committed to the outdoors like you would a select team. Don't feel like riding today?

No harm. Don’t feel like playing with your team? Team might lose and you might get kicked off.

Im viewing thus from the adult participation viewpoint. Sure there are lots of people with their kids at the facilities, but it’s the kids participating. The parents are busy yelling at referees or updating statuses on Facebook from their phones. Not necessarily participating.

John Bremer

john.bremer@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/12/12 at 1:23 pm

The institutional structures, for example unions and churches, that supported organized activities are weaker than they used to be. Employers are less likely to support a softball or bowling team.

Maybe the cost disease is part of it. As the cost to produce goods decreases through automation, activities like sporting events that still require as many hours as they always did seem more costly — for example, healthcare and education.

John Bremer

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Submitted on 2012/12/12 at 2:34 pm

Children are less exposed to organized sports in school for two reasons: 1) the austerity minded have forced cutbacks in both gym class and intramural sports; and 2) the consolidation of high schools resulted in a smaller percentage of children participating on the school sports teams.

Jorge Villa

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Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 5:52 pm

Disrepair or reduced working hours at the built facilities vs, nature-based ? The nature-based activities also tend to be non-scheduled, whereas the others require greater planning and commitments toward other people.

Judy Smith

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Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 11:10 am

Perhaps there is another time or section better suited for my comment but I don't see it, and want to provide this input. Any discussion of Washington state parks must include the issue of the "parking fee." It's ridiculous that the state has carved out this area of public service for being self-sustaining (at least in some part) via charging this fee. As soon as the economy improves, this fee should be discontinued! Because it is recessive it hurts lower-income people most. Furthermore, I don't recall any public discussion about what the public feels are state priorities — who says the parks we already own are of such a low priority that they can be kicked to the curb like this? Or I should say, users are kicked to the curb. There should be no admission charge to general-use parks.

karl

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Submitted on 2012/12/18 at 9:29 am

I agree the nature based activities are on the increase but, other outside activities would also be on the increase if the state/nation would get the funding to enhance or build better facilities for the areas currently operational. we/us the 4wheeldrive community are constantly seeing our areas being closed or left to go neglected. we need to keep these areas open and maintained.

Kevin Casey

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Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 12:38 pm

Kayak camping should not be linked to motorized boat issues. Access to kayak camping and kayak water trails should be maintained please. Public access to the water and water access to shoreline should be maintained for recreational kayakers, recreational SCUBA divers and for safety.

Kurt Reuter

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Submitted on 2012/12/07 at 3:34 pm

I believe that there is a general trend among younger adults to be more “green” which in part includes a greater proportion of recreation time being spent engaged in the natural environment. Given the ever expanding urban centers and population, industrialization, and resulting negative environmental impacts, younger people are looking to escape and experience the great outdoors. What I see in my own adult children and their generation is that in this age of technology they are bombarded by information 24/7. I feel their increased trend towards outdoor recreation is a means to leave that behind for a while enjoy a slower pace of life.

I also believe that a reduced emphasis in physical education in our K – 12 school system has resulted in diminished interest in participating in recreational sports later in life.

The poor economy is also a factor in the decline of team sports for adults and children. As the economy declined fewer businesses had discretionary money to sponsor teams. That put the burden on individuals to pay more out of their pocket to play. If you compare the cost for one person to participate on a sports team vs. the entire family to go hiking or camping, it is easy to see that the money spent on outdoor recreation goes a lot farther.

Linda Frkuska

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Submitted on 2012/12/10 at 9:58 am

As the population demographics change, so do the recreation trends. The large population of baby boomers are not only participating more than 50+ people did in the past, but they are also demanding more passive activities such as hiking, walking, backpacking, etc.

Since we have a larger population of retirees, we also may have a larger number of people on fixed incomes. Many of the more passive, nature-based activites are low to no cost, as opposed to programmed activities such as field sports and those sports that require more expensive equipment (like a boat).

In addition to an aging population, we are seeing a rise in ethnic populations that may be more family focused; and thus desire to participate in recreational activities that can be done with the whole family, such as camping and hiking.

Linda Roe

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Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 9:49 pm

I think there are several reasons. One, increased pressure on established facilities by youth teams, there is simply many open fields at convient times for adult teams. The economy in the years sited has probably been a factor. Longer hours at work and less money for team fees, gear etc. Also, when young families want to have time together, they want a family activity, like hiking or biking. Nature based activities are a much better de stresser, non competitive and most anyone can hike or ride a bike.

Lori Lennox

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Submitted on 2012/12/04 at 1:57 pm

Baby Boomers. The graying Americans are still healthy and active but want peaceful and relaxing experiences with nature (and their horse in my case), not doing things where they will get hurt.

Lynn

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Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 9:56 pm

It is interesting that family camping in developed campgrounds is not mentioned. I would think that the economy would have caused a decline in family camping and likely is a factor in the decline in boat camping. Many immigrants likely come from cultures where family camping is not a tradition, however, as they move into the middle class they may represent a new wave of campers. I would like the state to encourage and facilitate family camping opportunities as it represents a healthy and affordable activity that promotes an interest in nature and the outdoors. My own personal experiences include family tent camping beginning in my childhood, backpacking, hiking, skiing, pickup camper, travel trailer, fifth wheel and boat camping over a period of 60+ years.

Lys Burden

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Submitted on 2012/12/08 at 1:45 am

I think people are hungry to reconnect with the natural world, especially people who live in urban environments (which is most of us). As an industrialized culture we have so little connection to the earth and cosmos because of the way we live, that we have lost amazing amounts of understanding of who we are and where we are. Only being in nature can remedy this disconnect.

Marion

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Submitted on 2012/12/08 at 5:42 pm

I concur with Lys' comments on why the turn to light impact wilderness experiences among younger people. Krakauer's Into the Wild is a cult book. They are less inclined or able to burden themselves with the large array of possessions required for old-fashioned trailer camping, boating, and developed camping activities. I see a philosophy of living light, hiking light, recreating light, immersing oneself in wilderness, at work. These are people who hike, backpack, rock scramble, and are more inclined to travel out of the country to achieve a wilderness experience (e.g. Patagonia) if they cannot get that experience locally. Desert Solitaire is still an important book for the young people I know. And most likely it is the otherness of wilderness for the young city living set. We are not far from our evolutionary origins, and wilderness calls to us as we try to understand ourselves. ,

Mark Levensky

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Submitted on 2012/12/07 at 12:46 pm

Results of the recent SCORP survey are not surprising. What people here are doing for outdoor recreation is more or less what people have been doing here for years. Changes that have occurred are probably due to, among other things, changes in old equipment, introduction of new equipment, the rise and fall of the ecomony, Internet instruction, new outdoor stores, increased advertizing, outdoor magazines, movies and TV. Outdoor recreation is, in part, a fashion industry. No need to give examples. But in Seattle, there are now organized lacrosse, rugby, and cricket teams. I don't know how this happened. As Washington's population continues to grow, so will interest in outdoor recreation of all kinds. In response, and for other good reasons, we should do all that we can to conserve and maintain Washington's mountain, river, stream, lake, farm, forest, park, meadow, wetland, estuary, beach, shore, and sea lands. This is not all that we should do, but it would be a good start.

Mark Quinn

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Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 8:21 am

As our world becomes much more crowded especially in urban environments, the outdoors is a attractive alternative for finding peace, new challenges and renewal, away from the madening crowd, as they say, giving us the fortitude to return to the urban environments where we live and work.

Mark Schooley

markschooley@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 1:20 pm

New research shows that for adults (18 and over) in Washington, between 2006 and 2012,

• Nature-based recreation activities, such as backpacking, primitive camping, showshoeing, horseback riding, and climbing generally are increasing while

• Activities that depend on built facilities, such as soccer, baseball, rollerblading, football, and boat camping generally are decreasing.

I think that some of reasons for the increase in “Nature-Based” activities are that they can usually be accomplished alone or with a very small group. Additionally, primitive camping, backpacking, snowshoeing and climbing do not require a specific location in order to participate. Pretty much anyplace that you can get to either on foot or in a vehicle you can then do your preferred form of “Nature-Based” recreation. Horseback riding is the one exception to those that you listed in that there needs to be a suitable place to park your truck/trailer and unload your mount(s). But even then, most places are suitable to ride horseback. All of the above activities require very little in the way of facility support.

Those activities that depend on built and maintained facilities are on the decline for a few reasons in my mind.

(1) There are fewer maintained facilities than there were just a few years ago. Because of the reduced number of facilities, those that remain have gotten more use and are more crowded. Much of the time when the number of people using a facility increases, there is not an increase in the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities. This causes the play fields and recreation facilities to be in poor condition overall. Often times there are overfull trash cans, the bathrooms are either locked or filthy, and there is rarely anyone available to take care of these issues. I have often times seen facilities with broken glass and other hazards in the area and I have personally gotten tired of spending my time cleaning and making the area safe for use.

(2) Boating and camping (at actual campgrounds) have decreased because of increased usage fees and pass requirements (the Discover Pass is the main reason in my mind). The costs to use the state operated boat launches and campgrounds just keeps going up, year after year, while the overall condition of the facilities continues to decline. Overfull trash cans, locked bathrooms, vehicles being broken into, and general lack of maintenance do not induce me to spend my money visiting these locations.

It seems to me that more areas could be opened up for my preferred form of outdoor recreation of off-road motorcycle riding by re-opening the state forests. Little to no monies from the state treasury would be needed to make this happen as the different clubs would take the time to build and maintain the trails, and definitely do a superior job of cleanup and maintenance of the parking areas and trails than what I have experienced on the limited riding areas that are currently open to use.

When I was a kid in the ’70s, there were literally thousands of miles of trails to explore and enjoy. We would spend entire weekends camping and riding outside of the state campgrounds in the state forests. We would rarely have an encounter with a hiker or horseman, and when we did it was generally a positive encounter. We always packed out our trash and would often times pack out a bag or two of extra trash from illegal dumpsites that we would discover.

Since the early ’90s many of the areas that we would ride have been closed down and placed off-limits to motorized recreation. It has been an ever shrinking area of legal places to ride. Those areas that are still open to off road motorcycle use are also

open to hiking and horse riding, and as we are all getting squeezed into a smaller area to recreate, conflicts between different user groups happen more and more often. The last two times that I was riding on public lands (legal riding areas) I had encounters with groups of hikers. Both times, I pulled to the side of the trail and shut off my bike and was treated to verbal abuse about my chosen form of recreation. I have found that speaking with people such as these does nothing to alleviate the situation, and I just hope that they walk past as quickly as possible so that I can continue my ride.

Because of the reduced riding areas, increased usage fees (Discover Pass and my ORV tags) and the encounters with other users that sometimes result in verbal abuse, I find it much easier and more pleasant (not to mention cheaper) to only ride on private lands now. I am lucky that I have good friends who combined own several thousand acres of land that they allow me to ride on. Since the state of Washington does not want to allow me to use the state forests for riding my motorcycle, I see no reason to renew my ORV tags nor do I see a reason to purchase the Discover Pass. Until the state reopens all of the state forest lands and the wilderness areas to use and recreation, I will save my money and ride in private forests and lands.

Mary

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Submitted on 2012/12/10 at 7:49 am

Cost of keeping up the built facilities and/or parking along with the cost for the sport such as soccer could lead to the decline. There are lots of outdoor activities that families can do even without the Discovery Pass that would be less expensive.

Matt S.

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Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 6:48 pm

There’s often a higher participation cost, mandatory and inflexible time

commitments, and limited access to playfields and equipment associated with soccer, football l, and similar sports. Outdoor sports are more flexible, generally cheaper, and don't require as much prior training (with the exception of a few activities such as climbing).

Mel Davidson

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Submitted on 2012/12/16 at 4:56 pm

I haven't noticed a derease of interest in soccer. Recreational soccer is still basically cheap if the fields are available. Per individual use, an all-weather soccer field is still an efficient way to provide healthy recreation most months of the year.

Mike

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Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 5:47 pm | In reply to Brian Shay.

I totally agree with your first comment. I would say the second comment is they enjoy a different part of outdoor activities. Local hiking ect. Not so much like the pacific crest trail or more remote hikes.

Mike

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Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 5:48 pm

Show me the numbers.

Mike Branstetter

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Submitted on 2012/12/04 at 2:17 pm

Frankly, I am suprised at “your” findings about “built structures.” I live near and drive by many soccer fields that appear as active as ever. I attend High School, College and Professional sporting events on a regular basis and find them as crowded as ever. I travel a fair amount and have found the airports, hotels and activity centers as busy as they have been the last 20 years. It’s not that I doubt the research, but rather I think the “visible” (consuming public if you will) is, in fact, expanding their leisure activity palette. I have more time, and I am spending it in many more ways than than time had previously allowed. I now walk, bike and hike more than I ever have, but it is really just a “health” issue as I have gotten older. Many of my friends are the same. We still take trips to Hawaii, but instead of just the beach, we explore.

So, in many ways I think the research may be correct but to the extent that the palette of choices for leisure is actually expanding more than it is changing. The “actively” recreating public may be re-exploring the more traditional “old school” activities, as the opportunity for leisure increases.

I am sure there is a “green” aspect to the leisure shift as reported by the research. However,rather than a “protect the environment” decision, I think the environmental community has brought a grand attention to the outdoors making it a more desirable activity.

in short, I still go to plenty of football games, but I have recently added activities like walking and bird watching to my leisure routine.

Mike M

mikemw1921@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 7:57 pm

I’ve been more active in outdoor nature based activities my whole life. A comment on demographics, not directly related; I’ve been surprised that most of the people I know who are active in the outdoors are typically older than me (I’m currently in my

early 40's). I've always assumed this is because my generation was the start of the video game generation. I know quite a few people my age who still gravitate towards video games (which never interested me). I find it interesting that your stating nature based recreation is increasing. Perhaps it is the younger generation who has enough community through social media and doesn't feel the need for team type recreation and prefer more solitary recreation. I agree with William's comment about electronic gadgets making the wilderness seem more accessible and safe. I've seen too many reports of inexperienced climbers going way beyond their limits knowing they could make the 911 call once they get into trouble. I've also talked with a few Rangers who say most of the lost hikers today were following their GPS (or at least they thought they were).

Mike SLeivn

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Submitted on 2012/12/08 at 1:03 pm

First I beleve the way we track and calculate the date is in question. In this state we use a lot of electronic and email type surveys, this fourm is an example of such an approach. Marketing studies I have seen show that this type of approach shifts the data to the demograhic that would be more likely to focus on the nature based recreation. So I am not so sure your data is accurate.

2nd the people that use the built environment for baseball, soccer, skate boarding are teen and pre teen, it is not often that the govenment gives much care to the concerns of ones so young.

All the people I know are not that involveled with internet questions or surveys they are working class people raising kids and not a twenty something single that has hours to surf the net.

This same group of people go camping often, own travel trailers, have girls and boys in soccer, baseball, and football.

In short the reliance on tech based surveying is not giveing you the representation you

need from working families.

Just my thoughts.

Thx

Nancy Doran

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Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 11:25 am

Purely guesswork on my part but I wonder how much if it is related to the fact that many of the team sports mentioned are highly organized for kids (with all the work done by parents.) Many young adults (post high school, post-college) are perhaps not prepared to spend the volunteer time needed to make these activities succeed.

In addition, I don't think there are always good transitions in place that allow players to move up to adult leagues as they age. Youth sports and adult sports are often governed by very different organizations that don't even think about ways to transition players from one to the other. Also although we are a nation of organized sports for youth, I think there's a sense that that these are kid's activities, that as an adult, one does different things.

(I've certainly seen the same effect in music – lots of kids take lessons, particularly on the piano. Unfortunately, many of them completely abandon their instruments as they grow up, thereby missing out on the lifetime joy of making music. One doesn't have to be a professional to do these activities but our culture seems to make distinctions between what is done as a child from what is done as adults.)

Finally, my own experience is that there are a lot of very active, healthy older citizens in Washington who have long since left their playing- field days behind them but who are interested in doing those outdoor ("nature-based") activities that they can tailor to their own level of fitness.

Ned Higgins

nedhi@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/04 at 11:01 am

The 90's into the early 2000's were the era of the soccer Mom and the minivan, moving forward it's become the era of the urban outdoor user and the crossover/sport utility vehicle. The region has developed and evolved as a result.

Why? Urban recreational facility pressure, urban life pressure/congestion and aggressive marketing are key contributors to people 'clueing in' facility and pursuing what the outdoor recreation resource has to offer-peace, privacy, adventure and excitement.

R. Carlos Cavazos

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Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 4:01 pm

Perhaps part of the reason may be that the types of activities which are diminishing for that particular age group is that the "depend on built facilities" recreations were part of everday life in childhood and youth for many of the same individuals who are now out backpacking, primitive camping, snoshoeing, horeseback riding, and climbing.

Growing up out of those urban developments the lure of that great big room — the biggest of any home — the great outdoors beckons. And I suspect that boat camping is also diminishing, but likely motorized boat camping as more aventurous types turn as well to whitewater & sea kayaking in the great outdoors. There is much more challenge and allure from such "boat camping" when it also offers such as the Deception Pass Dash or surf-riding in a sea kayak!

The unique experience is still a best-seller, readily replacing the "same ol', same ol'" if we can just get out there and do it! Nature-based activities offer new sights & sounds for the jaded eye & ear. Even a mundane thing as paddling on the small urban Martha Lake can yield an experience not likely to occur while involved in facilities-based activities — novel, unique, & exhilirating experiences, sights & sounds such as

seeing two irridescent swallows playing tag with a goose down feather in the wind, — at eye level — while the geese sun complacently on a stump projecting from the water.

Out there, ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN! Let's get out there to experience it!

But what might I know, I was only editor for the Washington Kayak Club for a while and now living in North Caolina! God bless!

R. Carlos Cavazos

seacarlos@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/07 at 10:02 am | In reply to Chris Marsh.

Thanks … easy when we've experiences in the Pacific Northwest!

Rich

richhaydon@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 7:18 pm

(1) While this addresses "adults over 18," the demographics of that group are not stable, and we are an aging nation; rollerblading and soccer are giving way to lower-impact sports such as hiking and snowshoeing and so on because the median age is shifting, and that is a long term trend which will continue.

(2) The economy has been in decline or in the doldrums for over 6 years; in that time, sports which entail small fees (parking, fuel) and less expensive gear are taking a greater role in people's lives than sports which require a lot of expensive gear and greater fees. However, that may be a temporary shift. People at the lower economic levels would love to have their kids on a soccer, baseball, or swin team as much as more afluent parents, and with a slight shift in economics they may again feel able to do those sorts of things in greater numbers.

Rich Blake

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Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 2:15 pm

Individual communities and schools have taken much of the burden of support for organized activities away from the state. I don't even know why this is a question. There is no shortage of organized sports where I live, in fact I think it has increased greatly over the years.

State parks in or near urbanized areas see less use because of the Discover Pass, pretty simple math there.

Increase in natural activities seems to be proportional to the amount of REI, LL Bean and Columbia junk mail catalogs I get in the mail every year. I remember when the only people wearing Teva sandals and fleece were climbers and rafters. Outdoor 'adventure tourism' is a big industry, the explosive increase in outdoor 'enthusiasts' is testament to a successful commercial campaign to sell more gore tex, 6000 dollar mountain bikes, ATVs, pickups and toy haulers. I think it is called status through association or something. Boomers have money nowadays.

The more people are lured by the outdoor commercialism genie the more over crowded our areas become. At some point we either reduce use/access to mitigate over use, increase cost to reduce use and maintain funding with less patronage or increase opportunities to meet demand which is normally met with much land use resistance and budgetary demand.

It is difficult to not be totally self centered when discussing this subject. Seeing areas get over used and under loved or simply closed is depressing.

Rich Hillman

rhhillman@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2012/12/04 at 6:30 pm

I don't know that you are seeing a decline in organized sports. The fields look busy to me. Snohomish county is investing heavily to build on the Wellington Hills golf course. As for me, the kids are out of the house and I personally don't spend any time at

organized sports. All of my, and my wife's, time is spent in independent activities: hiking, walking, biking, golfing. We also spend a lot of time boating and fishing in the summer. We use the San Juan boat campgrounds and love them. I also spend a fair amount of time riding my motorcycle off road. For me, it's a lot more cost and time effective way to see the backcountry and be able to get to areas you would have a hard time on foot or horse.

Rocklynn

planner@townofwinthrop.com

Submitted on 2012/12/04 at 3:47 pm

I think it's a shift in lifestyle choices and good marketing by companies like REI. Organized recreation can be hard to fit into a chaotic schedule; nature-based recreation is typically more individual, offering more options for developing skills without compromising a team, and provide people a feeling of wellbeing. Nature-based recreation appeals to people's spirits of adventure, and helps people feel more connected to open spaces. There has been an increased emphasis on providing trails and open space, which enables more people to participate in those types of activities.

All that aside, I see that organized sports in developed recreation areas are still very important to large numbers of people. Declines in participation might be related to shifts in demographics. But it is always important to provide for a diverse array of opportunities to facilitate people getting outdoors and moving.

I disagree with those that say we should not be spending money on recreation facilities in this down economy. Instead, I see it as an investment in public health and preservation of open space which would be difficult to recover in the future. Demographics and emphasis on types of use may shift, but the human need to get outside and move will not go away.

Roger B Nelson

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Submitted on 2012/12/04 at 7:04 pm

I think the shift is us middle aged baby boomers are still healthy to get out in nature and in joy it in my case on mules and horses.

Ron

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Submitted on 2012/12/04 at 1:10 pm

Look, there has been a long run on purchasing land and improvements. The state is broke! We need to cut back in all land purchases and improvements, and let the income catch-up with the spending. I know this is not a popular position, but it is just simple math. We can't continue to spend and tax, without complete failure. I know all the do-good'ers reject this approch.

Ron West

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Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 12:02 pm

There are numerous reasons your studies show changes happening, and no one reason to cover all questions and answers!

Influx of population, many with large pocket books, many with less pocket books, economical status has changed many ways people have to spend their moneys, many have lost jobs, many taking huge pay cuts just to keep a job, many barely making ends meet. The cost of living has sky rocketed, despite what our government leaders want us to believe! If you want to enjoy the ways of the out of doors for excercise, togetherness of family, enjoying nature, etc. you make changes in your life style according with your income, especially if you have family members living at home, and/or are a senior with an income that does not increase to meet the overall cost of living.

Rose

roxanapeace@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/07 at 1:28 pm

I think perhaps while some of us have taken more and more to “stay-cationing” as gas and other costs have increased, we turn to nearby natural areas as a new or continuously enjoyable experience. As someone else pointed out, built facility based activites generally cost more. It’s cheaper and way more fun (for me anyway) to go for a hike instead of going to the theater. Just my two cents.

Ruth

mcintyr@wsdot.wa.gov

Submitted on 2012/12/10 at 6:18 am

money is the largest reason, even if the events at built facilities are free, there are always costs for equipment, travel and time. Outdoor sports that involve nature can be as cost effective as you want or need them to be.

Scott

scottf37@aol.com

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 9:26 pm

Aging population stopping team sports. People needing to escape more from other people – the madness of a growing population, poisoned politics, city pollution, ever-expanding bland concrete, ugly strip mall “architecture”, etc. Lower costs during a recession. Not enough soccer fields.

Sheryl

sheryl8185@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/16 at 4:25 pm

I am an equestrian – horseback rider – and definately do more riding and exploring of DNR land and other "backcountry areas" etc then i did years ago. The main reason is that my kids are grown, out of the house and I am no longer taking them to soccer practice and games all the time! I suspect some of it is aging population, but at least for me it is also an increasing desire to turn off the TV and other electronics and enjoy the natural beauty that we are so blessed to have all around us. It was harder for me to do as much of that – although we always did some hiking – when I was busy with kid committments.

Steve

stephenflow@comcast.net

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 10:36 am

I used to play a lot of golf and attended stadium level sports. Then kids came and spending 4-6 hours and hundreds of dollars on these things became inefficient. Mountain Biking and HIking took over. Fun, excitement, exercise, time in nature, stress relief, all packed into 1-2 hours for free (other than the gear).

I've seen a couple comments about soccer Mom's going away. Come to the Eastside and it's the opposite. Now it's the multi-sport Mom/Dad toting Junior and Princess to Soccer, Basketball, Swimming, and Karate in the same day. This is the extreme case but not an exageration. Multi-sport is the norm now and fields are needed more than ever. Issaquah Soccer Club has 3500 kids on rec and 50+ select/premier teams. Lacrosse is huge. Baseball is huge an lasts all summer. Football is huge (see Skyline HS). Basketball is 9 months.

And then throw in a trip to Duthie, the skate park, pool, and a round of golf.

I don't think kids are the answer to the question above as a reason for the change to "nature" sports. I think it's baby boomers discovering it takes good knees and backs to play soccer, hoops, and softball while hiking and biking are lifetime activities.

Steve D.

sdecoy@wavecable.com

Submitted on 2012/12/08 at 1:54 pm

I think cost and time certainly could play a role in this trend. The facilities based forms of recreation listed usually require a participant's fee, and to be done at a scheduled time. The nature based recreating activities are generally free once you have purchased your equipment, and can be done any time you want.

Tim S

tim.swartz@frontier.com

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 7:09 am

The economy has a large impact on recreation for most people that have to work for a living and the outdoors offers an inexpensive mode of recreation. As a Member of a Committee representing an Off Road Motorcycle Association our numbers have shown for the past several years an increase in participation just when you would think a decline was more in line. I attribute this to the fact that even if people are broke, they still find a way to recreate. In the 1930's during the Great Depression the business's which showed promise were bars and movie theaters.

Tom

tomstarr@mindspring.com

Submitted on 2012/12/13 at 1:51 am

When I was younger and less concerned about the future I did all the things that are decreasing!

But now boomers are no longer buff and everyone has seen their fortunes decrease so we are all doing the things that are increasing!

So surely age demographics and cost figure prominently here.

Tom Linde

tl@gorge.net

Submitted on 2012/12/04 at 1:32 pm

1. The interest in nature based recreation is a result of an aging population. Many older people remember the old days when nature based recreation was a major part of the growing up experience. Grandparents are a major factor in bringing the younger generation back to nature recreation. You can see it on most weekends during the summer grandparents are bringing their kids and grandkids out to rural areas. Growth in nature recreation will continue to grow and a problem is there is a limited number of facilities to meet their needs. Dispersed recreation is a major increasing activity and provides for privacy and a more nature experience.

2. The days of the organized recreation moms are over and and a decrease in these recreation activities are becoming less of demand. Cost is one issue, many of these activities have became expensive. Population dropping is another reason for decreasing demands. I think the major reason is high tech availability. It is to easy to just plug into games and activities without having to really be involved. The under served population has great demands for recreation but are limited by availability of funds and time. The underserved population also has different expectations and demands than outdoor recreation has provided.

In both cases TIME is the big issue for most people. Most families have both parents working and with budget pressures there is just not enough time and funds to contribute to recreation activities.

tom poste

tposte47@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/05 at 2:24 pm

I just could not let this go unanswered. I was reading a comment by “others” that stated that they had never seen anyone from the horse community work on trails.

If anyone believes that the horse community doesn't do trail maintenance you should go to the Back Country Horsemen of America, (315,442 Vol hrs in 2011) or BCHWashington (70,000 + vol. hrs. in 2011), websites and take a look at the many thousands of volunteer hours done annually. I personally average 250- 300 hours a year on the PCT and its feeder trails between Chinook and Snoqualmie. I also participate in "The Great Gravel Haul" at Capitol Forest every year wherein many members of several user groups such as hikers, equestrians, jeepers, quaders, mountain bikers, together, actively maintain those trails in the spirit of collaboration and cooperation.

Disparaging another user group that you obviously have zero knowledge of is not helpful to anyone.

Troy K.

TNKASPER@GMAIL.COM

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 10:16 am

It's all about cost. Outdoor recreation is cheaper than organized sports.

But are you asking the questions in regards to Adults over 18 or everyone?

Water Dragon

QQQQKT@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 2:12 pm

Very simply, people are looking for a connection to the natural world as opposed to an urban or competitive experience. Whatever the reason, we look to our public lands managers to respond to the changes. Recreation requiring facilities are obviously more expensive and the participants should pay to use them…enough to completely cover their cost, and even help pay for the maintenance of natural recreation facilities (trails, campgrounds, trailhead parking, picnic areas, etc.).

Thank you.

William G Dalzell

wgdalzell@gmail.com

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 2:28 pm

I think our society is changing in the way we form social groups and share activities. In my own experience there has been a shift in group activities and group forming dynamics with the internet as a gateway to more informal groups of folks with shared interests. Three of the activities you mentioned as declining were team sports; are we experiencing just a decline in team sports using established facilities or is participation in team sports themselves declining? Another question to ask is whether the use of these facilities by sports teams has become more cumbersome or expensive for them?

For the nature based activities, mobile electronic devices have made being alone in the wilderness less dangerous and off-putting. One can share one's experiences on-line as they happen in many cases, navigate with more surety and call for help more easily should the need arise.

Lori Flemm

loriflemm@comcast.net

We are not seeing this trend in Lacey. The Regional Athletic Complex opened in May, 2009, and we have seen enormous growth in baseball, softball, football, rugby, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, and still have a shortage of fields. I realize the research is about adults, but we have seen a drop in our teen trips/program registration for nature based activities, but I attribute it to the economy.

Anonymous

Input by the Moderator

Submitted on 2013.03/13

1. I think that many of the activities (soccer, baseball, football) listed are dependent on organized leagues and a group of people, vs. the nature based activities which can be a enjoyed by a single person or a few. With all that competes for our time, it is tough for a person to commit to team sports, or to find enough people to be on our team. Some park and recreation departments allow individuals to register for a team sport and be grouped together on one team. If everyone did this, participation might not be decreasing.
2. The economy has had an impact. The cost of team sports has risen over this time period. Field rental fees have risen. Many adults have had to forego participation to afford for their children to participate in team sports. Friends, who played in softball tournaments every other weekend, now play in one tournament a year.
3. Organized activities for Single adults to meet other singles are often nature based – hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing. The number of single adults is increasing. It is non-threatening to go on a group hike and meet others casually, not the same as sitting next to a 'stranger' at a movie theater.
4. Families want activities they can do together. Many families participate in nature based activities as a family vs. the organized sports which is often just one family member per activity. Dad goes to son's baseball game, while Mom goes to daughter's soccer game on Sat., but all four go hiking together on Sunday.
5. Affordable equipment is now available at retailers, such as Costco, and they are selling more nature based equipment. After being in a snowshoeing wellness outing, we bought affordable snowshoes at Costco.
6. Employer wellness programs have increased in the past 6 years – many offer nature based activities – kayaking, snowshoeing introduction, which employees like and then develop a passion for it. Stress reduction is a benefit of nature based activities.
7. Emphasis today is on extreme sports and activities. Traditional activities are not as COOL to post on your FACEBOOK page. I ran a 10k race – ho hum/boring vs. I was in a 5k obstacle course and had to crawl through mud…. "Survivor" mentality.
8. Weather: when you play in a league, you play the same day each week in all kinds of weather. You can pick the weekend you want to go backpacking based on the weather forecast.

ROUND 4 QUESTION

What about wetlands in recreation?

Wetlands, which in Washington are often marshes, swamps, or small ponds, are important for wildlife and for recreation – people go there to watch birds and wildlife or to hike near them. We have a two part question for you about wetlands,

1. Do you visit wetlands for recreation and why are they important to you?

2. What role should wetlands play in enhancing outdoor recreation?

Summary Observations from the Blog Facilitator

Sixty-nine comments were received from 65 people addressing this question. The Town Hall discussion revealed that stakeholders, when asked to consider the role of wetlands in recreation planning, are recommending that the RCO consider the various values of wetlands, their expectations and concerns for management, and definitions of appropriate use.

Values of wetlands. The people commenting on the Town Hall identified three broad wetland values that figure into planning: environmental services, recreation, and education.

- For environmental services they want us to be mindful of the importance of wetlands to issues such as stormwater runoff management, biodiversity repositories, groundwater recharge, critical habitat for fish and wildlife, water purification, etc.
- For recreation values they want us to remember that water features like wetlands are an integral part of the 'outdoors' in the Northwest, they are, generally easy to access, especially for the physically challenged because of their relatively flat topography, they support destination recreation activities

like bird watching, hiking, fishing and hunting, kayaking, and horse riding, and emersion in peaceful, outdoor settings, etc.

- For educational values commenters pointed out that wetlands are ready-made 'class rooms' for teaching about the environment generally and, particularly, about wise water management, etc.

Expectations and concerns. Recreationists expressed a range of expectations about access reflecting a core dilemma that managers routinely encounter—what is the appropriate balance between recreation development and preservation? Many commenters acknowledged this in comments recognizing that their access carries an impact but, at the same time, their access has important value to them. Another dilemma brought up was concern about or advocacy for multiple-use of wetlands for different modes of recreation (e.g., equestrian, hiking, ORV, bird watching, nature study) at the same site.

Appropriate use. Many commenters noted that recreation development associated with wetlands carries a management burden to prevent degradations. A typical comment was, "Recreational development should not hurt wetlands." At the same time other commenters expressed concern that access for the mode of recreation they prefer is too limited. Thus there is an unresolved discussion about multiple-use of wetlands. Commenters suggested use with conditions and explicit visitor behavior management as a possibly appropriate management approach.

Here are excerpts from the comments. A full reporting of all comments received is below these excerpts.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE VALUES

- "They have tremendous benefits – stormwater processing, habitat and 'lab zone' for biodiversity. I'm not sure we appreciate how much 'buffer' they need."
- "Wetlands recharge the watershed and provide habitat for fish, fowl , reptiles/amphibians and mammals."
- "Wetlands are critical habitat and are an important part of the 'water cycle'".
- "They are important water regenerators, cleaners/filters, buffers, dampers – on and on!"

RECREATION VALUES

- "I can't imagine being outdoors in the northwest without water in the picture and wetlands are an integral part of making this happen."
- "Yes, their characteristic flatness makes them ideal for walks with my elderly mother."
- "I enjoy riding my horse and watching wild life in wetlands areas."
- "I do spend lots of time near the wetlands during hunting seasons and the rest of the year to observe wildlife."
- "The main focus of these areas is to provide habitat, nesting and winter refuge, but we humans hugely enjoy the opportunities provided by access into them for wildlife observation and connection to nature."
- "…what a loss it would be if we and others were deprived of wetlands as part of our outdoor life. Including, of course, educational signs helping us understand what they offer and why they matter."
- "I love to hike and bird watch …"
- "It's great exercise in a quiet, peaceful setting which is what I cherish."
- "I visit wetlands often as I recreate as a hiker, kayaker and equestrian. I go there for the views and to see different sorts of inhabitants."

Examples of wetlands access that are potential role models were offered. One person likes the way wetlands access is handled near Arcata, CA, "In Arcata in California there are wonderful models:, the trails at the Arcata Marsh, full of birds, birders, walkers, and Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge."

EDUCATIONAL VALUES

- "Existing trails in or near wetlands should be high-priority candidates for maintenance and upgrading, and proposed new trails must be evaluated and sited to prevent adverse impacts on wildlife."
- "We need to have access for people so they can learn the importance of wetlands. Educational signs should be placed near areas so the public will learn about what is special about wetlands."
- "Hiking, riding, birding, hunting, fishing and other nondestructive activities should be encouraged to create citizen support for the preservation of wetlands."
- "It is important to continue environmental education to foster greater appreciation of wetlands and educate people about the value of wetlands."

EXPECTATIONS AND CONCERNS

Recreationists expressed a range of expectations about access reflecting a core dilemma that managers routinely encounter—what is the appropriate balance between recreation development and preservation? Many commenters acknowledged this in comments recognizing that their access carries an impact but, at the same time, their access has important value to them. Here are sample comments reflecting the way this was expressed.

- "I enjoy wetlands, usually from the shore and don't expect too much in the way of access."
- "I enjoy hiking around wetlands, but as they are fragile, trails should be carefully planned and rules enforced. The elevated walkways at Tennant Lake are a good example: they allow people to explore the wetland habitats and wildlife, while preventing unofficial trails."
- "A delicate balance of recreation and conservation, managed carefully to preserve the environment while maximizing the recreational value on a case-by-case basis, will best serve the public. Neither locking people out, nor allowing unrestricted use will prove the right answer over time."
- "For the most part I think they should be protected in as natural condition as possible, while a few areas are appropriate for boardwalks and education and group visits."
- "I am concerned that some agencies would rather not have to deal with the public on public lands."
- "Hiking in another state recently, a group of horse riders thought the creekbed was a great way to go up the canyon, they appeared to be lead by a professional outfitter?????."

APPROPRIATE USE AND CONDITIONS IF USE IS ALLOWED

Many commenters noted that recreation development associated with wetlands carries a management burden to prevent degradations. A typical comment was, "Recreational development should not hurt wetlands." At the same time other commenters expressed concern that access for the mode of recreation they prefer is too limited. Thus there is an unresolved discussion about multiple-use of wetlands. Some commenters suggested use with conditions and explicit visitor behavior management might be an appropriate management approach. The kinds of

prescriptions recommended were,

- "Recreational use of wetlands should work in concert with ecological priorities to ensure preservation and prevention of damage."
- "Recreation that damages wetlands should be limited – for example, motorized recreationalists should be fenced/directed away from wetlands, dog owners AND horse owners should be required to pick up after their animals, and hiking should be on raised walkways around wetlands and streams."
- "Wetlands provide a greater verity for viewing wildlife, but the access must be controlled to not disrupt the wildlfe."
- "It would be helpful if funds were made specifically avaliablble for restored wetlands."
- A wildlife photographer noted that developing wetlands access could be conditioned on whether or not there was an educational mission associated with the development "It is desirable for the citizenry to be aware of the exceptional role played by wetlands in wildlife conservation, and therefore developing access to wetlands, with suitable boardwalks and educational placards, should be a top priority in outdoor recreation planning."
- Visitor behavior management was mentioned by commenters, "The role should be "look, but don't touch". No stirring up the mud."
- "Most wetlands should be left wild and un-intruded upon, however peripheral areas would benefit from raised walkways (like Nisqually) and pedestrian/ADA access for viewing."
- "Access should be limited to areas where disturbance would threatened sensitive species. The use of ORVs, motor boats, any motorized vehicle should be limited at wetlands due to their noise and bigger footprint."
- "Because they are sensitive areas, trails and access should be limited and be discretely added with consultation with biologists and others."
- "I'd prefer wetland areas to be maintained and preserved as critical and sensitive environmental areas, with limited access. More access can be available at less sensitive areas."
- "All exisiting wetlands should be preserved and new ones made primarily for the benefit of the plants, animals, fish, and water in them and secondarily for the benefit of people who visit or who might visit a wetland for observation, education, or meditation."
- "Trails should not be placed on the direct shore of wetlands to avoid disturbing wildlife. Trails should meander from a distance, with defined spur trails leading to viewing platforms that connect to the shores."

Below are the individual comments received in response to this question:

Comments Submitted on the Town Hall Website

Matt Rose

mattrose@genext.net

Wetlands are an enhancement to the outdoor rrecreational experience. They provide an unique look nature from a different point of view, just like forests, mountains, and deserts provide their own view of what comprises nature. It is unfortunate that wetlands are often overprotected by well meaning planners and our ability to experience that ecosystem is compromised. There are obvious recreational activities like motorsports and sometimes equestrian use that could diminish the value of these unique resources, but for the most part the value of people enjoying them outweighs the risk of damage.

fred butler

fredb@issaquahwa.gov

Wetlands provide an opportunity to see nature up close. Interpretive signs enhace the experience.

Brad Conner

bradconner@gmail.com

My family regularly hikes/walks through wetlands (on boardwalks) near our home in Sammamish, WA. Wetland trails provide access for my toddler to get close to birds, plants, etc that live in the wetlands. Preserving wetlands and providing learning opportunities/signage help the next generation appreciate and value conservation. Please continue to preserve Washington’s Wetlands!

Brian Adams

briana@co.skagit.wa.us

“wildlife viewing around wetlands” finishes as a top priotity for people in our park surveys. Wetlands connect with adjacent uplands, creating an interface with two different ecological envionments. This “edginess” creates a zone where species from these two ecotones merge and specie richness is elevated as a result. Trails should not be placed on the direct shore of wetlands to avoid disturbing wildlife. Trails should meander from a distance, with defined spur trails leading to viewing platforms that connect to the shores.

The Moderator

fraid@earthlink.net

The following comment was submitted by e-mail and input here by the moderator.

I would like to comment on the State Strategic Plan for Outdoor Recreation.

Please consider grants for improvements to Cypress and Strawberry Island camping and buoy system as you work on your strategic plan. Cypress is on of the most popular destinations for kayakers, sailors and powerboaters up her in the San Juan Islands due to it’s close proximity to Anacortes, Fidalgo Island, Bellingham and LaConner. The limited camping areas are over-crowded due to the closing a the Strawberry Island camping area and the seasonal closure of Pelican Beach and Cypress Head camping areas.

I would like to propose opening up a new camping area in one of the small coves just South of Pelican Beach in the Bellingham Channel or better yet on the West side of the Island. It is my understanding that these are state DNR lands.

This would be a perfect use of state and federal grant monies.

Thanks for your time

mo323

moswenson@gmail.com

I visit wetlands for outdoor recreation. I think their primary role is as a wildlife habitat, but especially during the wintertime or on rainy days, they're a fun destination. Given their abundant wildlife, I think wetlands also play a key role in "recreational" educational activities, such as school field trips. Mercer Slough's a great example of this.

Rich Haydon

richhaydon@hotmail.com

Personally I recreate in wetlands (as opposed to recreating near them) a few times per year; flat-water kayaking, canoeing, bird watching, wildlife viewing and fishing would be my primary activities. I'd also note that wetlands are a key focus for a lot of hunters (duck hunting, etc.) Confluence State Park, Fish Lake Bog, Tea Pot Lake, UW Arboretum, Sammamish Slough, the Skagit Flats, and the Lake Wenatchee bog come to mind as good examples of wetlands that provide for recreation of a kind not afforded by bodies of water in themselves.

Wetlands afford a unique niche in recreation, different from strictly water-basd activities such as boating, sailing, water-skiing, and different from merely hiking along a shore.

Wetlands also have an equal though somewhat indirect importance for recreation as habitat, scenery, and rare species refugium that should be acknowledged. However, that is a bit different from using wetlands to recreate, as such.

Wetland recreation is an interesting case in that preservation of wetlands is fairly strong both nationally and within the State, but wetland recreation has not been a focus of much development. Access points, boat launches, handicap access, handicap fishing platforms, and water trails are all somewhat poorly represented. Wetland recreation has a great potential for growth if such infrastructure is improved.

Quimper Arts

quartzsecy@rocketmail.com

I live on Marrowstone Island and am an avid bird watcher here at Isthmus and visit Sequim frequently. I agree we need our wetlands and this season have enjoyed watching the swans in Chimicum valley that is now a huge lake. I walk, bike and ride my horse in some of the most amazing country I have ever seen, some of that being wetlands, private property and public. As long as the flora and fauna are not harmed by people observing I support building trails and creating parks, especially more trails for horse riders.

Jim Harris

jimharris183@yahoo.com

I support the intent of the wetland protection regulations, but while working as a state agency executive, I witnessed many occasions when staff responsible for obtaining project permits went to the ultimate extreme in environmental protection and project mitigation in order to protect their "creditability" with regulators. Combine this with the broadened interpretation of wetlands to included constructed water retention and irrigation run-off retention and the cost of trail projects has risen to the point that far fewer projects can be completed with the available funds. Many of the prior commenters, who enjoyed using trails near wetlands, failed to mention that many of those trails exist due to rail banking and federal protection of the corridor. Regulators and third party environmentalist have challenged those projects, with legal costs to the projects necessary to uphold the federal rights. I fully support the value of wetlands and regulations to protect them, but there is a need for a balance between the social good of wetlands and the social good of recreation. Environmental regulations were intended to protect the environment or mitigate development, but it is getting to the point it is counter to social health. I'm supportive of Governor Gregoire's comments on a need for a balance in regulations to create State budgetary health (economic growth), social health, and environmental health. Agencies responsible to protect the environment worry about third party legal challenges and seek to assure they do the scientific "best" to uphold their

responsibilities, but there is no forum for balance.

Herb Gerhardt

hgerhardt@wavecable.com

I agree with your statement in general, however, keep in mind that all of our water needs to go somewhere, so some of those “wetlands” I would really call RETENTION PONDS where the water can collect temporarily until it dissipates into the ground. It is important to have such “retention ponds” in order to reduce flooding which is another issue and of course, we need this ground water to replenish our drinking water supplies.

As far as going overboard on interpretations of the laws/court cases, I agree that especially public agencies and others take the ultra conservative approach in complying to avoid any court litigations regarding streams and silt in wetlands. That is part of our problem with the RMAP (Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans (RMAPs) Protect Fish Habitat) court decision in attempting to restore fish blockages. I have seen what our state’s DNR has been doing in attempting to comply with all of the RMAP requirements and in my opinion they have wasted millions of dollars in replacing culverts with larger ones or pulling them completely and decommissioning the roads. Then they also spend thousands of dollars installing silt fencing to prevent any silt from going into “wet lands” that I would consider “retention ponds”. Well I think someone needs to do a sanity check on the RMAP decision, however, that would require very costly litigation which might actually wind up being higher than just doing a lot of this needless work.

Cary Clemenson

cary.clemenson@bp.com

Agreed, we have gone so far overboard on the “wetlands” designation. Point to something in Western Washington that isnt wet? Everybody likes the wetlands designation until the state says “here is some on your land”. Its ridiculous, its so far

beyond ridiculous I can no longer take it seriously.

Kevin V.

chevykev@frontier.com

I may visit wetlands, but not as a primary form of recreation…

The problem I have with wetland designation is, any time a small collection of water appears even if only for a short time, there are those that are hellbent on designating said runoff as wetlands with NO substantiated evidence supporting it is or could be…it disappears when the weather dries out, therefore it is runoff/temporary! The other side of the coin is those with any power to contest this don't for fear of being sued…Don't get me wrong, there is a place for wetlands, and there is PLENTY of it…just not in EVERY nook and cranny of the woods, or town/community where water collects.

Robin Dobson

rdobson@fs.fed.us

Yes, I use and visit wetlands throughout the year for bird watching, educational purposes, botanizing, etc.

While it is important to make wetlands available for recreation, wetland function should not be compromised by such activities. This is the dilema we face: how much recreation can a wetland take before its function is compromised? Often the recreating public may only be alloted access to a small fraction of the wetland while the rest is reserved for its other inhabitants.

Marti Campbell

traveling.marti@gmail.com

All of our wetlands do not need trails and viewing platforms throug them or around them. The expense for this is great and the maintenence more so. Most wetlands

could have a gravel perimeter trail which would be simplier to maintain and ealier to construct. A few benches here and there are also enjoyable. With even a simple pair of binoculars most vviewers can spot birds. We do not need to be at the bird, and it is better to maintain our distance especially during breeding times and nesting. I live in Sequim, which is filled with nature lovers, and volunteers who build, and maintain several trails in our county. Get youur community involved in these pursuits, especially the youth so everyone has ownership of the project.

Yes, misuse and vandalism of trails, benches, signs is problemtic, but this should not be a factor in creating the greatest good for the majority who will use the area properly.

Marti Campbell

traveling.marti@gmail.com

Ilove to walk, or bicycle past aa wetlands area anytime of the year. I am a birding enthusiast and the wetlands are excellent places for all year long bird watching. My home development in Sequim is situated beside a designated wetlands that we all own a portion of as part of our propertuy. We are nor allowed to buildon it or alter it in any way. During heavy rainfall it becomes a shaallow lake and is filled with eater birds and birds that just fly over catching the insects that hover over the water. The birds also ingest mosqqioto larvae that begin there. The frogs move in, the local cyotes have a feast, so there is an abundant food chain. I love our neighborhood wetlands that would not be there had some developer sold the property. Most wetlands here in WA are easily accessible to drive to without a long hike. Please save our wetlands. All of nature needs them. Wetlands are shrinking globally. Migratory birds are finding their former wintering areas gone in Mexico, Central and South America, Africa, and Asia where I have visited rarely have neighborhood wetlands, thankfully the ones that remain are in designated National Parks or private reserves. We do not have the population explosion that those continents have so there is no excuse for us here in WA and the USA to continue to destroy our exixting wetlands and not strive to perserve or create other wetland areas.

Mark Levensky

mlevensky@comcast.net

All exisiting wetlands should be preserved and new ones made primarily for the benefit of the plants, animals, fish, and water in them and secondarily for the benefit of people who visit or who might visit a wetland for observation, education, or meditation. No public wetland should be harmed for the whim or benefit of people or companies or governments, whether for outdoor recreation or for any other reason. Good examples of wetland preservation which allows for and promotes non-harmful outdoor recreation are the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge near Olympia, the Hylbos Wetland in Federral Way, and the Hazel Wolf Wetland outside of Sammamish.

P Harris

pnrharris@gmail.com

Duck hunting.

Sharon

bermoo@gmail.com

We enjoy watching the birds at various wetlands around Olympia. We have even observed turtles at the McLane Creek Trail and wetland. There are numerous wetlands along the Woodland Creek and Western Chehalis Trails where my husband and I both enjoy bicycling. The wetlands are so close to us that we don’t even have to get in the car to enjoy the peace and quiet of these beautiful spots.

I can’t imagine being outdoors in the northwest without water in the picture and wetlands are an integral part of making this happen.

Delaine Clizbe

delaine918@gmail.com

Yes wetlands are important to recreation, however, not more important than other areas. Well built trails that allow for hiking and mountain biking should be allowed in wetlands.

This question is a bit vague. I am concerned there is more to it. Could the question behind this question be something like “should the State purchase more wetlands to conserve them for recreation?”. To that I would answer an emphatic “no”. There are so many regulations that limit any kind of building in wetlands that many of these areas have become unusable. The State should/could work with landowners in developing recreation opportunities in these areas but should not be actually purchasing them.

Another question may be, “should the State use tax payer funds to purchase “Conservation Easements” on wetlands”. Again the answer would be an emphatic “no” for the same reasons listed above.

Birds and frogs are fabulous, but so are prairie dogs. Just build some trails for hiking, running and mountain biking, I really don’t care where.

Ron West

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All wet lands are important to the ecosystem! They can be used as a learning tool to teach all of us the importance of our precious Wild Life Habitat. Whenever I’m viewing any wetlands, I’m usually able to enjoy sounds of various wildlife creatures as they sing, rustle in the bushes, watch them forage for food, watch the birds fly in freedom above the wetlands and not have to worry about the immediate surroundings.

Too often our greed to build more buildings & roadways destroy these natural habitats. Commercial developers have no concern, or wants for keeping our natural surroundings. They are too damned concerned with the “all mighty dollar!”

Our population growth has and is destroying our wildlife population, and their way of living. The wildlife was here long before we arrived!!

Daniel Keiley

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Great Thread, Great comments.

The NW corner of Lake Sammamish was home in the 80's. Developers were allowed to fill wetlands. Fill for one project was from SR 520 construction. The flock of Canadian Geese that used that wetland were displaced, can't say what happened to them. This practice was outlawed in mid 80's, no building or fill on wetlands, and many developments now have boardwalks, huge step forward!

Hiking in another state recently, a group of horse riders thought the creekbed was a great way to go up the canyon, they appeared to be lead by a professional outfitter?????. Us hikers gave them an earful and they thankfully turned back.

Seems like there are plenty of wetlands with gravel roads, trails, and rail trails, that work for horses. (I don't think horses do well on wet boardwalks). Signage, and placement of facilities to support horses where trails are suitable, seems like that is already in practice and should be continued.

WTA, Rails to Trails, Mts to Sound, and many others have done an outstanding job coordinating trail maintenance. Maintenance of wetland trails is more involved.

Our work is cut out for us.

Suzanne

sgrover@ci.washougal.wa.us

As a park and trail developer and former trail rider, I can say that doing anything near a wetland is a challenge. I fill out the paperwork and jump through the hoops to build trails through "sensitive" areas. These are fantastic places that we should learn from and enjoy. Given a suitable path to stick to, responsible human traffic (…even horse traffic) will not harm the wetland. Folks who want to enjoy these areas are usually conscientious about their actions. A responsibly built trail improves the wetland by providing a single path of travel for users, removal of invasive weeds, planting of

native material… we would do this regardless of mitigation requirements because it improves an already amazing place. I have seen wetlands filled, major creeks redirected, priority habitat trees logged, etc… all done illegally and the responsible party usually gets off easier than someone filling out applications and trying to connect the dots properly. Why is it so difficult to legally build a trail or boardwalk through a wetland or riparian area?

Tom Mix, Sequim

tom@cuttinggarden.com

I visit wetlands often as I recreate as a hiker, kayaker and equestrian. I go there for the views and to see different sorts of inhabitants. Trails can and should be constructed of durable surfaces to accommodate multi users and their chosen method of conveyance. I volunteer on many different trail crews and we repair and construct different tread to support the different user groups and to fit the surrounds.

I am concerned that some agencies would rather not have to deal with the public on public lands. USDFW comes to mind immediately.

Howard Ferguson

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I think wetlands are important – just look at all of the great comments!

1. Do you visit wetlands for recreation and why are they important to you?

I visit wetlands to bird watch. The diversity of birds and wildlife in general are often the highest that can be found – aquatic and upland species in one place providing habitat for both. I also visit wetlands to kayak and observe wildlife. I like to walk near wetlands because it is usually quiet, beautiful, and I encounter few other people – great in both early spring to see the early duck and birds and late fall to catch the late migrants.They are important water regenerators, cleaners/filters, buffers, dampers – on and on!

2. What role should wetlands play in enhancing outdoor recreation?

Public access to wetlands on publicly managed/owned lands should be a priority. It is important to allow access but also to protect. Be sure to plan with wildlife in mind – e.g., no around the wetland trail – make it only one side or one trail with a blind. It is important to continue environmental education to foster greater appreciation of wetlands and educate people about the value of wetlands.

Chris Resleff

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I hike and birdwatch in state wetlands, and have kayaked a couple of times.

As critical habitats for wildlife, and unique environments for careful human enjoyment, I believe wetlands should be an integral part of both conservation and outdoor recreation plans.

Lori Flemm

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1. Do you visit wetlands for recreation and why are they important to you?

I visit wetlands for recreation to kayak and observe wildlife and waterfowl. I like to walk near wetlands because it is usually quiet, beautiful, and I encounter few other people.

2. What role should wetlands play in enhancing outdoor recreation?

Public access to wetlands on publicly managed/owned lands should be a priority. Agencies have wetland protection regulations that are interpreted by the staff person reviewing the permit application, so what may be allowed in one jurisdiction may not be permitted in another jurisdiction with a similar ordinance. There is a “No people allowed” mentality encountered frequently. Over the years it has been a struggle to provide recreation opportunities in and near wetlands. Opportunities that lead to a greater appreciation of wetlands and educate people about the value of wetlands are

needed.

audra

aadelberger@yahoo.com

When our children were young, Foster's Island area in Seattle was one of our favorites. What a super place to see a wide variety of plant and animal life while getting outside for a walk and fresh air. We go less often now, but what a loss it would be if we and others were deprived of wetlands as part of our outdoor life. Including, of course, educational signs helping us understand what they offer and why they matter.

beccaroo

lostshopper@comcast.net

I love to hike and bird watch – wetlands are important habitat for lots of wildlife and are excellent places for bird watching. I thinks it's important to include wetlands as part of larger conservation areas for the connection between habitats. For the most part I think they should be protected in as natural condition as possible, while a few areas are appropriate for boardwalks and education and group visits.

Karen Johnson

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We enjoy hiking on the Nisqually Delta wetland area. It is wonderful to see all the different types of birds, animals, and plants there. It's great exercise in a quiet, peaceful setting which is what I cherish.

I believe wetlands provide an opportunity for the public to enjoy an area that they may not otherwise be able to see. I think it's important for educational purposes to reach people of all ages. The boardwalk at Nisqually Delta allows disabled persons to enjoy the area as well.

Darrell Wallace

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As a horse rider, I usually avoid wetlands because I know that hooves and bikes can cause damage to the trails. I do hike on wetlands, and I enjoy the more abundant wildlife – sometimes by hunting or fishing, other times by watching and photographing.

A delicate balance of recreation and conservation, managed carefully to preserve the environment while maximizing the recreational value on a case-by-case basis, will best serve the public. Neither locking people out, nor allowing unrestricted use will prove the right answer over time.

Walter Sholund

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1- Yes, their characteristic flatness makes them ideal for walks with my elderly mother. We both love the amount of wildlife easily observed in these areas. Favorites include; Nisqually, McLane Creek, and Union Bay-Foster Island.

2- Hiking, riding, birding, hunting, fishing and other nondestructive activities should be encouraged to create citizen support for the preservation of wetlands.

Linda Roe

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I like hiking around wetlands. The birdwatching is excellent, and there are lots of flowers in the spring. Wetlands can also be good places to go in the winter months when the mountains are covered with snow. Boardwalk trails and ADA accessable trails would be a good way to enhance these areas for outdoor recreation.

davis steelquist

drs98376@embarqmail.com

Yes wetlands are important, I look across them from my house and walk along them where there is solid ground.. however the best part is watching the birds, otters, weasels, and mink in the interlacing streams, the eagles, ravens, vultures during fish runs, and the snow geese and trumpeter swans in the winter.

Most wetlands should be left wild and un-intruded upon, however peripheral areas would benefit from raised walkways (like Nisqually) and pedestrian/ADA access for viewing. Walkways should have periodic benches for extended viewing and seniors to rest. They should not be open to bicycles, skate boards, roller skates of any type as these contradict the slower quiet pace of wetlands. wetland roofed overlooks would be nice also. I have no objection to duck and goose hunting, provided there is sufficient separation from bird watchers and other activities.. this is already partially accomplished by the early hunting hours.

Lys Burden

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We have some wonderful wetland natural areas in our small city that are enjoyed tremendously for bird watching, hiking and bicycling on trails that stay on higher ground, even occasional paddling. The main focus of these areas is to provide habitat, nesting and winter refuge, but we humans hugely enjoy the opportunities provided by access into them for wildlife observation and connection to nature.

Tom Fitzpatrick

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Trails in or near wetlands cost more to build and maintain (e.g. sometimes boardwalks are the only feasible design choices) but are vital for supporting education (both for school kids and the general public). I also think wetland views enhance the quality of recreation for trail users, regardless of mode of travel. Existing trails in or near wetlands should be high-priority candidates for maintenance and upgrading, and

proposed new trails must be evaluated and sited to prevent adverse impacts on wildlife.

Judy Tilley

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Wetlands recharge the watershed and provide habitat for fish, fowl , reptiles/amphibians and mammals. Last year we visited the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge near Spokane. It was done well with flat access for disabled folks and had many viewing areas with informational signs. We saw a moose, a beaver den, and many birds including cranes. There were few people there and it was peaceful. There was also one near Republic where on an abandoned RR right of way people could walk along the shore.

We need to have access for people so they can learn the importance of wetlands. Educational signs should be placed near areas so the public will learn about what is special about wetlands. Access should be limited to areas where disturbance would threatened sensitive species. The use of ORVs, motor boats, any motorized vehicle should be limited at wetlands due to their noise and bigger footprint.

We are photographers who love the diversity of life found in an area of wetlands, not to mention reflections and scenery. Because they are sensitive areas, trails and access should be limited and be discretely added with consultation with biologists and others.

Thank-you for allowing comments. To address your questions: 1. Yes, we visit wetlands for recreation (photography, quiet and solitude, scenery, education) and they are important to us for those reasons in addition to their natural functions. 2. Wetlands should enhance recreation by education and providing a glimpse into the many forms of life that call them home.

dick price

dickprice@nctv.com

I do a lot of work in the Columbia Basin on wetlands and the surrounding upland riparian zones trying to help improve the habitat for Wildlife. The major problem we're faced with here is the fact that a lot of these wetlands continue to fill with blow sand and dead vegatation, which over time eliminates the wetland.

To reopen these wetland areas requires a permit, which cost several thousands of dollars and an engineer to properly fill out the paperwork. I see this as an unneccessary expense when there was an existing wetland there and the project is to just reestablish it again.

In the Columbia Basin we are losing many of our wetlands because funding does not exist to reopen these small ponds used by wildlife for nesting and cover. They are an important element in the survival of many wildlife species.

Dolcideleria

christina@dolcideleria.com

Wetlands are critical habitat and are an important part of the "water cycle". I haven't visited a lot of wetlands specifically recently, but when I do I expect them to be quiet and restorative. I'd prefer wetland areas to be maintained and preserved as critical and sensitive environmental areas, with limited access. More access can be available at less sensitive areas.

Bj Hedahl

bjhedahl@hotmail.com

There's a sticker that came out recently: Trees ARE the view; so there is another; "Wetlands ARE the view"

Let the earth live and it will let us live.

Heather McCartney

hmccartney@ci.mukilteo.wa.us

Wetlands with low impact trails, trails in ravines and trails in open spaces are being heavily used in the City of Mukilteo. Our surveys show that access to waterfront and trails have the highest demand and support over the last twenty years. Wetlands are found in upland forests, on hillsides and along streams. They are being used by the pre-schools/daycares, Elementary, M.S, and High Schools for education. The community is using the public trails, wetland, fish passage projects for volunteer community guided walks. Incorporating environmental education into all sites has become a way of incorporating all the principles into residents and visitors everyday lives. It is a soft approach that has developed support for redeveloping projects that include Low Impact Development strategies into all types of projects.

slugsmasher

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Recreational use of wetlands should work in concert with ecological priorities to ensure preservation and prevention of damage. The priority should always lie in the environmental impact when discussing wetlands. Not every open area of the state needs a trail through it and I would be willing to give up use in sensitive areas in order to preserve the natural habitat it provides for plants and animals. Existing areas with trails and hunting opportunities that minimize impact need to be preserved and maintained in accordance with established standards.

Herb Gerhardt

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1. Do you visit wetlands for recreation and why are they important to you? Wetlands are crucial for wildlife and recharge of our aquifer. As humans encroach the wetlands due to growth, more escapement is required for wildlife and more areas are required to recharge our ground drinking water. I do spend lots of time near the wetlands during hunting seasons and the rest of the year to observe wildlife.

2. What role should wetlands play in enhancing outdoor recreation? Wetlands should be made accessible for people to be able to visit and enjoy them; however,

motorized access should be limited so as not to destroy this fragile environment. Wetlands should not be used for ORV use, there are plenty of woodlands that can be utilized for ORV recreation.

Tootie Crowson

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I enjoy riding my horse and watching wild life in wetlands areas. It's important that we maintain access to these areas for our enjoyment and the protection of these areas. People will want to protect what they enjoy.

Verna McLeod

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I enjoy hiking around wetlands, but as they are fragile, trails should be carefully planned and rules enforced. The elevated walkways at Tennant Lake are a good example: they allow people to explore the wetland habitats and wildlife, while preventing unofficial trails. I am a horse rider, but I wouldn't like to see horse-approved trails where they would damage wetlands.

Peg C

ramblin_rose@live.com

1. Do you visit wetlands for recreation and why are they important to you? Yes! They are an entirely different environment, with a fascinating array of life.

2. What role should wetlands play in enhancing outdoor recreation? I've hike many trails that cross wetlands on puncheon walkways and such, a very interesting feature on the hike. The role should be "look, but don't touch". No stirring up the mud.

Lunell Haught

Lunellh@aol.com

I visit them – for the bird/creature viewing and because they're along a trail I'm traveling. They have tremendous benefits – stormwater processing, habitat and 'lab zone' for biodiversity. I'm not sure we appreciate how much 'buffer' they need.

Brian Shay

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This question concerns me, as I am hoping there is not some proposed new regulation to require wetlands or prioritize recreational funding to projects involving wetlands. Living in a county such as Grays Harbor or most of Western Washington, we have plenty of wetland/wildlife viewing already in place & available to the public.

Nadia Gardner

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I value wetlands and all they do for us as people (as well as for wildlife). When I visit a park that has damaged or filled wetlands, I am saddened and am less apt to visit there again. Wetlands provide us with clean water filtration, flood/tsunami risk mitigation, salmon and other fish rearing areas (supporting the fishing industry), as well as great wildlife watching and photography opportunities. We should be protecting special places for their natural amenities as well as for recreation.

Recreation that damages wetlands should be limited – for example, motorized recreationalists should be fenced/directed away from wetlands, dog owners AND horse owners should be required to pick up after their animals, and hiking should be on raised walkways around wetlands and streams.

Recreational development should not hurt wetlands. We have damaged too many already. It should be placed in appropriate upland areas and infrastructure (bridges, raised walkways) uses to cross.

William G Dalzell

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I feel that wetlands are an integral part of the environment, necessary for the many species that depend on them. Most wetlands are small and easily polluted by human access, which can also cause unwanted disturbance to the animals living there. I enjoy wetlands, usually from the shore and don't expect too much in the way of access. It would be nice to be able to canoe or kayak on some to the larger ones at times that wouldn't upset nesting birds.

Chuck Cannon

chuckcannon@comcast.net

I do not visit wetlands for recreation. My family and I are more interested in spending our time boating, fishing, snowmobiling and riding quads. We want to see the state develop these type of recreational choices.

Mark Quinn

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Wetlands are a natural and functionally important part of our landscape and they need to be maintained and properly understood. I don't visit wetlands exclusively but expect them to be part of our natural areas, state parks, national forest and other public lands. The fact that wetlands attract and harbor wildlife is an additional benefit not overlooked by thousands of bird watchers, hunters and nature lovers.

Byron Stuck

nmatrust@hotmail.com

I only visit wetlands to the extent that they're located near where I go outside to recreate. I appreciate that they serve a vital function as a bird habitat as well as source of yummy mosquitos for the non-waterfowl! As part of the larger ecosystem I

see them as necessary.

Marion

mhk888@gmail.com

I would use wetlands trails if they were available, but so far have not encountered much in and around Kitsap. County. Possibly some of the trails at Clear Creek Park in Silverdale are what you have in mind. If so these are fabulous. In Arcata in California there are wonderful models:, the trails at the Arcata Marsh, full of birds, birders, walkers, and Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge.. Those parks are absolutely gorgeous and well beloved by residents of the area. I would absolutely love to have many such trail systems here. I think that the openness and surrounding wildlife of wetlands areas combine to lift the spirit no matter what the weather. The openness is an important feature since most local trails are dark and forested. And marshes are very important for the life cycle of migratory birds so we need much more restoration around the Kitsap Peninsula from what I know.

Ron

rcraig@willapabay.org

Just completed a design for restoring 500 acres of wetlands in Pacific county (Bear River). The first phase was completed in 2012.. Also completed a trail design to provide access to the wetlands for viewing the wildlife. Wetlands provide a greater verity for viewing wildlife, but the access must be controlled to not disrupt the wildlfe. While funds are avaliable for restoration of wetlands, there are little to no funds avaliable for trail construction. The cost for the trails are high because of the need to provide handicap access. To assure the access will not interfere with wildlife, the trail needs to be limited to a controlled path. It’s important to provide for interpertative sites, and assure the trail passes through the variety of habitats that are present. It would be helpful if funds were made specifically avaliablble for restored wetlands.

John Bremer

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Wetlands attract traffic. In my volunteer role as a land monitor for a land trust, my first purpose in visiting wetlands is to check for litter and report on vandalism. I take notes on native plants, birds and signs of animals.

As a citizen of Bellingham and Whatcom County, I'm aware of the failure of our local government over decades to manage wetlands that support our drinking water source, the Lake Whatcom Reservoir, and our Salish Sea through our heavily polluted Drayton Harbor. Our county government recently allocated $50,000 of our tax money to hire lawyers to resist the Growth Management Act.

Al Pelletier

sekiusweep@gmail.com

First, a working definition of wetlands is needed. I live in the olympic rain forest. In April and October, water may be "standing" anywhere or everywhere! It is difficult for me to imagine a recreation site that does not include water. (There may be some dry areas in eastern WA) Wetlands are possible sources of disease carrying insects and toxic algeas. Natural control methods should always be tried before chemical applications.

Andrew Reding

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I am a wildlife photographer and visit wetlands with great frequency. They are absolutely critical for the support of waterfowl. They are also critical for the support of aquatic or semiaquatic animals such as otter, mink, beaver, muskrat, turtles, frogs. Acre for acre, wetlands also have a higher rate of biological productivity than other lands. It is desirable for the citizenry to be aware of the exceptional role played by wetlands in wildlife conservation, and therefore developing access to wetlands,

with suitable boardwalks and educational placards, should be a top priority in outdoor recreation planning.

Chris Marsh

thehouseofccccc@msn.com

Oh and further more, I love the new commercial where the Governer says on tv that the Discover Pass is used to save state parks, come buy one and keep them open. Once again the ORV community has to spend money to maitain areas we cannot use and still have no where to go. Open up ALL State lands to the Public, not to the elite few.

Chris Marsh

thehouseofccccc@msn.com

Current Question – What about wetlands in recreation?

Wetlands, which in Washington are often marshes, swamps, or small ponds, are important for wildlife and for recreation – people go there to watch birds and wildlife or to hike near them. We have a two part question for you about wetlands,

1. Do you visit wetlands for recreation and why are they important to you?

2. What role should wetlands play in enhancing outdoor recreation?

1) in my recreation, I come upon wetlands and view their nature, if there is any to be seen. They really have no importance to me, but I do know they have an importance in nature and water run off.

2) I don’t know that it has a role in my recreational habits except that it shuts everything down. I believe to much money is spend in keeping the public from using their land than is beneficial.

ken

khoekema@prillus.com

I do understand that wetlands are sensitive and typically bird nesting areas. But, the wetland areas where I live (Little Spokane State Park) are closed to bicycles. This seriously limits my ability to enjoy the wetlands and seems to be a relic of past rules designed to keep noisy, motorized vehicles out of sensitive areas. Bicycles are not noisy or intrusive and should be allowed in wetland areas so that all users can enjoy the beauty of these areas.

tom poste

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Wetlands are a great place for the public to recreate. Because they ARE wetlands they need to be protected and people that use and or visit them need to be very respectful of them. We ride horses for the most part but liike being near the wetlands to observe the flora and the fauna at the different times of year. Fortunately there are wetlands practicly everywhere, giving lots of the “city dwellers an opportunity to actually observe nature without having to travel much. I am also a waterfowler so I have selfish motives as well.

Gerry Hodge

gnthodge@msn.com

We like to visit wetlands to birdwatch. The hikes are usually flat and short for the older people to get outside. A good wetland attraction is a regional draw—if the birds are there regularly, people will come from longer distances to view them. Wetlands should be included in any overall outdoor inventory, although the cost to develop access is probably higher than other hiking venues.

Leslie Bryson

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Wetlands are a vital part of our environment and must be protected. However, the public should have some level of access to wetlands for wildlife viewing and enjoyment of the natural environment. Wetland protection regulations have gone overboard in preventing appropriate recreational access to wetlands by creating extensive buffer protection areas and requiring onerous mitigation for any disturbance. If we don't plan appropriately for access, users will find their own paths, which will result in greater degradation.

Gus

skookumrdr@yahoo.com

Yes I visit wet lands, its the best place to duck hunt.

The more wetlands we have, the better hunting we have.

Bob

eulissrj@hotmail.com

Duck and goose hunting!

Mary C. DeVany

mdevany@earthlink.net

Wetlands are fabulous places to watch birds and enjoy other wildlife,; especially to observe plant and animal life that is peculiar to these settings. It is also a natural location to teach children about how different animals and plants fit into different types of biological habitats, and how without those habitats, these animals and plants may not be able to survive. I treasure these locations for my grandchildren. They put on their boots and have fun while they learn!

Anita Will

flyingdunfarm@gmail.com

I love riding near water and wetlands as there are more animals to see they are sensitive areas and rules need to be clearly followed making trails in or near these areas is more costly and take more work to keep them up but the views we get are worth it

Anita Will

flyingdunfarm@gmail.com

Hello I am a Horse back Rider and love trail riding one of the reasons there aren't enough trails Is the amount of work it takes to keep them usable. Volunteers are needed to help if you want more trails, are you willing to commit to helping keep them useable! It's Thousands of hours of hard physical labor most times with out the use of heavy equipment. Because of where they are located or the red tape it takes to get ok'd to use them. I know this for a fact as the mountain of paper trail to get Whipple Creek Park Trails restored has been huge. We Have put In Thousands of Hours already this year and will need to do the same this next year. We all want to use the trails but never have enough volunteers to keep them up. If we ride horses and or bikes & ATV 's this is especially true as we do more damage to the trails. Take a weekend off to work on the favorite trail you have it will make a big difference to getting more trails approved in the future. We need to do more Volunteering. Getting out and helping is a great way to stay in shape and give back at the same time. If You Can't Work physically then help staff the paper trail that needs to be done to get the work approved and find volunteers. It is amazing the time involved in getting new volunteers interested. There is always something that needs to be done

ROUND 5 QUESTION

Should we maintain what we have or try new things?

Public recreation managers have to decide whether to spend their limited money on maintaining facilities or on providing new opportunities by developing new facilities or buying land. What is the best way to balance between these competing priorities?

Summary Observations from the Blog Facilitator

113 comments were received from 110 people addressing this question. This Town Hall discussion revealed that stakeholders, when asked to consider competition between priorities felt, in the words of one commenter, "This is a tough one."

Several themes emerged in the comments beyond recognition of the tension between spending limited funds on maintenance or spending that same money on acquisitions while suitable recreation sites are available and affordable. These themes were,

More clients means more demands. Commenters also acknowledged that there are multiple kinds of recreationists and that, though difficult, government programs must necessarily address a range of client interests. One call for achieving such a balance was, "Recreation on public lands means different things to different people. No one group has more importance than another. Acknowledging this diversity is critical when making these decisions."

Sometimes, maintenance is required. There are laws that require the accommodation of maintenance need as a condition of creating a recreation opportunity. A government employee reminded us that, "The Growth Mgt Act requires that we estimate M&O [maintenance and operation] costs in our capital facility plans. Governing bodies are reluctant to develop new facilities if M&O dollars/resources

aren't available."

Develop or maintain—it's a question of balance. There were comments from people who think maintenance of current assets should come first, "Don't look at acquiring more stuff when you can't maintain what you have." On the other side of the issue were commenters expressing concern that there is a closing window of opportunity for acquiring recreational assets, "I feel acquiring new land should be of utmost importance. It is a limited resource that left unprotected will be gone forever. I look back to trails that I used to visit as a child back east, and most of them are now developed. Don't let that happen here." Many commenters called for a balanced approach. For example,

- "For public recreation managers, no either/or answer will be correct. There are many responders who advocate maintenance first. This should be looked at in an historical context (recent decades) when funding for recreation, parks, and maintenance has been slashed at local, county, state, and federal levels. The public recreation manager, like any manager, must keep a prudent balance between short-term needs and longer-term goals."
- "Over my 30 years in the public sector that included park responsibilities during that whole time, is that having a balanced approach pays off. We can't have only acquisitions nor just fund only maintenance. …The balance may change over time, but there still needs to be opportunity to redevelopment or add new, while retaining some money for maintenance."
- "I think there has to be a balance between maintenance, land acquisition and development. The State's population is expected to grow significantly over the next 20 years and additional parks and recreation facilities will be needed to relieve pressure on current resources and maintain the existing level of service."

Below are the individual comments received in response to this question:

Comments Submitted on the Town Hall Website

Eric

ejlindahl@comcast.net

Most of the budget should be for maintaining and keeping parks open that we have

now. But a significant portion should be used for opportunities to purchase land for future recreation. Priority would be unique opportunities that may otherwise be lost forever or where there is a particularly sympathetic owner who wants to sell to and preserve his land with the state parks. Most important would be land that adjoins current parks or connects parks or such as trails, wildlife corridors and abandoned railroads. Other priorities would be land that has some historical significance, land where future population growth would indicate a strong demand for natural park areas and waterfront and water access areas.

Though fees often cause me to go elsewhere I think there use for special purposes are reasonable such as current snow park fees, forest pass parking, park entrance fees, etc. It would be nice to combine passes for these fees into one super pass. I think this was done a few years ago with the National Park Service. I always buy a National Park Pass and it seems like a few years ago I had the option to upgrade for a reasonable amount to include State and National public land agency entrance and parking fees. I like this rather than being nickel and dimed every time I want to use public lands.

Mike Deller

mike.deller@tpl.org

The challenge in an era of scarce resources is keeping a balance between taking care of our existing public assets and acquiring new lands. The risk of putting acquisitions indefinitely on hold is that those potential parks, natural areas and recreational opportunities can be lost forever. Also, the current economic environment is favorable for land purchases, with prices depressed and the demand Our Washington population continues to grow, and our cities are getting more crowded. With that, the demand for public space for our citizens to enjoy grows as well. Take a look a many local, state and public parks and trails and it amazing to see how the usage has grown over the last decade. The demand will continue its rise.

Childhood obesity is at epidemic rates and we need to have appealing outdoor opportunities to get families outdoors to hike, walk and enjoy nature. Beaches, forests, and open space provide those opportunities but unless they are saved through

timely acquisitions of public lands there are few alternatives for most families.

There is no easy answer. The solution to strike a balance between funding maintenance & operations and new acquisitions is complex and needs a combination of federal, state and local commitments to make public lands for a growing population a high priority.

Erika Morris

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Given the current lack of funding for recreation on State Lands I would say that the priority should be maintenance of what we have. Purchase of land can preserve threatened places for the future, but again, resources are lacking. Development of new facilities is important in order to create opportunities for underserved populations and areas, as well as to meet the demands of a growing population, but the resources do not seem to be available to increase these opportunities. Please put our limited resources to work maintaining our existing facilities and making necessary improvements to these existing facilities in order to continue to make our existing parks and recreation areas available to all.

If increased volunteer maintenance of facilities can free up funding then purchase of threatened lands would be my second priority. Development of new facilities would be my third priority.

Mark Levensky

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First, maintain the outdoor recreation facilities that we already have. If we don’t, they will disappear.

Second, buy wetlands and willderness, primarily for Nature, secondarily for outdoor recreation.

Third, develop new outdoor recreation facilities only after we maintain the facilities

that we already have and buy what wetlands and wilderness we can.

Lora

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Washingtons water access sites are already crowded and in high demand, so it is clear that we will need more outdoor opportunities in the future. Wildlife is crowded out of developing areas, so purchase of habitat is important now while there is still an opportunity to preserve and connect important areas.

The state bonds require land or buildings. I guess that says it. Land is an asset, something that is durable and something for future generations.

I know that the agencies are suffering from the lack of maintenance funds. However, It is possible to find creative solutions for maintenance and engage citizens to help steward property. I think it is short sighted of the legislature to tcuts such relatively small programs. The demand is for funding for “education”. So much focus on education, but what better laboratory or study area than the great outdoors? Every natural resource agency is contributing to public education both directly through outreach programs or indirectly by providing open space for people to breath, think, enjoy, and learn. It is wrong to just think that giving more funding directly to k-12 schools is the solution when funding outdoor agencies ends up engaging kids and life long learning.

Nadia Gardner

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This is a great market for conservation and recreation acquisitions. There are limited amounts of buyers (especially for larger acreages) and many sellers and therefore, land prices are lower. Washington should use this opportunity to make strategic acquisitions, especially building on current land holdings.

Glenn Lamb

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Population projections show that Washington's population will double in the coming decades. The pressure that will be put on our remaining natural areas – for farms, forests, parks, trails and urban open space – will be great. The need for conserving these places is even greater. Property values are now reasonably low, and interest rates are at all-time lows. Now is the time for us to build more partnerships with citizen groups (like land trusts and friends groups) and to bond against future revenues to aggressively pursue acquisition of our remaining important natural lands. Increasingly, groups like land trusts will be able to bring private funds and landowner interest to the table.

Carol Davis

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The limited funds should be used to maintain what we have in the way of state parks and recreational areas. There is no point in spending our limited funds to buy new property if there is no money to develop that property. The argument that the government is buying property now for future use doesn't make sense. Our state has bought property in the past which is not accessible now because of lack of funds. The citizens of this state have bought a lot of property with tax dollars; this property should be open and accessible to all residents without having to pay an entrance fee. State parks are the last place available for poor families to go for entertainment and recreation; they should not have to pay for something that was once bought and paid for. Public lands are for the general public, not just rich people who can afford to pay for entrance into a state park.

perry barrett

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Limited dollars has typically been the world that most recreation and conservation

managers inhabit. In terms of government outlay, we have always competed with education advocates who cite state constitutional imperatives for more money, or similar claims from health and safety segments. This means trade-offs between maintenance and development of new assets is ongoing.

Where we win is building the broadest coalitions for meaningful outcomes. This is done by keeping conversations open with our advocates as well as the general public; surveying users and potential users, as well as maintaining effective inventories that prioritize need as well as identify new areas of endeavor.

People's preferences do change over time in recreation. Some assets are going to be part of the public's steady diet for recreation and nature enjoyment. New assets will be preferable over time as a reflection of desires among new users or users wanting new experiences. As for natural areas, conservation values are also imbued in public sentiment, and our public resources tend to increase when we can help answer society's need for protection of natural systems in tandem with increasing the public's enjoyment of those natural systems – a balancing act that cannot always occur in every instance but should remain an overall goal that is steadily satisfied on the whole.

Tory Briggs

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While it is lamentable that a fixed, if not dwindling number of ORV opportunities and trail miles cannot be expected to support an ever-growing user base, we have to spend our money wisely. The "forced overuse" over time (miles vs. growing user base) might lead one to ask for more with limited funds, my opinion is that the existing facilities need maintenance funds to counter the overuse.

This happens, now that I have read it, to tie in with the comment above. Start with finishing what you've started and taking care of what you have. Stretching insufficient dollars further lowers the overall quality of experience.

Nancy Alyanak

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Clayton Beach in Larrabee State Park is now closed to pedestrians thanks to BNSF Railroad's sudden concern with public safety at the shoreline track crossing. The public has walked across that track to access the very popular Clayton beach since at least 1923. Whether or not the sudden closing has any relation to BNSF's desire to add 18 coal trains per day to that single track is a question you will have to ask BNSF.

A pedestrian bridge over the single railroad track would restore and maintain the public's access to Larrabee State Park's Clayton Beach. This large piece of Washington's first State Park should not be lost it's citizens. Maintaining access to the park land we have comes before new ventures.

Jeff Chapman

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Recreation site planning should be done where possible, based on a number of factors. The goal should be to provide a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities that serve a growing active population while still providing opportunities for solitude. Follow through could mean maintenance, relocation, or expansion of facilities as well as some acquistions (in fee or easement) necessary to complete plans.

Emphasis should typically be on completing existing plans or projects over proceeding with new ones, all things being equal. Many of our cross-state/cross-county trails remain unfinished. For example, the Iron Horse trail still has tunnels to fix, trestles to surface, and trailheads to secure ownerships on. Similar situations for the Columbia Plateau Trail, the Olympic Discovery Trail, and the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. Let's finish what we start.

Rick

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I believe the recreational desires of the general population change over time. Recreational assets that are used should be maintained and those which are not used should be sold to raise money to acquire the type of receational assets people will use. Biking and walking trails seem to be increasingly popular and serve two functions: recreation and transportation. So how could the funds be combined from Recreation and Transportation to better serve the public with recreational alternatives to driving?

Reed Waite

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For public recreation managers, no either/or answer will be correct. There are many responders who advocate maintenance first. This should be looked at in an historical context (recent decades) when funding for recreation, parks, and maintenance has been slashed at local, county, state, and federal levels.

The public recreation manager, like any manager, must keep a prudent balance between short-term needs and longer-term goals. And the prudent manager will look at each case, locale, or issue as both a unique entity and as part of the whole system.

Flexibility is key; funding may come available for a specific purpose – say purchase of land – and if there is a policy of only maintenance, an opportunity may be lost.

The role of recreation in society is undervalued today. There's no immediate ROI of a child playing on a team, a teen spending a night under the stars, or a family exploring a stream, desert, or woodlot together. It is a hard sell to transform a rail corridor, now unused, into a trail, which may become an entirely different type of corridor that promotes bicycle commuting, walking to school, exercise for the full range of age in the surrounding area. Is this purely a recreational expense? Or are there ways to garner funding from transportation, health, education, and natural resource dollars?

Be wise, public recreation managers, and not blind to the many courses of action that can serve the public.

valente

fjmilan@yahoo.com

Both! It is important to be nimble enough to respond to opportunities and emerging recreation trends – that is part of serving the public. However, it is also incumbent upon the mgmt agency to balance 'new and shiny' with taking care of past investments. Part of that task involves education – educating elected leaders, budget influencers, and the public about life cycles of facilities (and to do so in way that is not always sounding the alarm or endangering public safetly). It is quite a dance, no doubt!

Chris Marsh

thehouseofccccc@msn.com

I want to ride!!!

nwducks

nwducks@frontier.com

Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation/RCO contracts require maintenance of existing facilities (note the "Deed of Right" that accompanies contracts), yet this contract requirement is woefully neglected. The original purpose of purchases cannot be upheld without maiintenance.

With more than 30 years of volunteering on state managed lands and managing a non-profit that provides volunteers for 20 years, it is quite clear that volunteer services require one or two full-time employees to manage, particularly because of legal requirements surrounding volunteer services. Volunteer services are unreliable and often skewed to one set of users with very specific interests. This often does not work well for "multi-purpose" properties, and leaves other maintenance work that still needs to be done to meet legal requirements.

If we don't have money to pay for maintenance of intended purposes, we should not be purchasing the property. While some properties require more maintenance than others, maintenance is required on EVERY property. Maintenance is a real cost on EVERY property. If you don't believe this, go chat with a local land trust in your area and find out what their annual cost planning is for EACH property they own or oversee. If government (or anyone) doesn't have the money for maintenance and property taxes (or payment in lieu of taxes), it should not buy the property. Simply, If you don't have the money to pay for it…it doesn't get done.

Remember also that all these purchases are made with tax money. Buying the property with tax money encumbers taxpayers with paying for the ongoing maintenance, in perpetuity. We cannot continue to buy properties and continue to encumber taxpayers with maintenance costs. It is a never ending drain of taxpayer moneys. The only other option for maintenance of more and more properties is more and more user fees. User fees require users. it is a fact that as fees rise or become more numerous on different properties, the number of users decreases, and we end up right back where we started with a lack of required maintenance. Maintain what we have, stop the financial bleeding of buying more properties that require more money to maintain!

Mike Reed

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In a time of tight finances maintenance must come before new projects. Why have a park if its resources are non-functional or dangerous to use?

Tim

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Maintenance FIRST! One of the biggest reasons a trail is closed for ORV use is due to lack of maintenance. As much as I would love to have "NEW" areas to ride my motorcycle in, I certainly do not want to lose ANY of the places I currently ride in. If you cannot MAINTAIN what you have, please do not go into DEBT or STEAL funds

(NOVA) from an agency to acquire new property!!

Richard Pratt

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Maintenance should be 1st, but should be at a lower level. State Parks waste so much money just on unnecessary mowing of grass. We need to keep up the infra-structure, but not waste on the frivolous.

Steve

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State Parks should focus on providing universally accessible basic outdoor recreation access, preserving unique natural and historical sites and providing associated information and educational services.

Leave wifi, phone hookups, cable TV, commercial enterprises and other higher end "camping" features to the private sector.

Turning State Parks into more highly developed and more expensive commercial business enterprises goes against the basic reason for government service, providing equal access to essential services, and diminishes the natural and historical value or publicly owned sites.

Louellen McCoy

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Maintain the wilderness. No commercialism, or internet access. If that's what people want, let them go elsewhere. Preserving wilderness for the public to have a wilderness experience is what it's about.

Kate Marek

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I live on Orcas Island and Moran State Park is our little gem and alot of us use it on a daily basis. I'm old school growing up camping, fishing, hiking, reading, listening to the Mystery Hour around the campfire, etc. Buying up land and then not having the funds to maintain it doesn't figure. I would like to see what we have maintained as in trails, fish reproduction, keeping down the fire danger by extracting downfall fuel, campground with access to clean facilities and water sources. We don't need to bring in things for additional entertainment…it's already there and has been for years. Safety is also a big issue especially here on the island. Access to emergency services would be greatly enhanced with cell coverage in the park. I really don't want to see a ridge of towers but time is usually limited when trying to get an injured person out to medical treatment and to be able to have cell access might be the difference between life and death. Plus a closer helio-pad to transport if necessary. Keeping it simple in this age of technology is tough one to figure but necessary to maintain some simplicity in our lives.

Dave

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If you can't maintain what you have, you can't afford something new.

slugsmasher

slugsmasher@oakharbor.net

If maintaining what we have means maintaining the grants supplied to all the groups which support recreational opportunities then this is the absolute priority. Nothing else matters until local groups and communities are sustained through appropriate funding. A majority of the best recreational opportunities and trails in the state are maintained by these groups that receive grants. I believe the questions are too broad in scope when referring to the budget and where it goes. More definition is needed in what "maintaining what we have" means. Building new toilets and parking lots is not

what I think most people here are interested in.

It is interesting to note that within the anticipated grant funding, the NOVA grant is in the lower percentage of available grants among all the grant program areas. Many off highway road maintenance projects are funded through the NOVA program. Without adequate funding many roads which are used to access trails for other activities may not be consistently maintained. Although they do a lot of work in this regard, volunteers cannot be expected to take care of everything.

Chris Marsh

thehouseofccccc@msn.com

it is attitudes like mjvande's that creates the levels of hostilities of user groups.

If you want to see a case of heavy erosion…..look at Mt. Si, and it was all created by HIKERS.

With that mentallity we might as well close everything to everyone and we can all enjoy nature from the Nat. Geo channel.

I would hope that you sit at you land destructing home not do anything. because everytime you step outside, you harm the environment, everytime you use electricity……you harm the environment. The only benefit we have to the earth is that when we die, we become fertilizer.

And by the way, lots of people have fun in Rock Quarries.

Robin Nicholson

songbirdranch@hotmail.com

we need to maintain whatwe have but buying land when the oppertunity arises sounds like a good idea

John Traeger

john-traeger@comcast.net

A balance is the best course. While new facilities will have to be gradually acquired or built over time, there is an opportunity to let volunteer groups take ownership of trails and do both building and maintenance with background supervision by the agency. The current approach of overbuilding every failed bridge in the backcountry is expensive, wasteful, and makes restoration efforts so inefficient that the resources can't keep up. And the tendency to over design trails and micromanage volunteer trail crews limits their enthusiasm and ownership of a trail. If you channel the volunteer passion correctly, you'll be surprised at what can be accomplished.

Keith Cunningham

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Maintenance is essential to providing future growth. Lots of people visit the area and seek out local knowledge to provide insight on which trails to hike, bike and recreate on. If we use the current funds to help these areas stay maintained, they will flourish. Partnering up with local land-user clubs and groups is a great idea. These groups help relieve the financial strain by providing volunteer labor work forces as well as maps and signs to help keep trail users happy!

Colin tobin

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Please try new things. Partner with local voluenteer user groups to reduce resources and cost allowing new areas to be developed and old Recreation areas to continue on as they are, possibly better maintained than they currently are.

n hodge

nbhodge@oz.net

w/o knowing the amount of funds you have to work w/, i would encourage investing

in new opportunities along w/ maintaining facilities & land you have. take advantage of user/maintainance programs in areas where it has proved to work & encourage getting it up & running in other areas. don't spread yourself too thin & let areas suffer getting into new lands.

AC

anthony.cree@gmail.com

If an opportunity is available to purchase land that will add value (whether for recreation or timber use), it should b prioritized over maintenance. I agree with others that maintenance is important, however it can be done using volunteers, and deferred at times. The opportunity to purchase certain parcels are one time deals. There's no reason to purchase land unusable for recreation or timber though. For example, an undevelopable wetland may as well stay in private hands.

+ 1 to everything Darcy said.

-1 to everything mjvande said

Durlyn Finnie

alohadurlyn@yahoo.com

I believe we need to plan for the future and determine what is needed so purchases can be made to secure properties for recreation while our population grows. Continuing to maintain what we have is critical, but designs for sustainability can help with this. Users should help with maintenance and will given proper information and facilities.

Mike Westra

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The answer isn't "either or" or even "a balance between the 2". We can and must do both… better and at a lower cost. How? 1) Empower volunteer groups, 2) Define

maintenance, 3) Use the resources we have more efficiently.

1) Empower Volunteers. We can only really unleash the power of volunteer groups when we give them some kind of ownership of something they care about… a trail, a climbing wall, a stream, etc. Set high level standards and objectives and let them run the show. Supervise in the background. The passion and community building goes up by a factor of 10 and so does the quality. It's way more than just the increased labor hours. They won't get it right the first time, but they will keep coming back over and over until it's awesome. On the other hand, if we simply invite them to a work party and tell them what to do for 4-6 hours, they'll do just that… great labor, but you'll miss out on the real value, passion and creativity of volunteerism and community. There are so many volunteers out there that are dying to take on this kind of responsibility… we just need to give them the canvas.

2) Define Maintenance. Maintenance on a backcountry trail isn't the same as on a nature path through a suburban park or on a paved Velodrome track. We don't need to replace every failed bridge with one that is 10X wide and 100X as expensive. We don't need to buy and haul in foreign materials to "fix" every problem. We often end up spending way too much money on what ends up being a diminished experience. Risks are inherent if every outdoor experience… whether it's bird watching or kayaking rapids. Balance the sterilized "safe" experiences with rugged natural experiences. Let the user groups speak up on what is the appropriate maintenance. The lawsuit crazy days of the late 70s and early 80s are over. With WA's recreational land use laws, land managers are VERY well protected.

3) Use Resources More Efficiently. We have tons of unused land. Use it appropriately! Don't shut everything out of it. Don't shut down trails. Open up new ones. Let user groups create new valuable recreational resources. Open up more trails to more user groups. For example, there are hundreds of miles of existing trails in WA that are rarely ever used and are overgrown… yet they are closed to Mt Bikers.

dick price

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I believe that emphasis should be placed on maintaining what we have, with an eye on obtaining critical properties that add to an existing property. With the funds currently available the upkeep is barely keeping some of these properties usable and many are falling behind the upkeep necessary for them to be usable.

I also agree that unnecessary regulations make the cost of obtaining and maintaining a property are stupid. We have let the government take over to much of our own ability to make common sense decisions.

SingleTrackMind

It's much easier to maintain than to build new. The state already has plethora of poorly maintained trails and facilities. If you build more you're only going to make it harder to maintain the existing. The state should reach out to various outdoor recreation groups and clubs for cost effective trail and facility maintenance labor. Perhaps offering free parking/camping for participation in maintenance activities would increase public involvement.

Scott Smith

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Having worked with the DNR & various parks dept. projects, I fully agree with Darcys comments above. Maintenance of existing, and creation of new recreational opportunities, should not be mutually exclusive. Especially when there is a broad base of volunteers who are ready and willing to assist with both. If there are not volunteers willing to assist with a particular project, then perhaps that project should not be a priority. The obstacles against volunteers, all too often, seem to be bureaucratic- drawings required for trail construction, excessive review & permitting processes, etc.

Bottom line, new or existing, recreational opportunities should be a partnership between users and public recreation managers. If users aren't stepping up to help, then any money & resources should be re-allocated projects where users are willing

to help. And by help, I mean do the work, not just offer feedback.

Glenn Carlson, Commissioner, Port of Grapeview

portofgrapeviewglenn@yahoo.com

It is my opinion repairing is always preferably to tearing down. Many times older structures add character to the surrounding communities.

TNA

maday22@hotmail.com

I feel acquiring new land should be of utmost importance. It is a limited resource that left unprotected will be gone forever. I look back to trails that I used to visit as a child back east, and most of them are now developed. Don't let that happen here.

With that said, existing structures and trails need to be maintained. With limited funding land managers need to capitalize on the manpower of volunteers rather than pricing users out of existence with escalating user fees.

Jason B

jbabcock@uw.edu

For the folks who claim, "that good volunteers are too scarce to be counted on for significant maintenance" I think you're disregarding the capabilities and the capacities of your neighbors. There are extremely well run volunteer organizations (WHIMPS in Bellingham) built around recreation that are more than willing to provide manpower so long as it benefits their hobbies.

There are countless user groups (hikers, hunters, fishermen, ORV users, equestrian, birders, mountain bikers, trail runners, etc) who can bring hundreds of man hours into the outdoors if the opportunity is present. Providing sweat equity benefits both those using a location in the form of good PR, and the land managers. Public lands management does not have to be an either/or scenario if those charged with

managing the land can effectively solicit the support of those who have a vested interest in recreational opportunities available.

Opportunities exist to obtain extremely valuable locations like Galbraith Mountain in Whatcom County, where countless hours have been “donated” by user groups to maintain and upgrade the usability of areas that also protect important watersheds and limit sprawl.

Matthew Shelton

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DEVELOP BETTER VOLUNTEER SERVICES AND COORDINATION

Creating new opportunities for recreation is less costly and will even bring in revenue for the various activities provided when you partner with volunteer organizations that are active in local communities. Maintenance should not fall solely on the parks staff, but shared by the community that recreates in the area. If you maintain the status quo, that is all that will exist. It is time to start thinking outside the box or else that is where we will stay. A vicious cycle of de-funded parks and fewer and fewer opportunities await if the active user base is not tapped.

Lys Burden

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I agree balance is important and would like to see existing facilities maintained, if they are being well used or enable special outdoor experiences OR if they can be maintained by active non-profit organizations. I just heard about 4 horse camps that were closed because they were so little used, but the horseback riding community was willing to maintain them. This action does not make sense. If we have willing non-profit partners who are able to donate maintenance labor and funding and sign maintenance contracts, these are wonderful public-non-profit partnerships that need to be pursued BEFORE trails and facilities that provide excellent outdoor experiences are closed.

William

reson46@gmail.com

I will try to remain courteous in my comment, but feel it is very appropriate to express my contempt that you feel this question even needs to be asked.

When funding is limited the priority is always maintenance.

The fact that the RCO even asks the question speaks to the fact of how mismanaged our government's priorities and finances are.

danny stineback

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you must keep up the sites you have now. Good management can do both. knew sites are good to. There are more people wanting to use the outdoors now and that is good. I ride mules in the mts., these trails are important to me. I do my fair share of work them, don't mind doing that, This will help with maintenance in my area of interest.I am a BCHW member. I do help out other club with trail maintenance(wta, pcta).

Marion

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I'd suggest rethinking and simplfying what state parks undertake. State Parks simply should not be supplying every recreational option that someone can dream up. Out with the huge mown lawns, ball fields, wi-fi campgrounds and motorized playgrounds. Give back the original vision of preserving a wilderness experience, and indeed of preserving wilderness that has vanished from the state parks I know. All other developed activities beyond simple hiking, horseback riding and camping can and should be provided by the private sector or local government. .How has the state gotten itself into the situation of being recreation director for the population? If there

are dedicatedl taxes to support special recreational interest groups, these should be revoked. I am sure these groups will be served by private entrepreneurs if the state gets out of the business.

Land acquisition for parks is often a one-time opportunity, never to come again as wilderness vanishes to population pressure. I don't see how further acquisition can be ruled out although not hotly pursued.

Victor Alvarez

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If you cannot afford to maintain your current facilities, you have no business developing additional facilities which you also will not be able to maintain.

Fabian White

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Maintain what we have "arguably" already committed to in the first place by building/acquiring it. With that said however there should be some type of regular review cycle/process for each facility to gauge it's continued usefulness by the users. No sense in spending money keeping up a "widget" park that hardly gets used anymore because it has fallen greatly out of step with current motivations of users, eg. trail running, downhill mountain biking, climbing/bouldering, etc. Our parks need to be more reactive to capture the business when it happens much like any good retailer does. If there is a huge upswing in snowshoeing year after year, then shift investment there from whatever has been steadily decreasing. Snowshoeing may only be popular for the next 10-15 yrs so capture those eco dollars now while you can until the next big surge of whatever may come? This is where re-purposing an entire facility could make sense??? Convert an old outdated campground into a frisbee golf park and don't be afraid to charge a small green fee for usage? If its worthy, people will pay. (I grew up near Balboa Park in San Diego and can tell you, my friends and I paid several hundreds of dollars over the years in green fees and concessions sales to

play 18 holes of frisbee golf on weekends.)

Rich Haydon

richhaydon@hotmail.com

There certainly needs to be an emphasis on maintenance. New projects should generally address under-served user types, populations, or geographic areas. Long-term maintenance needs are currently not being met, and every new facility adds to that burden of a growing backlog.

Having said that, new types of recreation keep evolving, as do new ways of serving different groups. Relatively new or newly popular sports (such as mountain biking) may lack sufficient sites. At times land becomes available for a new uses (e.g. rail to trail opportunities, the re-designation of surplus public lands, or expired rights-of-way.) And at times other activities create new needs or options (such as providing for population growth or expanding urban areas, or mitigation of activities such as wetland disturbance, new land development, or other public projects.) Opportunities such as these should not be ignored simply because resources for maintenance are stretched thin.

But in the end, maintenance backlogs and growing short-falls in future funding can't be ignored, and the bulk of funding must necessarily go to maintenance.

Darcy

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As someone who has developed a grant for a new facility through our states "system" it seems that standards and expectations are way too high: paved everything, uber-wide trails, fancy $5000 porcelian-enamel interpretive signs, works-of-art signs, lodge-like picnic shelters. A concrete pit toilet costs nearly $20,000 (single stall!). Combining regulation–fire flow, water, ADA, septic, government bid rules, prevailing wage, SEPA, NEPA etc.–with a highly asthetic design has pushed the price for anything new through the roof. Then maintenance is outrageous–partly due to overregulation.

Just keeping up a water system requires constant expense and testing. We need SIMPLE improvements like dirt trails, foot logs, picnic tables and gravel parking. After applying for a state grant, I could see the uber-manicured urban bias in the system where each tree was planned, each path paved, with vintage lightpost costing thousands at every turn.

Its not that hard; we used to do this all the time. Trails in the past, that have been used for centuries, just "grew" as animals and people found the easiest way around, but today we fight them and with a vengence. Native plants instead of landscaping. Stepping stones instead of bridges. The DNR is better at this that state parks. Old fashioned USFS-style campgrounds with a few wide spots and an outhouse. We do not need to micro-manage visitors. either. I just burns me up when a park claims that they will be "closed" because someone isn't employeed to be there 24-7. The USFS manages to have millions of acres open without babysitters and recreationists still survive. Admin and paperwork like monitoring the Discover Pass just wastes money that should be put on the ground. We can have more recreation opportunities, and maintain what we have, but we need to streamline rules and regulations that add expense, use more best managment practices, more local volunteers and ownership and KISS more–keep it simple, stupid.

Matt S.

moswenson@gmail.com

Maintenance first, definitely. Well-managed facilities will inspire more outdoor recreation, but if staff and resources are spread too thinly, visitors will see overflowing garbage cans, deteriorating trails, and unsupervised partying, and never come back.

Gail Rase

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My opinion is to maintain existing facilities. If there are underused facilities assess what to do – close them, sell them or make another use of the facility, after public

assessment has been made. Similiar to school districts decisions to close schools based on need and enrollment.

Volunteers could be utilized to maintain existing facilities – example Adopt a park programs.

Acquiring new lands and facilities is a difficult question. If there is an infrastructure in place or established to assist in the maintainance, builiding, grant writers, WSU extension,county,city or other agencies willing to participate, then the decision should be carefully examined. Some times these acquisitions would be a once in a life time opportunity with the need to protect or preserve for future generations. A current example would be Newberry Hill Heritage Park in Kitsap County. It can be explored at http://www.friendsof nhhp.com or http://www.kitsapgov.com County Parks. I was against this acquisition but it has been a success because of the steward group, involvement of the Washington Extension Service and Central Kitsap School District, with critical habitat with wetlands having been preserved, with an ecological opportunity for learning.

Overall I am against new acquisitions unless its future value can be assessed and there is community and/or multi agency support.

Sharon Wilhelm

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Maintenance is far more important than trying new things. We need to keep our parks and recreational areas in good condition so that people will continue to value them. We should lobby our legislators to fund our parks the way Oregon does – their parks are terrific.

I'm afraid that good volunteers are too scarce to be counted on for significant maintenance. There are fewer and fewer people these days who have the time, interest or ability to volunteer in a consistent way. Groups such as the Boy Scouts or the SCC might be asked to work on a specific project, but I believe the day-to-day maintenance would best be done by paid park staff.

beccaroo

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Definitely maintain what we have. Do not cut back on maintaining existing properties. That has negative spin-off effects, as well-stated by Brian Shay. If expansion is an option with any "extra" funds, I think focus has to be on very strategic acquisitions – acquiring land that is of high environmental quality for conservation and passive recreation, or land adjacent to existing properties.

Tom Fitzpatrick

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"A park is wildlife habitat, period" is kind of a rigid and not very helpful formulation, I think. Likewise hating on particular trail/open space users. Especially since you don't live in this state.

To the question at hand, I hope the present state of public sector budget tightness loosens up in the next decade. Yes, we need to take care of what we have, but this is a growing state and we need to be open to expanding the open space base: for habitat protection as well as recreation.

Dolcideleria

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Maintenance first. Then buying new land to protect. Even if that means that opening that land for recreation has to wait. No one can enjoy that land if it's developed for business or residential purposes.

Byron Stuck

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I'm fine with balanced … but there's a particular strategy that seems like it makes

more sense than just “spread some over each”. I’d invest in staffing only where volunteers can’t help, and otherwise would invest in new opportunities.

For staffing costs for maintenance where volunteers can help, fund only what it takes to support volunteer organization (a leader/recruiter/instructor). That applies to trail maintenance as well as investments in trail construction. Where volunteers can’t/wouldn’t help (fee collection, latrines, enforcement, routine trash services). Otherwise, invest in providing new opportunities, especially trail mileage since very few geographic areas are “built out” with trail mileage to their full potential.

Gus

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I think in the current economy we need to focus on maintaining existing recreation opportunities, in addition we need to analize existing facilities and close under used facilities. This will free up money to expand existing infrastructure or provide completely new experience the public wants in the future.

Kim

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We need to devote our recreation resources to maintaining existing land and facilities, not to aquiring new land. Those dollars seem to be stretched thinner every year, and not a year goes by that we don’t hear about planned closures of existing facilities because the dollars are not there to maintain them.

Sharon Sorby

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I believe maintenance is critical to showing responsibility for the tax payer’s investment into recreation facilities. That said, new facilities are still warranted. All facility project proposals should include a longevity and maintenance schedule; and

all facilities should have a maintenance plan before any new proposals are accepted

K. Meyer

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Balance is key. We should maintain what we have and charge reasonable access fees when necessary. When people have to pay a small fee to use parks and campgrounds, there's a better appreciation of the cost to maintain our limited natural resources — I know we pay taxes, but the connection isn't as obvious compared to an immediate fee and usage experience.

Ed

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Lets say I was planning to build a new garage on my property. But before I broke ground on the the new garage, the roof on my house starts leaking.

If I don't fix the leak it will start to ruin the rest of the house (roof trusses, interior walls, carpeting, furniture, etc). The longer I put off the roof repair, the worse it will get.

I really want to build that garage but I don't have the money to build it AND fix the roof.

I would choose to fix the roof and protect the asset that I already have.

The same logic can be applied to maintaining exisiting recreational assets or building new ones. Maintenance on many existing facilities has already been put off. I think we should fix the assets we have before starting new projects.

Brian Shay

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Maintenance must always come before expansion or something new. Nothing is worse

in a community than deterioriating public facilities.

Kurt Reuter

kreuter@cityoffife.org

I believe a balanced approach is necessary. We need to be good stewards and maintain our current infrastructure. This demonstrates to the taxpayer that we do take care of what we have and that long term sustainability of those facilities is important. Next we need to look at making strategic acquisitions of property that make sense in relationship to the long range plan and goals of the agency. As opportunities to acquire land continue to diminish we cannot forget that the access to public parks and open space must grow along with our population. Lastly, a balanced approach to land acquisition must be taken. Recreation on public lands means different things to different people. No one group has more importance than another. Acknowledging this diversity is critical when making these decisions.

Bret Wilson

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Land purchases aside. Yes, we should maintain what we have and yes, we should try new things. That does not mean abandon what we have and stop the maintenance and build new facilities. It means when possible we should look to re-purpose a facility to accommodate a new recreational program. All programs should be evaluated and if no longer popular changed to a new usage. Adapting facilities to meet new trends is an economical solution.

Kack Thorne

pzebie250@hotmail.com

I apparently spell better than I type!

Jack Thorne

Wynnae

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Look at the stats, those sites that are performing poorly should look into new attractions to make them more appealing. Those sites that are already attracting a lot of visitors should be maintained as is. I've seen a lot of parks (state and local) adding attractions that cost money or where memberships have to be purchased. This limits the people who can use the facilities and should be discouraged.

Kack Thorne

pzebie250@hotmail.com

Investing in substantial new development initiatives without the assurance of funds necessary to maintain current facilities and potential new facilities is simply a recipe for digging a deeper hole. Witness initial and subsequent development at Mount St. Helens. We should focus on taking care of what we have and doing fewer things to a higher standard instead of trying to do too much and doing everything poorly.

Nancy Tucker

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I think there has to be a balance between maintenance, land acquisition and development. The State's population is expected to grow significantly over the next 20 years and additional parks and recreation facilities will be needed to relieve pressure on current resources and maintain the existing level of service. While probably not popular, increased or new user fees could support maintenance costs to allow for some portion of available funding to be used for acquisition and development.

Dick Ramsey

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It does seem like it would be appropriate for the State to begin to place a greater emphasis on maintenace over development of new facilities…. However…. There are several kinds of maintenance:

1. Routine and Regular Maintenance: It's obvious that things like picking up trash, cleaning restrooms, mowing lawns etc. needs to be done. For the most part I believe that work does get addressed… although maybe not to the level we'd like to see.

2. Emergency Manintenance: When storms, landslides, fires, etc. compromise public use of facilities, there needs to be funding budgeteted and available.

3. Capital Maintenance: This is the part that gets missed: Roofs, paving, floors, and even landscaping "wears out". There needs to be a capital maintenance reserve that's adequate to deal with these things on a regular basis. Managers need to be able to make good strategic decisions about re-investing in existing infrastructure rather than waiting to do complete replacements after a "crisis" has occured.

Ron

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Sell all and use to reduce our State debt.The State has more than they are capable of managing.

Roger Arcoite

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Maintenance of existing facilities is primordial, ie: conservation of assets. However, when you have to cut to the core, you must have a valid analysis of what is necessary.

Should you abandon facilities that are under-utilized? Possibly.

Should you develop or acquire new facilities when limited funding barely keeps up to maintaining existing facilities?

Yes but in a limited way.

You cannot stand still without going backwards.

HOWEVER, any new facility will add to the overtaxed maintenance burden so choose wisely.

A Corporation does not stand still.

In times of trouble, it cuts the units that are not “core” and necessary and proceeds with a balanced approach, developping new business that will be productive while focusing on the business that allows it to thrive.

Government business should be no different than a “business” that has to balance it’s gains and losses at it’s peril.

Kris Kiesel

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Various interest groups can provide talent and labor to maintain trails and facilities. For example: try opening certain trails, such as in state parks, to horse use, with the catch that riders need to provide some effort toward maintenance, or the privilege will be revoked.

Jane

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I believe we should maintain what we have now. All recreationalists need to respect each other’s interests and get along. Leave No Trace!

Heather McCartney

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Over my 30 years in the public sector that included park responsibilities during that whole time, is that having a balanced approach pays off. We can’t have only

acquisitions nor just fund only maintenance. Although maintenance is most important, a single approach does not provide money for redevelopment or new elements.

Each jurisdiction/entity has different challenges. Some are built-out and others are in the phase of acquisition. Even Seattle that has an Olmstead-based park, open space and blvd system needs to acquire and redevelop to meet growing needs – i.e. Lake Union area. Cowlitz County is recognizing there are other needs since Mount Saint Helens' erruption in 1980.

"WRPA Coalition will work to protect 1,400 acres north of Merrill Lake in Cowlitz County threatened by development as it includes extensive hiking trails and opportunities for environmental education for visiting youth groups. Even more importantly, critical habitat will be preserved for bald eagles, pileated woodpeckers and elk, for which the land is prime calving ground."

The balance may change over time, but there still needs to be opportunity to redevelopment or add new, while retaining some money for maintenance. Communities need to set-aside some of their REET dollars to handle the large maintenance projects that will make up most of our park needs in the future.

Larry Crockett

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So many of the facilities are in such poor shape they are close to being unusable. Maintain what you have! Adding more land would be irresponsible.

Kell

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I think that the first priority is to maintain and make available the resources that are already available. As an OHV user (trail motorcycle) I continue to see trails and riding areas closed due to lack of maintenance. Regardless of the details on why we don't have funds to properly repair these trails (NOVA funds theft…) I still think that buying

new lands can not be justified.

Making use of existing lands with new trail systems in my mind is a better option to add access opportunities while keeping the cost down.

I feel its also worth noting that making use of land that does not meet the Wilderness requirements set in the Wilderness Act of 1964 would be a great option. Many WSA (Wilderness Study Areas) could be opened to OHV and mountain bike use. These areas are not Wilderness and therefore should not be treated as such.

Rex Crawford

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People and their land use and recreational demands continue to increase with population growth and a healthy recreation industry; the land and water of the state stay the same. Acquistion of areas most threatened with conversion especially irreplaceable areas is still most important. Maintanence is very important particularly where activities are altering the features that originally lead to desigination.

William Dalzell

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In the present economic climate all levels of government, federal, state, county and municipal are struggling to maintain enough staff to keep the present facilities up and running. We need new sources of revenue for our recreational lands and probably a more streamlined way of allocating resources to prevent waste and duplicated effort.

The Discovery Pass, in my opinion, was a good idea, but didn’t go far enough in reducing the pass confusion that exists. We have purchased them since they have been available, and yet many places we go are still asking for some other pass or fee. I don’t mind paying for access, those who use the facilities should share in the cost of those facilities, but if we can’t get to a “One Pass for All Facilities” then folks will tend not to buy the passes and overall revenue will suffer. I realize the system can’t afford to staff each site to collect fees but I don’t feel the present system of multiple

passes works either and I think it discourages folks from buying any passes as whichever one they have is the wrong one.

Debbie

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Maintain, maintain. Keep 10% for innovative new programs. Set aside 5% for purchase of open space but ONLY if it is a critical link between other public spaces or trails. State parks might actually consider mothballing or selling some of its smallest campgrounds/parks in order to maintain those with high use.

Joan Fleming

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I agree with the general consensus of comments here. I am a horseback rider and hiker. There are not as many horseback riding opportunities in the state, and with our larger rigs (truck and horse trailers), it is really important to keep open what we have. We also always want to have new opportunities for recreating, but we would not want that to be prioritized over maintaining what we have.

Mike McGlenn

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As a Back Country Horseman I view the overall current system as very important. Maintaining what we have needs to be a priority. We (Back Country Horsemen of Washington) do a large amount of trail clearing and repair thru out the state on multi use trails that everyone uses. A study done some years ago in the state by the DNR and user groups showed the state loosing 200 acres per day to development. I suspect that might be more now than it was then. So when a prime piece of potential recreational property becomes available, even if you don’t develop it right away, the purchase or trade for it should have serious consideration. There is no new land being

made but we are growing people so more recreation land over time will be needed.

The current discussions with agency folks hinge around collaboration among the user groups. The WTA, BCHW and others do work projects together. Each has a skill set that aguments the other. The agencies must begin to work more efficiently with the volunteer groups in these tough financial times. Make it easier for the volunteers to help you.

Tootie Crowson

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Since money is limited lets maintain what we have, as starting new projects will spread us too thin.

doug kelley

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Maitain what you have is a first priority, otherwise people will not believe you are good stewards of the resources you have. There are creative vehicles to provide maintainance including volunteers and sponsorships, which could the free up some resources to look at other priorities.

Lori Lennox

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This is a tough one. Land is finite so being able to buy more would be perfect. But not being able to maintain what you have is poor management. So I say maintain what you have and look for ways to open up areas that are not being used like they could be, providing user volunteers are willing to do the bulk of the work. There are a lot of skilled people out there who know what they are doing if the land managers will just give them the green light!

Education and respect between the user groups make trails safer and more fun for

everyone. Hikers and horse people have been using the same trails for decades so that should be easy. It seems to me that bikers would enjoy using the motorized areas more since silence and speed would not present a risk to the motorized users as it does to the hikers and horses, less for them to worry about. Maybe working together they could get more trails for themselves?

All public land users have more in common that in differences, we need to group together and support those alliances that are already offered and work things out. And we all need work together to make sure that our NOVA & RTP funds go to where they are intended – trails and facilities.

Dave Berkowitz

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Privatize the facilities and make the "for profit" but require pubic access. Require that the lands and facilities be maintained by the private companies. As this becomes successful, begin adding more.

Mike Sprague

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I have to agree with several of the posters above: Don't look at acquiring more stuff when you can't maintain what you have. Your budget is not infinite, or current properties would be maintained.

Motorized recreation is the largest user group, and the one most shut out of areas to recreate in. That's because hikers an mountain bikers are more organized. But when you (the state) do things like steal our NOVA funds, it's hard to buy into any new acquisitions.

So, no, don't buy more. Maintain what you have, reopen closed areas, and continue working with private landowners and other state and federal agencies to ensure access for varied user groups.

Bill Denholm

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Maintain what you have and add more when money is available. Bottom line be sure you us all moneys do not save for a rainey day.

Matt Wallis

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Maintaining what we have and restoring the services we have lost should be priority.

Most important- the state needs to use it resources in a smarter way by accepting public/private partnerships and by accepting user fees even if the fee structure is not enforced.

For example: Pelican Beach and Cypress Head campgrounds on Cypress Island are only open a few months a year due to budget cuts, This has caused massive overcrowding in the summer.

To help with the cost of maintenance, the state needs to ask for user fees for the use of the facilities by having a box with pre-addressed envelopes and asking users to send a check when they return home. All users would not pay, however there is minimal cost in requesting these user fees. To be successful- fees collected would need to pay for improvements in the area being used and not just sent the state general fund. Also local kayak tour companies have offered to help maintain the camping area and were told no.

I am sure there are many similar situations out there.

Herb Gerhardt

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I would say it all depends on where the money is coming from. For recreation, most of the money comes from grants and grants are very specific as to what it can be

spent on.

I think you need to shoot for a combination of all three items. Maintain on what you have, make improvements as you can but most important is to plan for the future generations in obtaining more recreation land even if you cannot develop it for years. We need to look 25, 50 and 100 years in the future and make sure we have lands set aside for future recreation when our population has doubled and tripled again……

Carma Foley

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I agree that the first order of business is to take care of the facilites that we already have before coming up with new expenses.

My husband and I support the parks through our annual pass both for the Washington State Parks and also through our annual moorage pass. We are finding that many of the parks are still in ill repair.

Thanks to the volunteers throughout our state that work hard to provide services in so many wonderful ways.

Maybe an internship through the colleges would be helpful too for those going into environmental science, biology, teaching, etc. Even if a stipend was provided you would have a wealth of knowledge and energy to help our parks. Just an idea.

Rudy Adams

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In the present environment of reduced funds for everything we should only maintain our present environment. New or partially completed trails that already have funding (e.g. NOVA funds) AND volunteer labor that will be devoted to them. These trails should be enhanced because it would be folly to turn away free labor and funds solely directed by law to complete specific trails.

I also agree with Wayne (above.) We need to simplify the pass structure and eliminate

the government ‘fiefdoms’ and make our whole govenrment system of passes and administration more closely aligned – if not merged.

There should probably be the following exception:

1. When some property is given to the public it should be accepted and maintained in as minimum manner as possible. However, we should not go out looking for new lands at this time.

Lori Flemm

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Maintenance should be the top priority.

Vandalism is a huge drain on every agency’s resources. Litter, graffiti, arson, dumping, intentional and unintentional damages that have to be repaired, etc. If misuse of parks and natural resources did not occur, (and it seems to be increasing in frequency and intensity) we would experience a noticable difference in the standard of maintenance in our parks. IF you see someone misusing a park, ask them politely to stop – some aren’t aware.

As far as managers making a decision, many public agences have dedicated/restricted capital funds that can only be used for acquisition, development or renovation of capital assets and not for maintenance. The Growth Mgt ACt requires that we estimate M&O costs in our capital facility plans. Governing bodies are reluctant to develop new facilities if M&O dollars/resources aren’t available.

Phil

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Give the other large priorites society has (education / mental health) the last thing we should be doing is buying land and taking it out of the tax base and away from other uses that may generate an economic opportunity

Chuck Cannon

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A balanced approach seems more appropriate. Do a good job maintaining what we have (taking into consideration the amount of use an area gets and what it adds to the local economies of more rural areas) and at the same time add new opportunities. In my family recreational activities around the state, I see demand and opportunities for more boating, ATV and snowmobile facilities/areas.

shrubitup

ontopofit@gmail.com

Considering adding more when you cannot properly maintain what you have is foolish. Live within your means. Do not spend recreation dollars on habitat preservation.

Dirt bike trails do not need maintenance in the form of state dollars unless a major culvert or bridge needs repair/upgrade/replacement. All other maintenance including removal of windfall, drainage, signage, etc can be handled by the user (dirt bikers).

Louise Caywood

saddledupw@aol.com

Maintaining what we have should be the priority. Use user volunteers where they recreate. They have knowledge of the areas they use and will care for these areas.

larry waters

lwwaters@gmail.com

If I have learned anything as a public works director for the last 25 years, it is that current assets need to be maintained or decommissioned. If you don’t maintain it becomes both a safety liability and worse, a huge financial liability. It costs much, much more to replace than to repair and maintain. It is one of the reasons the nation is trillions of dollars in th whole relative to our infrastructure (roads, bridges, sewer

and water). Ha, look at Seattle, it has roads that are one step away from reverting to gravel and may never be repaired – all because they didn't do the maintenance in the first place. I tell my City Council, over and over, don't build new until we have properly maintained what we have. Of course if it is decided that a particular facility is no longer wanted then decommission it. Maintain what you have!! Thanks for asking! P.S., any property or asset management book will tell you the same thing.

Robert Langley

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Let try to maintain what we have.

David Smead

dave@maildr.us

My uncle, who became a well off Vermont farmer told me once, when I commented on his latest tractor, "most people spend too much time and money maintaining old stuff to be able to afford new stuff."

dawn Kleinhuizen

dawnmantle1@gmail.com

I feel we need to keep maintenance up on what we already have developed. I agree with Peter that ALL groups need to be able to access and use our existing roads and access's.I am a Horse back rider and i do not mind sharing the trails with all user groups

Peter Montgomery

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Maintain!

Llloyd Ge3lentere

lloydkgh@gmail.com

We need to update and repair what we have.Rembering it needs to be for all user groups including horses,mountain bikes,and hickers. Roads to these areas need to be maintained.Stop the practice of pulling out culverts on these roads.

clikrf8

judy@clikrf8images.com

I disagree about the privatization of parks. Look at what the private sector has done to the penal system. Whenever you introduce the profit motive into something public, then there will priorities that satisfy the profit motive, not the public. I do agree that partnering with non-profits as our Whatcom Land Trust has done can help preserve more lands for our residents and visitors.

Others have spoken of balance between maintenance and acquisition. I like what Lunell Haught says above about land purchases. Closing what we have is not in the public interest. If it was from damage, then we need to either alter the user group or educate. Responsible 4x4ers, mountain bikers, trail bikers should not be limited because of the damage that a few do. We live near Galbraith Mountain, parts of which are owned privately but opened to the public for hiking and mountain biking. We pick up the few bits of garbage as I am sure others do. The mountain bikers police their own. They know that if an area is trashed then the owner can shut it down.

That said some parks should be used for habitat enhancement and stewardship. Access does not mean everyone should be able to access every place all the time. For instance, in the Black canyon of the Gunnison National Park in Colorado, rock wall climbing is not allowed during nesting season of certain raptors. This the balance that I speak of.

Thanks for allowing us to comment on our parks. Btw, our park fees are not out of line with other states. And, I am happy to pay mine.

Ron West

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The question is a little bit like asking, “do we need to update & repair the ISS,” or, “explore more on Mars.”

Our current facilities need to be updated and repaired as needed, that is for sure. We also need to learn to keep within a limited budget. At the same time. be on the watch for any new opportunities allowing us to expand and develope new facilities in areas that are lacking. I am aware that when funds are available, but not used, they are lost, and sent to another agency. That means we need to be smart with the funds that are available, and keep within our means.

Chris Marsh

thehouseofccccc@msn.com

We have plenty of land, now actually opening it up to the public….and I mean all forms of recreation. We wouldn’t have all these issues. So many roads closed due to the fact of not being able to maintain them. It is cheaper for the State agencies to open it up to one user group. That is discrimination. I live in a rural snohomish county with state and private lands all around that I cannot use. every thing is gated and posted stay out. 10-20 years ago this was not the case. I could go right out and use the Public Land. The state is turning user groups against each other by catering to certain ones who lobby the most. The Reiter pit Idea is a joke. Having hikers design and build trails for the orv user groups is a sham while they enjoy the land (9000 acres) and shove a larger group onto a smaller piece (1000 acres). Mt Pilchuck is closed for the snow shoers, Green Mt is now partially closed for the private land owner.

Education is the biggest deal for the user groups to avoid bad habits and actions. The more you close and Isolate, the more the vadalism and illegal use of lands happens. Trying to force people to recreate the way certain ones want the world to be is BS.

Instead of closing land, I would create rules like limiting tire size on a 4X4. a 33 inch tire is more than adaquate for all forms of offroading. This would cut back on the wear and tear on the land.

Fix and Maintain what we have, reopen what we already own, quit letting bueacracy shut everything down. Re-open P-5000, re-open Spada lake (millions were spent on it's recreational system), Re open Mark Worth forest, Re open Monroe log camp road, Re-open everything, quit forcing overcrowding!!!!!!!

Todd Welch

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The state needs to look to private companies and other states that are moving to privatize their park systems. Utah and California are great examples of this. The state could also look to groups like Washington Trails Association, Boy Scouts, and other charities to get projects done.

Scott

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First priority has to be to maintain what we have at some reasonable level. If there are funds left over, the next priority should be buying land. It only gets less available and more expensive as time goes on. Need to lock it in now, then develop it later. When the demand for more facilities gets great enough, it may be easier to sell funding increases if we can say we already have a place for it and we can start building right away.

Ty Walters

nucklefuster@gmail.com

I don't care about facilities, just make sure no more 4×4 trails are closed, and let us have more land. Of all the types of recreation, by percentae of users we are the least

represented.

davissteelquist

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The first problem here is: what is recreation? Most would agree that rural parks providing hiking, camping, and historical activities (specifically old forts) constitute traditional recreation. Those should be maintained and in some cases revitalized.

As one gets older, recreation becomes less strenuous and may consist of gentle trails, beaches and observation from a bench.

Organized sports and recreation, whether baseball, soccer, frisbee, etc have taken a disproportionate amount of space and maintenance moneys. The goal was good it trying to provide free access to all. However I feel that organized groups should pay some of the maintenance costs.

Wheeled sports from ORVs, ATVs to trail bikes, while becoming popular, tend (even with the best of intentions) to be destructive. That's not to say they shouldn't have space, it means they shouldn't try to share space with other more docile activities.

Small wheel activities, roller skates, skate boats, road bicycles are best left in the city and county parks.

Horses also do not mix well with either wheeled sports or pedestrian hikers, though horsemen clubs generally take care of their trails.

So how to sort all this out? First taking a map showing where the activities take place, ensure that all types are covered within a 150 mile radius of major population centers Then look at where these activities are also covered by County, Federal, or National parks and reduce the duplication. Then look at unique parks (generally historical in nature), these generally have massive maintenance needs that have been ignored .. let's bring them up to snuff. Then look at parks where size forces restrictions more than 10 to15 times a year and if they can not be expanded, consider developing an overflow site with the same attributes nearby.. Also look at underutilized assets and sell some to fund new. Some like Anderson Lake that's closed much of the year

because of algae blooms, should be closed or sold.

Then the organized and wheeled recreation areas, special fees to cover unique maintenance are needed. Yet how do you deal with 10 guys who show up and take over a field for frisbee tossing.. or the once a year family gathering that features baseball or football? A modest fee, say $30 would help.

Then set a limit on what types of recreation are supported with a scheduled review every to years.

Then there is the question should every trail be paved or compacted gravel, should any rural trail be paved?.. My feeling is: no!

Should every point of every park be ADA accessible? Again no. Every park should have some ADA accessible features besides the restrooms, picnic areas, and some representative nature access.

mjvande

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Obviously, buying more land, in order to maximize the preservation of habitat, should always be the top priority. The second priority should be minimizing human impacts. For example, ban all high-impact recreation, such as motorized recreation and mountain biking.

You need to understand what a park is. A park is wildlife habitat, period. Being natural is what makes it attractive to humans. The opposite is something like a quarry that is devoid of life. Have you ever visited one? Did you have fun? Of course not!

Dave

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Considering adding more when you cannot properly maintain what you have is foolish. Live within your means. The People are NOT going to provide more money.

Wayne

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The majority of funds should be utilized to maintain existing facilities and protecting those recreation attributes rather than buying up more resources/lands that are neither managed or developed. That said, there are certainly opportunities in “trying new things” to better manage existing resources.

One example would be to come up with a single or unified pass or permit system, so recreationists could enjoy the facilities – winter or summer – without having to buy four or five passes/permits and still not have enough to satisfy the pass/permit police. Every agency operating as its own little fiefdom makes it nearly impossible to recreate without violating some rule or regulation. The administrative costs to issue, collect, advertise, promote, and police eachseparate permit and pass has to be hugely expensive.

Lunell Haught

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Of course, it depends…you wouldn’t want something to deteriorate so badly it becomes a liability – on the other hand you wouldn’t want something to be kept in a great condition if it weren’t of use to people. So the maintenance budget (pm and ongoing) may need to be based on a ‘standard’ you develop. I also think purchases should be based on life cycle cost instead of cheapest price – you may already do that.

Could you decide the balance on a case by case basis? This seems like the kind of question you’d need to have a conversation about, not just a priority ‘vote’. In the Conservation Futures program in Spokane County we have a fund for aquisition, a portion of it is set aside for maintenance, and although the acquisitions are ranked for purchase, we have an ‘unforseen opportunity’ option for properties that become available and the Park Advisory Board evaluates the property to determine if purchase should be persued, thus changing the purchase ranking. The advantage of this is it gives structure and guidance, but doesn’t tie your hands if there’s a really

great opportunity. It really is a judgment call -

Eva Tyler

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We need to have a balanced approach. The first priority should be to keep open and maintain what we have. At the same time we need to be on alert to obtain land whenever possible. Creative ways need to be explored to acquire land, including partnerships with different agencies. We need to preserve land while it is still available.

ROUND 6 QUESTION

Current Question - What is a story about how outdoor recreation opportunities have affected you and your family? There are great stories about the meaning and value of outdoor recreation in Washington, we would like to know your story.

Special Request: If you have photographs that are part of your story, please send them in to scorp-photos@earthlink.net. Please put "Story Photo" in the subject line. Many thanks.

Summary Observations from the Blog Facilitator

31 comments were received from 31 people addressing this question. The Town Hall discussion revealed that stakeholders, when asked to describe how outdoor recreation has impacted them, told us stories about family, connection to the environment, child rearing, commitment to community, and a variety of other values. Here are some excerpts. The verbatim comments are presented at the end of these excerpts.

Anita Will: "Hello My name is Anita Will. I am a horseback trail rider who has loved the outdoors since I was very young. I started trail riding and building trails in the Redmond Wa area along the pipe lines and woods with my brothers long ago.I have always found a true inner peace while on the trails… Little did I know this early involvement would help me in the Trail project that I jumped into with Whipple Creek Park in Clark County ,Wa. Which is restoring over 6.5 miles of badly eroded trails and preserving early pioneer history within a 373 acre county Park…I have to say this has been the most rewarding personnel challenge I've ever made. If people can find a volunteer effort in their area I strongly suggest to reach out and ask to

help giving back is a wonderful feeling."

Steve Justham: "I am mentally ill and disabled from it. Riding my dirt bike in Washington, logging roads and single track my whole life has been the most important therapy I have to maintain my mental health. I also hike the mountains, cross country ski, and would like to snow mobile someday… It is important to me, that as a community of riders, hikers and skier's, along with the other outdoor enthusiasts, we do not take away opportunities for people to do what they love, but instead, create a win/win for every type of user group, so we all can enjoy the recreation/therapies we love so much."

Patti Baumgardner: "Living in the rural eastern side of the state, we are thrilled with the sno-park system and the support the winter recreation folks give to it. Being able to ski on beautifully groomed trails has been a mental (and physical) health lifesaver for our family for years… We are extremely fortunate that state recreation funders realize that even people far from urban population centers need places to play. We thank you for that. Thank you for asking for feedback."

Beth Blay: "I will soon be 71–have ridden horseback to absolutely wonderful wilderness areas from AZ to WA because of my reliable transportation. Without my horses, I would never have been able to experience the oneness with nature and serenity that has contributed so much to my physical & mental well being. The outdoors experience has contributed to my stability and consequently to that of my family."

Peter Montgomery: "My wife and I stayed in a yurt at Cape Disappointment State Park, located at the Southern end of the Long Beach Peninsula. We went there for kayaking, but, in addition, we visited the many interesting sites related to the end of Lewis and Clark's journey to the Pacific. Most importantly, though, to our future, we found property on the Peninsula, purchased it, and have now built our own yurt as our residence. You cannot ever predict the influence on your lives of a visit to a State of Washington recreation area."

Karen: "I attend and lead hikes or snowshoe trips for groups in Spokane. Many of us are seniors but we also introduce younger folks to the therapeutic value of outdoor recreation both for the mind and the body. I also take my grandchildren for outdoor

adventures as I believe all human beings need a connection to nature. We camp and hike in warmer weather and they ski, snowshoe and sled in Winter. We absolutely love and appreciate those organizations that preserve land for public recreation."

Tom Fitzpatrick: "I used to day hike and car camp quite a bit in the National Forest and at Mt Rainier NP. Over 20 years ago my feet went south on me orthopedically, and to top it off a few years ago I was diagnosed with diabetes and peripheral neuropathy. Being able to bike in the National Forest, state parks and local parks has been literally a lifesaver. A few years ago we relocated close to St Edward State Park; I ride there every week, and really enjoy volunteering through the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance to keep the trails in good condition for everybody. Soon to be 67, I'm now able to share these experiences with the 3 of my grandkids who live nearby."

Dale Damron: "For me, quality of life is almost synonymous with outdoor recreation opportunities. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on Mt. Spokane are every-weekend activities for me and my fiance in the winter. I use Riverside State Park extensively for mountain-biking, hiking, and kayaking. I couldn't imagine what life would be like without those local assets…"

Linda Roe: "I am an old northwesterner who grew up camping around Mt. Rainier every year with my family. As my children grew up we also camped every summer… My kids are now grown, and both of them have a love for the northwest and the outdoors.

Lee Golden-71 yrs old. Oakville. "My old Choco horse and I have ridden all over this state over the course of many many yrs. I have built, cleaned trails, and helped build bridges so we could all enjoy our state trails. It is important to me that we all share this rich resource of ours. Choco is gone now but my memories live on of him."

"I am an avid user of Washington state parks and feel very fortunate to have such a huge playground right in my own backyard. I hike, bike, and kayak from spring to

fall, and then ski and snowshoe all winter!… I absolutely love where I live and hope we continue to receive federal funding to help sustain this beautiful area we call home!"

Tootie Crowson: "I was riding my horse alone for years when I noticed that I was going in one direction and my husband was going in another, soooo I bought him a horse!… This horsey thing lead to a pasture, barn, a 3 horse LQ, and a 2 horse trailer, tack… We are making Washington richer :0)"

Judy Tilley: "I am a 65 year old 5th generation Puget Sounder... Being in the peace and quiet of the outdoors or hiking and camping with friends helps me forget about the down side of life… We all need places to recreate in our own way as long as we respect others and the land."

Kathy Bell: "I was a runner for years, but close to my 40th birthday joint disease put an end to my running days. So, I looked for something else to fill my "recreational void." During a short visit back to Texas to see my family, my brother took me skeet shooting… Recreational shooting sports also led me to my husband… We equally have great respect and gratitude for the non-profit shooting ranges in this state… non-profit range I volunteer for is in King County. This range was developed through devoted local volunteers and grants like the RCO offers… Non-profit shooting facilities offer the public an incredible resource for recreational sports. They are great institutions for partnership with public entities…"

Chris Marsh: "My kids are 9 and 11 and they have ridden motorcycles since they were 4 years of age… Lately that has gone away. With the closures of Reiter Pit, and other local areas to recreate such as the Pilchuck Mainline, Monroe Log Camp road, Russian Road Parts of Green Mountain, the snow closures of Pilchuck Mt. and the Mt. loop Hwy. (done for special interest groups such as snowshoers and snowmobilers). It seems that my friends and their families and my family have all grown apart because we have nothing to do that isn't going to cost us an arm and a leg."

Darcy: "It is very hard to separate our family from the Outdoors. For us, being outdoors is a lifestyle that revolves around the seasons (you know, hiking season, elk season, deer season, fishing season). In today's technology driven, ultra-structured world, it is very challenging to pass this tradition on to our children… But when I look

around, I don't see other families. Where are the children and young people on the trail and in the woods?… I fear that this is the new normal. Older folks enjoying the outdoors; youth focused on the indoors."

Jason Ridlon: "I have come to believe our trail systems and camping areas are very important to our society people need a place to get lost and be alone."

Kaj Bune (Niles is his young son): "My quest to 'adventure like Nils adventures' has continued to this day, and will go on for many years. Paddling has allowed us to explore the wild together in the most unique ways. On many of our trips we have had 3 generations in one boat, for days on end. My father has been with us on some of the most amazing days of our lives, and the experiences are without equal."

Below are the individual comments received in response to this question:

Comments Submitted on the Town Hall Website

Kaj

kajbune@gmail.com

Inner Waves

by Kaj Bune

Originally published in April 2004, Hooked on the Outdoors magazine

http://www.kajbunephotography.blogspot.com

"Don't be sad Mom, we're still having a good time."

Ten days before my four-year-old son spoke these words, my wife and I had been preparing to be the ones offering comfort. Now, sitting in a hotel room in Anacortes, Washington, we – or admittedly, I – had been humbled to my foundations.

For months our little family of adventure seekers had dreamed and prepared for a big canoe trip that raised the eyebrows of friends and furrowed the foreheads of

relatives. And as with any good adventure, the unknown played a major role.

The plan was simple. The three of us would take a stab at completing a totally human-powered summer vacation from doorstep to doorstep. Young Nils, perhaps, would one day brag about the fact that his family's SUV was a canoe. We would load our 18-foot boat, filled with gear, onto a set of wheels and roll the whole thing down the hill to a nearby river. We would paddle to the saltwater via a series of lakes and a set of locks, and cruise the 100 or so miles north from Seattle to the San Juan Islands, near the Canadian border. There, we would spend two weeks poking our noses into the nooks and crannies of the 172 islands that make up the San Juan Archipelago, eat fresh Dungeness crab every day, and finally, one month later, return to the doorstep of our small condo, affectionately known as Hobbit Hole.

But as we all know – and here is where the adventure really begins – the universe has a pulse of its own, and pretending that it doesn't can be treacherous. Five months before our departure, my wife, Maylon, began a battle with a sinus infection that would, after many other failed solutions, end in sinus surgery just six weeks before launch day. Suffice it to say, several weeks prior to takeoff, she was in an unprecedented weak state; clearly not good pre-expedition condition, which was clear as crystal, to anybody but me.

In defense, I should say that I am a veteran of a number of outdoor adventures and capable of making clear headed decisions in and about the wilderness. But on second thought, saying that only makes my behavior even more suspect, so I'll say only this: The simultaneously great and perplexing thing about adventure is the often fine and nearly imperceptible line between reality and The Ambitious Plan.

July 6th dawned bluebird. My father arrived on time to walk us to the put-in, carrying a canoe pack and taking turns guiding the slowly rolling, wood trimmed canoe down a paved road to the Sammamish Slough. Nils talked about his pet dinosaurs all the way. We loaded the boat at river's edge, said our goodbyes, and pushed off into the easy current. Thirteen miles downstream we slipped into the north end of Lake Washington, which is the eastern edge of the city of Seattle. Later in the day we put up on the shores of my uncle's beachfront home – the only place within the city limits to camp of which we are aware. An evening of hospitality and an early morning

farewell later, we edged back into the water at dawn on Day 2, another 20-mile day ahead.

At this point we were fine. We had talked about Maylon's condition at length and decided to proceed. But I must confess that my longstanding love affair with a trip of this sort carried a disproportionate amount of weight, and Maylon is not one to back down from a challenge. And Nils is game for anything. In fact, he was the only one really seeing this thing for what it was: a time to be together as a family, period. No goals, no expectations, no grand schemes, no glory, no failure, just a moment-to-moment living of lie, taking it all in. His unencumbered soul was experiencing perfectly the Zen concept of Beginner's Mind. He naturally approached this trip in a balanced state, and now that I've had the time to reflect on the trip, I will forever be an enthusiastic searcher for this holy grail of outdoor experience: I want to adventure like Nils adventures.

Our second day went like clockwork to me, and I tried hard not to see Maylon's obvious bone-tiredness. Day 3 was a crucial one. The crossing to Whidbey Island was the biggest of our planned route. Bleary eyed and a bit stiff from the previous days of paddling and early starts, we set out into Possession Sound all alone. The water was flat and the wind calm, but as we passed the halfway mark, the current began to show itself. Standing waves stacked up and the motherly tension in the air was as thick as any I can ever remember. But, true to Zen Boy's way, Nils was fast asleep in his little red lawn chair in the center of the boat.

Maylon and I picked up the pace without a word between us, the rhythm of the paddle strokes told the whole story – time to get serious. Twenty minutes of negotiating the power of the saltwater and we were across. The remainder of the day, a 27 miler as it ended up, was mostly cruising.

Three more days of early starts, sun drenched hours in the boat and planned encounters with friends landed us on the shores of Saddlebag Island, about 130 miles from home. Yet, all along, Maylon was not her normal powerhouse paddling self. I sensed she was being crushed by the schedule, but I didn't want to face reality. It was time to go home. Maylon needed to gain strength, not use it up. I needed to regain my perspective. And Nils, well, Nils didn't care either way. He just wanted to

be with his mom and dad.

So here we sit in a cheap motel, delaying the obvious, wishing for a different end. I've gone from anger to anguish to embarrassment and back again. I look into Maylon's eyes and see the reality of the situation. I look into Nilsy's eyes and see what I have lost: the understanding that adventure is not the destination, but simply the flowing path.

*****

Note: The adventure described in this story took place in the summer of 2003, almost ten years ago. In the intervening years the three of us have spent countless days on the water together. My quest to "adventure like Nils adventures" has continued to this day, and will go on for many years. Paddling has allowed us to explore the wild together in the most unique ways. On many of our trips we have had 3 generations in one boat, for days on end. My father has been with us on some of the most amazing days of our lives, and the experiences are without equal. These days, Nils no longer sits in his little lawn chair. Instead, he is a powerful motor in a canoe or kayak. And I continue to learn from Zen Boy.

Kaj Bune, February 4, 2013

Rick Harrell climbing program director C.G. Teen camps

dagnabittband@yahoo.com

my name is Rick Harrell and I am an avid outdoorsman. I recreate by hiking, biking and climbing all over the northwest and especially in Washington state. I believe that free and easy access to the mountains, rocks streams and rivers should be of the highest priority. The timber industry has long effected the beauty of the mountains in a negative way and profitted from it. Recreational users such as myself benefit from the beauty and solitude in so many ways so neccessary in our modern busy lives.These are OUR resources and should be treated as such.Every person has a right to recreate in the great outdoors without a fee.While species mitigation goes on to balance the loss of habitat and life by big business this should not be allowed to negatively effect each citizens right to enjoy the wilderness and national forests. How many individuals

are responsible for the destruction of habitat and life? How many big business's are responsible for this. While logging,mining and energy production must go on it should be regulated to limit its destructive force. Do not limit the peoples access to recreation by imposing fees and regulations that prevent the people from free and easy access to OUR RESOURCES.Imposing fees and blanket closures at places like Beacon rock state park efffect all of us negatively. Parking fees reduce Rangers to parking lot attendants impose large fines on non-complient recreational users and blanket closures of unique resources like Beacon rock fail to take into account the significance of the rock climbing community as paying customers of the park. I believe the vast majority of Discover pass holders for Beacon rock are climbers. Good science + Good sense = Good management.

Kenny Allen

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Affected by Outdoor Recreation

Opportunities to be outside and participating in activities that took me outside were just not coming to me often enough back in 2005. I was living in my sister's basement trying to reinvent myself in some way that would not allow me to regress into the formerly lazy pattern I had developed. I found a job working for Nike, inc. and they had a climbing gym so I began rock climbing.

At first this was a casual breach from my pre-climbing days of just backpacking, hiking and snowboarding. I didn't know why I loved to climb so much and I didn't think about where rock climbing fit into the grander scheme of mountaineering, or life. But I also had wanted to climb Mt. Hood since I had been looking up to it all my life. At this early time, however, I did not make the full connection between all the types of climbing – I just knew that some of the gear was shared between the disciplines. As I got more and more comfortable with rock climbing I started to understand that the physical act of rock climbing was both a training experience for bigger mountain-climbing adventures and an adventure all in itself. The results of such a discovery led me to a small edge of river bank in the scenic Columbia River

Gorge. Beacon Rock State Park became a place of personal discovery of my own limits, and I knew that in some way I would be a better person if I climbed this rock as much as I could. After putting the fear of god into oneself, willingly, the lessons that are taken from the experience serve to enrich the lives of those who experienced them. This may seem obvious and logical for any activity, but climbing does it on a level that is only understood if one has climbed – similar, perhaps, to surfing or skydiving. Climb a little and you get an idea of what it's all about. Climb a little more and you understand a little better. Climb a lot and it's becoming engrained in your mind. Climb a lot more and it is truly your life and no longer a hobby. The education that takes place is unlike any other that an individual can receive for free. Few other activities can claim to offer the chance of deeply spiritual learning at the price of possible severe injury or death. Sports, as the majority of the population knows about the topic, are played. Climbing must be lived; there is no time to play in climbing.

I learned to think this way by climbing at Beacon Rock State Park on the Washington shore of the Columbia River. I learned that through climbing I was going to become a person much more sensitive to other stimuli that I might not be sensitive to without climbing. Knowing the implications that come with this I recognized that if I wanted to have the ultimate adventure then I would need to live and work where I could climb at Beacon Rock full time. It was in 2009 that I took a job at Bonneville Dam, and this had the benefit of being just five minutes drive from my favorite rock climbing destination. The only problem was that the park closes the rock climbing for most of the good climbing weather, limiting my access to quality climbing and my chance at exceptional amounts of personal growth through this activity. I was badly in need of a job so there was never any question about "if" I would work at the dam; I was going to take the job and climb as much as I could because at some point it was going to make me a better, more caring, and sensitive person. But to live in the Columbia River Gorge meant that I would have to rent a place to live, and I couldn't afford to do that. My opportunities at recreational rock climbing would never get better if I didn't move but I had no place to go. No place except my car, that is.

I spent two springs, summers and falls living in a Volvo wagon anywhere from milepost 45 down to milepost 24 along Washington's Highway 14. When the Volvo's engine gave

up the ghost I bought a truck with a canopy and continued the pattern for two more springs, summers and falls. Next year will be my fifth season, and my third in my truck.

My family doesn't understand but they want me to be happy, and climbing and living close to where I can climb makes me happy, so they do not discourage me. Certainly another job or career field may provide me with much more posh living conditions compared to what I know on the course I am on, but I would not learn about myself in quite the same way and I would not have the same level of understanding as this way of life has taught me. My life is much less complex as a result of living out of a vehicle. I do not have the luxury of vast amounts of storage so frugal living reigns and "just getting by" becomes all that i need; I use only the resources that I absolutely need, and nothing more; I create less waste and value the small amounts of resources that I am lucky enough to have; my attention to the environment and and environmental issues is always a concern to me; I feel a connection to all things living through sharing the wildness that is left in this formerly wild area slowly being affected by what appears to be mismanaged lands. But it isn't mismanagement so much as it is misgovernment of the managers themselves. There is no structure in government to even begin to understand the climber's world

Climbers have not taken the appropriate steps to educate and inform the non-climbing public and the land managers of climbing destinations about what is important to climbers. For this, climbers get restrictive blanket closures to protect resources that may or may not truly need protecting [to such a heavy degree] any longer. This happens because climbers dropped the ball; climbers allowed this to happen because it was never outlined that which really matter to climbers. And what really matters to climbers is access to the best climbing. If you are from The Portland, OR/Vancouver WA area, then the best rock climbing around is at Beacon Rock State Park. And the best time to climb there is the time that we can't climb there at all. This access needs to change to represent a balance between recreation and conservation.Because of rock climbing I have travelled internationally to experience the best of what the rest of the world can offer from other climbing destinations. I have stood on peaks that have shown me amazing panoramas and skies streaked in colors cleanly contrasted against the sky they highlight. I have

experienced the thoughts and feelings that accompany a brush with death and lived to learn what those thoughts and feelings we're trying to tell me. I have seen a world that to many would seem surrealistic in value but it is actually more real than any reality television program, and in fact IS the real, harsh, uncaring, yet extraordinarily beautiful world that we are all able to explore if we should be so courageous. The world I have experienced and the rarefied air I have breathed in have showed me what is real and what is made up. The mountains and rocks are real, and they teach me everytime I set foot and/or hand to them. I would be a lost, dismal person (and soul) without them!

I love the natural world and I consider myself a part of it. To say that I want protection for the natural world, then, is almost to say that i want protection for myself, but not at the expense of making myself a part of it – which is the reality of blanket closures for rock climbing at Beacon Rock State Park. In my case, outdoor recreation no longer is an accurate phrase to describe this: it is my outdoor LIFE that has become affected.Change can happen; we the people need to set it in motion.

Steven Blair

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Me and my family chose too be to the PNW specifically for its outdoor recreational opportunities. We have climbed together as a family since the kids could walk. We have enjoyed climbing in many states (MT, WY, UT, ID, CA, OR and WA). One of our favorite local places to climb is Beacon Rock. Throughout the states and countries that I have visited, I have found the climbing community to be excellent stewards of the environment. I ask and encourage all parties with influence to work toward keeping Beacon Rock and all other climbing destinations available to the public year round.

Sincerely,

Steven Blair

Jeff Chapman

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I came to Washington State around 1970 for its mountaineering opportunities, having climbed my way across the US and Canada. My first job in this state was within Mt Rainier National Park. Over the years, the jobs have changed but my involvement in public lands has not. I remember rope tows at Paradise, participating in the bike-centennial of 1976, transferring from Shelton to Port Townsend to run the work programs for a USFS YACC camp; hiking the PCT, the Cascades, and the Olympics; spinnaker runs out to Smith Island during sailboat races; high mountain rescues; fishing off Sucia Island; and riding my horses on many Wilderness and non-Wilderness trips throughout the year. Currently what I seem to do the most are trail maintenance work parties on state and federal lands as a volunteer crew leader.

What makes Washington State special is that it has an enormous diversity of available experiences within the state. From the riding through the scablands of Eastern Washington to boating in the Pacific Ocean, just about any kind of outdoor experience you can think of is available and can be planned for. In the process, you are likely to encounter many adventures you didn't quite plan for or think of. The range of opportunities makes living in our state remarkable.

I dropped a fellow off on the east side of the Hood Canal Bridge a few months back riding/packing 3 horses who was about to board the Bainbridge Ferry for downtown Seattle without a trailer and continue riding through the city to points south. He was thinking of overnighting under the Viaduct with hobbles or a highline. In our state, even our cities can turn into outdoor adventures.

Adam Baylor

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Sustainable and increased access to Washington State Parks is very important in uniting recreation communities. I believe that by passionately experiencing the outdoors an individual as well as groups are made healthier and can contribute to the greater good in society.

In recent years, however, decreased access to parks and other recreation areas has caused major hardships. While the reasons vary as to why parks experience changes in recreational opportunities, funding in the right place at the right time is paramount.

I am a rock climber and through this activity I have experienced the outdoors very passionately. Rock climbing is an amazing outdoor activity that currently takes place in about 12 Washington State Parks. In particular, it has been part of Beacon Rock State Park's history since 1901 when steamship captains on the Columbia River made the first ascent of the 858-foot volcanic monolith. Since then climbers have experienced the vertical world of Beacon Rock in a low-impact, leave-no-trace behind way. It is through this connection that a strong and vibrant community developed.

I hope that the work that our energetic climbing community has done in the past can continue to positively impact the parks where we climb, hike, paddle, bike or ski as well as the communities and ecosystems around the parks.

Jason Ridlon

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From an early age, I have been a Washington trail user. I spent the first 20 years traveling by motorcycle in Kittitas and Yakima Countys. Then wanting more started hiking and going places motorized use was not allowed. I now own mules and horses and travel the wilderness areas and all of Washington trails. The trail system has been a very important part of my life, I now enjoy doing trail volunteer work and supporting BCHW. I have come to believe our trail systems and camping areas are very important to our society people need a place to get lost and be alone.

Herb Gerhardt

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Darcy, you said it very well.

I used to backpack the Olympics for many years and had to curtail my trips do to my partner quitting on me and I am now too old to go by myself like I did for many years.

We used to bushwack and stay off the trails as much as we could. From our observations, we almost never saw any young folks in the boonies. When we did run into someone under 18, they were usually dragged along by their dad and it did not appear that they were enjoying themselves since as soon as they stopped, the youngster would drag out his gameboy and play games rather than enjoy the great outdoors.

It is very unfortunate, but I think the younger generation has turned into a vitual outdoors generation. If they can't let their fingers guide them through the experience, they have no interest. Not speaking for all of our youth, but from my observations, the majority of them. Sure is a pitty since they will never experience the true outdoors…..

Darcy

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It is very hard to separate our family from the Outdoors. For us, being outdoors is a lifestyle that revolves around the seasons (you know, hiking season, elk season, deer season, fishing season). In today's technology driven, ultra-structured world, it is very challenging to pass this tradition on to our children. It's hard work with inevitable choices: Clam digging or basketball tournament? Family road trip, or marketing conference? Cousin's wedding or backpacking trip? Because of the choices we have made, I think our children truly have developed that need to be outdoors–the wild as essential to quality of life. They have learned the work ethic and confidence that comes with climbing Mount St. Helens, hiking the Goat Rocks, hunting all day in the rain, and snow snowing up the ski slopes.

But when I look around, I don't see other families. Where are the children and young people on the trail and in the woods? Sure, within the first mile or two, you see lots of people (I call it "pavement" recreation). Beyond that, no matter how crowded the parking lot, the wilderness is basically empty of youth. We were backpacking Cady Ridge this fall with our two children, ages 9 and 13, when we met what an couple that can only be described as an "old hippies". The lady with the tie-dyed fringed

hiking shirt had obviously been in love with the wilderness for decades. She was overjoyed to see children on the trail, and was full of questions: How do you get them involved? Do they like it? How do you find the time?

I fear that this is the new normal. Older folks enjoying the outdoors; youth focused on the indoors. And it is partly the fault of managing the wilderness to death. We are so worried about user trails and footprints and flower-picking and rock collecting that we have made curiosity and exploration a crime. We need to change this. We must remove barriers between youth and the outdoors like fees, permits, passes, and rules for everything. If you step off the trail, or take a rock, or pick a flower, nature will still survive. It may not survive if the next generation no longer cares about trails or rocks or flowers.

dawn Kleinhuizen

dawnmantle1@gmail.com

I have been an outside person my whole life! When my two boys were young we backpacked in the Olympic's where they learned to fish,enjoy the beautiful scenery and respect the land. Now they both take their families outdoors for many activities! I feel that getting ones family outdoors is crucial for everyone's well being. I don't buy into the there is nothing to do that some young people say about living rural. Introducing our children to the outdoors when they are young helps them when they are in their teen yrs to have healthy activities! When the whole outdoors is full of hiking.fishing observing nature all which is great for the soul! I have ridden horse most of my life. Do not back pack anymore but do ride my horse in front country and back. I highly value being able to rejuvenate my soul outdoors even in the rain! I will enjoy the outdoors for the rest of my life!

John Lagerquist

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I am 54 years old and have lived my entire life in Washington state. I have camped, fished, hunted waterfowl and upland birds, backpacked, been kayaking, crabbing and

clam digging, salmon fishing and more in our wonderful state. I've had many memorable "golden moments" in my youth with my parents and siblings and now with my wife and sons while recreating in the outdoors, particularly waterfowl hunting in the Columbia Basin. I hope my sons will some day be able to have the opportunities with their children in the outdoors that I have with them – watching the sunrise from a duck blind, catching trout in any number of beautiful lakes, snuggled warm in a sleeping bag high in the Cascades. We need to continue to protect our public lands from development and support the people and agencies that work to keep recreation open and available to the public, including our financial support whenever possible. The cost of a Discover Pass, hunting or fishing license is minimal for the return we receive.

Kathy Bell

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I was a runner for years, but close to my 40th birthday joint disease put an end to my running days. So, I looked for something else to fill my "recreational void." During a short visit back to Texas to see my family, my brother took me skeet shooting. I had always wanted to try shooting sports. I was captivated over this first clay target shooting experience. So I returned to Washington state to find a place to take lessons and bought my first shotgun.

After the lessons I started competing in amateur shooting tournaments supported by local non-profit shooting ranges. The clay target shooting environment in Washington state is very fascinating. Young, old, female, male, disabled, and a variety of cultural backgrounds… It is easy to understand why clay target sports are part of the Olympics, as it indeed has quite a wide attraction for all kinds of folks. And everyone, I mean everyone, is a peer: Student, housewife, high-tech professional, store clerk, engineer, truck driver, doctor, hairdresser, you name it… You can't help but react in awe, or with great humbleness, when a 10 year old boy, or an 85 year old man, or a teenage girl or a brand new shooter is hitting a difficult target presentation that for whatever reason you simply cannot master on a particular day!

After a few years of clay target shooting a friend introduced me to bird hunting – a former federal wildlife official with a degree in biology. The attraction of hunting became even stronger as I learned so much from this person about the science/history of the birds (chukar) and their adopted habitat in the high, basalt covered hills in eastern Washington. Walking and hiking had long since replaced my old running days for physical exercise so bird hunting fit right into my continued commitment to a healthy lifestyle. I am an avid fan of Teddy Roosevelt, my favorite president. He recognized the value of public land and was the visionary behind our national parks. So when I was introduced to bird hunting in the State of Washington you can imagine my amazement to learn that our state offered acres and acres of public land for hunting – a precious resource not so available in my birth state.

Recreational shooting sports also led me to my husband. We met while competing in amateur events. Now, he competes and I focus on supporting and promoting clay target sports. We are, as well, both avid bird hunters. We cherish the public lands available to us here in this state and hope to see further improvements in game management. We also value the use of private lands for hunting offered by generous farmers in eastern Washington. We equally have great respect and gratitude for the non-profit shooting ranges in this state (see story photos). These facilities offer recreational clay target shooting to the public and practicing for bird hunting skills outside of hunting season. The non-profit range I volunteer for is in King County. This range was developed through devoted local volunteers and grants like the RCO offers. Popularity of clay target shooting sports at this facility is literally exploding – increasing by over 6,000% since the year it was opened in 2004. King County was obviously an underserved area for this type of recreation! The demographics for participation at this non-profit facility reflect that the majority of our participants come from urban areas all over the county. And by the way… the range is managed by following the EPA's stewardship guidelines for outdoor shooting ranges.

Non-profit shooting facilities offer the public an incredible resource for recreational sports. They are great institutions for partnership with public entities for the collaboration of funds and volunteer resources that provide for the continued development and stewardship of recreational activities. Every recreational alternative can benefit from these kinds of public/private partnerships – be it a hiking

trail, a public horseback riding facility or whatever your favorite recreational pastime. With today's financial shortages for all government services every avenue of funding for all outdoor recreational opportunities should be considered to help recreational resources stay open and accessible to the public.

Mark Levensky

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Welcome Signs

As we kayak in our double with our dog from Gooseberry Point west to Lummi Island, then north near the shore towards a thickening Rosario Strait and Matia Island State Park, Native paddlers in a large, black and red, wooden canoe round Point Migley, rush south, give us raised paddles and a "Sea Dog!" on their way.

Chris Marsh

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I am 42 year old Snohomish County Native. I have been exploring the foothills and Mountains of this county since I was 12 years old. My friends and I enjoy being able to take our children up and explore as well. We enjoy many forms of transportation to get to where we go. 4X4's, Motorcycles, quads, and when we can get as far as we can go, we hike the rest. My kids are 9 and 11 and they have riden motorcycles since they were 4 years of age. We have spent a lot of time at Reiter pit before they closed it. We have also ridden Walker Valley numerous time as well as attend many racing and family events all over the state. It has created a great atmosphere for my friends and our children building great confidence in their abilities to tackle obstacles.

We also used to climb Mt. Pilchuck in the winter and take the Children to the snow. This was always a good adventure stopping to help people in need, Kids get to play in the snow. Parents get to have bragging rights of being better drivers.

Lately that has gone away. With the closures of Reiter Pit, and other local areas to recreate such as the Pilchuck Mainline, Monroe Log Camp road, Russian Road Parts of

Green Mountain, the snow closesures of Pilchuck Mt. and the Mt. loop Hwy. (done for special interest groups such as snowshoers and snowmobilers). It seems that my friends and their families and my family have all grown apart because we have nothing to do that isn't going to cost us an arm and a leg. All these misappriation of funds, double and triple charging people to use the same areas, not allowing certain groups to use public lands, Having ORV users to pay for non-ORV user facilities. The public lands are now becoming private lands for the elitists. This is not right. It seems the State spend more money keeping people out versus fixing the roads and trails.

THIS NEEDS TO CHANGE. You wonder why crime is going up and people are getting grouchy…….YOU KEEP TAKING AWAY OUR ACTIVITIES!!!!!!!

Juelanne Dalzell

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My husband and I were avid hikers and he was a mountain and rock climber. But then we got old. Our knees went bad and the shoulders can't handle a back pack any more but the longing to be in the outdoors is strong. We both took up horseback riding when hiking became impossible. We have traveled all over Washington State with our horses. We have riden across the State on the Iron Horse Trail, we have packed into wilderness areas throughout Washington and often camp with our horses on weekends. It costs a lot more to maintain a horse than a back pack but it is worth it because we are able to get to places that renew us spiritually where we'd never be able to go on our own power. We also have come to accept the expense because we realized that much of what we spend helps support our local economy. We buy local hay, use a local shoer and vet and local tack and feed store. We buy car parts and tires for a truck and trailer locally as well. We are of course very happy to share our good fortune with others. Every spring we volunteer ourselves and our horses for a four week camp that has conducts a riding program for the disabled. To paraphrase Winston Churchill it appears that recreating outside on a horse is really good for the inside of a person.

rosemary Gustafson

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I amm 69 years old and riding my horse with my friends out in the trails is like heaven on earth . We laugh we sing and enjoy all the beauty that God has created for us to have, Its a treasured time away from the busy life, phones, computers, traffic and noise.

Judy Tilley

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I am a 65 year old 5th generation Puget Sounder. I have been active outside since we camped at State Park and National Forest Park campgrounds as a family when I was a kid. When I was a teen, I hiked 2 50 mile 10 day backpacking trips into the Cascades. I have always felt that the outdoors was a place to go to be with friends and family or to be alone with nature and my thoughts. Depression is a part of life for both sides of my family. Being in the peace and quiet of the outdoors or hiking and camping with friends helps me forget about the down side of life. We all need places to recreate in our own way as long as we respect others and the land. I see that others who recreate differently from me (bikers, horse riding folk, etc.) help with trails and restoration. It is sad that funding for recreation has been cut. It is heartening to read about groups who volunteer to make our parks a better place for everyone. I personally do not mind paying a $30 annual fee to use our parks. Some states charge more for a pass or if you pay for single visits like in Utah, it adds up to more than $30. How much do you pay to see just one movie?

Tootie Crowson

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I was riding my horse alone for years when I noticed that I was going in one direction and my husband was going in another, soooo I bought him a horse! :0) So now we sort, pen, trail ride and camp together. He loves that horse and what he calls his cowboy

life style. This horsey thing lead to a pasture, barn, a 3 horse LQ, and a 2 horse trailer, tack… We are making Washington richer :0)

Lee Golden

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Lee Golden-71 yrs old. Oakville. My old Choco horse and I have ridden all over this state over the course of many many yrs. I have built, cleaned trails, and helped build bridges so we could all enjoy our state trails. It is important to me that we all share this rich resource of ours. Choco is gone now but my memories live on of him.

I. Ross

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I am a hiker and maintained trails are a portal to physical health and mental sanity for me. I will go out in rain or shine. I certainly cannot fix roads leading to trailheads myself and I am grateful for the funding that allows the outdoor aspects of our beautiful state to be enjoyed.Therese Roberson

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I am an avid user of Washington state parks and feel very fortunate to have such a huge playground right in my own backyard. I hike, bike, and kayak from spring to fall, and then ski and snowshoe all winter! With literally hundreds of places to choose from, it’s difficult to pick a favorite; but if I had to, I would say my favorite place to snowshoe, xc ski, and hike is at Mt. Spokane.

We have enough lakes and rivers to paddle all summer without doing the same one twice! One of my favorite kayak trips was paddling the Little Spokane River from St. George’s to where the Little Spokane meets the big Spokane.

Whether I am hiking, biking, kayaking, skiing or snowshoeing, I see wildlife almost every time I’m out and never go out without my camera!

I absolutely love where I live and hope we continue to receive federal funding to help sustain this beautiful area we call home!

Linda Roe

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I am an old northwesterner who grew up camping around Mt. Rainier every year with my family. As my children grew up we also camped every summer. We took a diffenert part of Washington each year and explored it with short hikes and scenic drives. Mt. Baker and the Olympic peninsula were favorites. We also did a few backpacks and day hikes close to home. My kids are now grown, and both of them have a love for the northwest and the outdoors. My daughter is very active in the mountain biking community and does reqular trailwork with her group. My husband and I still hike, and I've taken friends on lots of dayhikes, introducing them to the beauty around our state. One friend had never been to Mt. Rainier, Deception Pass or the Olympics and she had lived here all her life! We have such a beautiful state,we should treasure our special outdoor spaces.

Karen

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I attend and lead hikes or snowshoe trips for groups in Spokane. Many of us are seniors but we also introduce younger folks to the therapeutic value of outdoor recreation both for the mind and the body. I also take my grandchildren for outdoor adventures as I believe all human beings need a connection to nature. We camp and hike in warmer weather and they ski, snowshoe and sled in Winter. We absolutely love and appreciate those organizations that preserve land for public recreation.

Tom Fitzpatrick

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I used to day hike and car camp quite a bit in the National Forest and at Mt Rainier

NP. Over 20 years ago my feet went south on me orthopedically, and to top it off a few years ago I was diagnosed with diabetes and peripheral neuropathy. Being able to bike in the National Forest, state parks and local parks has been literally a lifesaver. A few years ago we relocated close to St Edward State Park; I ride there every week, and really enjoy volunteering through the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance to keep the trails in good condition for everybody. Soon to be 67, I'm now able to share these experiences with the 3 of my grandkids who live nearby.

Dale Damron

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For me, quality of life is almost synonymous with outdoor recreation opportunities. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing on Mt. Spokane are every-weekend activities for me and my fiance in the winter. I use Riverside State Park extensively for mountain-biking, hiking, and kayaking. I couldn't imagine what life would be like without those local assets, I'd probably would have moved away from Spokane by now. And I aways make trips to the mountains and rivers in the Cascades and Northeast Washington every summer and fall. The cost of Discovery Park passes is a tiny price to pay for access to those beautiful areas. If I'm needed to help rally to sustain these assets, I'd be happy to do that.

Peter Montgomery

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My wife and I stayed in a yurt at Cape Disappointment State Park, located at the Southern end of the Long Beach Peninsula. We went there for kayaking, but, in addition, we visited the many interesting sites related to the end of Lewis and Clark's journey to the Pacific. Most importantly, though, to our future, we found property on the Peninsula, purchased it, and have now built our own yurt as our residence. You cannot ever predict the influence on your lives of a visit to a State of Washington recreation area.

Patti Baumgardner

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Living in the rural eastern side of the state, we are thrilled with the sno-park system and the support the winter recreation folks give to it. Being able to ski on beautifully groomed trails has been a mental (and physical) health lifesaver for our family for years. It's hard to know how people who don't ski survive our winters. We are extremely fortunate that state recreation funders realize that even people far from urban population centers need places to play. We thank you for that.

Anita Will

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Hello My name is Anita Will. I am a horseback trail rider who has loved the outdoors since I was very young. I started trail riding and building trails in the Redmond Wa area along the pipe lines and woods with my brothers long ago.I have always found a true inner peace while on the trails. Later in 4H I also worked on the Discovery Trail in Vanc. Wa. I also spent a couple of summers working for Mount St. Helens Institute as a volunteer crew leader. Little did I know this early involvement would help me in the Trail project that I jumped into with Whipple Creek Park in Clark County ,Wa. Which is restoring over 6.5 miles of badly eroded trails and preserving early pioneer history within a 373 acre county Park. I started by getting permission from a local trail Group WTRA and the City / County Parks Dept. to form a committee of concerned trail users, Equestrians, Hikers and Bicyclists altogether in one committee. The goal was to help restore Whipple Creek Park. Together with some grant money from AQHA, the STEP grant and a grant from Columbia Gorge Horsemans Assoc. and thousands of hours of volunteer work, Whipple Creek Restoration Committee, can say we have been successful. Restoring over a mile of priority trail to a safe fun place to enjoy. We still have many more miles to go before our goal of a year round safe multi-use trail is completed but with the work accomplished on the hardest sections first, and all paperwork and permitting done, we will have a fresh start for the up

coming year. This is a huge project and we need the support of volunteers from solving paper work issues, fund raising, to digging water bars out. I have to say This has been the most rewarding personnel challenge I've ever made. If people can find a volunteer effort in their area I strongly suggest to reach out and ask to help giving back is a wonderful feeling

David Overfield

kdx220dave@yahoo.com

My name is David Overfield,

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce you to the NMA. The Northwest Motorcycle Association was founded in the early 1960's by a group of volunteers who saw the need to promote and preserve the sport of off-road motorcycle riding. Today there are over 1500 members of the NMA. We are very active within the Washington State Legislature keeping a close eye on issues that have a negative impact on the off-road community.A few years ago the NMA board came up with the idea of combining many of the individual local club poker runs into a series where family's are able to participate in a non competitive form of off-road riding and be eligible for prizes at the end of the series. We are currently working on a promotional flyer to be distributed to the motorcycle shops in Wa. Ore. and Id. as well as many other business that are supporting the series it will also appear on the NMA web site with direct links to your web site. There will be a total of 12 events with the first beginning in March 2013 and our final event will be in Oct 2013.During last years series we had over 5000 riders participate not including the families and spectators. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have and questions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank You in advance for your consideration in this matter.

http://www.nmaoffroad.org

Respectfully

David Overfield

NMA Poker Run Series

Co Chairman

Steve Justham

stevejustham@gmail.com

I am mentally ill and disabled from it. Riding my dirt bike in Washington, logging roads and single track my whole life has been the most important therapy I have to maintain my mental health. I also hike the mountains, cross country ski, and would like to snow mobile someday.

Recreation of ALL KINDS should be available to everyone. It is important to me, that as a community of riders, hikers and skiier's, along with the other outdoor enthusiasts, we do not take away opportunities for people to do what they love, but instead, create a win/win for every type of user group, so we all can enjoy the recreation/therapies we love so much.

Thank you for asking for feedback.

Beth Blay

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I will soon be 71–have ridden horseback to absolutely wonderful wilderness areas from AZ to WA because of my reliable transportation. Without my horses, I would never have been able to experience the oneness with nature and serenity that has contributed so much to my physical & mental well being. The outdoors experience has contributed to my stability and consequently to that of my family.

Jim Harris

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Many of my friends say that they wish that they were born earlier in American history. I believe I was born at just the right time. In the late 1960's, my high school, just

outside Olympia, had a hiking club. Almost monthly we went on a backcountry hike, a backpacking trip, or snowshoeing in the winter. That combined with Scouting activities, regular hunting trips with my Dad, and time sailing, I was in the out of doors a whole lot.

My family has always tent camped from a car, hiked, and RVed from the time my two daughters were less than a year old. As they got older they took up mountain biking and rock climbing. The attached pictures show my youngest daughter on her first backpacking trip at the age of 8, to Lake Stuart.

We have great memories of that trip and many more camping and hiking trips at Washington State Parks, National Parks throughout the northwest region of the U.S., and the Canadian Rockies. I want my grandchildren and everyone else's children and grandchildren to have those same opportunities; to see natural wonders and wildlife; and to take on physical challenges that provide experiences that make lifelong memories.

As financial resources become more limited and demand (happily) continues to grow, there is a need for available resources to go to projects that serve the most people. This applies to both repairs and construction of new recreation facilities. We cannot utilize the limited resources for the acquisition of new public lands, in the name of recreation, that only a few hundred people will be allowed to access, rather than building trails and other facilities that serve tens of thousands. Trails and high use recreation sites provide an introduction to the outdoors for those who did not grow up with the earlier exposure to the joys and benefits of outdoor recreation that I had.

Thanks Jim Harris

ROUND 7 QUESTION

Current Question - We have a two-part question for you:

a. What is it that you would most like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington in the future (i.e., what is the desired future condition you would like to see)?

b. What is it that you would not like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington's future?

Summary Observations from the Blog Facilitator

323 comments were received from 277 people addressing this question.

What stakeholders say they <u>would like</u> to see in the future.

Maintain or increase access. Stakeholders want a future for their recreation. One horsewoman put it this way, "I would like to see that horses and pack animals are not removed from the trails, either by regulation or by lack of maintenance of the trails…." Some stakeholders feel a sense of unease about how they are perceived. One person who uses motorized vehicles put it this way, "In the future I would like to see motorized recreation in WA state legitimized versus criminalized. It should be recognized as a sustainable form of recreation that Washington families have been participating in for generations." A mountain biker wants, "In more densly used areas, seperate trails for different uses, hikers, bicycles, motorcycles, but in more remote areas, allow trails to be shared, to open up more trails to be used by different users." A commenter wants government programs to address the needs of

children, "I would like to see more opportunities like the 'no child left inside' grants, which help make the connection between youth in underserved and oftentimes low income communities who have limited ability to experience the outdoors." Some recreationists have needs due to physical limitations as does this motorize recreationist, "I would most like to see increased access for motorized recreation. It is the most important thing to me (and many other elderly or disabled people) because we cannot hike anymore but still have the same love of the great outdoors." This commenter not only echoed the call for more access but noted his support for a disadvantaged group and highlighted the opportunity for building recreation advocates when he said, "I would like to see more land devoted to recreation. I would support attempts to subsidize access for lower income families… The more people we get into the outdoors, the more advocates we have for preserving natural spaces and the only way we get more people into the outdoors is to include all user groups." And a back country horsewoman provided a nice summary of the general message when all comments are read,

> "We have a valuable resource that many other states do not …a large percentage of land owned by the state and available for public use. This presents a number of financial challenges for our state. All users need to realize that paying a little more to use these lands and donating time and money for upkeep is imperative. Do not take this resource for granted and do not exclude user groups that support your trails and public lands."

Access close to population centers. Commute time to recreation sites bothers some stakeholders. An ORV user wants, "…areas for public ORV use. Especially within an hour drive of major cities." From another commenter, "My primary desire would be to see continued support for trail acitivites (hiking, biking) within urban areas so that more people can get outdoors, without having to drive at all or at least not having to drive long distances…" From a mountain biker, "I would like to see more mountain biking opportunities in the I-90 corridor. I would also like to see more cross country skiing/snowshoeing opportunities, and in particular, more dog friendly, nonmotorized sno parks in the I-90 corridor."

Think 'investment' when thinking about outdoor recreation. "As an avid horseman, hiker, sailor, climber, and road bicyclist in Washington State since 1970, I can say that there is little that Washington State doesn't have to offer in terms of recreational potential. …While the numbers vary, based on input from the horseback riding industry, the Outdoor Industry Association, the boating industry, and tourism, recreation in Washington State approaches 20 billion in economic benefit. …In spite of the economic value, we still find ourselves reinvesting much less in public funds than the public revenues produced by outdoor recreation. …What I would like to see happen is sustainable funding for our recreational infrastructure." member of the recreation industry sees the link between recreation and the economy, "Encouraging outdoor recreation can have a wide range of benefits, including for local economies, public health and wellness, inspiring a conservation ethic, and workforce development. While recreation may seem to be one that's easily dismissed as frivolous spending, I strongly believe (and I work in the industry) that Washington state residents truly benefit from a strong and growing recreation program."

Affordable recreation opportunities. As said by a boater/fisherman, "Keep access to outdoor recreation affordable and not so expensive that people are priced out of participating. I support user fees to a point. Funding for parks, boat launches, trail maintenance, etc, must be secured from sources beyond just user fees."

Improve infrastructure. Commenters pointed out that, while they have access to their preferred recreation, the support infrastructure allowing access to that recreation is sometimes insufficient. A horsewoman noted that, "This [access] also means space for parking trucks and horse trailers, and access roads that are in good enough condition to haul a trailer without risking injury to my horses." Trail connectivity was mentioned a number of times, as did this horseman, "I would like to see trail connectivity between public lands."

Improved maintenance. A clean recreation site is appreciated by users, "In the

future the trail pass/state park pass income should help cover the cost to put garbage cans/signs out there [Reiter Pit] when they are ready to re-open it. lets hope for that." A horse rider is sensitive about noxious weeds, "My main concern with public land use in my area of Eastern Washington is the rapid spread of noxious weeds. …I appreciate the requirement of certified weed free hay for livestock that has been implemented for use on public lands." And this person, and others, made a case for maintenance first as a good business decision, "Public recreation lands should be maintained to at least the point where they will not deteriorate. If they aren't, it will cost more in the future to keep them open."

NOVA funds. A number of off road vehicle users expressed bitterness about NOVA fund expenditures, as did this user, "I have a second 'like to see' that's just as important to me. The OV in NOVA funds stands for Offroad Vehicle … but the approach and makeup of this state-run process has shifted over time away from those original letters."

From user group conflicts to cooperation. Echoing a theme from earlier rounds of comments, cooperation among users is on the minds of stakeholders. In their own words,

- "I [as a horse woman] have had courteous ATV riders, mountain bikers and hikers sharing the trail, and I can say that my ability to get out into the most beautiful areas has been by horseback. It is my deepest desire that my daughters and future generations also have this opportunity, so we must continue to adapt and share the trails. Keep the trail open, give greater access to all users, and be courteous with all that you meet, and as much as possible Leave No Trace"
- "I hope to see even more collaboration/respect between user groups. Things have come along way the last couple of years with this, I hope it continues."
- "I would also like to encourage all the user groups to work together and educate each other as to their issues."
- "I would like to see multiple user groups co-operating together. There is room for everyone."
- "Lets remember that every group of trail users might have a few duds, but that the vast majority of users have the same goals- to enjoy the outdoors sustainably and responsibly."

- "Compromise among stakeholders was offered as a solution by one person, "All the various outdoor recreation user groups will not have things to their liking at all times, so there will need to be compromise."
- "Keep the communication open between the outdoor users and governing bodies."
- "Hoping that there is increased consideration and acknowledgement that when there are may users on the trails/common paths that we walk/ride or merge right when its safe to do so, to avoid conflict. (I know alot of us already do this, but you'd be surprised perhaps that many dont."
- "I am a hiker and mountain biker and believe that we can all work together to promote responsible enjoyment of our trails."
- "But I'd like State officials to remember that in BCHW and other volunteer groups you have organizations that are willing to assist in the maintenance of such [recreation] assets."
- "More multi-use work parties. A volunteer list serve group."
- "And on a personal level, I'd like to somehow reduce conflict between user groups. Hikers, horse people, us motorized guys, mountain bikers… We are blessed with one of the best recreation areas on the planet, and if we can act together we will all be better off. Let's keep the bickering between user groups to a minimum."
- "Also would like to see cooperation between the federal and state jurisdictions to increase opportunites."
- "I would hope that we can all get along, and that everyone will come to the understanding that there is only so much money to go around, and, in some cases we will have to all share the same spot of land and do so willingly. If we can all find a way to work together for each others common interest in outdoor recreation we will all be winners."
- "a. I would like to see more shared usage of existing facilities and trails. b. I don't want to see any groups excluded from being able to use public lands. There should be room for all us."

Environmental sensitivity. For one person, it is uncomplicated, "Make protection of habitat and wildlife the top priority." A camper/boater, "I would like to see some large areas kept noise pollution free." Comprehensive planning was advocated by this commenter, "I would most like to see outdoor recreation in Washington managed as part of a comprehensive strategy for the environment, like that developed for the Willamette Valley with the Natural Capital Project."

Improved access to decision making. A mountain biker wants a "Move toward more

open and transparent policy making regarding public land access based on more scientific researches." Another person cited a success story, "I would like to see planning taking place similar to what has happened with the Green Mountain trail system on WA DNR land in Kitsap County. They gained comments from various user groups and came up with a plan that provided for access to all while minimizing conflicts between user groups." An ORV user says, "I would also like to see greater representation of ORV users in the decision making process."

What stakeholders say they <u>would not like</u> to see in the future.

Shrinking access for their preferred recreation. A horsewoman want a secure future for her recreation when she says, "What I would not like to see happen is the continued closure of trails to horseback riders." A motorcyclist feels at risk, "I've been using the trails for many years now. I like riding my two wheeler around on them. But being almost 60, I can't cover much ground without assistance, so I ride a small motorcycle. It seems that some folks are demonizing motorcycle riders. I know a lot of riders and the great majority are good folk that don't tear up the trails." A recreationist that uses multiple modes of recreation says that "What I don't want to see is groups loosing their access unless it is necessary for the land to heal."

Access to government-owned land. There is sensitivity about the potential for losing access to government land. One person put it bluntly, "No more lock outs of state land." A bicycler and others want increased opportunity, "I also want to see increased access to trails by cyclists with off road routes that cross the state." A state park user says, "I would not like to see Washington State close parks due to lack of funding."

Loss in the quality of recreation experiences. A horse camper says, "I do not want to see the backcountry abused. It breaks my heart to see garbage and destruction in the pristine areas that we are so blessed to see." Another commenter says, "I do not

want to see increased fees, user conflicts, trails in disrepair or abused." An equestrian is concerned about quality when she says, "I also want the state to avoid public/private partnerships for the creation of adventure parks, zip lines, music venues. Let's leave the outdoors natural and accessible to all!"

Expense, rules, and complexity are driving people away from recreation. One man is concerned about costs going up and made the point that the provision of recreation as a broader good than just for the people participating in a recreation. He said, "I am especially concerned that outdoor recreation does not become so costly that some people are unable to afford to recreate… User fees alone will NOT be enough to cover the cost of creating and/or maintaining campgrounds, state parks, boat launches, trails, etc. Funding must come from other sources including and especially from the state general fund. Outdoor recreation and access to recreation is a vital component of life in our beautiful state. All WA residents should be financially involved in supporting outdoor recreation within our borders." A horsewoman is tired of paying multiple user fees, "I get tired of having to pay multiple user fees depending on whose land the rides may be on. I think that 1 pass should cover all public lands and it should be affordable for the average Joe, not just the rich guys." Some people are frustrated by the mixed set of rules they must navigate to participate in their recreation as this commenter observed, "Another complicated aspect to us typical trail users is the complex network of land owners. Each owner has different rules and it's really difficult to figure out where you need a pass, where you can park, what's allowed, etc." An elderly horsewoman wants to be 'legal' by possessing the necessary use permits, but is frustrated because the diversity of requirements makes this difficult, "Now we have to have all these passes to enjoy [~~our~~] what I thought was our forests. I get so confused on what pass I have to ride where. Sure wish if we have to resort to that is that we could have One pass for all."

Multiple use causing a decline in recreation use. A mountain biker was concerned about potential use conflicts when he said, "Places such as Goat Mountain should be

considered State's natural treasure and should not be allowed to be marred permanently by mining." Some people cited failure to mange incompatible recreation activities at the same location as a concern as in the case of this horsewoman, "Motorcycles and horsed usually don't mix well, so would like to see trails for hikers and horses only." Similarly, a mountain biker is sensitive about too many single-use designations, "Other users, particularly hikers have 100 times more trail availability to single use trails and we all pay equal taxes, and therefore the overall plan should allow more diversity for other user groups." And an OHV enthusiast is concerned about opportunity, "I would not like any reduction in current OHV riding areas or separation of different groups using trails. I get along with the different groups on trails and feel like we're all going towards the same goal."

Withdrawal of public support for public recreation opportunities. Shifting public recreation opportunities toward self-funded programs was a concern. One person put it this way, "I strongly believe that Washington State Parks are to be maintained by all state residents — not just current campers and trail users — for the benefit of wildlife and future generations. The failure of the Discovery Pass & Snow Park financing system needs to be ended and proper state funding be achieved for the long-term benefit of all. No organization can operate well without consistent, predictable funding! Taking our parks rangers and turning them into meter maids is among the stupidest waste of human resources possible. …'Parks as an Enterprise' is a downright reprehensible strategy for land stewardship." A horsewoman is sensitive to this kind of loss, "I would least like to see Washington park land being sold off for private purposes because the State can no longer afford to maintain and supervise its holdings." This commenter sees provision of recreation as a public good, "I would NOT like to see public recreation commoditized to the point that public land managers spend their time chasing funding or implementing user fees for everything, thereby restricting access, or making it necessary to decide between managing public land to make money or to serve our residents Protecting public land (for recreation, environmental protection, etc) is an ESSENTIAL SERVICE…"

Below are the individual comments received in response to this question:

Comments Submitted on the Town Hall Website

Eva Tyler

tylerpawjesse@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/15 at 4:19 pm

I would like to see hiker trails kept open and maintained. I would also like to see road improvements for trail access.

I would not like to see any more trails open to motorcycles unless they were separate from hiker trails. If a trail is designated motorcycle only, then I would like to see an equivalent hiker only trail in the same area.

Peter Montgomery

fritzivos@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/15 at 3:28 pm

I read most of the comments written before my comment, and, it seems to me from reading, the comments are mainly about trails – horse, mountain bike, motorcycle, ORV, hiking. Very little about Parks, almost nothing about recreational uses of the State's water resources. Anyway, creating and maintaining recreational facilities, whatever they may be, takes money. Every public organization in America is struggling for funding and the population to be served continuously increases. We Americans grew up with the ideal of democracy in our minds – of the people, by the people, for the people, a powerful and worthy ideal. However, that ideal cannot be realized with more and more people and less and less public money available. For the past one hundred

and fifty years, when land and labor were cheap, Americans developed public lands and encouraged their uses. Public organizations no longer can even afford to maintain what has been developed, say nothing of developing more. Even raising taxes, if such a thing could happen, would never provide enough funding for all the current demands. Some commentors took the question, “what would you like to see happen . . . .” to mean what MORE would you like to have available. The question, if posed realistically, means, what would you like to keep available and what dropped from public offerings. I take it, from the comments posted, the public, at least the commenting public, wants trails. The state can no longer provide all the people with all the people want. So, as programs get cut, what I would like to see is for the State to KEEP THE LAND, keep all the sites it has now, never give up the public lands and waters. Programs will have to go, staff will have to go, but don’t ever surrender what has been acquired.

Kelly Amsbry

kamsbry@happymonkey.com

Submitted on 2013/02/15 at 3:06 pm

I’d like to see more support for dedicated mountain bike trails on state land. This is a recreational activity that is not widely supported enough in the state currently. With the formation of the Washington State High School Mountain Biking League we have an opportunity to get a lot more teens involved in a positive outdoor activity that can be accessible to people across the state.

Reed

reed@w8s.org

Submitted on 2013/02/15 at 2:00 pm

a. The desired future condition of outdoor recreation was well stated by Bob Vaux, then President of the Washington State Trails Coalition, in 1998: “Our minds will slow, our hearts will race and our waist lines will recede. Trail stories will be exchanged at the barbershop and in the grocery checkout line. Outdoor equipment will be reasonably priced for all society to purchase. Citizens will be able to identify native plants, trees and

animals. We will know our time and place based on seasonal change. When asked where we are from, the answer will begin with the location of the nearest trail."

The State will be adequately funding outdoor recreation and working with other public entities, user groups, and the private sector to provide outstanding opportunities for its citizens and the continuing influx of visitors who stop in awe, time and time again, during pursuit of their outdoor dreams from the benthic depths to glacial heights.

b. What I would not like to see, right now and in the future, is the flushing of funding on the state level for outdoor recreation, cultural heritage, and the environmental benefits of forest carbon sequestration, cool and clean freshwater, and a sustainable saltwater biocommunity. We are blessed with amazing natural resources, that we must steward and live within, borrowed from future generations. The time to pay up is now.

Cristy Craig

cristy.craig@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/15 at 12:03 pm

I would like to see our state parks remain open to everyone, so either a roll back of economic barriers to park use, or in the alternative a clearly communicated method for low income folks to waive park fees. I would not like to see increases in park fees, such as the $10.00 parking fee I saw posted at St. Edward State Park last weekend (I believe up from $5.00). Although my family has the economic resources to pay park fees, the cost of an annual pass is high enough to price many others out of the park user market. Families struggling with economic issues should not be precluded from using invaluable public resources that provide opportunities for fresh air and exercise, exposure to physical beauty, and the power to educate through experience.

Tony Karniss

tkarniss@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/15 at 8:36 am

Tony Karniss Says:As a member of Back Country Horseman Of Washington, I am

concerned about the future of our recreational trails and trailheads in washington, both in the Front country and Back country areas.I would like to see all trails remain open for all user groups,and do not close trails by regulation or for the lack of maintenance, there are thousands of hours of volunteerism put forth to keeping trails and trailheads open.I am aware of the short funding from federal, state and local goverment, so lets back off on some regulation, and let user groups to continue doing, and assist you in trail and trailhead maintenance, we are more than happy to work with you.

Steve

ckickingbird1@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/14 at 6:27 pm

We need a horse riding greenway for horses only. We need riding paths for horses alongside people greenways. I would like to ride my horse to work but can't because theres not a horse path thru Selah gap and along Yakima river. We horse owners and riders need to start demanding the same access as bicyclists,,horses were here before bicycles. WE NEED MORE HORSE PATHS.

Sharon Cosner

dreaming4fun1@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/14 at 5:55 pm

I want to see more horse trails open up!!!!!! I realise it takes money to keep up the trails but with the price of fuel and the car tabs that we pay most people will not pay to get the discover pass if we could get a discount on the discover pass it would be great! and more people would ride in the areas more…..

Linda Riley

rosie1400@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/14 at 4:51 pm

I would like to see a continued availability of trails for all users, non-motorized and motorized on Public Lands. More and more people are getting outdoors. This is a healthy way of spending quality time with friends and family. For safety reasons, we need trails designated for specific group's i.e. motorized, non-motorized, mountain biking, and hiking. Where equestrian trails are to be shared with other users, I would like to see them be built to accommodate all of the users and not just to hiker standards. I would like to see adequate trailheads to access the trails, and campgrounds to camp at with our families and friends. I belong to Back Country Horseman of Washington. Our club members spend many hours working on trails to keep them clear and usable for user groups – Almost 60,000 hours last year. I am sure that other user groups spend a lot of hours on trail work as well. I would like to see our group working together with other groups and public officials to help defray the cost of up-keep and maintenance.I would not like to see users unable to use public land due to high taxes and fees, nor would I like to see our public lands closed.

slugsmasher

slugsmasher@oakharbor.net

Submitted on 2013/02/14 at 3:57 pm

My personal ideal future would involve everybody going back to watching TV or something at home so I can enjoy the wilderness unabated without the crowds, the fees and the public. But that is not going to happen so I am in favor of the following:

1)Preservation of existing outdoor opportunities

Encroachment of private landowners and constant disagreement among land management/use issues results in loss of existing opportunities for all involved. With the ever increasing popularity of outdoor recreation and commercialization or outdoor activities, it is paramount that existing areas are preserved and aggressive motions are made to increase land use opportunities. We need to make the number one priority in keeping what we already have and maintaining it.

2)Educate Users at the Source

Many conflicts exist in outdoor recreation due to the fact that several different user

groups have different levels of outdoor recreation related education when it comes to preserving and maintaining outdoor areas. Put education to preserve our future in schools where kids are taught “leave no trace” ethics and gain appreciation for outdoor recreation. Additionally, scouting groups, church groups and family activity groups should all be teaching the same thing to kids in preservation and care of the wilderness areas.

3)Expand opportunities equally among users

Popularity of certain activities will ebb and flow. However, access to areas for those activities should not ebb and flow. I am talking about high impact or pseudo impact activities such as mountain biking, horseback riding and motorcycling. More areas are needed for these sports and parking/facilities to accommodate them. Taking away a moto trail to make a horse trail and then redesignating it a biking trail only to finally lose it to hiking only is a sad state that I have seen happen several times over the years. Hiking and walking enthusiasts have virtually endless possibilities while other sports are very limited. In areas where impact is damaging this is understandable however many groups are willing to work with land managers to improve and expand access wherever possible. We need to continue to grow our working relationship among all user groups and ensure fair appropriation of new lands and areas for all.

Things I would not like to see is:

1)Increased fees while not improving or increasing areas.

2)Over population of outdoor areas. If outdoor recreation continues to grow in popularity as it has for the last 10 years we are going to have some major access problems in the next 20 years.

3)Closure of any designated trails for activities other than hiking.

Nathan

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Submitted on 2013/02/14 at 12:44 pm

I highly value living on the edge of the Capitol State Forest. Unfortunately many of my

neighbors are scared to venture in due to it being a virtual shooting gallery. Others hesitate to spend the $30 per year to venture on to the safer nearby nature trail.–Let me be clear. Hunters are not the problem, “target” shooters at the edge of a densely populated area are. They are unaware of the trail systems around them. I have encountered people shooting from, across, down, and over trails. There is a spot where I regularly pick up clay disks from the trail tread, thanks to skeet shooters who shoot from the road above the trail.–I would like to see safe recreation areas. I would like to see day use areas and nature trails not priced in such away to discourage casual users.I would like to see the DNR to continue to work with user groups to maintain and create trails. I wouldn’t mind getting more than a $1.25 per hour of work towards a pass (24hrs for a $30 pass).I highly value the immense trail system in my backyard. Streamlining permitting of new trails to prevent user conflicts would not be a bad thing, but the trails in my area are good and getting better, primarily due to user efforts.

John Chappell

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Submitted on 2013/02/14 at 11:30 am

For personal background, I have been hiking the backcountry since about 1964. In those 49 years I have seen a lot of country and a lot of changes. I have hiked around the Grand Tetons, ridden and hiked the Bob Marshall, hiked in Denali, ridden around in Outer Mongolia, the Pasayten Wilderness, the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, the Wenaha Wilderness and numerous other areas. Early on I learned as a hiker that I did not enjoy sharing the trail with motorcycles. I have nothing against them but I stay away from areas where they are allowed. Cross country skiing and snowmobiling are equally incompatible.

My thoughts for what I would most like to see happen are as follows.a. What is it that you would most like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington in the future (i.e., what is the desired future condition you would like to see)?I would like to see wilderness preserved as wilderness. Aldo Leopold and John Muir have helped define wilderness and they envision areas used by non-mechanical visitors with a minimum of interparty contact. I would like to see areas open to hikers and equestrians using “leave-

no-trace” methods and very low density. Large campgrounds are inimical to wilderness. I think it would be preferable to have a drawing for access rather than overloading Wilderness Areas.Areas outside Wilderness should be managed to provide balanced recreation opportunities at an affordable rate for the various interest groups, probably separately in most instances. Some are compatible and some are not.

b. What is it that you would not like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington’s future?I would not like to see people priced out of opportunities to enjoy various outdoor activities such as walking, hiking, running, horseback riding, swimming, muscle/wind powered boating, power boating, fishing, hunting, skating skiing and etc. I think there is plenty of room for all and that segregating use based on per capita demand is fine keeping in mind that some uses are inherently incompatible.

Monte Geerdes

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Submitted on 2013/02/14 at 10:43 am

please always consider to never having now or in the future,to barring horse use for we/us avid horseback riders! thank you!!!

Darcy

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Submitted on 2013/02/14 at 10:09 am

What would I like to see?I would like to see barriers between people and our public lands collapse. We are losing the next generation to i-devices and techno-everything. At this very time when agencies should be reaching out, we are making it very difficult to enjoying the outdoors. Discover Pass, America the Beautiful Pass, NW Forest Pass, leases and fees, licenses and stamps and stickers, and piles of permits . On top of the financial impact, government adds regulations for everything. No walking, no picking, no camping, no riding, NO-NO-NO! In the long run, these excessive rules will hurt the lands they are designed to “protect”. The “Hassel factor” becomes such a burden,

people will just stop participating in outdoor recreation, switch to Disneyland or Casinos, and simply not care anymore. We see it already–less outdoor recreationists, and less resources. Our state's solution has been to transfer more of the financial burden onto fewer and fewer hunters/anglers/campers/riders. We need to reverse this trend and make it easy to enjoy the outdoors again!Specifics:Access: Millions of acres of private lands, especially timberlands, have closed to the public recreation. These lands still get taxbreaks that were supposed to help insure they were open to the public. This needs to change: companies that enjoy these timberland tax breaks should keep the land open. There are also places where private land blocks public land. We need to gain legal public access for the public to our existing public lands.Fees: If it is absolutely necessary, STREAMLINE, make it easy and make it interagency. People do feel they should support the recreation they enjoy, but they don't want to be harassed or insulted or red-taped into a fine or ticket. Keeping up with the requirements is a full-time job. The Discover Pass was originally for developed recreation sites, but the Agencies, sensing more cash, expanded that to mean any land the people might even pass through on a trip somewhere else. Travesty! Fees for service is ok, fee for entry is no-way.Opportunity: Think broad. Connect parcels. Trails should be considered part of a regional transportation system. Find those forgotten gems and utilize them. There is no need for excessive development that costs massive amounts of tax dollars. Simple parking with dirt trails should do if we want to reconnect with the outdoors. Expanded basic (free) access to land and water should be a priority.Cooperate: Stop micromanaging, let volunteers do real jobs, ask for help, work between and within different agencies, get kids and schools involved. In our county we have a new campground and also a world-class gun range mostly because of volunteers and public-private cooperation (despite the state regulatory burdens for such projects).Regulation: Review laws and remove burdens and barriers. Steamline the grants–better yet, just give the WDFW, Parks, and DNR, grant money to use as they see fit. This will save money by trading administrative and process costs for on-the-ground results. Refine the Discover Pass–use it as a marketing tool to encourage visitation. Should it really be illegal for a child to collect rocks and sticks? Do we really need all those licenses, passes and permits?

It is also time to put some of the financial burden of land management back onto the

state as a whole, instead of bleeding recreationists for more money. Much of our public land is set aside or managed for environmental (vs. recreational) uses, but recreationists have to pay the lion's share for management. Think endangered species, wetlands, shorelines. These areas should be supported by the population at large.

What not to do? Stop doing what you are currently doing with regulations and fees and change course now, before it is too late.

Therese Jones

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Submitted on 2013/02/14 at 9:45 am

It is very important to have more horse trails on public lands,We need to do all we can to do it for the next generation of rides,young and old,we like to see continued usage of older trails,the ones who have being for horse riders since 1970,we need to share with all other sports,and work together to protect are beautiful world.Thank you.

Tony D

tonynospam@excite.com

Submitted on 2013/02/14 at 9:44 am

Horse trails are fine – as long as you're riding a horse. Having hiked in the Capitol Forest along the Mima Falls trail once (and that was enough) I've decided horse trails are nasty. Fetid pools of stagnant water mixed with dung – thick with flies… no thanks.

I would like to see more hiking / mountain bike trails – and more motorized use trails – you can share the trail with these and enjoy the trail without constantly looking down, dodging piles of manure.

cindy

cindy1mike2ntm3@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/14 at 7:30 am

please consider more horse back riding trails. Having trail heads that are big enough to park the trailers as well.

Gina Stommes

gforce5748@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 9:42 pm

I would like to see more horseback riding on public lands. I also would like to see continued usage of certain trails designated for specific activities such as mountain biking, hiking,horseback riding.

Lacie Dawson

lacied1@live.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 8:53 pm

I would love to see more horse trails and trail heads that are trailer friendly.

Melinda Meyers

FastLilFilly@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 8:51 pm

I would love to see more “Horse trails” that go along the rivers. Not only would it be a nice ride but you can also water your horse too. I live in Finley, Wa. it is just on the south east side of Kennewick. I feel fortunate that we live so close to the river. We ride along the trails and even ride in the river. It makes for such a nice ride. Everyone in the nieghborhood now faces the rest of SR397 finishing up just down the road from us. We as a horse community are waiting to see if we can still get access to it from our road. It seems these days that we are just getting pushed out of everything with no thought of the horse community. heck the local fairgrounds was being rented and run by a gentleman who knew exactly what he was doing in making a large area where all horsemen/women coud go to ride. Everyone was meeting there! It was a place where

our chldren could go ride, compete and it was a huge family fun event, and it kept the kids off the streets! Then they (the county) pulled the lease out from under him. They made an excuse that was not true. when caught in it they then made another excuse.. No more fun for the kids, families etc..I hope that if promises are made they are kept.We need places where we can go ride and enjoy it!Some of us now ride on the Corp. of engineers land. We really enjoy it. But, we still miss more places. One place we used to ride was up above Hover. We would park our trailers (a bunch of us would meet) and go riding on the Blair Ranch Land. (It was open for everyone to use. The rules; Make sure you close the gates! There was no littering no nothing it was all left CLEAN!(There we people going up there to practice shooting and someone got shot down at the bottom of the hill.) We can no longer park our trailers there. The owners of the land posted it. There is no other place to park. So that is out now. And, we used to ride clean over to the cliffs overlooking Oregon.I have lived here all my life. I have watched all the areas shrink to nothing. No where to ride. I've watched people move in from out of town to be "in the country" yet they don't like the livestock. Too much noise, smell etc.. Hello.. That is why we live out here. To get away from all of those folks.We definitely need to have trails for horseback. It would be nice to be able to even cross the river on a bridge of some type. I'd love to ride over the Columbia and ride in Pasco or else where.My favorite place though is along the rivers, and lakes etc.. so much wildlife to watch and see.We have a bike trail out here.. You know who uses them to get around when need be.. Horsemen. We cannot ride on SR397 there is too much traffic and large semi's going through now. NO one hardly ever rides a bike on the "bike path" You will find horses on them. And some of the best rides have been on the Corp. of Engineers lands. There vehicles are not allowed. We do not have motorcycles ripping around there either. You can even go and pick black berries, etc..I talk about this because THIS is the type of trail horseback riders, and horsemen/women need.We don't mind sharing with bicycles either.I wish I/we could take you out on a ride where we go riding. I am sure you could see why we go where we go and ride where we ride. The Columbia river is such a beautiful place. You see Bald Eagles, deer, weasles, you can fish right off your horse if you wanted too.If you are willing to go for a ride to see the areas. Just let me know. We can line it up. Preferabley though when the weather in warmer..

Anita Will

flyingdunfarm@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 8:31 pm

I agree with your comment good management of the resources that we have and keeping them open to users in designated areas as per use. Everyone in Every user group wants more trails, but I think We need more volunteers to come forward from all user groups. Having the trails stay open that we already have will depend on this in the future, nothing in life is free. The costs for maintaining trails and getting new trails approved with all the permitting it takes such as grading and habitat permits plus the environmental planning now required are extremely high in cost not to mention more costs to maintain. If we can find a way to help each other and do planning and repairs correctly the first time it will save dollars in the future. The other part of this is educating the youth to Leave No Trace practices and trail manners for all user groups. One bad user makes it hard on all of the groups. One bad apple spoils the lot, how do we get this point across, maybe some sort of positive way for those that do the right thing in the right place. A tax credit would help for volunteers for the hours they donate each year, just a idea, it can't hurt.

Rachael

wamooserock@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 8:20 pm

More horse trails, access unrestricted to horseback on public and federal lands. Use of ecosystem based management of forests and trail areas/surrounding forestland as well as public and federal land.

I would not like to see auto or ORV use NOT on specific designated trails.

Jennifer J Hansen

starfirefarm@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 7:56 pm

To me, its most important that Washington's forrest and recreational lands are accessible to all. Personally I enjoy riding my my horse, hiking, and walking my dogs. Washington is a beautiful state and full of wonderful recreational opportunity (hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, cycling… just to name a few of my favorites). Education is necessary so future generations learn how to enjoy our amazing forests and open lands in harmony and with respect.

To my increasing the restrictions on the use of outdoor recreation in Washington would be devastating. It would discourage an already sedentary generation from exploring the great outdoor. Those of us who spend out free time riding horseback, cycling, and hiking would be forced to travel to other states to do so.

Julie Sole

lactoovo_jt@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 7:52 pm

I would like to see more horse and hiking only trails. Bikes tend to "pop out of nowhere" (not that bikers are bad but there are blind curves which makes it dangerous). ATV's are very loud and the few rude people found in every group ruin it for everyone. My horse does well around ATV's but this past summer we were chased down by two adults on their ATV's in a no-motor vehicle zone. It would be nice if we did not have to share the trail. People are going to break the rules regardless but if we could give everyone better access and more trails it would make breaking the rules less tempting.

Chris Marsh

thehouseofccccc@msn.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 7:51 pm

It is over 3 hours away and it is all flat ground and very wet. Thbere is not any challenge

there persay. We want stuff closer to our homes.

Chris Marsh

thehouseofccccc@msn.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 7:32 pm

I believe they reduced the ORV use down to 10 percent, 10,000+ acres, ORV use gets 1000 acres……hikers, horses, and bikers get 9000+ acres. That is clearly wrong since the majority of user's were ORV. I agree that someone politically took a stance and said that we were to close to their precious wilderness and wanted to make sure to shut us out.

Gold Bar Nature Trails had a great ORV family related program going on that was wrongfully shut down because of the political agendas.

Here is a good example of people abusing their power for personal gain and they should be prosectuted.

Chris Marsh

thehouseofccccc@msn.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 7:24 pm

Many of the ORV users did the maintenance and fixing of bridges in Reiter pit and in other areas, The state got involved and killed it with bureacracy. They over burden simple projects with studies, tests, environmental impacts. Loggers built bridges with logs that lasted for decades……simple. Very simple. I keep hearing how horses built this country…..realistically man built it with ingenuity, man power and simple tools. Not to mention heavy equipment and motorized vehicles. We all can use all the land together,

Tami Masters

starfiretami@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 7:21 pm

I would like to see more government lands available for public use. When they {the government or military.} are not using lands I wish they would make them available for public use especially open to horses because they can often use the same lands with low impact to the land and roads.What I would not like to see happen is more land taken away form equestrian use because these animals need alot of room to exercise, and most privately owned properties are not large enough to enjoy horse sports on. And since the military was originally such a big advocate of horses, they should supply the land to keep these animals happy and healthy.

Doris K. Bacon, DVM

dbacondvm@rcabletv.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 5:19 pm

What I would like to see with Washington's forest lands is good management. Where all people can use it, not just those that are in the best of shape. I want to see cattle grazing and keeping the brush down, I want to see forest fires put out when they start, I want to have the ability to walk thru the forest or use my horse in the forest and allow all the ORV to use the established roads not go out an ruin the land, but use the roads that are there. I do not want to see the Forest Service closing down more roads, just because they can. The loggers, farmers, bikers, hikers, horseback riders, all of us need to be able to access and use the forest for the best.

Elizabeth Archer Klein

kleinink@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 3:24 pm

Alice Walker said, "Horses make a landscape look beautiful." They solicit dreams and free the soul. Trails for horseback riding and hiking that are free from motorized traffic are very important to many people in Washington and to me. Please provide places where there are still "Happy Trails" and where those who experience the spirituality and

synchronicity with the horse and hiker are protected. We have Nature Deficit Disorder and need the quiet and the protection to escape from the motorized manic world. We need these places to be sane. We need places where our horses and dogs can be with us in nature. If we fence them off, we fence off a part of our hearts and minds. Dr. E.A. Klein, Brown's Pt, WA

Aaron Schofield

christinaandaaron@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 3:00 pm

I feel that there are two items that need to be addressed to improve outdoor recreation in the state of Washington in my opinion. I could come up with more but these two come to my mind immediately. First continue to work with local mountain bike advocacy groups to build more multiple use and single use trails, (i.e. mountain bike specific trails, horse specific trails, etc) because these trails are simply THE most fun to those user groups. In addition, in many case the labor and some if not all of the materials are provided by and organized by the groups. The second point that comes to my mind is to improve shoreline access to the Sound and all water ways in the state of Washington. It is shocking how much of the shoreline around the sound is private. What a tragedy. People should be able to take their families to the beach and launch a kayak in more locations than what is currently available. Of course this is a very long term complicated issue, but this should be high priority for everyone living in the state of Washington.

Thank You, Aaron Schofield

Barb Veal

royfarm@q.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 2:24 pm

I belong to the Nisqually Chapter Back Country Horsemen of WA (BCHW). As an older horseback rider I would like to see more horse trails in rural areas, i.e. along side existing rail trails, hiking trails, etc. Also, safe areas to park a horse trailer. I no longer

go into the “wilderness” areas for riding.

Marcin Porwit

mkporwit@porwit.net

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 1:22 pm

As a hiker, climber, bicyclist and motorcyclist, I want to see the expansion of access by all groups to the lands, not cutting access of one group to benefit others. Motorized access, and to a lesser degree bicycle access, tend to get marginalized. Please involve all local associations in these efforts, to educate users, help with trail building and maintenance, and to build things that users actually want.

Continued closures while hiking day use fees are not the way forward. Loss of motorized access is not the way forward. Repurposing money from the OHV fund to provide for other expenses is definitely not the way forward.

Ruth Sutton

ruths@wavecable.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 1:15 pm

I would like to see the trails open and maintained for outdoor users, such as hikers, bikers, and horseback riders. We ride our horses on many DNR trails and help with maintenance of them. This is such a wonderful area to ride in and appreciate the great outdoors. I hate to see trails closed and never opened back up to users, even though they help to maintain them.

stephanie

cassyopia@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 12:34 pm

you haven’t been to tahuyea forest to camp and ride your bike or quad have you. head over to the olympic peninsula yes west of seattle there are places for those who ride

motorized to enjoy.

leonard and sherri wright

landswright@tds.net

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 12:20 pm

I believe public land should be for every one and accessible to anyone that wishes to enjoy it. However, the state does not need to pay for my particular needs to enjoy state lands. User groups should pay for their own needs themselves and not through added fees and permits. For example, our BCH group, when working on private land, with the permission of the land owners, if a bridge needs implementing or repairs we go to our group for plans, materials, and construction. Because we as guests using the land, we take responsiblity for the improvements that benifit not only us but all users. If all user groups felt this way, the state could use there resourses in other areas, I have found ,,, you cant pay a person enough to get a job done that a volunteer would do just for the continued use of the area… I belive the state should reduse regulations and rules that hinder user groups from participating and improving the land it wishes to use. the one thing that the rule and regulations have done… is brought together user groups to campaign for the common goal… Keep the land for all people to use and enjoy.

Bill McKenna

wintercreeek1@wildblue.net

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 11:16 am

Public lands should be open to the public with temporary closures made only in extreme cases, then reopened ASP. We need to establish better communication and work parties for all users. We can’t expect government agencies to do all the work necessary to maintain our land. Rather the agencies role should be more to coordinate and oversee the maintenance to insure access is affordable.In the design and renovation of trails and trail heads I’d like to see two things:1 keep it simple! To many times we see asphalt parking with painted stripes for parking and other nice but not at all necessary aspects. The result being a whole bunch of money spent unnecessarily which is counter

productive to stretching the shrinking budgets.2 Make sure there is safe parking for horses. Not only do trucks and trailers need more space but they need to be segregated to prevent the risk of people getting hurt by passing to close to a horse or mule.

KFH

Karen.Hensley@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 10:54 am

a. What is it that you would most like to see happen?I would like for as many trails and access to stay open as possible, for the largest variety of users who have reasonable interaction and reasonable impact. I am a hiker, mountain biker, horse rider, cross-country skier, and I whitewater paddle.

I want to see more trails open for Mountain bikers. As a hiker I can tell you that sharing quality trails with horse mountain bikers is fine when the bikes yield to walkers. One can always go walking where most of the bikes cannot travel. Mountain biker volunteers should also be allowed to build new trails on which they have the right of way over hikers.

I want to see more trails opened for horses when the trail surface can handle the impact. As a walker and mountain biker, sharing trails with horses is fine in many circumstances. Hikers can walk around a bit of fertilizer. (I do get off my horse and push the poop off multi-use trails, and wish more horse owners made the attempt to also do that.)

b. What is it that you would not like to see happen?I do not want noise in trail areas. One noisy motorcycle or snowmobile can ruin the outdoor experience for users in a half-mile radius. I have also been in on trails when motorized people have more quiet engines, that purr gently. I want to see no expansion of where motorized vehicles go, and/or enforced noise limits for motorized users.

I do not want trails to be closed to one user type because of another unless there is compelling reason for it, such as noise impact from insufficiently regulated engine sound. As a horse rider, I have spent many miles and hours of time on trails leading inexperienced horses from the ground or from other horses so that they learn to accept

bicycles and motorcycles. Horse owners need to train their horses, not limit others use of trails. Horse riders with horses that do not accept other trail traffic need to understand that they have the option of getting a more suitable trail horse, doing more training while on foot, or staying home.

John Calian

sideshow@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 10:46 am

I would most like to see a balanced, practical approach that meets the needs of all residents of our state; I would like to see more effort put into supporting growing trends in outdoor sports, and I would like to see more recognition that we have an enormous amount of space available for all types of recreation: everyone should have ample room to participate in their chosen activities.

On a personal level, there needs to be more balance for mountain biking, snow skiing and snowboarding.

I would not like to see particular groups have more say in recreation than others. Everyone has a right to enjoy nature in their own way, and prejudices against certain activities needs to stop. For instance, the meetings I have attended to debate trail use often have common themes such as hiking groups claiming motocross being destructive. This is a blanket statement and is simply not fact based. Hikers can cause just as much, or at times more, erosion to mountains and outdoor areas than bikers.

But the real point is that anyone can contribute positively or negatively to our environment, our trails, our outdoor areas. We need to stress that everyone needs to be a good citizen. Our state is massive, there is room for everyone to enjoy nature.

Sally Coates and Ron Price

scandrp@q.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 10:44 am

As a horseback rider and member of the Backcountry Horse Association, I care about

trails for horses on our public lands. As a senior my preferred and possibly my only access to public lands in the future, is on my horse's back. It is an issue that I think needs to be kept in mind. I don't think our public lands should be only accessible to the hardy, fit and youthful. Sadly a lot of young folks today would rather stay in front of their computer screen anyway. I have no answer as to how to instill in today's youth an appreciation and reverence for the outdoors. There is no easy answer. Overuse of the resource is already an issue. But if kids today don't see any "value" to the outdoors and trails, tomorrow's support for trails and wilderness is gone.

I'd like to see continued support and access for horses on public trails. And support for parking facilities necessary to get horses to those trails.

I'd like to see support and efforts made, possibly by user groups themselves, to promote to young people an appreciation of low impact, responsible use of our public land. Thrill seekers and folks looking for Disney Land experiences should be looking elsewhere. I support and believe in multiuse and cooperation between user groups. One group's "pleasure", however should not be allowed to destroy the resource or compromise the safety of another user group.

I would NOT like to see extreme mountain biking allowed on recreational trails used by horses, hikers and "slower" members of the recreational family. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sally Coates, Port Angeles, WA

Bradley Cunningham

bacski5@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 10:14 am

I would like to see more trails/areas opened to Motorcycles, especially, on the West Side of the State. Driving for hours to the East side dramatically increases the cost to recreate. There are large amounts of state owned forest land which are closed to any form a recreation. Even areas which have been improved by the user group, have been shut down due to liability issues. Fix this so we can play without issues.

Maintained trail systems such as the new Reecer Pit are a huge waste of time, area and

resources and should not be looked at as an example of what to do.

Stop the Waste! Allow the users to maintain their areas instead of wasteful Government Spending. Allow registration fees and gas taxes to go where they are supposed to go….

Jason Heaverlo

jheaverlo@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 10:06 am

I grew up riding in the Central Cascades – my family sponsored, cleared, and maintained many trails, trailheads, and plant fish in the high mountain lakes on horseback for ALL to enjoy. My parent's contiue this practice even today with all the rules and regulations that make volunteering diffcult rather than easier. Many of the trails we enjoy today were built back by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corp under FDR) days on horseback. The trail system is for the public for all to enjoy however they should choose. When not competing, I enjoy a good long trail ride with my mount, solo or with friends to enjoy what natural resources we have here in Washington State!

Sue Shecket

sue@reneesgarden.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 9:58 am

We are continually losing trails and open lands to private development, so the role of public lands is even more vital. As an avid horseback rider AND hiker, I strongly believe that public lands need to remain open and accessible, with adequate funding for maintainence, monitoring and expansion. Equestrian groups such as the BCH and King County Executive Horse Council (and many others) who are tirelessly working to preserve our trails and public access need the active support of our public officials tio ensure that we will all be able to use and enjoy these important recreational and enviromental resources.

Corey White

bema_mt@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 9:36 am

I would like to see public lands play a greater role in the lives of citizens, specifically in the education of our youth, pairing education with stewardship (trail maintenance). This could start with shorter field trips for younger folks (water quality, plant identity, habitat assessment) then culminate in a state-wide, east-west backpack traverse of the state during one's junior summer. This would encourage both connection to and caring for our public lands.

It also would be nice to have to pay for only one (or none!) type of public lands pass, not one pass for state lands and one for federal lands, as is currently the case. Paying for any pass seems to me to be double taxation.

Increased commercialization on and of public lands is strictly anathema to me.

Robin

rkcarlton@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 8:38 am

Public lands is just what it says "public" it should be open for those who do like to get out and enjoy the beauty our state has to offer. I am a horseback rider/camper and there is no greater fun than to go camping with your horse. I have seen some scenery on my horse that would of taken me hours to hike to. With all that is being taken over by asphalt parking lots/shopping centers we need to keep our public lands. Thank you.

william erickson

ericksonwilliam@yaoho.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 8:00 am

I agree the White Pass camp is very nice and the trails are very doable

stephanie

cassyopia@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 7:38 am

I want to see public lands and trusts kept open to all user groups, be it equestrian,motorized,mt bike or hikers. I would also like to see more places to camp/ride with my horses. I would also like to see better access for the disabled to get out and see the back country better trails for strollers,wheel chairs that sort of thing 99% of the camping areas are not set up for people with disabilities. I know several persons who can ride a horse but can't get on easy with out a mounting ramp or some sort of steps and using a picnic table is not the best option. these persons also can't hike very far or at all due to the disability and a equine is the only way they can get out to the back country.

I don't want to see any thing close or be closed off to any user group.

pferde88

pferde88@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 6:08 am

The land belongs to the public and we should never close off access for horses, hikers, campers, bikes, etc. We all take pride in the land and take care of it. Nothing better than a trail ride with you and your horse.

William J. Erickson

ericksonwilliam@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 5:41 am

When it comes to the question of access to public lands I think one word should be strickened from use…the word… "No"

William J. Erickson

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Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 5:34 am

I am an avid horseman, photographer and outdoors man. I would like to see horseman allowed on all existing trails in the USA. Horseman carry saws: clear and clean trails and typically keep trails open for all to use. Horsemen typically ride and pack clearing trails well beyond the range of the average hiker. As horsemen and hikers, I think it is very important to do our part to carry saws and trail clearing equipment to the far reaches; to clear, clean and maintain everything in our path so that all aspects of outdoors men can access and get the full enjoyment out of the outdoor experience. Last season, I personally sawed over 50 logs out of trails opening them up to ever man woman and child. Every person needs to do their part so that all can enjoy this great public resource.

Mary

justhorsey@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 5:16 am

1, I would like to see our public land open and maintained for public use. Open public land is getting more difficult to find.

I would like more equestrian use campsites with corrals or highlines.

I would like to see access roads maintained and repaired.

I would like to see more wilderness areas open to equestrian and other non motorized use.

2. I would not like to see any of our open public lands closed, especially to horses or pack animals.

I would not like to see any of our wilderness trails open to motorized vehicles (maintain the access they have now).

I would not like to see any of our campgrounds closed.

I would not like to see any reduction in Park/Forest Rangers.

Linda K. Brannon

bornacwgrl@aol.com

Submitted on 2013/02/13 at 12:10 am

My feelings is that as much land forests parks ocean areas be preserved for a way of life that is disappearing or trails being cemented. By preserving areas for riding it is my hope children will have more of a chance to experiance nature respect for land animals hikers but to see the true beauty of our state.

What I would be dissapointed to see is where they have cemented areas and between roller skaters bicyclists etc etc. Not a good mixture. These people have many housing develoments they can do this in. And for motorcyclist I have had good luck with them even stopping and turning bikes off. Both sides need knowledge and training. We both want to preserve. I would hate to see any modernisation become a part of pure nature.

mike

cadmiumdesign@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 11:53 pm

I would like to see more bike trails for bikes only. Single track, simular to Grandridge. Great use of the hill. Make areas like exit 27, 38 and the trails above the CCC in the Middle Fork open andlegal for play. Keep the PCT CLOSED to bikes! Less rain in November too while your at it.

Kahlil Provo

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Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 11:41 pm

I would like to see mountain bike opportunities increase. Mountain biking is becoming and will remain as popular as hiking and exists if nothing else as a low impact means of fulfilling everything one seeks in a hike (scenery, exercise, etc…).

I would not like to see more opportunities for ORV users due to the impact and noise.

Jim Hudkins

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Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 11:18 pm

Jim HudkinsI belong to Backcountry Horsemen of Washington and ride and work on trails in Eastern Washington. I ride Mount Spokane State Park, Riverside State Park plus numerous trails controlled by DNR and Washington Wildlife. I would like to see more trail heads constructed so trailers and horses would have safer areas to park and connect to the trails. I would also like to see more work be done on existing trails by the agency's in control with help from volunteers. I would not want to see trails closed or roads used to access good riding areas closed also.

John Cannon

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Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 11:08 pm

Recreational horseback riding within the National Parks/Monuments in Washington State has been banned for decades, though it was horsemen who provided initial access to the land and built the original trails. This may have been due to damage caused years ago by insensitive or negligent horseman riding off-trail or camping for extended periods in sensitive backcountry. But horsemen are a different group today, better trained, better organized to police our own, teaching "Leave No Trace" recreation habits to other outdoorsmen, as well as our own. But even though horses are loved by the public, and recognized as almost as natural to the backcountry as the wildlife, we are banned from all but a couple trails at the lower elevations that provide little or no true view and enjoyment of the spectacular lands that served as the reasons to create the Park or Monument in the first place. Horsemen in Washington State cannot leave a trailhead that begins at or near major visitor centers in Parks, as they do in many other National Parks throughout the country. Many would like to see a 6 to 8 mile quality "day ride" section of the Wonderland Trail in Mt. Ranier National Park re-opened to

horsemen on an experimental basis, perhaps with horse clubs volunteering to handle trail damage that could reasonably be attributed to the animals, with some reasonable rules adopted, and signage (perhaps paid for by horsemen themselves).Many trails in the high country are over very rocky terrain, and are clear of snow for riding for only about 8 weeks per year. We believe that damage would be minimal, and assistance obtained by the Park Service from horsemen could be a huge net benefit to the Park Service if they were to seek cooperative arrangements!

Connie Lloyd

jerrytoy@whidbey.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 9:52 pm

As a seemingly greater percentage of the population, especially the younger generation, turn to “virtual” activities i.e. computer games, texting etc., and with the obesity epidemic in the US, it becomes ever more crucial that we encourage the use of, and provide the opportunity for ever greater numbers to experience the great outdoors. Access should be easy,i.e. parking, trails well marked, and open to all users. I am a Back Country Horseman club member and hiker. I believe it is my obligation as a user, to help maintain/repair the trails we have. Regarding trail user compatability: When riding, I have been very impressed by the level of courtesy given to us by motorcycle riders, who for the most part pull off the trail and cut their engines, Even so, they are naturally fast, and can unintentionally startle a young horse/rider. While I would not want trails closed to motor bikes, I do believe it is appropriate to have some separation of use. The noise and smell of combustion engines personally decreases the level of enjoyment I experience when hiking or horse riding.At the very least, we should maintain the trails we have, and build more, even it means user fees in a poor economy.I would also like to see a change in policy, where appropriate, to allow dogs on trails off leash. Of course, it would be owner responsibility for training to reliable voice command.

Marcia Schmidt

marcia@elltel.net

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 9:13 pm

I am an avid outdoors person and a frequent user of trails for horseback riding/packing, hiking and back country skiing. Please keep our trails open and maintained. The BCHW spend a lot of time and energy on trails. I wish some of the horrible washboard roads to trailheads could be improved. I wish we had more access points similar to the White Pass Horse Camp!

Diane Wilson

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Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 8:19 pm

Outdoor Recreation is what I live for. I most want comfortable access to all existing trail heads and organized volunteer work parties to help keep trails open for all non motorized vehicles. Even if that means allowing a motorized vehicle or a ‘seasonal’ chain saw for making the workload reasonable for all. I love to see people like me out using the animals that they work so hard to keep.

Jim Graham

olywajim@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 7:13 pm

I would like to see more opportunities and access for suburban and back country mountain biking.

Josh Poulsen

Josh.poulsen@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 7:07 pm

I’d like to see public mountain bike trails for varying levels of riders. Multi user trails and mountain bike specific trails.I would not like to see the public tax dollar ever used to

destroy, prohibit, prevent, or block public recreation.The desired future I hope to see in my community is as many public mountain bike trails as we can build with nonprofit help so that our community and state recreation lands can attract tourism and revenue through visitors coming to recreate in our state.

Barbara McKinney

littlemiss@communitynet.org

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 6:38 pm

Being an elderly lady and still riding the trails, I guess I take our parks, forest service lands, high country for granted. In my younger years I bought property that adjoined DNR and Forest service thinking now I am safe, I will always have a place to ride. So land was purchased and they made Whistler Canyon Trailhead. So then I was releaved to know that now we will always have a place to ride.I as a trailrider really enjoy running into bikers, and hikers and meeting new people. I am so happy people are enjoying the land that was made for us to enjoy. I would hope that our recreation people would always keep the trails open for All of us. Constantly I am hearing of trails being closed. BCH here in the Okanogan work really hard to keep the trails maintained, and are constantly improving the trailheads. It is so nice to have them to keep are Trails maintained so that we can easily hike, bike, and ride our horses on them. My desire is that somehow someway we will find a way to keep the trails open. BCH (Back Country Horsemen) are all over trying to maintain the trails so that we ALL can enjoy them.It would bring me Great sadness if my grandchildren would not be able to have these places to enjoy. Its almost gotten to everything is backed by money. Now we have to have all these passes to enjoy our what I thought was our forests. I get so confused on what pass I have to ride where. Sure wish if we have to resort to that is that we could have One pass for all. But nothing is ever that easy. I guess I dont know what I am talking about but I would hope that no trails will ever be closed for us all to enjoy. It is about all that is left that is good clean healthy fun.

Chris Marsh

thehouseofccccc@msn.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 6:25 pm

horses are smelly too, the problem with the thoughts of limiting orv's to private property is that people complain about that too. It is way better to be away from the major cities.

I had a lady quote to me on one of my land clean ups "I moved away from the city to get away from the noise."

I moved away from the city to be able to make noise. Everyone needs to share and get along or everything needs to be closed and we will all just be drones riding buses to and from from our duties. All wearing the same uniforms and eating the same foods. Taking away our rights away is no good for anyone. People need to lighten up.

Greg Carmichael

gregcarmichael@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 6:05 pm

a. New mountain bike trails and expansion of existing mountain bike trails.b. No motors and No guns.

Tom Amend

tpamend@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 5:56 pm

Mountain bike access please!

Roger B Nelson

rogerramjet1961@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 5:29 pm

My name is Roger Nelson I am a member of Backcountry Horsemn Of Washington Whatcom Chapter ,I would like to see more horse trails and more trail heads and safer

places for horse trailers to park and access trail ,more trail heads in Whatcom county,plus in the future I would not like to see any access denied to horses or mules on any lands federal or state.

Wayne

whpfish@aol.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 4:52 pm

Kell hit the nail on the head. We should keep the multi-use trails open for all.

I am also a single track motorcycle rider and am concerned about the lack of trails near the Seattle area. Having to drive long distances to access trails expands my environmental footprint. Give me an area near by so that I can enjoy the outdoors along with the other users and minimize my impact.

Kenny Allen

kjr1557@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 4:27 pm

In terms of what I'd like to see happen in outdoor recreation in Washington, i would be hasty if I jumped right out and said the obvious goal for me: year-round rock climbing access to parts of the southern aspects of beacon rock. This is THE specific goal of all my efforts because it is an outcome from which I will stand to benefit. But if climbing has taught me anything it is to not hope for an end result but to live in the experience of the present time. By saying that all I want is more time to climb at beacon rock, I am forgetting about the entire experience of getting such access. There is a process that needs to be taken to achieve year-round access and it starts with communication. And since the entire process of evaluating recreation in Washington concerns more activities than just climbing, it would be foolish of me to disregard other users. As such, my further comments will be more general.

What do I want to see, generally speaking? Two things: 1)better communication between land managers, (WDFW, when necessary) and user groups. This means

communication both ways, between user groups and land managers, and on a frequent basis. Land managers should expect to hear from frequent users and frequent users should hold themselves responsible for staying informed about their most-used recreation areas and the issues that affect them. Better communication is the place to start. And this leads to point number two: 2) better education. This means better education of land managers and wildlife officials, by user groups, of what is important to the specific user groups; also landmanagers and wildlife officials educating user groups on what is most important to the area being used, and how best to conserve the resources, as well as what the user groups can do to help the land managers/WDFW. We have lots to teach each other and open lines of communication will lead to better education, which will make for a positive feedback loop. Third, I want to see better balance between use and conservation or resources. Overprotection of any resource, when such measures are not needed, is a waste of time for land managers and unfair to user groups; underprotecting the resource could cause the resource itself to be wasted, which would be detrimental to everyone. We need a balance between these issues and not, for example, sweeping blanket closures of entire areas to public use.

I do not want to see a regression into limited access, disinterest by land managers, apathy by user groups, wasteful use of resources, or a lack of information when we all have so much to contribute!

Rocky Leavitt

mountainman044@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 4:04 pm

Rocky Leavitt says:I would like the state to remember that public lands belong to the public. They are the caretakers of our land. The public would like to use their land. They (the state) needs to cooperate when ever possible. Forty years ago I never seen many hikers in the back country, now there are lots of them. I would like to see lots more trails built, at both high and low elevations. They need to be built to stock standards so that horses and hikers can use them. Mountain bikers need to have their own set of trails. They ride too dangerously to be on hiker or horse trails.All user groups need to be accounted for. I don’t have a four wheeler, but those groups shouldn’t have to beg for a

place to ride. Recreation is one of the primary things that make any area more liveable. We need to be able to hunt, fish, and ride horses all thru our state forests. User groups that wish to take away our right to ride, hunt, or fish need to be stopped and reminded of our heritage.

Laura Shillam

laura.shillam@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 3:58 pm

I want the trails to stay open for use of hikers, bikes and horses. We need to get back to what our land and forest are about. I do find motor cycles and quads to be smelly and noisey and do not feel they mix safely with horse and hikers and are better for selected areas were the natural environment is not disrupted. I belong to Back Country horseman who work to keep trails open and clear for ongoing riding in the future. Please keep these trails open.

Kell

kell3238@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 3:35 pm

A.) As an avid single track motorcyclist I would love to see more single track OHV trails, but I would also like to see trails for all user groups stay open. I would also like to see more interaction between user group clubs and Washington State. This is a great resource that can be used to keep trails open for everyone. Instead of using resources bickering amongst ourselves and shutting certain user groups out use the money/resources in a positive way!

Oh, and I have to mention that I want to see the OHV gas/registration money actually get used for areas that OHV's are allowed to recreate. No more misappropriation of funds!

B.) I hate seeing trails closed but I also hate seeing bureaucracy drive terrible measures like having civil engineers "designing" Reiter trails. This was not a smart use of the few

resources we have and it's painful to watch millions of dollars be spent on a few miles of trails.

I would also not like to see multi-use trails turned into single user group trails. If you can't share them with others then don't use them! And if it really does ruin your day encountering other user groups then go buy private property and build your own trails, because these ones belong to everyone.

Jean

Jeans4U@msn.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 3:28 pm

We should never close the state or DNR lands trails for access since it's usage is primarily for hikers, campers, and horseback riders that have a great tendency of constant upkeep of its natural beauty and maintenance through volunteer work on their own!

Jean

Jeans4U@msn.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 3:23 pm

We definitely need to keep our parks and DNR lands open to horseback riding and hiking; especially with all the volunteer work my husband does on it so it remains accessable.We encourage more people to stay involved in maintaining and supporting these lands in their needs and requests of usage.

mikef

fraid@earthlink.net

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 3:08 pm

Sondra Johnson (submitted by e-mail, posted by the moderator)

I'd like to see the trails used by horses and mules be kept open for riding. Lots of

volunteer work is done by the backcountry horsemen from packing in planks, digging out old trails, cutting blowdowns, developing new trails that help keep trails open to horses and mules and hikers.

Sondra JohnstonPierce/Nisqually Back Country Horseman

mikef

fraid@earthlink.net

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 3:07 pm

Michael Mahaffey (submitted by e-mail, posted by the moderator)

a. What is it that you would most like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington in the future (i.e., what is the desired future condition you would like to see)? More cooperation between equine users and other recreation groups.

b. What is it that you would not like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington's future? They all need to be provided for and encouraged to work together. In BCHW alone there are 75000+ hours of volunteer hours and if all user groups did the same or better then the recreation in this state would be more accessible and safe

Michael Mahaffey Director BCHW

Craig

bspf@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 3:02 pm

I would like to see no more loss of riding areas for ORV use. If anything an increase in trail inventory.For the future I can live with increased user fees if they are allocated to the user group that is paying them. We need increased maintenance of our riding areas.

Sue K

wildrose02@live.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 1:15 pm

As an avid rider I would like to see continued access to state lands by horses. Many people are unable to access these lands on foot due to a variety of physical circumstances, but riding horseback opens the land to them. As a member of Back Country Horseman of Washington. I participate on many work parties where we work to clear, spread gravel on and maintain trails. BCHW contributed 59,000 hours of volunteer time last year. This helps maintain trails for a variety of users.

will

willycpc@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 1:07 pm

Hi: Business owner – father of four – avid trail user!

Please build and maintain more trails especially for mountain biking!

My family regularly mountain bikes, and we also backpack, and trail run. Mountain biking is my favorite trail activity, when the weather is nice, and despite all the efforts of the good folks at the state, WTA, EMBA, DNR, etc. we could still use MORE mountain biking trails!

Trails are exquisite treasures and conduits to allow us to savor the outdoors.

Will

theresa engelbert

okanoganequine@ncidata.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 1:01 pm

Horse back riders in Okanogan county are heavy users of the trails on state and forest service lands. Myself I am out 4 to 5 days a week on the trails with 3 to 4 co-riders so we would seriously miss out if the state closed trails to horses.

James Scarlett-Lyon

sawatchboy@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 12:35 pm

1. Open more trails to mountain bikes. This new generation is not about exclusive trail use. There are vast stretches of the Cascades that could and should be open to bikes. Leave true wilderness areas as is but open up the rest.

Heather McCartney

hmccartney@ci.mukilteo.wa.us

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 12:17 pm

What I would like to see: Emphasis on walking, hiking and biking trails or ways. More than 90% of residents surveyed over the past 20 years have indicated walking to be their highest priority. Safe on-road and separated/off-road recreational bike trails have become more popular.Linking parks to these bikeways enhances usage of both resources.

Identify adequate funding to repair, refurbish and maintenance of parks and open spaces.

What I don’t want to see in the future: The elimination of the State Agency – RCO that provides the funding and ranking mechanism for fish & Puget Sound Restoration and Park Grants to State and Local Agencies. There are many pass through dollars from the federal government that require a grant prioritization process. Eliminating the agency assumes that there never will be any more money for parks and open space.

Will Porter

william.porter@trane.com

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Part 1, I would like to see the number of mountain bike trails grow, to include mountain

bike only trails (for the safety of the hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers)Part 2. I would not like to see any currently open trails close, unless a study has been performed and the trail is no longer being used by any user group.

Steve

stevepelton@comcast.net

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Like:1) 1000+ miles of additional trails, mixed use and exclusive for biking, hiking, horse, ATV, dirt bike

– Specific dream is that the I-90 corridor from Issaqauh to Cle Elum is connected by singletrack backcountry trails. This is underway but lets get it fully funded and on a plan for completion in our lifetime. Hiking North, bike South, horse up the middle. See Colorado Trail.

2) Fully funded parks system paid for by all residents with a specific income source

3) A single unified parks/open space/parking/trail pass. Flat fee. Automatic renewal. Low income exemption. License plate or window sticker.

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6) Urban access to trails via a specific public transport. Other cities have this.

Don’t Like:1) Relying on making state parks profit centers that have to pay for themselves with cell towers, etc. It will never work. Parks are public assets that need to be supported by public funds. Ask any developer how they would make park land profitable and they would say pave it and go vertical. You can’t do it with gate fees, passes, and cell towers. It’s like trying to profitize the post office. Unless you want to pay $20 for a stamp (literally) it can’t be profitable.

2) Every trail being a fight. Create a balanced and specific land use plan, debate it once, and adopt. Then raise the funds and execute the plan. Trail development moves

so slow because every inch of dirt is a separate debate.

Thanks

kyle

kyle@transitionbikes.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 10:57 am

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rae

raemorris@amerion.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 10:52 am

•I am a great proponent of multiple use. I enjoy encountering bikes, snowmobiles, atvers, trail runners and other responsible users that are out recreating while I am hiking, skiing or horseback riding. The key here is responsible users and I include all the groups I primarily enjoy. I would like to see a great deal of effort put into education and the responsible use of trails by all groups. It only takes one or two atvers cutting fences or cutting erosion gullies to give a bad name to the entire group. It only takes one or two irresponsible horseback riders securing horses incorrectly to give a bad name to all. We need to get past fighting for "my" rights as a user and collectively ban together to educate in order to keep trails and recreation opportunities open to ALL before we ALL lose them. Education, education, education, especially tollerance toward other users, and programs like Leave No Trace, Responsible Riders etc.

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only takes a few bad ones……

•I'd like to see more support of user groups that maintain trails and I'd like to see more groups encouraged to maintain trails through "adopt a trail sections" or other avenues.

•Consider reducing the standards of the trail….posting them as "not maintained beyond 10 miles" or other appropriate signs rather than closing them.

•Consider reducing the number of acres of maintained lawn and allow more naturalization.

•Consider reducing standards at parks and labeling the water as "not for human consumption" rather than closing the park because water samples are too expensive.

•Day passes need to be $5; yearly passes $25 and easily available.

•Keep existing trails open and develop more trails for horseback riders and backcountry skiers.

•Parking areas improved for horse trailers & more horse facilities developed.

What I don't want to see:

•Motorized users shut out of public land use and pushed onto private land. Even though I am not a motorized user, I am a private land owner and have a hard time with trespassers. Public land is public and should be available for the public to use. Private land is private and the landowner should have the option of making it available to users or not.

•Trails, parks & facilities closed when there are other avenues available to keep them open.

You have a difficult task, but thanks for allowing input.

Trygve Culp

trygveculp@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 10:49 am

1. I am an equestrian and long time member of Back Country Horsemen of Washington. I would really like to see all of the existing trails available for stock use around the state

maintained adequately to a safe, useable condition. Further, I'd like to see the trail system expanded as our population increases its demand for outdoor recreation opportunities.2. I am hopeful that there would be no further errosion of access to Washington's publicly owned wild lands. This includes any closure of recreation infrastructure – roads, trails, picnic areas, camp grounds, rivers, lakes and swimming areas as well as hunting and fishing areas.Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

frrider26

frrider26@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 10:42 am

I'd like to see more recreation opportunities for mountain bikers. Taking places like tiger mountain, duthie hill, and galbraith as great examples. Compared to hikers and horse riders we have alot more limited access to public lands. With more areas to ride I also believe that volunteer hours would go up do to areas being close to where people live.

I'd don't want to see the groups fighting over land usage, outside the rare and disappointing cases I've had great experiences with other users in the same areas as mountain biking. Just try and remember share and share alike as many have pointed out already.

Thanks for the chance to voice my opinion!

Darrell Wallace

exec@bchw.org

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 10:32 am

As a horse rider and member of BCHW, of course I want to see lots of trails and facilities for horse riding, but in the bigger picture I want to see lots of access for all recreationalists in Washington. There needs to be places for motorized, and hikers, and bikers, and horsemen, and skiers, and snowshoers, and snowmobilers.

I would like to see us united in this, and not dividing into name-calling or jealousy. One post indicated dissatisfaction with trail damage from horses, and a desire to see more

riders working to maintain trails. The Back County Horsemen of Washington document over 28,000 volunteer hours of trail work in an average year (and more doing lots of other things, like Leave No Trace education). Maybe not on urban trails so much, but especially in distant places where hikers would prefer not to carry heavy tools. I know that many mountain bikers put in lots of hours too. Let's be fair to everyone when we ask for recreational opportunities.

Mark Morris

marksmorris@amerion.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 9:45 am

The Pacific Northwest with Washington State as it's heart offers ideal opportunity for horse back use. Both pleasure riding and "packing" into back country are recreational activities that need to be supported in the future. Access roads and trail heads need to be developed to facilitate use of stock trailers. With increasing demand and more riders trail heads will need to be larger. New trails and recreation facilities need to be developed to facilitate horse use. I am an advocate for "free use" of public land. If it is "public" that means that we all own it already and should not have to pay to use our land! Grants can be used to develop and improve trail heads and make new/ more trails. Many groups such a Pacific Northwest Trails Association, snowmobile groups and Back Country Horsemen will do volunteer work on trails and trail heads. In the future these partnerships need to be strengthened with formal agreements put into place. In many locations trail use should be available to multiple interests such as hikers, mountain bikers and in some locations motorized recreation activities as well as horse back riders. User groups can get along if agencies state "multiple use" is a policy for an area. I believe you will find that horse groups do huge amounts of trail and trail head work so partnerships with such groups will be a big benefit in the future.

Bill Pace

Wmpace@icloud.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 9:40 am

Please keep as much access as possible for horses and skiers . Share and share alike

Jim Anderson

muleman1951@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 9:32 am

I'm a member of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington. In doing our trail volunteer work one of the big obstacles we see is funding. Funding to hire contract crews for large projects. Funding for supplies. Funding for engineering of complexes projects. The competition for grants is crazy. Many projects that would make trails safer go wanting because of the lack of funding. If all of the monies come from user fees there is no way the land managers can get enough to do the work. It would get so expensive for users we couldn't afford to go any more.Many trail head parking areas are to small to accommodate even a couple of horse trailers to park and leave room for others. If the trails are open for horse/mule use the trail heads should have enough room to handle truck trailer rigs. This one place were user conflicts come into play. You spend the money for fuel and you get to the trail head and there is no place to park without blocking the road. This sets the tone for frustration and short tempers. One good program that needs to be expanded on is regular meetings between user groups and land managers. This is the forum for the exchange of ideas, formulate plans, plan volunteer projects and recognize outstanding achievements.

The thing that happens with these aforementioned comments is just what we don't want to see and that is the closure of trails either completely or to certain users. That of course causes hard feelings between user groups and towards the land managers.

Thanks for the chance to comment

Vincent Wehmeyer

vincentwehmeyer@gdicom.net

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 9:21 am

A. I would like to see our oppotunities increased for a diversity of the population.

Recreation should be managed under a multiple use concept with very few restrictions and limmited or closure restrictions. I would like to see areas reopened for all users, these are places for us to enjoy and they provide wellness opotunities.

B. I would not like to see more wilderness, roadless, and monument areas. We do not need more restriced areas.

rich ruhl

rlkruhl@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 9:15 am

Prohibit private business from leasing state or county park land for motorized activity like a sports car track, especially if it is boarding a salmon stream and considered wetland. Encourage multi use activities that are not motorized. I would like to see users encouraged to maintain existing parks by improving trails, ridding the area of invasive species of plants and working as partners to improve the public land. I would like to see motorized users work to develop areas for their use just as stock groups have throughout the state. It is very impressive when you see and read about members from horse and mule groups developing and maintaining trails.

I do not want to see horseback and mule riders restricted from trail use because it is perceived that they cause trail damage. Any use has some form of footprint, but riders are in groups that help maintain trails and emphasize best practices like Leave No Trace.Back Country and Front Country groups extend significant amount of energy to protect public lands and will do what it takes to keep trails open.

Bryan P

commerce@terran.org

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 8:55 am

I’d like to see more mountain bike trails.

I do NOT want to see trail networks lost to logging and development, or closed to public

use.

Ellen Ruotsala

e_ruotsala@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 8:49 am

I am a mountain biker. From my observation, most foot trafic on multi-use trails is of the day-hike variety, so folks are only going a few miles (maybe 2,3 or 4) from the trail head. For mtn bikers, a day-ride could be 15-50 miles. So I agree with other comments that longer loops and routes for mtn bikers would be good, it would route bikers to areas farther out than most day-hikers ever get to.Maybe it would ease congestion on some of the more popular trails.Personally, I am not a fan of motorized vehicles on trails. But since it's not going to stop, and I don't want to limit any group's right to responsibly enjoy the outdoors, I would like to see separate trails for motos- designed for their needs (like the Green Mountain area).I would like there to be more access to state parks and other areas that currently lump mtn bikes in with "mechanized" vehicles, and prohibit them. Mtn bikers are an important part of the outdoor recreation community. Bikes are clean, quiet and leave no more trace on the ground than a pair of hiking boots. Unfortunately, I think there are people who have negative opinions about bikers (or some other group of trail users) based on a single negative experience. Lets remember that every group of trail users might have a few duds, but that the vast majority of users have the same goals- to enjoy the outdoors sustainably and responsibly.Finally, I would like to see a competitive mountain bike venue developed. This could be a park or trail developed to bring USAC sanctioned xc racing back to the NW. I am not proposing to open up all trails to this- but a dedicated track for xc racing would just be awesome. Especially for young people- like those involved with things like the Washington High School Cycling League.

Emily Brink

ebandhaldor@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 8:46 am

A. As a horseback rider and hiker the continued availability of trails and access to trails is important go me. Irresponsible use by ANY individual in ANY user group can and does cause trail damage, however as a whole the equestrian riders in this state are responsible users. Many, like myself, belong to BCHW – Back Country Horsemen of Washington and participate in year round trail maintenance, building, and improvement of trail systems. As a Physical Therapist I believe inclusion of multiple user groups is important so that humans can get out and move. State lands, which are owned by us all, should allow access to as many different trail users as possible. With education and responsible self-policing multiple users can get along and not trample on the rights of other user groups to access and use trail systems. Horses, bikers and hikers with or without dogs should be able to respect each others choice of outdoor recreation and work together to maintain trails rather than point fingers at the other user group as the problem. Although from some of the prior comments there are obviously different opinions than mine and it seems if you are not a horseback rider that horses are the culprit of all trail damage! We all have different experiences and I can point to trail systems with more damage caused by mountain bikers building trails, hikers going off trails due to mud and trampling tree roots and of course places where poor horse – stock use is the culprit. The motorized ORV user group is a more difficult question for me as horses and motorized vehicles tend not to mix well, although with training I have never had any personal problems riding in areas where ORV riders are at and they have always been very courteous and respectful. I believe it is imperative to provide for access and trails to those with ORVs, just as with any other user group, just not sure how best to do that. Again it comes back to cooperation and a willingness to work TOGETHER to keep trails open, maintained and safe.What I would not like to see in the State plan is loss of trail systems to specific user groups or limitations on trail use which excludes horses-stock use. Historically, horses have had an enormous part in the development of our country and state and the BCHW chapters across the state are active stewards in trail use, trail head maintenance and working with state and county agencies to ensure responsible use of public lands. The numbers of trail riders via horseback are not as large as other user groups but we are strong in support and maintenance of trail systems that we use. The number of volunteer hours BCHW members donate to care for and be responsible stewards of the trails in Washington

would be detrimental to lose. The numbers escape me at the moment but anyone interested could contact BCHW at http://www.bchw.org and find out. Additionally the personal financial and monetary expenditures to improve trails is not insignificant.

We have a valuable resource that many other states do not …a large percentage of land owned by the state and available for public use. This presents a number of financial challenges for our state. All users need to realize that paying a little more to use these lands and donating time and money for upkeep is imperative. Do not take this resource for granted and do not exclude user groups that support your trails and public lands.

Thank you.

Emily Brink

Justin Vander Pol

justin@vanderpol.org

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 8:30 am

What I would like to see:* More trails opened up for mountain bike use. We're a low impact user group, very easy on the trails and environment, and take care of our trails through volunteering. We still have access to almost no trails in the Puget Sound area.

* More challenging trails. Build the new stuff narrow and interesting if the intended audience is intermediate to advanced users.

* More trails close in for families. These should be wider and easier. Take the families to viewpoints, waterfalls, rivers, interesting trees, fascinating rock formations. The family appropriate trails are very busy.

* State Parks focus more on trails. We need short trails to interesting places so our kids can walk or bike. We also need longer trails on some of your beautiful land for mountain biking to those wonderful vistas. You've got a ton of potential, and new trails are a lot cheaper and more sustainable than building paved campgrounds and parking lots. So much potential!

* We need more trail maintenance dollars for all users. Our volunteer groups do great,

but there are a lot of high value trails that need a little more love.

What I don't want to see:* Get the road engineers and landscape architects (who aren't trained in backcountry trails) out of trail construction! They're not trained in trail science and are making our trails unnecessarily wide and expensive. Very, very expensive! They're throwing engineering at us that is inappropriate for the environment. There IS good trail science, but it's a different discipline. Landscape Architects, you guys need to step up your game and learn how to design a narrow, appropriate, value engineered backcountry trail. There are classes out there – go take them.

Doug Sauvage

dougsa@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 8:10 am

A) I'd like to see more mountain bike or multi use trails. Ideally, these trails should be accessible without having to get in a car. It's a shame I have to drive a few miles on highway 18 consuming gas to get to the tiger mountain trailhead when it's only a few miles from my home in East Bellevue. I'd much rather ride there, but I'm not going to bike on highway 18.

B)It would be nice if horse owners didn't leave horse crap in the trails that I have to bike and run through.

Tonia

deermeadowhomes@embarqmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 8:00 am

A)The world is getting smaller as we speak and we ALL need to gracefully share. I am a horseback rider and supporter of Backcountry Horsemen, I would love to see continued and increased access for stock, it's where we belong.With that said my husband and I are both active cyclist, hikers and dog owners… we live here specifically to enjoy these lands. EVERY group has some impact. I would like to be able to continue enjoying Washington Parks.B)It is tragic for anyone denied access to play in Washington's

outdoors. I don't want to see anyone denied, we all need to share and fight to keep a level of standard to maintain and preserve.

cyne

cyneok@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 7:08 am

a.more horseback riding access and trailsb. less horseback riding access, taking away horseback riding access

Heather McCartney

hmccartney@ci.mukilteo.wa.us

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 12:17 pm

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•Consider reducing the number of acres of maintained lawn and allow more naturalization.

•Consider reducing standards at parks and labeling the water as "not for human consumption" rather than closing the park because water samples are too expensive.

•Day passes need to be $5; yearly passes $25 and easily available.

•Keep existing trails open and develop more trails for horseback riders and backcountry skiers.

•Parking areas improved for horse trailers & more horse facilities developed.

What I don't want to see:

•Motorized users shut out of public land use and pushed onto private land. Even though I am not a motorized user, I am a private land owner and have a hard time with trespassers. Public land is public and should be available for the public to use. Private land is private and the landowner should have the option of making it available to users or not.

•Trails, parks & facilities closed when there are other avenues available to keep them open.

You have a difficult task, but thanks for allowing input.

Trygve Culp

trygveculp@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 10:49 am

1. I am an equestrian and long time member of Back Country Horsemen of Washington. I would really like to see all of the existing trails available for stock use around the state

maintained adequately to a safe, useable condition. Further, I'd like to see the trail system expanded as our population increases its demand for outdoor recreation opportunities.2. I am hopeful that there would be no further errosion of access to Washington's publicly owned wild lands. This includes any closure of recreation infrastructure – roads, trails, picnic areas, camp grounds, rivers, lakes and swimming areas as well as hunting and fishing areas.Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

frrider26

frrider26@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 10:42 am

I'd like to see more recreation opportunities for mountain bikers. Taking places like tiger mountain, duthie hill, and galbraith as great examples. Compared to hikers and horse riders we have alot more limited access to public lands. With more areas to ride I also believe that volunteer hours would go up do to areas being close to where people live.

I'd don't want to see the groups fighting over land usage, outside the rare and disappointing cases I've had great experiences with other users in the same areas as mountain biking. Just try and remember share and share alike as many have pointed out already.

Thanks for the chance to voice my opinion!

Darrell Wallace

exec@bchw.org

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 10:32 am

As a horse rider and member of BCHW, of course I want to see lots of trails and facilities for horse riding, but in the bigger picture I want to see lots of access for all recreationalists in Washington. There needs to be places for motorized, and hikers, and bikers, and horsemen, and skiers, and snowshoers, and snowmobilers.

I would like to see us united in this, and not dividing into name-calling or jealousy. One post indicated dissatisfaction with trail damage from horses, and a desire to see more

riders working to maintain trails. The Back County Horsemen of Washington document over 28,000 volunteer hours of trail work in an average year (and more doing lots of other things, like Leave No Trace education). Maybe not on urban trails so much, but especially in distant places where hikers would prefer not to carry heavy tools. I know that many mountain bikers put in lots of hours too. Let's be fair to everyone when we ask for recreational opportunities.

Mark Morris

marksmorris@amerion.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 9:45 am

The Pacific Northwest with Washington State as it's heart offers ideal opportunity for horse back use. Both pleasure riding and "packing" into back country are recreational activities that need to be supported in the future. Access roads and trail heads need to be developed to facilitate use of stock trailers. With increasing demand and more riders trail heads will need to be larger. New trails and recreation facilities need to be developed to facilitate horse use. I am an advocate for "free use" of public land. If it is "public" that means that we all own it already and should not have to pay to use our land! Grants can be used to develop and improve trail heads and make new/ more trails. Many groups such a Pacific Northwest Trails Association, snowmobile groups and Back Country Horsemen will do volunteer work on trails and trail heads. In the future these partnerships need to be strengthened with formal agreements put into place. In many locations trail use should be available to multiple interests such as hikers, mountain bikers and in some locations motorized recreation activities as well as horse back riders. User groups can get along if agencies state "multiple use" is a policy for an area. I believe you will find that horse groups do huge amounts of trail and trail head work so partnerships with such groups will be a big benefit in the future.

Bill Pace

Wmpace@icloud.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 9:40 am

Please keep as much access as possible for horses and skiers . Share and share alike

Jim Anderson

muleman1951@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 9:32 am

I'm a member of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington. In doing our trail volunteer work one of the big obstacles we see is funding. Funding to hire contract crews for large projects. Funding for supplies. Funding for engineering of complexes projects. The competition for grants is crazy. Many projects that would make trails safer go wanting because of the lack of funding. If all of the monies come from user fees there is no way the land managers can get enough to do the work. It would get so expensive for users we couldn't afford to go any more.Many trail head parking areas are to small to accommodate even a couple of horse trailers to park and leave room for others. If the trails are open for horse/mule use the trail heads should have enough room to handle truck trailer rigs. This one place were user conflicts come into play. You spend the money for fuel and you get to the trail head and there is no place to park without blocking the road. This sets the tone for frustration and short tempers. One good program that needs to be expanded on is regular meetings between user groups and land managers. This is the forum for the exchange of ideas, formulate plans, plan volunteer projects and recognize outstanding achievements.

The thing that happens with these aforementioned comments is just what we don't want to see and that is the closure of trails either completely or to certain users. That of course causes hard feelings between user groups and towards the land managers.

Thanks for the chance to comment

Vincent Wehmeyer

vincentwehmeyer@gdicom.net

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 9:21 am

A. I would like to see our oppotunities increased for a diversity of the population.

Recreation should be managed under a multiple use concept with very few restrictions and limmited or closure restrictions. I would like to see areas reopened for all users, these are places for us to enjoy and they provide wellness opotunities.

B. I would not like to see more wilderness, roadless, and monument areas. We do not need more restriced areas.

rich ruhl

rlkruhl@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 9:15 am

Prohibit private business from leasing state or county park land for motorized activity like a sports car track, especially if it is boarding a salmon stream and considered wetland. Encourage multi use activities that are not motorized. I would like to see users encouraged to maintain existing parks by improving trails, ridding the area of invasive species of plants and working as partners to improve the public land. I would like to see motorized users work to develop areas for their use just as stock groups have throughout the state. It is very impressive when you see and read about members from horse and mule groups developing and maintaining trails.

I do not want to see horseback and mule riders restricted from trail use because it is perceived that they cause trail damage. Any use has some form of footprint, but riders are in groups that help maintain trails and emphasize best practices like Leave No Trace.Back Country and Front Country groups extend significant amount of energy to protect public lands and will do what it takes to keep trails open.

Bryan P

commerce@terran.org

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 8:55 am

I’d like to see more mountain bike trails.

I do NOT want to see trail networks lost to logging and development, or closed to public

use.

Ellen Ruotsala

e_ruotsala@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 8:49 am

I am a mountain biker. From my observation, most foot trafic on multi-use trails is of the day-hike variety, so folks are only going a few miles (maybe 2,3 or 4) from the trail head. For mtn bikers, a day-ride could be 15-50 miles. So I agree with other comments that longer loops and routes for mtn bikers would be good, it would route bikers to areas farther out than most day-hikers ever get to.Maybe it would ease congestion on some of the more popular trails.Personally, I am not a fan of motorized vehicles on trails. But since it’s not going to stop, and I don’t want to limit any group’s right to responsibly enjoy the outdoors, I would like to see separate trails for motos- designed for their needs (like the Green Mountain area).I would like there to be more access to state parks and other areas that currently lump mtn bikes in with “mechanized” vehicles, and prohibit them. Mtn bikers are an important part of the outdoor recreation community. Bikes are clean, quiet and leave no more trace on the ground than a pair of hiking boots. Unfortunately, I think there are people who have negative opinions about bikers (or some other group of trail users) based on a single negative experience. Lets remember that every group of trail users might have a few duds, but that the vast majority of users have the same goals- to enjoy the outdoors sustainably and responsibly.Finally, I would like to see a competitive mountain bike venue developed. This could be a park or trail developed to bring USAC sanctioned xc racing back to the NW. I am not proposing to open up all trails to this- but a dedicated track for xc racing would just be awesome. Especially for young people- like those involved with things like the Washington High School Cycling League.

Emily Brink

ebandhaldor@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 8:46 am

A. As a horseback rider and hiker the continued availability of trails and access to trails is important go me. Irresponsible use by ANY individual in ANY user group can and does cause trail damage, however as a whole the equestrian riders in this state are responsible users. Many, like myself, belong to BCHW – Back Country Horsemen of Washington and participate in year round trail maintenance, building, and improvement of trail systems. As a Physical Therapist I believe inclusion of multiple user groups is important so that humans can get out and move. State lands, which are owned by us all, should allow access to as many different trail users as possible. With education and responsible self-policing multiple users can get along and not trample on the rights of other user groups to access and use trail systems. Horses, bikers and hikers with or without dogs should be able to respect each others choice of outdoor recreation and work together to maintain trails rather than point fingers at the other user group as the problem. Although from some of the prior comments there are obviously different opinions than mine and it seems if you are not a horseback rider that horses are the culprit of all trail damage! We all have different experiences and I can point to trail systems with more damage caused by mountain bikers building trails, hikers going off trails due to mud and trampling tree roots and of course places where poor horse – stock use is the culprit. The motorized ORV user group is a more difficult question for me as horses and motorized vehicles tend not to mix well, although with training I have never had any personal problems riding in areas where ORV riders are at and they have always been very courteous and respectful. I believe it is imperative to provide for access and trails to those with ORVs, just as with any other user group, just not sure how best to do that. Again it comes back to cooperation and a willingness to work TOGETHER to keep trails open, maintained and safe.What I would not like to see in the State plan is loss of trail systems to specific user groups or limitations on trail use which excludes horses-stock use. Historically, horses have had an enormous part in the development of our country and state and the BCHW chapters across the state are active stewards in trail use, trail head maintenance and working with state and county agencies to ensure responsible use of public lands. The numbers of trail riders via horseback are not as large as other user groups but we are strong in support and maintenance of trail systems that we use. The number of volunteer hours BCHW members donate to care for and be responsible stewards of the trails in Washington

would be detrimental to lose. The numbers escape me at the moment but anyone interested could contact BCHW at http://www.bchw.org and find out. Additionally the personal financial and monetary expenditures to improve trails is not insignificant.

We have a valuable resource that many other states do not …a large percentage of land owned by the state and available for public use. This presents a number of financial challenges for our state. All users need to realize that paying a little more to use these lands and donating time and money for upkeep is imperative. Do not take this resource for granted and do not exclude user groups that support your trails and public lands.

Thank you.

Emily Brink

Justin Vander Pol

justin@vanderpol.org

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 8:30 am

What I would like to see:* More trails opened up for mountain bike use. We're a low impact user group, very easy on the trails and environment, and take care of our trails through volunteering. We still have access to almost no trails in the Puget Sound area.

* More challenging trails. Build the new stuff narrow and interesting if the intended audience is intermediate to advanced users.

* More trails close in for families. These should be wider and easier. Take the families to viewpoints, waterfalls, rivers, interesting trees, fascinating rock formations. The family appropriate trails are very busy.

* State Parks focus more on trails. We need short trails to interesting places so our kids can walk or bike. We also need longer trails on some of your beautiful land for mountain biking to those wonderful vistas. You've got a ton of potential, and new trails are a lot cheaper and more sustainable than building paved campgrounds and parking lots. So much potential!

* We need more trail maintenance dollars for all users. Our volunteer groups do great,

but there are a lot of high value trails that need a little more love.

What I don't want to see:* Get the road engineers and landscape architects (who aren't trained in backcountry trails) out of trail construction! They're not trained in trail science and are making our trails unnecessarily wide and expensive. Very, very expensive! They're throwing engineering at us that is inappropriate for the environment. There IS good trail science, but it's a different discipline. Landscape Architects, you guys need to step up your game and learn how to design a narrow, appropriate, value engineered backcountry trail. There are classes out there – go take them.

Doug Sauvage

dougsa@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 8:10 am

A) I'd like to see more mountain bike or multi use trails. Ideally, these trails should be accessible without having to get in a car. It's a shame I have to drive a few miles on highway 18 consuming gas to get to the tiger mountain trailhead when it's only a few miles from my home in East Bellevue. I'd much rather ride there, but I'm not going to bike on highway 18.

B)It would be nice if horse owners didn't leave horse crap in the trails that I have to bike and run through.

Tonia

deermeadowhomes@embarqmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 8:00 am

A)The world is getting smaller as we speak and we ALL need to gracefully share. I am a horseback rider and supporter of Backcountry Horsemen, I would love to see continued and increased access for stock, it's where we belong.With that said my husband and I are both active cyclist, hikers and dog owners… we live here specifically to enjoy these lands. EVERY group has some impact. I would like to be able to continue enjoying Washington Parks.B)It is tragic for anyone denied access to play in Washington's

outdoors. I don't want to see anyone denied, we all need to share and fight to keep a level of standard to maintain and preserve.

cyne

cyneok@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/12 at 7:08 am

a.more horseback riding access and trailsb. less horseback riding access, taking away horseback riding access

Sue Preston

spreston@rainierconnect.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 7:34 pm

What I would LIKE to see in WA is for there to be a burgeoning system of equestrian and hiking trails (with adequate parking available)…People cannot live by cities alone…they need mountain trails! And these recreational areas should be supported by the hefty taxes we pay…not by Discover Passes.. What I would NOT like to see is for our rural areas that make keeping horses possible, and our wild areas that make quality of life possible, keep disappearing under development expansion and clear cut logging. We need to recognize the VALUE of NOT harvesting and developing…many more people benefit from areas being left intact.

Drew Trimakas

trimakas@msn.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 7:31 pm | In reply to Walt Kuciej.

Walt, your request to sequester all state land only for hikers is unfair and misplaced. Mountain bikers should certainly be allowed on state parks. They build amazing trails that are well designed, drain well, and are resistant to erosion (no mountain biker likes riding through mud!). Also, there are not the many places that dog owners can take their

dogs. We don't want a state with a ridiculous amount of regulations. Look at California – that place is a regulation nightmare!

Peg Greiwe

peg2@mashell.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 6:47 pm

I would like to see more equestrian trails available in Washington.And keep trails open to equestrian use.

Judy Tilley

clikrf8images.com/ x

judy@clikrf8images.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 5:42 pm

A.1. Keep the fees the same as now or increase modestly every 3-5 years. $30 is a fair fee for one year of diverse recreational opportunities.2. I would prefer to not close parks or portions of parks. Once closed, it is difficult to restore a developed area especially.3. Please keep the senior off-season camping pass available. We spent 3 days camping on Whidbey Island this past weekend. We picked up litter as we walked the beaches.4. Hopefully, all user groups can respect the other groups' right to recreate on public land. While I am not fond of motorized vehicles, there are many who are fully involved in their sports. Just be careful of locating them near sensitive wildlife/environment areas.5. More areas to recreate for all user groups. As we grow in population and urbanization, we will need more areas to recharge from busy lives. More areas that nurture rare species and spectacular views, waterfront, old-growth forests.6. More philanthropic donations. There are more millionaires and now, billionaires, who could donate money and or property like Larrabee State Park in Whatcom State Park.B.1. I do not want to see parks closed at all. We need to recreate.2. It may be difficult but conflicts with different user groups should be avoided. Many comments in here were made to defend and promote a particular user group.3. I would like to see fewer private enterprise

concessions within parks. More natural features than ice cream vendors or fast foods. There are privately operated resorts for that.

Daniel Myers

dfrnt@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 5:08 pm

A)The Pacific Northwest is a destination for mountain bikers throughout the country. It would be nice to see more access in the Seattle region/I90 corridor. More trail access for mountain bikers could potentially contribute to an increase in tourism in the region and thus strengthen local business and economy. British Columbia and Oregon both present to be more organized and pro-active with trail access. It is time for Washington State to step up to the plate and support the sport.

B)Trail closure and denial of land access specifically to mountain bikes. Research shows the low impact of mountain bikes comparatively to off road motor vehicles and horses. Mountain bike organizations and groups are motivated to gain more access and want to achieve it with cooperation of DNR and other various land owners, i.e.. Hancock Logging Industry.

Thank you for your time.

Kevin

kevin@transitionbikes.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 4:40 pm

A) I would like to see more of a focus on land access for mountain biking. Mountain biking can represent a large tourist impact for Washington due to our natural beauty and bring in substantial income to the state. In Whatcom county a majority of mountain bike trails are on private (timber company) land that could be gone tomorrow if the land owners choose. We need permanent land access. Mountain bikers are a responsible group that volunteer thousands of hours towards trail building and maintenance. All we are asking for is equal access to the outdoors that hikers and equestrians already enjoy.

B) I don't want to see more environmental crack downs on mountain bikers. We create the same environmental impact on nature and trails as hikers and equestrians do. Stop denying access to mountain bikers because you feel they pose an environmental hazard and then open it up to hikers only.

Kim Pitkanen

kim.birgh-pitkanen@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 4:37 pm

Mountain bike and trailing is growing. More and more are using the current set of trails and I would love to see more area's and trail networks developed across the state.

Gibran Hashmi

Ghashmi30@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 4:07 pm

Wish to see greater availability of mountain bike trails on state publicly ownedands. In particular in greater piglet sound area. Suggest tapping to the mountain biking community to aid in the design, maintenance and construction of new trails.

Thank you

Gibran hashmi

tkooy Kooy

tkooy@uw.edu

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 3:34 pm

Please focus on building more mountain biking trails. Lots of young people are starting to mountain bike and it would be fabulous to have more trails open to explore. Mountain bikers are great about helping with trail maintenance.

Richard

teambears@frontier.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 3:26 pm

I would like to see the Discovery Pass eliminated. Although the annual pass would be reasonable to a resident who has state parks surrounding them, the $10/day fee is twice the price of the National Forest day pass and equal to the national park's 7-day pass. Going to Hamilton Mtn. for the day is too expensive of an option with the Discovery Pass.

I am also concerned that recreation is going to the highest bidder. Concessionaires are setting prices on public lands. USFS has started to grant trailhead leases to private companies. In January 2012, a circuit court ruled that USFS cannot charge a trailhead fee if a user was merely hiking or picnicing. However, Region 6 has pretende this court case does not exist.

I hope that Washington will recognize that the public wishes to be able to recreate on public lands and these facilities should never be a for-profit endeavor.

Arielle

ariellefurtado@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 3:00 pm

I would like to see continued and increased access for hikers and mountainbikers at locations in close proximity to urban (or suburban) areas. As a nurse, I am an advocate for increased access to human-powered recreation as part of the solution to our health care crisis in the US. Although I don't have a personal interest in motorized ORVs, I think motorized vehicles should have access to separate land. I don't think it is appropriate or safe, however, to allow motorized access to hiking or biking trails or in wilderness (designated or not) areas. Additionally, horse traffic can be (not always) extremely destructive to trail systems. Building high-quality, sustainable hiking and biking trails requires an immense amount of labor (I volunteer for multiple trail building organizations) and those trails can be destroyed by even minimal horse traffic. I would love to see more horseman out building trail… but until then, I would like to see hiking

and biking trails reserved for those purposes. Let's support healthy activity by ensuring our kids have the space to explore!

digitaljanitor

megancapon@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 2:34 pm

I would like to see more mountain bike access, especially focused on joining existing trails together so longer routes are available.

I'm never going to be a fan of dropping more money on ball sports facilities. Their utility is so limited, and once the kids are grown… then what? They also tend to require a lot of ongoing investment for maintenance, unlike trails that when designed properly can be sustained with proper seasonal volunteers.

While I'm sympathetic to the horsemen's requests here, long term demographics suggest this user group has shrunk quite a bit and probably will continue to contract, with economic/time pressures on most working folks making horse ownership simply out of reach.

discombob

discombob@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 2:20 pm

Mountain bike trails that are official and legal… I get quite sick of slinking around cloak-and-dagger style, building and riding trails of the highest quality that are on questionable grounds and are likely to end up being destroyed. What a painful waste of time, and yet we have to or we cannot enjoy this activity we love most. Let the community build and maintain their trails officially, as the MTB community in Whatcom County is the most responsible user group of this type I have ever seen, and I have lived and ridden in several other states in the midwest. They take great care in preventing erosion issues in the wet environment here, pack out trash and even mostly self-police with respect for both each other and other user groups like hikers, runners

and equestrians.

Eleanor C. Barrager

eleanorbarrager@msn.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 2:17 pm

I am a recreational mule rider and part of Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA). Our regional groups volunteer and help maintain various State, DNR and National parks. Horses and mules have traditionally been used for work and also recreation in all types of parks and back country areas. As a rule most BCHA riders leave an area cleaner than they found it, do some trail maintenance as they ride along trails (i.e. cut back blackberry and tree branches that are blocking trails) and often pick up garbage. There is usually little evidence of our presence, we are not noise polluters and among the first to volunteer for trail maintenance and/or Search and Rescue support. Equine livestock is a part of our heritage and riding along trails is an enjoyable and relaxing activity. It allows both rider and horse to relax and enjoy nature. In a stressful world it is wonderful to be able to escape to the serenity of the forests and enjoy a slower pace of life just riding and enjoying your surroundings. I hope the areas open to these activities can be expanded for this and future generations to enjoy on horse or mule backs.

DN

drdodi@bellevuesmiles.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 2:10 pm

I would love to see more mountian bike trails created. A great and healthy activity for my whole family.

Jim Mc

jimdemo9@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 2:10 pm

Please continue the efforts to build and maintain mountain bike trails across the state. So much amazing effort put in to get things where they are, and so much more to do! Seeing friends and families out enjoying riding and off the couch leads to a better and healthier community. Not having to drive a huge distance to find them makes it that much better.

Continue to work with land owners with effective communication and support. Allow and encourage all users to join in on the creation and up keep for our tail network. Nothing like sweat equity.

Don't let the battle of real estate by single use advocates stop the progress of a year round and sustainable area to ride. We can all get along… and be better for it!

Our thanks for your efforts!

Ruddie

shopperLee@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 2:10 pm

As Tyler mentioned a lot of existing trails are only available to hikers. This needs to be changed as it's an old mindset that mountain bikers can't be responsible and non-damaging to the environment. There's such a pent up demand for mountain bike trails as can be seen any day by going to Duthie where the parking lot is overflowing and the small area can't hold everyone. We need more trails that allow people to park in town (like Issaquah) and bike immediately, thereby saving on emissions and giving a boost to the local town's economy.

brian

bkchef2000@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 2:02 pm

a. What is it that you would most like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington in the future (i.e., what is the desired future condition you would like to

see)?

I really love the idea of a better future for mountain bikers… Having spent the better part of the last 20 years of my life, yes 20!!! dedicated to riding local trails I would love to see areas like st eds get the much needed face lift it so desperately needs and new areas like the wellington hills golf coarse turned into something like duthie hill or better yet woodward… Looking at the way duthie hill in issaquah was developed is an amazing model of a sustainable trails system that is maintained by the users. More parks need to be like this.

b. What is it that you would not like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington's future?

I see too many places with Hiker only trails that have no foot prints, and horse only trails with no horse poop… (maybe thats a good thing.) But just seeing trails that are hiker or horse only that are not actually used is kind of sad, yet we continue to create these trails and break down bike trails like the south fork trail that was built, maintained, and utilized by all sorts of users… Something to think about.

Walter Yi

walter.yi@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 1:57 pm

A) Better and more access for mountain biking within reasonable driving distance from the city. Currently, hikers have free reign on most trails and are unwilling to share and the increasing demand for trails for biking is only going to increase.B) I would not like to see hiker only trails closed because of the lack of funding and maintenance when other user groups such as mountain bikers are more than willing to commit the time and energy into trail systems if they could only be granted some access.

Don Larson

larson_don@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 1:54 pm | In reply to Tricia Foster.

Tricia – I am 46 years old and have ridden motorcycles at Reiter since I was 5 years old. I can assure that litter and uncontrolled use was never an issue until the urban sprawl that occurred in the HWY 2 corridor during the late 80′s early 90′s. You can use the Sultan Basin rec area as an example, it has been closed to motorized use for years and every time I go up there there is more and more trash. The trash carried in is not by motorized users and there are documented annual clean ups where motorized groups, clubs, individuals, etc.… logged thousands of hours and dollars on clean ups. I can tell you that those cleans ups ceased the day DNR locked the gates. Illegal dumping continues on today with less oversight by the motorized users who used to appreciate the area.

In terms of cost to provide facilities and mechanisms to handle garbage and keep the areas maintained? I wonder if the $10,000,000 stolen from the NOVA funds would cover it?

Joe Pirelli

jpirelli@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 1:39 pm

I am a big fan of bringing more healthy and environmentally sustainable activities to the land. Specifically mountain biking. Cross country mtb, bike packing, even some flow and downhill runs where they are sustainable.

Tod Petersen

tod701@aol.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 12:25 pm | In reply to Kathy.

The 2002 fuel use study compared what people thought they spend driving on nonhighway roads without telling them what a nonhighway road was to what people spent on fuel for their offroad vehicle.

It did not count what ORV people spent to get to the trailhead to use their ORV.

Fatally flawed.

Trouteagle

shumak13@aol.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 11:43 am

I would like to see the private lands access programs expanded in the fishing arena. Too many spots are locked up in private property, no parking signs are placed where there could be access, stockings have stopped on small waters, streambed access is extremely limited by streamside housing. Way too much focus is placed on landowners and not enough on the users, who fund state fisheries operations. In that vein, I would like to see more operations like Dave Brown's Wild Fish Rescue (http://www.nwwildfishrescue.org/) and fewer industrial hatchery operations.

Tyler S

tyler@evergreenmtb.org

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 11:24 am

A) More mountain bike trails, both close to towns/city that have some family/ kid friendly trails, and big trail networks (30+ miles) in the mountain. A bike can go far in one day.I would also like to see outdated trails rerouted to a more sustainable standard, the old fall line steep boot paths.New trails to be built in a way that reduces user conflict.Which means different user group will have to work together on multi-use trails, and not try to guess what works for them.

I would also like to see popular hiking trails be rehabbed in to single track. Trying to eliminate hikers from cutting switchbacks and boot packing a fall line trail.

B) No more hiking trails built 6 miles or more from a trail head. There's lots of miles of hiker only trail out there that don't really get used much at all and need a lot of trail maintenance done to them.

Also less money thrown at parks and sports field, they take a lot of money to build and up keep and seem to be getting used less because more people are getting out on trails

and in the woods.

Ayla Howell

ayla.howell@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 11:02 am

As a horseback rider I would like to make sure that horses are always allowed in ALL State and National Parks. Horses leave very little evidence, they are quiet and a very important part of our nation's history. It is important that we don't push them out. Horses are meant to be out on trails, not pinned up in arenas. We should not have to jump through hoops to be able to take our horses places. There is nothing more relaxing than being out on a horse, listening to nature, and absorbing your surroundings. That is a freedom that I would really like to keep.On behalf of myself and my horses, we thank you for your time.

Ashley

coloradoashley@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 10:45 am

I would love to keep all our beautiful State Parks open for future generations, of course! Attendance cannot dictate closure or access, or else people new to our many outdoor opportunities will not be able to appreciate many less often visited destinations. Those are often the most pleasurable places anyway, where you feel like the only people for miles and you know the animal population has you outnumbered! I'm thankful for our beautiful wilderness every day, whether I'm planning a trip, on one, or just fondly musing on my past memories, like the first time I spotted a bear creeping through the brush on his own trail. Prior to becoming so enthralled with nature, believe me, I just had no interest. For whatever reason that changed and I became very appreciative of the huge tracts of land left natural for our enjoyment. I want just as much land available for future lovers of the wilderness as I had to discover and slowly explore. I'm happy to donate funds with my vehicle tabs and even purchased my Discovery Pass with them last month. I'm happy to help, in other words, but I realize that user fees cannot

generate all the revenue needed to maintain state parks and DNR access. Faced with a population set on limiting the taxing power of government, the obvious solution seems to be the slow whittling away of overhead and services. I won't pretend to know the details of running the operation, but it's probably safe to say that there can be consolidations of some kind in any business. What I would hate to see is closure of the most beautiful places I've ever been, largely contained in State and National Parks. I'd hate to see funds misspent or wasted. I'd hate to have to fear that the places I've visited might be shut down in the future due to lack of funding. By the way, if anyone is interested in working for their Discovery Pass rather than paying for it, I know they have a volunteer option!

Cheryl Conklin

cherylconk@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 9:09 am

As a hiker and equestrian living in the Cascade Foothills, I am regularly out on the trails. It would be great to see more trail systems of sufficient size, i.e. 15+ miles, available for equestrians, along with trailheads that can accomodate horse trailers. When there is not a specific reason for a trail to be closed to horse use, then why not make it open to equestrians?

Richard Pratt

snotrans@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/11 at 9:01 am

we already have half of our states forests locked up in wilderness which IS non-motorized / non-mechanized. Those of us that can't hike need outdoors too

Kris Phillips

krisphillips@wavecable.com

Submitted on 2013/02/10 at 2:26 pm

Keep trails open for equestrians. When horse people lose their riding trails, they either sell their mounts or move away. Your pastures end up sold and developed. Horsemen spend hours and hours of volunteer time brushing, pruning, cutting and clearing trails to help keep them open for the use of everyone. They are a great resource in that regard. I would also like to see bigger parking areas at the trail heads on trails open for horsebackers, water for stock and hitching posts. Also, keep some horse trails separated from off-road vehicles respectively.

Debbie Stempf

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Submitted on 2013/02/10 at 10:10 am

I would like to see more support for non-motorized and non-mechanized activities such as hiking, horseback riding and xc skiing, etc. I would like areas developed with trails for urban dwellers to quickly access our outdoors. This would be larger tracts of land and not tiny city parks; rather, large areas that encourage wildlife and birds as well.

I am against motorized travel in our back country period. It is loud, smelly and disruptive to every person and animal except for the person using the machine. These belong on private property and areas developed solely for their use.

Connie Hoge

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Submitted on 2013/02/10 at 9:05 am

Anything to preserve what open spaces we have & add to those spaces – should be primary. Keeping current trails open & improving access to those trails. As a horsewoman who rides often & locally… Over the last few years the tree farm trails that were put in by horsemen & used by horsemen forever are now being inundated by LOTS of bicycles. I certainly feel that horsemen have the right to use all multi-use trails. Currently we are being shut-off the Centennial Trail due to a lack of parking. The trail

head closest to my home that I have used for years has now been changed to include disabled parking – that effectively removed the one or two spots where a horse trailer could “squeak” in. It seems that we are the ones to now “share” & all other users would like “dedicated” trails for their use…As to the remarks regarding horse “packages” – at least they are biodegradable, unlike the energy bar wrappers & trash that other users leave.What I do not want to see are the increasing user fees of one kind or another – increased to the point where young families with children can no longer afford to enjoy the great outdoors. (Camping fees have tripled from the time we camped with our kids in the early 80′s.)

Joe Wildenhaus

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Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 11:23 pm

I would like to see greater managed access to the lands around us. I am especially interested in bicycle access to more lands. There are a lot of hiking opportunities that I would like to see maintained, but we need many more opportunities for bicycle trails. Dedicated cycling trails can be built sustainably and well maintained by user groups.I do not want to see vast areas of potential recreation land sitting mostly unused or only accessible to hunters.

Alex

skiemfast@frontier.com

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 10:57 pm

More access for mountain biking. Especially long shuttle cross country similar to Mckenzie River, Oregon and Bend areas. A single pass for everything in the state so we can more easily enjoy being double taxed w fees. However one fee that would be good is a safety fee for rescue that everyone could pay into. Lost person at a picnic or climber etc…. Similar to France or Switzerland.

Have state people run the parks not the &(*&(*& contractors.

Dirt roads/railroad grades open to motorbikes/atv. Wilderness areas open to pedal power/foot power.

Connections between paved bike paths or highly recommend routes for grade/traffic.

Karen Johnson

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Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 10:26 pm

I would like to see more trails and camps for equestrians made available since riding areas for us are dwindling rapidly due to land development and urbanization. Other users have a great deal more selection of areas to choose from while we are very limited. We may travel several miles farther to use trails and camp. We also use more gas and pay more in gas taxes than the average non-equestrian user to get to the areas where we can ride.

I would not like to see commercialization in parks; that is signs (advertising) and stores. Please preserve the peace and quiet of being in a natural setting. I am not opposed to paying a fee for crews to maintain parks, camps and trails if the service they provide actually helps to preserve the area and makes the user's experience more pleasureable.

Thank you for allowing us to comment.

Herve Burnel

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Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 9:46 pm

What I would like to see first is for this study and the numerous informed comments to actually be used to help the future of our state outdoors recreation . and speaking about informed ,among the good comments you still find very opinionated (meaning also misinformed) comments about some activities .dirt bike comes to mind .This state has enough land and trails already existing for every outdoors group to have some venues ,however the offroad usersseems to be the first one to loose more and more of their

venues due mostly to misinformation and pressure groups .Not counting the blatant misuse (theft) of the NOVA funds .I moved to this state few years ago for the main reason that I love the outdoors (I hike ,mountain bike ,ski ,sail a lot and ride dirt bikes as well) I can do all of those activities very easily except for dirt biking .I end up going to Oregon and Idaho when I want to do more riding .Something is broken is this State .Stop closing gates ,stop wasting money trying to re-invent the wheel like at Reiter .Throw the politics out and just use common sense .How hard is it ? It's not rocket science .

Tom Fitzpatrick

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Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 7:52 pm | In reply to Larry Waters.

I'm mostly with you, Larry. Bigger problem goes beyond the scope of SCORP (sorry); WA state residents seem reluctant to fund even core public services (i.e. education) adequately, let alone quality-of-life enhancements like outdoor recreation; no answer here on when or if that will change.

Marion

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Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 6:42 pm

I hope to see a new generation that respects celebrates and supports the little remnants of wilderness, nature, and wildlife that remain, loving them with a fierceness that can defend them from the uncountable predatory commercial interests that would destroy what is left. This means saying no to invasive motorized traffic that is ginned up by those who want to sell the land and sea vehicles, gear and fuel so work feverishly to create demand. It means saying no to poisonous toys such as guns, campers, And I think many of the twenty-somethings growing up now, often in great simplicity and poverty, do have those values. I just do not know if boomers will leave them much. Classic hiking, biking and horse trails are the ideal,

I hope to see the acres of mowed formal parkland radically diminished and all those swathes of silly lawn return to native vegetation. My latest example is at Joemma Beach State Park on the Key Peninsula. It looks ridiculous, unnatural, and unattractive, and must be hard to keep up on that steep slope.. Let the grass grow and the flowers bloom. And why are the parks coated in asphalt everywhere? Permeable surfaces are abundantly available and would certainly assist in cleansing Puget Sound area waterways. Undevelopment is my goal for the parks.

I hope to see the state park system realize that it is not responsible for every type of recreation on the market. No. Instead, it will stick to the basic mission and work with private interests to develop the ATV parks, marinas, boat launches, wi-fi campgrounds, stores etc for those who want them.

Barbara Allson

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Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 6:04 pm

As a hiker , bicycle rider and horseback rider I am glad to say that I have increased my use of the parks and trails and am looking forward to exploring more in the years to come. I support the work of back country horsemen and other volunteer groups who establish,maintain and improve trails for every one to use. Since I moved to the Olympic Peninsula in the 1970′s we have lost some recreational access as equestrians, and yet the beautiful bridges and invasive weed control efforts are done by horsemen and women who have ridden in this area for many years. I feel strongly that it enriches outdoor recreation to respectfully share the trail with a variety of users. I have had courteous ATV riders, mountain bikers and hikers sharing the trail, and I can say that my ability to get out into the most beautiful areas has been by horseback. It is my deepest desire that my daughters and future generations also have this opportunity, so we must continue to adapt and share the trails.Keep the trail open, give greater access to all users, and be courteous with all that you meet, and as much as possible Leave No Trace -

Joan Fleming

joanfleming@q.com

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 4:45 pm

As a horseback rider, I want to see all currently available trails kept open and maintained – no loss of trails due to preference to other users. Consideration of inclusion when new trails are opened. Horseback riders provide much revenue to the state in sales taxes, but our numbers are fewer than other users. When we lose trails, we are forced onto fewer trails which causes more concentration of tread wear. Overall, I want to see all outdoor recreation activities kept open and maintained for all users.

mikef

fraid@earthlink.net

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 4:04 pm

From Marti Campbell (submitted by e-mail, posted the moderator)

I want to see the current outdoor recreation areas funded and maintained.We are truly blessed here in WA to have such a variety of recreation areas and these need to be maintained and expanded if space allows.I am an avid hiker, so want to see safe and adequate parking at trail heads, and well maintained trails. I also bicycle both road and mt. So having more trails for that is a need. I hope to see safe bicycle networks all over this state in my bike time. Especially the completion of the Olympic Discovery Trail on the Olympic Peninsula.I LOVE the recreation opportunities in this state. That is why I live here.

Kathy

kyoung1735@aol.com

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 3:25 pm

Mike S had a question about the use of Nova funds.

Has there been a study to determine who contributes how much to the NOVA fund?

A. Yes. The NOVA Fuel Use Study was funded by the legislature in 2002 and randomly sampled recreational fuel use by more than 7,000 vehicles statewide. The fuel use study found that, of funds that flow into the NOVA program:50% comes from people driving on Forest and Park Roads to camp, fish, hunt, berry pick, birdwatch, and other non-motorized activities.30% comes from people hiking, mountain biking, and using stock such as goats, horses, and llamas.20% comes from dirt bikers, quad riders and 4X4 enthusiasts.

The study demonstrated that, although they receive 80% of NOVA funds, motorized users only provide 20% of the revenues

shrubitup

ontopofit@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 2:36 pm | In reply to Walt Kuciej.

Walt, state park trails do not allow for motorized recreation. Why suggest a ban on something that doesn't exist? There is a myriad of land management agencies out there. Please figure out who manages what before suggesting all-out ban of one group. If you do not know which agency is managing the public land and you want absolute guarantee of not sharing a trail then I encourage you to visit one of three National Parks in Washington or one of the many (and growing) federally designated Wilderness Areas. Either that or just visit a city or county park – no dirt bikes there either.

Carol Hill

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Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 2:05 pm

a. What is it that you would most like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington in the future (i.e., what is the desired future condition you would like to see)?Equine and bike trails separated.

b. What is it that you would not like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington's future?Equine and bike trails together.

Surratt Geri

glsurratt@q.com

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 12:48 pm

In response to what I would like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington in the future is:1. Keep the communication open between the outdoor users and governing bodies.2. Enable plans that allow multi-use as well as maintaining and conserving the recreation areas;3. Support the efforts of user organizations to construct and maintain good trails and necessaryfacilities to support the various activities, such as toilets, picnic areas, trailer parking for horses, etc.;4. Supply education, funding and other types of support to continue to grow from the current acreage ofrecreation areas.In response to what I would NOT like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington in the future is:1. Any reduction of the current recreation areas or support of those activities;2. Multi-use trails that do NOT make sense, such as competitive bike trails and horse trails;3. Closed door policy decisions on any recreational activities;4. Unreasonable taxing, levies, or restrictions that would limit current and future use and growthfor recreational areas.The outdoors are the jewels of the Pacific Northwest. Not only is it a soul replenishing haven for us as wellas bird and beast and playground but also an important buffering system from ever impinging development,industrialization, pollution. We can have both open natural space and developed areas but currently this is indanger of being out of balance. Here in Washington we have the unique opportunity to maintain a healthybalance between man and nature, development and recreation and not be worse off for it.Geri SurrattG.L. Surrattglsurratt@q.com mailto:glsurratt@q.comcell: 360-303-1072home: 360-671-0718

scott chezick

schezick@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 12:39 pm

I would like to see more areas made available for Off road vehicles and particularly motorcycles. If I want to walk, hike, or ride a mountain bike I can do so at multiple state,

city, county, or county locations within 15 minutes of my house. If I drive another 15 minutes I can find even more of the same, another 15 minutes and well you get the point. However if I wish to ride my dirt bike I will have to drive 50 miles. The next closest area is over 90 miles away. I have nothing against other forms of recreation and enjoy some of them myself. However, my passion is motorcycles and it a family activity that has led to a lot of enjoyment for my family and I. I fear every day that what little riding opportunity does exist in Northwest Washington will be villianized out of existence. I pay over $120 a year for registration fees that are by law supposed to fund ORV areas and activities, while additionally paying for a Discover pass. Additionally, a portion of the fuel tax I pay for use in off-road vehicle is by law supposed to be deposited into the states NOVA account and be used specifically to develop and maintain off road vehicle areas. The reality is that in recent years the lions share of these funds have been redirected to fund non-motorized parks and facilities. I'm talking 9.5 million dollars here. I wouldn't even mind so much if it seemed like we were getting something in return. The sad reality is that people with a dozen different recreation opportunities within a 15 mile radius, want to also have a piece of the only available opportunity within a 100 mile radius, and want it for free. I don't mind if people want to hike, or mountain bike at a place like Walker Valley, but am annoyed when they go to an ORV park that they did nothing to fund or maintain and then complain about the motorcycles. Its an ORV park!!! Our opportunities are taken away (Reiter Pit, which is no longer worth the trip) and then future decisions are based on surveys of how many users there are. I imagine the SCORPA participation survey would show ORV users ranking much higher on the list of recreation activities if more opportunities were available. It seems the long range plan is to reduce the number opportunities, then use the reduced number of participants to justify expending even less for ORV use. I am sensitive to the need to tread lightly where we go, but we are not asking for unrestricted access to the whole forest, just a few more dedicated areas to call our own. I look at the amount of logging and development going on around our state and can't help but think that a network of single track "game" trails through consciously set aside areas are not likely to produce the earth ending damage a lot of the ORV antagonists wish us to believe. Moreover the ORV crowd by and large is willing to pay, volunteer, co-ordinate or whatever it takes to support their recreation. I think there would be a lot fewer instances of damage and

illegal use of sensitive land by a few bad apples if more opportunities were made available. I would also like to see greater representation of ORV users in the decision making process.

I would not like to see further restrictions of use of our public lands.

Thank You.

davissteelquist

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Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 12:15 pm

As far as to what I would like to see:* existing historical parks (like forts) maintained and repaired* large areas devoted to the relaxed hiking/walking/birdwatching.. things that rejuvenate.* controlled areas for ORV's away from population that are maintained.* Revise the pass system to $5 per day and use a $25 car tab for yearly.* Separate self contained bus and truck campers from car and tent campers.. separate sites at waterfront parks put the tents closer to the water than the big vehicles.* maintained boat ramps and restrooms, more areas where motors are banned.* more trails (elevated) in wetlands along sloughs and rivers* some rational criteria for ADA accessibility..* A coordinated plan with the county and federal park systems

What I don't wish to see is:* organized and team sports in rural parks* loose dogs* Motorized and wheeled vehicles on walking or nature trails* advertising and thrill type recreation concessioners (zip lines, bungee jumps),*

Byron Stuck

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Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 12:07 pm

I would like to see the recreational pursuit of motorized offroading legitimized. I still see many instances where there's almost a "criminal" or at least a "non-green" attitude towards it … yet many of my offroading friends are clear stewards of the environment, would not knowingly cause environmental harm, and actively commit their time and

money towards improving the environment.

I have a second “like to see” that’s just as important to me. The OV in NOVA funds stands for Offroad Vehicle … but the approach and makeup of this state-run process has shifted over time away from those original letters. I’d like to see the tab fees and “REAL” gas tax percentage from OV’s moved into a separate, user-controlled fund to support the many OV needs we have in this state.

I wouldn’t like to see the concept of “multi-use” turn into “multi … but not including motorized”. Many of the multi-use trails I enjoy are not trails I would also hike, horseback or mountain bike on … but knowing that I COULD, is an important freedom I’d like to preserve.

Thanks for asking!

Walt Kuciej

walterk74@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 11:54 am

I’d like to see more land put into state parks and wildlife areas, with trails for walking, not just for hunters. Make Discover Passes more available.I’d like to see fewer dogs off-leash on beaches and in parks. They scare wildlife, especially ground-nesting birds. And leave poop owners don’t pick-up. I like dogs, but they shouldn’t be treated as people.I’d not want to see anymore areas opened to bikes, trail bikes, ORVs, and any motorized vehicles. Some of these people abuse the trails, causing erosion and forcing walkers out of the way. They should be banned from state park trails and wildlife areas.

Larry Waters

lwwaters@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 11:46 am

My primary desire would be to see continued support for trail acitivites (hiking, biking) within urban areas so that more people can get outdoors, without having to drive at all or at least not having to drive long distances (lower our carbon footprint and help out

those that don't have transportation readily accessable – sustainability). This is more the European model where parks are often within a half mile of most all residential or business areas (espeically like Norway). I didn't mention horses because I think they are a special challenge – they are harder on a trail than any other trail use and they leave lots of "packages", that, in some situations, just add to the nutrient and coliform loading of our wetlands and streams. The equistrian group of folks are almost always real nice on the trail – I always enjoy seeing them on the trail. But no question, the demands horses put on most trails is pretty high. My secondary desire would be to see continued funding and support multi-use trails further out, at the edge of the urban areas. Besides hiking and mountain biking, I also moto-dirt bike so would hate to see ORV areas like Tahuya be lost. Thanks for asking! :)

Tricia Foster

Triciaann777@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 11:04 am

Hoping that there is increased consideration and acknowledgement that when there are may users on the trails/common paths that we walk/ride or merge right when its safe to do so, to avoid conflict. (I know alot of us already do this, but you'd be surprised perhaps that many dont.

Tricia Foster

Triciaann777@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 10:56 am

I would not like to see dog poop at state parks and even more now THAT WE ARE PAYING. I dont appreciate being charged by them either. I am a woman who hikes w/ children..

Tricia Foster

Triciaann777@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 10:51 am | In reply to Lori Crow.

Bridle Trails in Bellevue wa, Hollywood Hills near/in Woodinville WA has horse trails. Every tried East Cady ridge out from highway 2 then you take the FS rd. 65 (Beckler river Road) all the way out there: green trails map 143. Jacks Pass is a junction before you get there. Good luck, they are out there.

Tricia Foster

Triciaann777@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 10:40 am | In reply to Seattle fella.

Massive litter near the orv park in the Reiter pit area, was a big concern and cause for the city/DNR to close the Gold Bar wa orv park.

In the future the trail pass/state park pass income should help cover the cost to put garbage cans/signs out there when they are ready to re-open it. lets hope for that.

Justin M

hallelujah.goh@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 9:26 am

1a) I would like to see to the access fees/tolls remove from our public lands. If you need money for Park and upkeep ask the citizens for this. If you don't get the money then scale back on services and maintenance.2a) I would like to see more gates removed so that "we the people" have unencumbered access to our lands.1b) No fees/tolls required to access our lands.

Jeff Chapman

bbbranch@olympus.net

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 8:30 am

As an avid horseman, hiker, sailor, climber, and road bicyclist in Washington State since 1970, I can say that there is little that Washington State doesn't have to offer in terms of recreational potential. It is no wonder that the Western Governors' Get Out West recreation initiative came from our own Governor and that the next Secretary of Interior will be one of our own as well. While the numbers vary, based on input from the horseback riding industry, the Outdoor Industry Association, the boating industry, and tourism, recreation in Washington State approaches 20 billion in economic benefit. There are few citizens in Washington State that do not engage in some kind of outdoor activity.

In spite of the economic value, we still find ourselves reinvesting much less in public funds than the public revenues produced by outdoor recreation. This has led to dramatically reduced staffing and maintenance at our State Parks and lands, our National Parks and our National Forests. In an attempt to obtain more funding out of our existing recreational assets, the state has now imposed new and higher fees. Debates now are common on whether our government stewarded lands are really trending towards being public or commercial assets. If our leaders don't value recreation as a quality of life and health service to our residents, how do our citizens continue to appreciate the outdoor opportunities available to them and that bring new businesses to Washington State?

What I would like to see happen is sustainable funding for our recreational infrastructure. State Parks shouldn't have to be subject to devastating cuts during their Centennial year to where they once again are looking at getting rid of parks rather than fixing them. Washingtonians need to work together to continue to provide recreational services even during these very lean years for our state and our nation.

Kim Black

dreamon@hughes.net

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 8:12 am

I am an endurance (horse)rider and trail rider that rides extensively on public lands and would like to see continued access to trails. In more populated areas with multiuse trails

there may need to be alternate trail systems or designated weekends for motorized vs non motorized use. I would not like to see any further barring of equestrian use on public trails and believe upkeep of trails and trailheads can be continued by volunteer groups along with tax funded maintenance.

My main concern with public land use in my area of Eastern Washington is the rapid spread of noxious weeds. I would like to see a program or at least brochures for education of those using ORVs that hi-light the importance of cleaning the undercarriages and staying on existing trails and roads as well as identification of noxious weeds, particularly knapweed. I appreciate the requirement of certified weed free hay for livestock that has been implemented for use on public lands.

Mire Levy

mire101@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/09 at 12:14 am

a.- Become more like Idaho, where most trails outside the Wilderness are open to just about all users so that uses are more widely dispersed and less concentrated in any one area.- Have more wild and remote places that I can get to on my bicycle.- Move toward more open and transparent policy making regarding public land access based on more scientific researches.- Be more coordinated statewide amongst various state agencies tasked to provide outdoor recreation.

b.- Become more like California where everybody seems to think they and only they have the right to enjoy public lands and wastes so much time and money in court trying to kick everybody else out.- Have even more restriction on trail access by bicycles than we already have for no good reason.- Be negatively impacted by resource extraction interests. Places such as Goat Mountain should be considered State’s natural treasure and should not be allowed to be marred permanently by mining.

Kathryn Lewandowsky

skyranch12805@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 11:46 pm

I am an avid equestrian trail rider. I love to explore the trails of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California & Canada. I personally don't like going out into the woods far alone, so tend to do most of my riding at organized endurance rides and competitive trail rides. At least if I get lost at least someone will be out there looking for me. I love the comraderie of being out on the trails with a group. I wish that "the government" would not make it so difficult for us to participate in the sport that we love. I get tired of having to pay multiple user fees depending on whose land the rides may be on. I think that 1 pass should cover all public lands and it should be affordable for the average Joe, not just the rich guys. I wish you would stop worrying about horse poop and stop companies from dumping awful chemicals into our rivers & oceans. I know people say that horses are a luxury and so they don't care about tacking on the extra expenses, but I think the world would be a better place if average people could afford to get their kids out in the wilderness on a horse. I think we'd have a lot less problems with our kids if more parents could afford a horse for their children. As far as trailheads, I don't need much, just a large enough place for a bunch of us to park and maybe a toilet. I can pack in & out everything else. I'll give up the fancy campgrounds to be able to keep access to the woods, thank you very much.

Steve Stone

stevestone@programmer.net

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 11:23 pm

I've been using the trails for many years now. I like riding my two wheeler around on them. But being almost 60, I can't cover much ground without assistance, so I ride a small motorcycle. It seems that some folks are demonizing motorcycle riders. I know a lot of riders and the great majority are good folk that don't tear up the trails. Horses with their high weight do a lot of damage, certainly more than me. ATVs cause ruts from their weight too.

We should stop this trend of cutting almost all users out from so many areas as "wilderness" when people have been in there for hundreds of years.

Add more trails, not reduce them. Add some multi-use where there's not enough room for separate areas.

Require an online licensing program for at least three types of riders: horse, bicycle and motorcycle. Oregon has a great program where at least some idea of how to share the space and control your ride (yes, some riders in all groups do things that aren't really effective). The training for these three groups is similar but needs to be put in terms of their ride.

Maybe another English major to write grants for the park agencies so that they can get some understanding of the problem, but we've all seen so much waste at some govt agencies.

Mike

jsrouleau@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 11:15 pm

I strongly believe that Washington State Parks are to be maintained by all state residents — not just current campers and trail users — for the benefit of wildlife and future generations. The failure of the Discovery Pass & Snow Park financing system needs to be ended and proper state funding be achieved for the long-term benefit of all. No organization can operate well without consistent, predictable funding! Taking our parks rangers and turning them into meter maids is among the stupidest waste of human resources possible.

In the short term, I'd like to see a more ambitious volunteer program that leverages schools and the public. Regularly scheduled, well-advertised, organized trail maintenance parties could be effective at keeping trails & parks clean while getting under-exercised kids away from their computer monitors. Ideally our dedicated rangers, already underpaid and overworked, should be supported by volunteers and school kids practically at all times.

"Parks as an Enterprise" is a downright reprehensible strategy for land stewardship. Keep WA state lands wild and primitive! Stop adding expensive crap like Wi-Fi and paved RV parking to parks. Simply focus on three things: education, maintenance of

minimal/existing infrastructure, and policing against abuse.

I echo the sentiments that trail use should not be restricted without good reason. It is true that some vehicles & horses have caused expensive terrain damage, and there certainly is no money available to install new facilities. However, many trails are needlessly closed to bikes in dry summer months, when they cause no more trail impact than hikers.

As for ORV and equestrian access — no complaints here, as long as users pick up after themselves and put in the volunteer hours necessary to rebuild trails. Low-use Gold Creek Park in Woodinville has equestrian damage of over 3 feet of ground erosion on many trails. It would be nice to see those nice friendly horses haul in materials for replacing the trail foundations ….

Durlyn Finnie

alohadurlyn@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 8:03 pm

Focus on preserving critical habitat and plan appropriate use for each piece, even if funding is not available at this time.What should not be done is allowing development that keeps wildlife and the public out for the benefit of a few.

Brian Wood

woodlink@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 7:46 pm

I hope to see an increased focus on alternative transportation both for commuting and recreation. I specifically hope to see more roads that are made safe for cycling. By “made safe”, I mean more signage that indicates bicycle use, careful siding treatments and sweeping of the sidings. Although, I applaud non-motorized, paved trail construction, the current roads could be made more cycling friendly. In addition I want to see laws with teeth to protect the vulnerable road user. I want new drivers to have driving tests with questions regarding vehicle-cyclist interactions and with a driving test

that requires actual interaction with cyclist traveling on the road. Drivers must become aware of the awesome responsibility of operating such dangerous equipment. As computer technology in cars increases, legislation in Washington should begin to require automatic safety measures in vehicles that protect vulnerable road users.

I also want to see increased access to trails by cyclists with off road routes that cross the state. I want MTB access to trails to be equitable with regard to access by other users. I want the research regarding impact on trails by MTB use to be accurate rather than assumed. Rolling wheels often cause less damage than foot traffic!

I don't want to see budget cuts to parks and trails. We need our park rangers and support staff. We have to pay for our privelages and I support legislation that promotes developing and maintaining recreational areas.

Matt Slaney

climbhigher@wavecable.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 7:23 pm

I would like to see planning taking place similar to what has happened with the Green Mountain trail system on WA DNR land in Kitsap County. They gained comments from various user groups and came up with a plan that provided for access to all while minimizing conflicts between user groups.

When access does need restricted, I would like to see restrictions based on actual damage done by various modes of travel. Studies have shown that erosion to trails and surrounding area is aggravated by (from least to most) hiking, mt biking, motorcycles, quad ATVs, horses – in that order. Restrictions should be minimized to affect the least number of users that the trail can withstand based on likely damage to occur.

Helen Almojera

Almojera@frontier.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 7:01 pm

As a member of Whatcom Back Country Horsemen, I would like to see access

points/trailheads in the Cascades foothills that would link to the Pacific Crest Trail and cross down to the eastern part of the state. Providing trailheads for horses is comparatively inexpensive and low impact. BCH promotes Leave No Trace practices, and its members provide thousands of hours yearly toward trail maintenance, leaving the State free to concentrate on other park priorities.

I would also be in favor of a State ATV/motorcycle park that would allow these riders their own trails and keep them out of the woods with horses and hikers.

I would least like to see Washington park land being sold off for private purposes because the State can no longer afford to maintain and supervise its holdings.

kim shattun

shattun37@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 6:26 pm

I think our natural rescources should remain open to the equestrian community. Horses are the foundation of the unites states as we know it, even though most people dont own one. I think it is important to protect the parks and trails for the enjoyment of all of us. I would like to see ample parking area for horse trailers. We all know that riding on our public roads are not safe and equestrians don’t have a lot of options for safe riding. Motorcycles and horsed usually don’t mix well, so would like to see trails for hikers and horses only.Better camping areas, more trails.

cb

corinnabolender@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 5:57 pm

As a member of Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, I would like to see the expansion of mountain-bike trails for all disciplines, including some mtb downhill only trails within the Seattle vicinity as well as across the state. I think a good mix of trails is critical, and having a few mountain-bike only trails is also needed to ensure safety on higher speed trails.

Other users, particularly hikers have 100 times more trail availability to single use trails and we all pay equal taxes, and therefore the overall plan should allow more diversity for other user groups. More opportunities to recreate in nature are critical to optimal health. Additionally, much of the younger generation is glued to their electronics devices, causing a very sedate and undiversified lifestyle and providing them opportunity to participate in a fun outdoor activity, such as mountain biking, is key as many youths do not enjoy hiking and really need something more stimulating to draw them away from their computers. In order to preserve our recreational opportunities, we must have them bond with nature in some form, so at a future stage they may participate in many forms of outdoor recreation.

Mountain biking popularity is evident as one is unable to find parking at several mountain-biking and multi-use locations in winter, when usage is down and the lots are dominated with vehicles with mountain-bike racks in comparison to other user groups. Perhaps expanding parking opportunities and locations in areas of demand should also be looked into.

Mike Borg

mjborg58@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 5:55 pm

This department makes a bunch of money off of concealed firearm permits…a bunch!So I assumed that I would be able to speak to someone to discuss the possibility of the department helping to promote youth clay target sports. The Scholastic Clay Target Program is the largest youth clay target program in the country. http://www.shootsctp.org or http://www.wasctp.com.

I guess I was wrong. So, does anyone know who I should be trying to contact?

Mike Borg

mjborg58@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 5:45 pm

I called this office today to find out who I could speak with in order to discuss the Scholastic Clay Target Program. The lady that answered wanted to know what kind of target and I told her clay target. Her tone of voice turned i might say on the rude side. She told me that guns are dangerous and are not allowed on state parks. I in turn informed her that I knew that, all I wanted to do was to speak with someone about possibly discussing an partnership to promote youth clay target sports. She again told me that guns are dangerous and are not allowed on state property.

I asked if this was the WA parks and Recreation Dept. and she said yes.I asked what kind of recreation does the department support and she said hiking and trail rides.I then said that I must have the wrong department.Her voice turned pleasant and she said, “Thank you, good by.”

Is this normal?

Luke Webster

yousk8@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 5:14 pm

a. I would like to see more OHV trails and riding areas. I would like DNR area by lake Bosworth to be made into a formal riding area. Currently it is signed as being open to riding, but the roads have been torn up for drainage, the trails not offical, and there is no parking\staging area.b. I would not like any reduction in current OHV riding areas or separation of different groups using trails. I get along with the different groups on trails and feel like we’re all going towards the same goal.

lisina

lisina10@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 4:43 pm

I would like fish stocking to be restricted to only native species and only in lakes and streams where they are naturally occurring.

I would like to see more funding made available for the protection of open space, either

thru fee simple purchases, grants to other organizations/agencies for fee simple, conservation easements, and more.

I would especially like to see the state support the protection of the Mount St. Helens High Lakes area (Fawn Lake, Elk Lake, etc) from development so that the public could once again enjoy the outstanding and unique recreation opportunities found there. It was once a very popular recreation area but in the last several years public access for recreation has been cut off by private landowners. The area is currently under threat of private development.

I would like to see motorized recreation kept in areas that are not ecologically sensitive.

I would like to see an increasing number of urban and town trails, rail to trails, and bikeways.

Encouraging outdoor recreation can have a wide range of benefits, including for local economies, public health and wellness, inspiring a conservation ethic, and workforce development. While recreation may seem to be one that's easily dismissed as frivolous spending, I strongly believe (and I work in the industry) that Washington state residents truly benefit from a strong and growing recreation program.

Jon Gibson

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Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 4:42 pm

a. What is it that you would most like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington in the future (i.e., what is the desired future condition you would like to see)?

I'd like to see an increase in Mountain Bike trails, trails that are officially opened for Mtn bikers to use. I'd like to see more trails of longer lengths and trails for a variety of ability levels. There are many groups who would be happy to build and maintain those trails if only given official permission for that so this can be a large benefit with very little cost.

b. What is it that you would not like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington's future?

In more densly used areas, seperate trails for different uses, hikers, bicycles, motorcycles, but in more remote areas, allow trails to be shared, to open up more trails to be used by different users.

Mike Vandeman

mjvande@pacbell.net

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 4:24 pm

1. Make protection of habitat and wildlife the top priority.2. Ban off-road vehiclular travel, including mountain biking.

Cynthia Krass

ckrass@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 3:46 pm

I am a hiker and mountain biker and believe that we can all work together to promote responsible enjoyment of our trails. Motorized uses are more taxing to the natural environment, so those uses should be more limited.

Greg Priest

theunpriestgreg@mail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 3:13 pm

I personally along with my family of five would like to see more parks like Duthie hill around the sound. I live in Kitsap county and although it takes some time we travel to Duthie quite a lot. I believe mt biking is a great family activity.I would like to see more bike specific trails and bike parks. this will help not only our residents stay active but bring people from all over to visit the trails/parks.

Don Larson

larson_don@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 2:44 pm | In reply to Rebecca Moore.

Rebecca, the fact that you use the term “our trails” indicates that M/C’s are not allowed on these trails in the first place or are they multi-use trails? Also – stating that motorcyclists bring in trash and messes to leave behind is simply not true and just the type of agenda driven message we deal with all the time….. please.

Gus

skookumrdr@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 2:31 pm

I would like to see the discover pass funds be divide up and have the purchaser decide which agency gets the money.

I would like to see more Single track motorized trails on the west side of the cascades. Between private developement, state closures and new wilderness in the last 30 years most of the trails and riding areas have been closed.

I would like to see State parks funded through gate fee’s only or Gate Fee’s and funding from the general budget.

I would like to see all existing single track motized trails stay open and if you don’t want to see a bike when your hiking of riding a horse go use the wilderness.

Glenn Rogers

rogersclan@prodigy.net

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 2:26 pm

What I would like to see is more multiuse trails that are open to mountain biking.

what I don’t want to see is increased restriction on existing trails that lock out users.

MLBFishon

MLBfishon@msn.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 2:11 pm

I would like to see our public lands free of cattle grazing…to support other natural uses of the land.

Laura

carolinafan05@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 2:11 pm

I would like to see less restrictions and limited access for horses and pack animals. Anyone who has been trail riding before will tell you it is an amazing experience that everyone should enjoy, please increase the access for equestrians'.

I would not like to see restrictions and regulations force the equestrians from being able to enjoy the trails.

eric stobin

stobstar@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 1:59 pm

more mountain biking trails! mountain bikers spent a lot of money on food, gas, beer and lodging. create great places to bike (Bend, Oregon) and mountain bikers will travel to that area and support it!

Andrew

agelfandwright@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 1:42 pm

I would like more trails to be open to mountain bikers. Some low-traffic hiking trails look like they'd be a lot of fun, but are closed.

I don't want to see new and current trails getting widened and smoothed out. I

appreciate that maintenance is important, especially on higher-traffic trails, but when that leads a wide, hardened trail, it removes the challenge and sense of being in the woods that brings me to trails in the first place. I also hike and occasionally run on trails, and in all cases my most desired experience is a relatively low traffic, relatively wild trail.

Karen

kjoutdoors@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 1:26 pm

I would like to see more trails and trail maintenance for non-motorized users. I would like to see wilderness protected for my grandchildren and their grandchildren. I have no objection to recreation for motorized vehicles but would prefer to see it in non-wilderness areas because of the noise and trail damage. I have tried to hike in the St. Joe NF in Idaho and found muddy, rutted single single track trails impossible to hike on without watching my feet instead of enjoying the scenery. In addition getting out of the way of a motorcycle on one of those trails nearly did me in!

I would not like to see Washington State close parks due to lack of funding.

JK Hoyle

jkhoyle@embarqmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 1:11 pm

As a member of Back Country Horsemen of Washington, I am concerned about the future of trails, and trail access in Washington, both in the “front” country as well as the back country and wilderness areas. I would like to see horses and pack stock have continued access to trails, to not be removed from them by regulation or by lack of maintenance of the trails. I’d like to see appropriately-sized parking areas for trailers so that trailheads can be used safely by equestrians and other users concurrently – perhaps even designated parking areas that won’t be co-opted by passenger vehicles. And I would very much like to see all user groups working together, respecting each other, and educating each other as to their issues. I’d like to see state government

officials support keeping trails, campgrounds, and other outdoor recreation sites open and maintained for the use of the general public now and for future generations.I am not unaware of the budget and staffing challenges the State faces in keeping trails and recreation areas open. But I'd like State officials to remember that in BCHW and other volunteer groups you have organizations that are willing to assist in the maintenance of such assets. Personally, I'm proud to belong to state-wide organization whose members spend tens of thousands of hours annual volunteering on public lands, keeping trails and recreation areas open for equestrian, wheeled and two-footed users, alike, repairing facilities, educating the public in Leave-No-Trace practices; and providing volunteer service to resource agencies. We're happy to work with you, if you'd just give us workable opportunities to do so.

Lindsey Abair

Lindsey.abair@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 12:34 pm

I would most like to see control put back into the hands of the public, If the public wants bike trails allow them to build bike trails, same for jumps, berms etc that go along with awesome trails.Also, I would like trails be specific to the end user, make trails for bikes and trails for horses seperate. Horses really do a number screwing up the hard packed dirt that is great for bikes, plus riding through their poop and having it fling up in your face is disgusting. if we have to pick up after our dogs why dont they pick up after thier horses?

What I do not want to see are trails being taken away from things such as mt biking in order to 'return it to nature' and catering to bird watchers. If you want the youth as well as entire families to get outside and be active give them a reason. In kitsap county far too many of the county run parks have been turned into preserves which limit the use to just hikers and sometimes horses. Mt biking is a quickly growing sport and the natural environment in western washington is great for building trails. Walking trails will not encourage pepole to get outside… unless of course they need some place quite and private to get high.

Bob

bheimbuch@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 12:30 pm

a. What is it that you would most like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington in the future (i.e., what is the desired future condition you would like to see)?

As more people are enjoying our States beauty, I would like to see more development of user specific trails to reduce user conflicts. The state has a gem and a huge tourism potential for all outdoor groups. Personally I enjoy hanging out in the Mountains doing many different activities with different user groups. Besides hiking I fell that Mountain biking has some of the smallest impact on the trails yet they limited compared to other groups.

b.What is it that you would not like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington's future?

What I don't want to see is groups loosing their access unless it is necessary for the land to heal. Also I am concerned about some of the proposed copper mining in the Cascades. I don't want the state to move forward on this to hastily. I feel that the state could generate more long term income, along with less of an impact, in Eco Tourism then it would with copper mining.

Erik Flink

eflinkster@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 12:26 pm

I'd like to see more access for Mountain Bikes to trails in Washington. As a memeber of The Evergreen Mountain BIke Alliance I favor responsible access, making sure the trails appropriate for bikes, maintained (we love trail work) and that the trails are open to a variety of user groups.

Judy Cowden

pasofino.1@netzero.net

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 12:21 pm

I want to see equestrian trails stay open to horses as we horse riders work very hard to maintain these trails and all other trails. I do not want to see us stuck in a 6 mile horse park loop as Florida has nor in a boring arena. Horses made America for what it is, Please do not ban them from our wonderful lands. I support horse use on all public lands. I ride to live and live to ride as my horse keeps me sane. Thank You

Brandon

metalman457@aol.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 12:16 pm

I would like to see more places for dirt bikes to go in the future. There needs to be noise, and dust rules but it can be done. There is demand to ride motorcycles out here and there are plenty of people willing to make it happen. I would like to see parks for the mt. bikers, and equestrian's to go as well.There needs to be more than just hiking trails closer to king county for every user group. It doesn't seem to be a problem in other parts of the country that I have visited, but in king co. it seems like a crime to get out and enjoy the outdoors, unless you're a hiker. Why can't king co. have an o.r.v. park, more places to ride horses, mountain bikes? Do we really need to leave more land to build more Cracker jack house's?

Jerry Lemke

klondikeacres1@juno.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 11:55 am

I would like to see the ORV sticker be used as the only license needed in order to travel the primative roads. There are so many roads out there that are nearly impassable to all

but the most beastly of 4x4s and ORVs could make use of them muvh more easily.I think the Discovery Pass should serve a means of allowing access to all services available the sites it's required. (Besides overnight camping)

Fred Schmidt

uzernombre@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 11:55 am

I would like to see more lands opened up for shared access of non-motorized uses, such as mountain biking, hikers, and equestrians. That said, there should still be some lands set aside for single uses. I would also like to see more outreach to groups that work to create and maintain trails, such as Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance. I would also like to see more outreach to groups that use trails, but DO NOT work to maintain them. I personally, and I don't think I'm alone in this, feel that our outdoor resources are precious, and and more than happy to lend a hand in keeping them in good condition.

I do not want to see increased fees, user conflicts, trails in disrepair or abused.

Franko

Fkgarcia71@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 11:51 am

I would like to see more bicycle shoulders on route 900. Promotions of family bike friendly restaurants near trailheads.More mountain bike trails that promote a sense of attraction to younger people. We have a very unhealthy youth society.

Sam Chesnut

chesnut.sam@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 11:50 am

A) I would really like to see some new areas open up for motorized use. I put 400+ hours in last year clearing and maintaining trails both on DNR and Forest Service land.

After the latest closure near Seattle, I have seen the few remaining open areas a bit over used. There is plenty of land available for every user group.B) In the future I would like to see Washington stop closing the few remaining areas to OHV use.

Randy

elrey29r@outlook.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 11:44 am

A. More high country trails open to mountain bikes. More multi-use work parties. A volunteer list serve group.

B.. Any trail closures for any user. Let us play

Vicki Orford

VickiOrford@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 11:27 am

I would like to see the trails left open for ALL uses. I realize we can not share the trails all at the same time and come away with a smile on all of our faces. But – horses can get along with almost any type of trail use, and they should NEVER be left out of any decisions regarding trail use. We have always been riding on trails, clearing trails, making trails, and supporting trail use. Washington offers a great opportunity for tourism through the use of horse trails and horse camps. Please support trail use by horses and pack animals!Vicki Orford

Darcy Howell

dndhowell@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 11:17 am

I am an equestrian, and considering the important role horses have played in the exploration and founding of our nation, I would like to make sure that horses are never banned from our Nation’s public land. I think they should be elevated to a historical and

special status. People should always be allowed to enjoy the peace and thrill of riding horses on the trails and open lands without having to go through hoops and red tape to do so.

I would not like to see the voices of mountain bikers, hikers, or motorcyclists get heard, and the quieter voices of equestrians drowned out. The trails can and should be shared, and people should not freak out about a little pile of poo here of there, after all that used to be the norm on public streets.

Ron Downing

vpfarm@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 10:51 am

For those of us that own and ride equines in the backcountry as well as the front country, we, I would like to see that the fees we pay be spent in a proportional manner for maintenance of these trails and trailheads. We find that the fees we pay often are spent largely in areas that we do not use, or even absorbed somewhere other than where they were intended as sold to us when these fees were created. The horseman are doing a massive amount of repair and maintenance on the trails and trailheads. They are volunteering to do this work as the equines are capable of carrying the tools and materials necessary to do the work required. When government decides to arbitrarily change how fees and taxes are spent or allocated from the original intent of the legislation, it opens the door to inequitable consideration for any and all groups of recreationalists. If the fees we horseman pay go to fund state parks in a disproportional distribution, then we horseman should have access to all state parks instead of what we have now. I do not see that happening nor think that is what is desired. I think we as equine recreationalists desire the moneys and resources under consideration should be allocated in an equitable manner as intended in the original legislation.

Patti Baumgardner

highlands@nvinet.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 10:48 am

I love trails that allow human powered movement of all kinds-ski, hike, bike, walk, skate etc. These should be available everywhere; urban, rural, backcountry.

Bill McKenna

wintercreeek1@wildblue.net

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 10:39 am

I would like to see more access for horses and mules not less as appears to be the practice over the past 20 years. I especially want to see adequate parking for stock trailers. It's one thing to simply allowing horse & mules but without safe parking, what you are really doing is cutting us off from those trails.

Kathy Hardy

kathyhardy@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 10:27 am

I would like to see more mountain biking opportunities in the I-90 corridor. I would also like to see more cross country skiing/snowshoeing opportunities, and in particular, more dog friendly, nonmotorized sno parks in the I-90 corridor. Thank you for all your hard work!

Kathy Young

kyoung1735@aol.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 10:01 am

I am a crrent Back Country Horseman, and have spent many days riding in our beautiful back country, and I have been priviledged to worked on trail maintainence projects in conjunction with the Pacific Crest Trail Association and the Forest Service.I would like to see that trails , trailheads and camp sites remain open to and accessibly maintained for stock use. I would like to see continuing cooperation and coordination between the

various user groups in planning, building and maintaining trails. I would like to be assured and public lands administrators and managers will continue to consider the needs of horse and mule riders and packers when planning for improvements, and usage of our back country areas.When I consider that many of the trails in our wild areas were originally built by stock users and maintained by them as transportation corridors as well as trails to camping destinations, I know that I would not like to be shut out of these area because more modern user groups have more members, bigger voices and deeper pockets.

Lee

lindabikes@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 9:55 am

I think those who are most willing to work on trails, keep trails clean, and not overly damage trails should be allowed more access to public lands. I don't believe in increasing fees and removing user groups unless their damage outweighs their benefit by being there.

I support more public lands opening to mountain bikes as they have shown to be an organized group that can really take stewardship over trails that they use. They've proven themselves to be very responsible

Stan Herold

stanherold@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 9:53 am

I would like to see more trails with access for mountain biking. There are a tremendous amount of trails in the areas in the Seattle area, but incredibly few are open to mountain biking.

S Richardson

timbermama@MSN.COM

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 9:44 am

I believe that the outdoors is for everyone and that the government in any department needs to wake up and realize that without the open spaces for all to use equine owners walker campers etc we will be a nation of cement and concrete. I would like to see that gov. DON'T CLOSE PARKS AND TRAILS TO EQUINE USE.

I would not like to see access to outdoor rec be removed, given to regulations and lack of funds. When WE THE TAX PAYER VOTES WHERE THE MONEY GOES AND GOV DECIDES IT IS NEEDED ELSEWHERE, NOT WHERE WE WHO PAYS VOTES FOR TRAILS, PARKS.

Michael Mullally

mknh@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 9:34 am

I would like to see more access for responsible mountain bikers on existing trails and future trails. And more access in all areas for everyone over all.

brejdarabians

brejd@aol.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 9:13 am

I would not be happy if excessive regulations take away my ability to have my horses or pack animals on the trails. The ability to ride and have a place to park/camp is one of the reasons that I live in the NW.

fjmilan

fjmilan@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 9:09 am

I would like to see a continued culture of support for our public lands and the environmental, public health, and economic benefits they provide to every resident of this state. I would like to see more opportunities like the ‘no child left inside’ grants, which help make the connection between youth in underserved and oftentimes low income communities who have limited ability to experience the outdoors.

I also agree w/ some of the earlier comments about ORV support, esp near population centers. The demand is there, but It is extremely difficult for them to find legitimate places to ride, so they go where they want and damage sensitive areas and have conflicts with other types of users.

I would NOT like to see public recreation commoditized to the point that public land managers spend their time chasing funding or implementing user fees for everything, thereby restricting access, or making it necessary to decide between managing public land to make money or to serve our residents Protecting public land (for recreation, environmental protection, etc) is an ESSENTIAL SERVICE of gov’t. Parks, trails, and natural areas are huge contributors to public safety, economically vibrant communities, and healthy populations. Yes there are plenty of efficiencies to be found and partnerships to be developed that can generate revenue. But our state and local gov’t agencies should demonstrate the value of public land for recreation and environmental protection by appropriately funding and equipping the agencies responsible for public land management.

Jason Edens

monkeyride@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 9:06 am

a. What is it that you would most like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington in the future (i.e., what is the desired future condition you would like to see)?

I’d like to see increased utilization of public land for mountain biking and multi use trails. I would also like to recognize the amount of people using these trails for specific purposes and coordinate trail usage accordingly, keeping in mind the folks that are most

likely to actually maintain and upkeep those trails.

b. What is it that you would not like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington's future?

Multiple increased usage fees and granting trail usage to groups that do not volunteer time / money to ensure that those trails are properly maintained.

Louise Caywood

saddledupw@aol.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 8:28 am

Public recreation lands should be maintained to at least the point where they will not deteriorate. If they aren't, it will cost more in the future to keep them open. The economy is tough for the state, but also for the people that could benefit from using our lands. I would also like to see fees stay at a reasonable cost for people to use them. I would like to see State Parks become more responsible with their budget.

I would not like to see the NOVA funds swept into the general fund. These monies were paid (taxes) by recreationists, with the intent they would enhance public lands for recreation.

I would not like to see the people that came up with the Discover Pass on another committee. Obviously, there was flaws in their reasoning and calculations.

Tod Petersen

tod701@aol.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 8:13 am

More trails for everybody!

It is especially important to preserve or expand ORV trail opportunities. Motorized use of any kind is prohibited on between 82-86 percent of the trail mileage within the State of Washington. That is proving to be inadequate to meet the needs of the growing sport.

ORV recreationalists have proven time and again that they are willing to provide the

funding and volunteer labor to create more trails (trails open to all users). Clear out the bureaucratic hurdles and trail opportunities expand for everyone.

JoAnn Yost

joanny540@aol.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 7:48 am

I want the Washington State land to be taken care of and that included keeping the trails and campgrounds open and in decent shape. This includes multiple users including horses and mules. Backcountry Horsemen of Wa spends many volunteer hours doing trail and campground work. I do not want to see the fees charged to use public land to be increased further and the state needs to use all of this revenue for public land.

Mary Owens

owens.maryj@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 7:26 am

I would like to see trails remain open to equine users, better trailheads to accommodate trailers, and good trail markers. As a Back Country Horsemen member, we put in a lot of time on trails for all users.

I do not want to see our access to trails cut off.

Sandy Cheek

2cheeks@homenetnw.net

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 6:38 am

I would like to see a system where equitable and fair trail use includes those who ride horses, pack in, ride bikes, or other non motorized modes of transport. Limiting pack trip size is important and limiting their locations as large numbers using a particular site frequently has negative impact on the land. But love the horse camps, love the trails

that we have and don't want to lose them–especially as I am approaching retirement and plan to GET OUT THERE more frequently!

Mike Sprague

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Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 6:25 am

As a motorcycle rider, I'd like to see more roads open to motorcycles. I mentioned in an earlier post that the State may be able to work out agreements with federal agencies (BLM, USFS, etc) and private landowners (Weyerhauser, Plum Creek) to allow residents access to roads and trails on these lands.I would like to see horse people have separate areas from motorized users, as this leads to conflict. However, as a motorized user, I pay double taxes in the form of NOVA funds and the stupid Discover pass. I am unaware of any such fees collected on horseback user groups. (Please correct me if I am wrong- not a horse person so I don't know.) If there is not, I suggest a sticker/fee system for tow rigs and trailers to help fund their activities. As noted above, they require upgraded roads and large parking areas, and often ramps to load or unload animals, all expensive.I'd like to see better facilities at fishing areas, and more lakes stocked.I'd like to see more trail maintenance, for all user groups.And, unpopular though it may be, I'd like to see more enforcement of the rules. A lot more. All of us have seen people mudding where they shouldn't, having campfires during burn bans, and leaving huge piles of trash at their campsite. I could name more stupid behavior…. I'm not asking for jackbooted robots, but a higher presence in the field and less overhead in Olympia would be a better use of our funds.Speaking of funds- what I do NOT want to see is NOVA funds raided for any purpose other than their specific place- to benefit motorized recreation. Hikers and horse riders don't pay into this fund, we volunteered to tax ourselves for the benefit of our sport. Transferring these funds to other user groups is annoying, wrong, and criminal.I do not want to see more lands closed off, forcing all users into smaller areas and conflict. I do not want to see more stupid double fees, such as ORV + Discover Pass. I do not want to see lake and river access reduced. I do not want to see the areas we have neglected further.And on a personal level, I'd like to somehow reduce conflict between user groups. Hikers, horse

people, us motorized guys, mountain bikers… We are blessed with one of the best recreation areas on the planet, and if we can act together we will all be better off. Let's keep the bickering between user groups to a minimum.

Cathy Johnson

cathy.johnson@kingcounty.gov

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 5:53 am

Washington State needs to ensure that trail and camping access for equestrian use is maintained at a minimum at its current level, and preferably is increased. Right now there are hardly any state parks that allow equestrian use – Bridle Trails is great, but it would be nice to have more opportunities in other areas of the state. The new state park on the Mashell River in Pierce County is certainly a move in the right direction, but with state parks already extremely underfunded who knows how many years it will be until the park is completed. It needs to be recognized by the state recreation management process that trails for horse access require a higher level of construction and maintenance than trails used by hikers. BCH of Washington does a great job of maintaining equestrian trails, working in parnership with DNR, National Forest Service and other land owners, but they cannot maintain the trails on their own and should not have to.

I hope that we do not loose any additional camping and trail access points. The restrictions put on equestrian camping at Burke Lake in eastern Washington is a perfect example of loss of use that we need to make sure does not continue.

Sandra Svendby

sandune47@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 5:53 am

I would like to see our trail heads, parking and trails maintained and provided for equestrian use in the future. I am a member of Backcountry Horsemen and know we volunteer thousand of hours yearly of work to maintain them yearly to keep trails

accessable.

I would not want to see access go away due to excessive regulations and lack of money.

Tani Bates

gotessgo@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 5:26 am

What I want:Safe, sustainable and usable trails for horseback riding.More trails developed, existing closed trails reopened for horseback riding and hiking use.More camping areas for horseback riders with, good access, ample parking areas and decent facilities.More Government funding for maintaining these trails

What I don't want:Closure of trails to horseback riders.Increases in fees, and restrictionsTrails falling into disrepair and being closed due to government budget issues when you have groups willing to do the maintenance.Trails being closed to horseback riding in favor of other groups. We all pay the same fees, we all should be able to enjoy the trails.Multi-use trails with motorized dirt bikes and ATVs, these are unsafe and end up only being used by the motorized users since they often render them unusable by anybody else

Wendy Kondo

kondoqueen@windermere.com

Submitted on 2013/02/08 at 12:44 am

As a long standing member of Back Country Horseman of WA (BCHW), an equestrian, dog owner, hiker, and camper I would like to see more trails for equestrians and trail heads that can accommodate trucks with horse trailers. I would like to see trails for motorized vehicles separate from non-motorized. Partly for the safety factor of all involved, and partly for the peaceful enjoyment of the wilderness. Motorized vehicle riders definitely need trails to enjoy their sport. To me and other non-motorized users,

we go outdoors for peace and quiet, to relax and listen to the sounds of nature. BCHW members contribute many volunteer hours maintaining and protecting our trails. I would like to see user groups working together for the benefit of all of us that like to recreate outdoors.

I would not like to see more trail closures or higher costs that make it difficult or impossible for lower income families to enjoy the outdoors. We need equal opportunity to recreation. It is therapeutic for me to get on my horse and ride through the forest or take my dog for a hike. It is crucial to the physical and mental health of the citizens of WA State to be able to get away from the hustle and bustle and stress of their lives. Every day we experience the consequences of mental illness in our society. The ability to get away from it all and experience the peacefulness of nature is our right. Most of us that use the trails and enjoy the outdoors practice Leave No Trace principals and are willing to volunteer to help keep our trails and recreational areas open. It should be a priority of our state leaders to not only make it possible, but to increase the opportunities by utilizing this volunteer power.

Laura Kingman

horsewhisper101@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 11:50 pm

Thank you for then opportunity to comment.

I would like to see trails open for horses in all areas of our beautiful state with safe places to park trucks and horsetrailers. I would like trail access for horses close to town and in the wilderness. I would like trails to be separated for horses from bicycles and ORVs. I would like to see government agencies working with Backcountry Horsemen of Washington to keep trails safe and open for horse use.

I would like to see fees stay at a reasonable level and passes to be transferable between vehicles. I would like for it to be possible for people to work in exchange for acquiring a Discover Pass.

shrubitup

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Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 11:27 pm

a. What is it that you would most like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington in the future (i.e., what is the desired future condition you would like to see)?

Desired future condition is no further trail closures to the two wheeled ORV enthusiast. Would also like to see acceptance by others that we exist versus the continued marginalization we currently see. Next I would like to see all ORV funds retained and used for ORV projects only.

b. What is it that you would not like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington's future?

The continued arbitrary discrimination towards the motorized two wheeled ORV enthusiast.

Jennifer

snofall@centurytel.net

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 11:15 pm

Trails for hiking and horse use…not for atv use is very important. Safe and ample parking for horse trailers at the trail heads needs to be available.I do not want to see Horses excluded from Washington state and equestrians not be allowed to enjoy our beautiful backcountry.

Shane Donogh

shanedonogh@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 11:02 pm

I would like to see a legal place for me and my family to ride Off Road Motorcycles in King County for decades to come. I would like to see a network of user built and

maintained single track ORV trail in King County. Off road motorcycling should be recognized not as damage, but a sustainable use of our public lands. I want to be able to ride dirtbikes with my family to the top of the Index Town Wall from Reiter pit like I did with my parents 25 years ago. I would like to see the Sultan Basin re-opened for motorized use. Let the user groups build their own trails, not some bureaucrats or committee. Let the people use their public land!

I do not want to see any more areas closed to ORV use. ORV users pay a lot of money to the state and have the least trail mileage of any user group. I also do not want to pay double to access public land (ORV license tags PLUS a discover pass).

Heather Seibert

flyeskyhy@aol.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 10:59 pm

1. a. As a member of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington and a lifelong equestrian, I would like to see historical riding areas kept open, with the help of the equestrian community in terms of trail clearing, etc. It would also be great to open new areas to equestrian use, and enable different user groups to share areas that are currently limited in the range of uses possible, where it is reasonably safe and cost-effective to share between user groups.

b. Having been a falconer for nearly 20 years and with a lifelong interest in the natural world in general, especially within the great state of Washington, I hope that my children and future generations will be able to appreciate what I have in the rich experiences that can only be gained by spending time in the wilderness. I would like to see existing areas preserved and expanded as much as possible in order to attain continuity of our species's ability to experience the wonder of wilderness areas and pristine ecologies.

2. As stated above, I and my family have multiple reasons for visiting public lands near and far within WA state. I would least like to see further restrictions on the uses of public lands; I would also agree with others who have commented that the entire burden of keeping public lands public cannot be put upon the responsible land users of today. To accurately plan for the future, it is necessary to have a realistic budget in place at all

times-one that takes into account the bigger picture, and does not merely engage in reciprocity with big business and powerful special interest groups.

Juelanne Dalzell

gobi@olympus.net

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:47 pm

I would like to see trailhead parking in Tekoa along the Iron Horse State Park, parking at Nisqually State Park and horse trailer parking at Miller Peninsula. I would like to see expanded horse trailer parking at the beginning of the Larry Scott Trail in Jefferson County. I would also appreciate more political support for the Horse Park in Cle Elum. There are legislators who have no idea that the horse industry and related fields in our state provide about 5 billion dollars in revenue. More recreation opportunities in Washington are good for our economy. Managed recreation can provide great economic benefit to all of us with a minimal environmental impact. The health benefits of an active outdoor lifestyle are undisputed.

I do not want to see camp site or trail closures.

David R. Smith /DVM

dochosvet@earthlink.net

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:44 pm

I think all the places horses use now should stay. That includes little ones like Landsberg to Mt rainier, Mt Adams, Robinson Canyon and any other Fish and game, areas. Also all along the crest like Government Meadows. They all seem to be holding up well and the horse people do a lot of volunteer work and repairs. Especially BCH.

Will

wbedient@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:41 pm

I would like to keep the access we have to DNR and WDFW lands.

I don't want to see any more fees and or more developed recreation sites. Shut down the heavily devolved sites run by state parks or charge more for their use, the parks are just too far in the red.

Tom Davidson

TNKASPER@GMAIL.COM

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:25 pm

A. What is it that you would most like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington in the future (i.e., what is the desired future condition you would like to see)?

1. One Pass for all access. I'd gladly pay $100 to access all outdoor areas. But a boat launch should pay extra as they are using something extra that many don't.2. More user groups need to step up and take care of the trails they use, like at Reiter.3. Require equestrians to remove horse crap from the trails4. Open more areas to the public.5. Keep ORVs and horses within specific areas, but also require them to build and maintain those trails like at Reiter. They tear up the trails worse that hikers or bikers.

B. What is it that you would not like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington's future?

1. Closing off more public access.

Joyce Kelly

kelhie2@aol.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:19 pm

A. Continued and new access to public lands for horses and mules.B. No closure of existing trails on public land especially when funding for servicing is limited. Allow them to remain open; the users will take care of the rest.

DHiatt

dhiatt07@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:19 pm

A. Have government keep Public Lands open FOR the Public Public instead of FROM the Public. Have the DNR get a clue as to what PUBLIC means! Reward the recreational users that share (more facilities for them) and punish those who do not want share (less facilities for those) public lands with all other types of recreational users..

B, No more closure of Public Land to any type of recreational use.

Greg

greghalberg@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:14 pm

I would like to see at minimum the same level of winter access, primarily for human powered use. That is no net loss. Ideally, opportunites would be expanded for all winter recreation, including seperating areas for motorized and non motorized use. Also would like to see cooperation between the federal and state jurisdictions to increase opportunites. My interest is primarily on the Olympic Peninsula were the only winter access is controlled by ONP and closed the majority of the time.

Florence Paget

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Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:07 pm

I am very concerned with the use of horses in the wilderness areas. Their use is part of our history, our present recreation and most important–our future generations legacy. Action must be take now to preserve this freedom that we enjoy.

Becky Vital

tendertoo2002@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:02 pm

I agree with Lori Crow Says:February 7, 2013 at 3:43 pm | ReplyI would most like to see more safe, well maintained and usable trails for horseback riding. Good parking areas, easy access and well marked trails. I would also like to see more camping areas for horseback riders with decent facilities, good access and ample parking lots for horse trailers. Ideally these would be trails just for hikers and horseback riders…multi-use trails with motorized dirt bikes and ATVs are unsafe and end up only being used by the motorized users since they often render them unusable by anybody else. That being said, I would take multi-use trails over no trails at all. I would like to see our existing trails maintained with the help of groups like BCHW. I would like to see more trails developed, parking areas of existing trails developed so horse trailers can use them and existing closed trails reopened for horseback riding and hiking use. In an ideal world I would love some horseback riding only trails but I'm not holding my breath on that one.

What I would not like to see happen is the continued closure of trails to horseback riders. What I would not like to see happen is the continued increases in fees, restrictions and other issues that come from government nonsense. What I would not like to see happen is trails falling into disrepair and being closed due to government budget issues when you have groups willing to do the maintenance themselves. What I would not like to see happen is trails being closed to horseback riding in favor of other groups. We all pay the same fees, we all should be able to enjoy the trails.

mary mccullough

marymsmt@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 8:58 pm

What I would like to see is money from area Horse camps go back into the state of Washington not to some outfit out of California. These people do not care about us and our needs here in WA. The horse camp at Mt. Adams is a fine example. The only new thing they put in is one garbage can……I can haul out my own garbage for $14.00 dollars a night. The water trough in the new section is still not working and as far as the

camp manager knows it will never be fixed. What's with that? I was up there this past summer (2012) for two weeks and the place was never up to 50 percent full. Use to be full all summer. I think people resent the fees……I know I do. I have volunteered for years and my children and grandchildren have volunteered also……..Now we are being chared for the very work we have done. The trails are deteriorating and some places are completely impassable. So I would like to see more trail maintence, lower your fees…..what with fuel prices, food prices and everything else going up we don't need more fees.

What I don't want is the trail systems closed to horse people…We are the very ones who pack in the equipment, tools, and supplies needed to repair bridges and trails. The BCHW packed in tools and supplies for the hikers in the Wonderland trail…….there were no hikers willing to pack in supplies…….So please don't shut us out.

Thank you,

Mary McCulloughPast member of BCHW.

Linda Hanson

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Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 8:50 pm

I would like to see trails remain open to horses, and horse camps remain affordable and open. Corrals are nice, back country horse camping is even better, I would not like to see you assume horses are not on trails because they are not responding-they may just not be computer savy or have friends who alert them to the need.

outdoors girl

germano.angela@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 8:40 pm

Continued access to hiking, biking, swimming, climbing, backcountry skiing /snowboarding, snowshoeing. These non-polluting sports that provide human-powered exercise (as opposed to ORV, speedboat, or horse-powered sports) need to be

emphasized. They are also the most economically available for vast majority of state citizens.

I'm not against horses, ORVs, or speedboats (though horse trail droppings and motorized sounds can be polluting in some cases). I would like to see the healthiest sports and those most available to the most citizens prioritized.

Would least like to see trails and access closed due to lack of funding. Would not like to see access fees increased above what they currently are.

Thanks for asking.

Rhonda Guilford

cloisonneart@frontier.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 8:40 pm

I would like to see recreational areas remain open to horse and stock use.I would hope that there would be an increase in recreational area for all users and not a decrease.

John Candaux

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Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 8:17 pm

I would like to see an expansion of mountain biking activities throughout Washington. This is a wonderful low impact activity that is growing in popularity year after year. I would like to see additional areas opened up for cross country/single track riding as well as additional bike parks featuring a variety of riding challenges. I would like to see greater tolerance and acceptance between the different user groups so we can all enjoy the natural abundance that surrounds us.

I do not want to see anything happen that would lead to the closure of existing riding opportunities. As more and more people discover the benefits of mountain biking, the use of existing resources will continue to increase, adding to the need to expand riding opportunities.

Joe Hawkins

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Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 8:07 pm

The pot of money is only so big. If we as a state and a nation continue to provide for those who do not produce and who refuse to provide for themselves the there will be less money for the nice things in life, such as parks, trails, campgrounds and the like.

I see too many people posting about how much they hate motorized activities, yet those same people will gladly take the revenue that's generated by the owners and operators of those motorized vehicles and advocate spending it on non-motorized activities.

What I don't see are the motorized vehicle owners and operators disparaging the people who advocate kicking motorized vehicles off of the PUBLIC land.

I would hope that we can all get along, and that everyone will come to the understanding that there is only so much money to go around, and, in some cases we will have to all share the same spot of land and do so willingly.

If we can all find a way to work together for each others common interest in outdoor recreation we will all be winners.

If it takes dividing the money by volunteer hours and numbers of volunteers to do trail maintenance or general maintenance in a camp ground then so be it.

I would really like it if the state would remove more than half of the current forest gates it has in place, or at least provide passage trails for hikers, horses and dirt bikes in order to keep the meth heads, trash dumpers, illegal tree harvesters and other lower forms of life from destroying the forest and causing more of the PUBLIC land from being shut down.

What I don't want to see is one group hold or lock out another group of people due to their form of recreation on state property.

All of us that are users need a place to go.

Shelby

shelbycarlson@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 7:58 pm

I would like to see more mountain biking accessibility to existing trails as well as more land/trails for the future of more riders. The number of riders increases on a yearly basis.I would not like to see closure of parks/trails/recreational land in general continue to close due to lack of funding.

Shelby

shelbycarlson@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 7:57 pm

I would like to see more mountain biking accessibility to existing trails as well as more land/trails for the future of more riders. The number of riders increases on a yearly basis.I would not like to see closure of parks/trails/recreational land in general continue to close due to lack of financing.

Chuck Cannon

chuckcannon@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 7:40 pm

A. I would like to see more land opened up and managed for recreational use, especially motorized recreation such as quads and snowmobiles. These are great family activities and add significantly to our local economies.

I would also like to see more boating recreation developed in WA.

I would like to see more funding for recreational use of public lands and waters in WA.

B. I would not like to see more land closed for recreational use. All public lands should be available for managed recreational use.

I would also not like to see any government agencies or state politicians re-directing designated recreation use funds (such as designated user fees or taxes) for other

purposes in state government.

dawn Kleinhuizen

dawnmantle1@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 7:34 pm

I am a member of BCH of Washington . I want to see our ability as horse back rider to continue to use existing trails that are designated for horse use. Horse camps that were developed by BCH or like groups should be kept open with horse campers having first choice. I would like to not be kicked off a trail due to horse manure left on the trail.. It decomposes rapidly. I would like to see ALL horse people leave the trail head and parking area's free of manure,it makes sense to clean it up there. Very easy to just shovel it back into the trailer to be disposed of at home. I would like to see existing roads open for horse back riding not closed or decommissioned. Horse trailer parking would be appreciated at trail heads that cannot be over taken by other vehicles.I do not want to see any more fee's for use of state lands. We need to give people area's to recreate without high cost which makes it prohibitive for some folks who other wise could use state land area's. I would not like to see any more camping area's closed or trails closed. I do not want to see new trails created until we can maintain the ones we have.Thank you for allowing a place to comment

Richard Pratt

snotrans@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 7:10 pm

I think that all users should share the public land without excluding other groups. There is already a disproportionate share of land set aside as wilderness that excludes everyone but hikers and equestrians

David Schuurman

Echomules@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 7:07 pm

I would like to see better maintained facilites. Extensive budget cuts have left restrooms to fend for themselves, closed, or missing completely. Fees for trailhead parking should show some results that can be seen when using these trailheads. I would like trails to remain open to historic uses, most all trails in the mountains were created for and maintained by pack stock. We need to continue to maintain trails for continual use of recreational stock riders.I do not want to see more public lands locked up from public use. Some wilderness proposals effectively keep all but the most physically fit out of our public lands. We need some areas to be able to be driven to with vehicles. Otherwise the common users cannot access these areas. Wolf re-introduction proposals should take a back seat to any conflict with current users of public lands, we are imporant also. Wolves don't vote, I DO.

Nancy Ransom

Ransom531@aol.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 7:01 pm

I would like to see more access to trails and camps for horses and stock. I would also like to see user groups get together to maintain trailheads, parking areas, and trails to ensure we have good places to go to enjoy our lands.

Jennifer Blackburn

jenniferlblackburn@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 6:56 pm

I would most like to see an increase in the number of mountain bike singletrack trails, especially within an hour of Seattle. I would love to see a Duthie-like area on the Seattle side of 520 (Ballard, Magnolia, North Seattle?) I would pay a user fee if necessary to see this happen. It has been shown that mountain bikers can work well with other non-motorized user groups to build, maintain, and share trails. Mountain bikers are excellent

stewards of the land and contribute greatly to the local economy!

I would not like to see closure of any existing mountain bike trails, or the loss of public parks and recreation space.

alan

alan9062shank@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 6:54 pm

Forgot to mention that I'm a member of the Back Country Horsemen of WA.

alan

alan9062shank@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 6:52 pm

I would not like to see public lands allowing motorized vehicles. I would not like to see mountain bikes turn trails into amusement parks for thrill seekers.

alan

alan9062shank@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 6:51 pm

I would like current trail heads accomodating horses maintained and new ones provided. I would like horse trails maintained and access allowed. I would like to see trail connectivity between public lands.

Mike Westra

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Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 6:32 pm

I would like to see:* More mountain bike trails – especially on the west side of the passes along the I-90, Hwy2 and I-5 corridors. The ratio of hiking trail mileage to mt bike trail mileage along those corridors is 100:1. Equestrians also have greater than 20 times the trail mileage as mt bikers along those corridors.* More multi-use trails. Change designations that ban bikes to include bikes – especially on trails that are rarely used by hikers or equestrians.* More trails near population centers. Example: There are thousands of acres of public timberland that has recently been clearcut or soon will be clearcut near Bellingham with no recreation opportunities at all.* Better engage volunteer organizations – encourage stewardship by giving them ownership.* Engage youth in the outdoors. More activities that will draw kids and families into the outdoors. Multi-use trails near schools and populations centers as well as the backcountry. More trails built by bikers for bikers… kids are drawn to more flowy trails built biker-friendly.* Engage younger generations in outdoor recreation leadership – average age of park boards and trail advocacy group leaders is dangerously high. What is going to happen in 20-30 years when we're all dead and new generations take the lead who have grown up on the couch and don't really care about the outdoors? Get them to care about outdoor recreation now!

I would NOT like to see:* Trail building costs getting out of control with new requirements that actually lessen the user experience.* All trails being turned into manicured sterile "corridors" – learn from the forest service and stop applying urban/suburban transportation corridor standards to backcountry trails.* Stop creating new hiker only trails. Open trails up to multiple user groups, particularly uses that will engage kids and families. When there are already hundreds of miles of trails for a single user group in a particular area, stop creating new ones for that same user group. Think about other users.

Janice Williamson

ricanjan@frontier.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 6:28 pm

I love the outdoors and have a three-fold interest. My first priority is. Maintaining open

areas and trails for horseback riding. I also enjoy hiking and ATV riding.

Chris Marsh

thehouseofccccc@msn.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 6:26 pm

1.) I would like to see all public lands and private timber lands open to all users.

I would like to see the end of segragation of specialty groups who can rent or have public lands closed for their personal use. We all pay our fair shair. We all should be able to use all the land in all of the seasons.

I would like to see a regulation of Off road users not have a tire size bigger than 33″ high to stop the illegal making of trails because a rock buggy is boring in a 4×4 trail, to help aid in the reduction of erosion that every one is so worried about (though no matter how much you try, you can't stop the mountains from falling into the sea) and keeping the user group in the same class so we all can use a trail. Leave it up to skill not how much money you can spend to build a unstoppable tank. Which is what 4x4ing a trail was meant to be.

I would like to see more education for all the user groups so that a hiker will know why a motorcycle rider would choose to ride up to Lake Isabelle on the rough gravel road versus hiking up it. It is the challenge just like what they are doing. A motorcycle rider knows why they need to slow down around horses, a 4x4er knows why it is ok for other user groups to use the 4×4 trail because they fit. where areas the 4x4er cannot use the trails they do not fit on.

2.) I would not like to see the rise of costs,

I would not like to see anymore stealing of Nova funds to save other user groups, they can support themselves as the ORV user groups have been paying and not getting a fair share.

I would not like to see more public land closed because special user groups feel they need to save it for themselves.

I would not like to see the the continuing of closing of lands.

Susan Drougas

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Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 6:12 pm

I would most like to see attention to the Wenas BBQ flats area and putting an access road into that area and building a horse camp similar to what we have at Capitol Forest. We have many user groups that enjoy this site – presently it is not available to us – I would like that corrected without delay.I would also like to see the bridge rebuilt so that we don't have to ride several miles to get to and from the trailhead at McCall Basin. As a longtime active member of Backcountry Horsemen of Washington we have more than enough volunteers to help with the project, be it lobbying to happen or what have you – and would be more than happy to do so.What I would NOT like to see is mountain bikers granted access to the wilderness. We have labored for years to preserved theses areas from mechanized vehicles – basically wheels of any kind – I do not believe that we should alter that course. It would be a definite problem for the users that are currently on the trails – and a horse wreck on the PCT would not be a pretty sight.

Rob Taylor

tappstractor@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 6:02 pm

I would like to see more trails for ORV use specifically single track. Our family and friends ride thousands of miles every year and enjoy the wilderness. I cannot speak for other user groups but I see almost no garbage left behind on single track trails, and spend many days each year doing trail maintenance. We have wonderful clubs and groups that donate thousands of hrs each year. I believe one of the best progrms out there is roads to trails, allowing riders to connect trails in areas that are often close together but with no connecting trail system. Short of expanding the roads to trails area we need to establish connecting trails. It seems rather silly having miles and miles of trails and needing a license and a dual sport to connect them.

What I don't want to see is any closures or more regulation. Everyone has a right to

enjoy our outdoors they see fit. ORV users pay their share and then some, lets apply that considerable sum to more trails.

Laura Dell

redhorserider@ywave.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 5:54 pm

I, also, would like to see that stock users are not squeezed out of state lands. I would like to see a parity of stock use and mt bike use as far as impact on the trails.

Roger B Nelson

rogerramjet1961@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 5:53 pm

Hi my name is Roger NelsonI am a avid out door enthusiast and belong to Backcountry Horseman of Wa. And we do a lot of trail work on state and federal land.iI would like to see recreation funds like nova maintenance funds be used for maintenance and trail work and not go in the general fund,plus develop trail heads in Whatcom county that is safe for everyone to use,also horses and mules should always be aloud in wildernesses and Nationl parks.

rolliew

rolliew@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 5:49 pm

I would like to NOT SEE HAPPEN more of the trails/roads being closed or limiting access to ANY user group.

rolliew

rolliew@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 5:47 pm

Some off road motorcycle riding areas in Wa state within 60 minutes of the downtown Vancouver. Lower elevation stuff that could be ridden year round.

Gary Anderson

shirepower@aol.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 5:40 pm

I am a current member of BCHW and do a lot of riding on state lands. I don't mind hikers and mountain bikers as they help maintain trails and don't abuse them.I have worked many volunteer hours for the DNR and packed gravel with my pack horse for trails and hauled fish for the fisheries dept. I enjoy doing these things and without trails other user groups won't have the use of them.There are many trails that are cleaned using horses and helping the state maintain these trails. It is nice to see other user groups (hikers and mountain bikers) come and help do this work.

As for what I don't want to see is motorized vehicles allowed on mulitple user trails. There needs to be areas for them to recreate also. Motorcycles tear up the dirt and make lots of mud for other people who use the trails. I have an ORV but I don't ever think of going on trails for horses, mountain bikers or hikers.

Llloyd Ge3lentere

lloydkgh@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 5:25 pm

1.Would like to see bigger trail heads so you can park a horse trailer.2.Trail maintenance in Wilderness areas and being able to use power tools.The use of tote bikes for transportation to maintain trails in Widerness areas.3.Using and paying young adults to maintain trails and do forrest maintenance.This would include planting and removing fallen trees.4.Employeeing more forresters and less planners to manage the forrest.

Lori Lennox

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Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 5:03 pm

a.) “like to see happen”:I hope to see even more collaboration/respect between user groups. Things have come along way the last couple of years with this, I hope it continues.

I want to know that I will be able to ride horses with my grand kids one day, showing them our beautiful public lands, on safe, well maintained trails.

I am a volunteer and member of BCHW. I want to be able to have a good, workable volunteer program with each land agency and also consistency within each of them. One that takes into account an individuals personal skills and experience so that they do not have to be baby sat each time they go out to do routine maintenance.

I would like to see cameras installed in high vandalism areas so vandals can be apprehended and made to pay for their actions.

b.) “not like to see happen”:I would like to never have the NOVA and RTP funds swept again.

I would not like to see any user groups pushed out by other groups. When I am too old to ride my horse I still want to be able to get out into nature and on he roads and trails – and that just might be in a Jeep!

Sally Laib

slaib@centurytel.net

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 4:59 pm

I would like to see the forests and Wilderness stay open to riding and pack stock, day riding and camping. Someplace, in the woods to relax and renew.

I would hate to see these land closed, or worse developed by paving everything and everywhere.

Steve

HIKINGMILES@COMCAST.NET

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 4:51 pm

Quit taking our dirt bike motorcycle trails away, and giving them to hikers. I hike, and ride dirt bikes, and a whole bunch of other outdoor activities. Create a WIN/WIN for all the user groups, instead of a LOSE/WIN us dirt bike motorcyclists have had to suffer from WAY to often. Motorcycling brings in a lot of tax revenue. I have yet to see a hiker with a license plate. I am a hiker too, and pro environmental. Quit making it a win/lose proposition, for one.

Carolyn R. Stella

glacierpeaks@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 4:47 pm

I use Washington ourdoors with my husband and family. We recreate on the public ocean beaches, at rivers & lakes and in parks and forests. We tent camp, RV camp, trailer 16′ boat, trailer riding horses, and sometimes fly into mountain strips in Cascades to camp. We volunteer and give back on trail maintenance, docks areas etc. Regarding horse back riding in the state and national forests, I ride almost weekly in one of these Gifford Pinchott, Lewis and Clark Park, Capitol Forest. I also ride on private forest lands thanks to wonderful businesses that keep the forest roads open to horses. The family men hunt and fish, and they work to protect these resourses though volunteer effort.I would like to see more patrols for prevention of garbage dumping and wildlife poaching, squater camps. More patrols for illegal gun fire/personal safety. I would like to see some large areas kept noise pollution free.

Dana Jones

djones4949@embarqmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 4:40 pm

I would like more horse camps that are designed just for horses and big rigs. Keep our trails open.. we have children who love to ride and I don't want the trails to be closed in the future. I feel that money that should go to keeping the trails cleared should not be used on other things with the idea of "borrow from Peter to pay Paul" . We need to keep our trails open for future generations or we will loose this great opportunity.

Richard Pratt

snotrans@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 4:24 pm

a. I would most like to see increased access for motorized recreation. It is the most important thing to me (and many other elderly or disabled people) because we cannot hike anymore but still have the same love of the great outdoors. I still spend half of the weekends a year camping with various motorized vehicles, and don't like to see the continuous fee increases (ie; discover pass) and land closures. It is public land, and should be for the enjoyment of ALL the public, not just the young and able-bodied.b. I DO NOT want to see more land closed or more fees!

Kathy Adams

sjadams@prodigy.net

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 4:08 pm

I would like to see that horses and pack animals are not removed from the trails, either by regulation or by lack of maintenance of the trails, and that there is specific parking for trailers so that trailheads can be used safely and not taken over by "regular" vehicles. I would also like to encourage all the user groups to work together and educate each other as to their issues.

I would not like to see our access to outdoor recreation slowly go away due to excessive regulations and lack of funding. Even when taxpayers vote for specific monies to go specifically for parks, or trails, or other such things, they money gets

swept (or in my mind, stolen) into the general fund to be spent on other things.

Jill Breeze

trailrider@elltel.net

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 4:05 pm

As a member of Backcountry Horsemen of WA, I am very concerned about the future of our wilderness access. Our chapter is VERY active in clearing trails in both wilderness and front country trails. I would hope that our WA government (and all other state government) officials will support keeping trails, campgrounds, and all outdoor recreation sites open and maintained for the use of the general public now and for future generations.

Jill Breeze

Julie Jindal

julie@onlineprose.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 3:57 pm

I would like to see increased trail access for equestrians for the future, and to not have equestrians' access reduced. This also means space for parking trucks and horse trailers, and access roads that are in good enough condition to haul a trailer without risking injury to my horses. Thank you.

Lori Crow

lorincrow@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 3:43 pm

I would most like to see more safe, well maintained and usable trails for horseback riding. Good parking areas, easy access and well marked trails. I would also like to see more camping areas for horseback riders with decent facilities, good access and ample parking lots for horse trailers. Ideally these would be trails just for hikers and horseback

riders…multi-use trails with motorized dirt bikes and ATVs are unsafe and end up only being used by the motorized users since they often render them unusable by anybody else. That being said, I would take multi-use trails over no trails at all. I would like to see our existing trails maintained with the help of groups like BCHW. I would like to see more trails developed, parking areas of existing trails developed so horse trailers can use them and existing closed trails reopened for horseback riding and hiking use. In an ideal world I would love some horseback riding only trails but I'm not holding my breath on that one.

What I would not like to see happen is the continued closure of trails to horseback riders. What I would not like to see happen is the continued increases in fees, restrictions and other issues that come from government nonsense. What I would not like to see happen is trails falling into disrepair and being closed due to government budget issues when you have groups willing to do the maintenance themselves. What I would not like to see happen is trails being closed to horseback riding in favor of other groups. We all pay the same fees, we all should be able to enjoy the trails.

Rebecca Moore

mooreofhisglory@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 3:42 pm

I am a BCHW horseman that uses the backcountry for horse use. We have traveled many miles packing for weeks and day trips in the backcountry and high mountains. Washington State has such beautiful amazing areas that we are able to see in a day on horseback. Please keep our lands open for horse use and we will keep training people in the Leave No Trace methods.I do not want to see the backcountry abused. It breaks my heart to see garbage and destruction in the pristine areas that we are so blessed to see. One thing I have noticed is when motorcycles come into our riding trails, they turn into mud pits with tree roots exposed and many of the users bring trash and messes in with them. I believe they need a place to ride, but they need to be limited due to the damage they do. Thank you for your consideration.

Loralei Pike

Weezerpike@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 3:26 pm

I would like to see the access to horse and stock trails remain open. I would like to see multiple user groups co-operating together. There is room for everyone. What I do not wish to see is more restrictions on number of animals and people on rides, and of course no more closures.

Diane McCuin

powerpuffgal@rainierconnect.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 3:25 pm

I would like to see more horse camps and more trails open to horses. Especially up in the high country.

I do not want to see more areas closed to horse and pack use.

Don Larson

larson_don@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 3:14 pm

A) In the future I would like to see motorized recreation in WA state legitimized versus criminalized. It should be recognized as a sustainable form of recreation that Washington families have been participating in for generations. Motorized recreation seems to be ignored in town hall meetings and planning processes while the money generated by motorized users is gladly welcomed and applied to other forms of recreation while motorized users are locked out. I would like to see a designation for light weight, 2 wheeled, motorized trail systems and recreation areas with the understanding that single track motorcycle trails are no more detrimental to the environment as MTB and Equestrian trails.

B) No more lock outs of state land. All I see is yellow or blue gates locking people out of

state land. The state's citizens should be trusted to enjoy our back roads and scenic areas versus being locked out like its the King's Forest. We can police ourselves….

Seattle fella

josephlaubach@yahoo.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 3:12 pm

Washington state really needs more areas for public ORV use. Especially within an hour drive of major cities. Thank you.

John Lagerquist

jblagerquist@frontier.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 3:03 pm

a. Most like to see happen with outdoor recreation in WA in the future.1. Public access to lakes with maintained boat launches, parking lots and portable toilets.2. Stocking of catchable trout in lowland lakes in western and eastern WA.3. Keep access to outdoor recreation affordable and not so expensive that people are priced out of participating. I support user fees to a point. Funding for parks, boat launches, trail maintenance, etc, must be secured from sources beyond just user fees.4. I would like to see boat launch fees waived at state parks and state lands that require a Discover Pass to access. Example: I purchased a Discover Pass that allows me and my family access to Potholes State Park but once inside the park I am required to pay another $7.00 boat launch fee – a $7.00 fee each day I use the boat launch. That's ridiculous and needs to change!5. I have used the state parks reservation system and found it very beneficial and comforting to secure a campsite prior to arrival. But I would like to see a few campsites left open (not available for reserving ahead of time) at state parks for those folks who decide to camp at the last minute.6. User group conflicts: All the various outdoor recreation user groups will not have things to their liking at all times, so there will need to be compromise. Groups include backpackers, horse riders, mountain bikers, trail joggers, motorbikers, snowmobilers, boaters with motors, row boaters, float tubes, hunters, fisherman and more. With regard to backcountry trails, all trails

CANNOT be all things to all user groups. Restrictions need to be in place on some trails that prohibit horses and motorbikes.

b. What is it that you would not like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington's future?1. I am especially concerned that outdoor recreation does not become so costly that some people are unable to afford to recreate. My family and I hunt, fish, backpack, camp and more. The cost for licenses, permits, Discover Pass, boat launch fees, etc, is becoming a burden. User fees alone will NOT be enough to cover the cost of creating and/or maintaining campgrounds, state parks, boat launches, trails, etc. Funding must come from other sources including and especially from the state general fund. Outdoor recreation and access to recreation is a vital component of life in our beautiful state. All WA residents should be financially involved in supporting outdoor recreation within our borders.

Kalisa Jenne-Fraser

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Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 2:50 pm

a. What is it that you would most like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington in the future (i.e., what is the desired future condition you would like to see)?

As an equestrian, hunter, boater, hiker and biker, it's very important that the state maintain lands for multi-use. It's especially important to consider the needs of smaller user groups, like equestrians, who have more specific needs due to the nature of their activities.

b. What is it that you would not like to see happen with outdoor recreation in Washington's future?I would not like to see areas become dedicated to singular uses… like "bike only" parks. I also want the state to avoid public/private partnerships for the creation of adventure parks, zip lines, music venues. Let's leave the outdoors natural and accessible to all!

Allan McDonald

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Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 2:36 pm

a. I would like to see riding a dirtbike on all trails, regardless of purpose built trails. Trail usage is for everyone. Not just hikers, mtn bikers, hunters or just horsing around..

b. The problem with todays local,state and federal government, in my view, is that the group with most money or influence wins. Outdoor recreation is outdoor recreation. If the future is about money take a look at what I have spent in local shops and dealerships in the past.

hiking: packs (4) boots (3) clothes treking poles all at one shop. I purchased them mostly from REI to about $1600.00I have logged the PCT from Oregon to Canada, Mt Rainier, and most of the lakes in the mountain loop road area.

Riding dirtbikes (5) riding gear, packs, maintenance $22,000. I have logged trails all over Washington. I have been to Idaho, Oregon and Montana riding. The money put into the economy is staggering.

If lets say Washington riders spend $6,000.00 for a new bike and $1,000.00 for new gear every 5 years. And they buy parts, and food for the rides, video cameras for the rides and gas to get there.Now how many dirtbike riders are in Washington?Now how much money do we spend?Now what if the trails are closed or reduced?No more money, NowAllan McDonald

Logan

logan.riggs@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 2:35 pm

A. I would like to see more opportunites for offroad motorcycle recreation. It is a great sport for people of all ages and physical abilities. Not everyone can physically hike or mountain bike as much as they like.

B. I would not like to see comercialization of our parks and recreation facilities. Of

course I would not like to see fewer offroad motorcycle opportunities.

Luke

jalm111@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 1:26 pm

1. I would like to see more fair access for all recreation groups in WA. I always want to be able to go out and just relax while enjoying the outside. This very frequently is followed by trying to figure out if I'm going to be breaking any laws/rules and etc. It just seems overly complex and overly controlled. Another complicated aspect to us typical trail users is the complex network of land owners. Each owner has different rules and it's really difficult to figure out where you need a pass, where you can park, what's allowed, etc etc. I'm an avid snowboarder, hiker, camper and mountain biker. I want to be able to enjoy all of those activities and more on our beautiful lands without having to worry so much.

2. I would like to not see it be more taxed (whether by parking fees or by passes and etc). I also would most certainly not like to see any more rules and restrictions being put in place especially because a lot of the ones already there are not even really enforced very well.

nwducks

nwducks@frontier.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 12:16 pm

a) LIke: Free (no money/anytime) access to mostly unimproved (some areas of improvement for disabled/immobile folks are great) natural/shoreline/farmland areas for both consumptive (hunting/fishing) and non-consumptive (hikers, bird watchers, etc.) users with adequate funding to minimally improve but definitely maintain intendend uses/habitat/crops, mostly to keep areas clean. Some areas should be dedicated and accepted as "high use" and have plenty of parking/access. Other areas should be limited-use (to provide higher quality experience) through a well-maintained but limited

number of parking spaces/access points. For security/vandalism control, each “limited” access point should have protected digital cameras that photograph license plates/vehicles/people that come and go, and digitally file the images with a date/time stamp.

b) Dislike: Overly improved areas that require too much maintenance and require more user fees.

Water Dragon

QQQQKT@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 12:08 pm

I would like to see more emphasis on person-powered recreation, and a reduction/elimination of motorized activities.Shuttle buses on all National Parks can reduce personal vehicles. More trail maintenance, fewer parking lots.More environmental interpretation/education sites, fewer gift shops.More Park & Forest Service personnel in the field, fewer suits in offices.And, NO ORGANIZED RESCUES IN WILDERNESS AREAS!

William

reson46@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 11:05 am

a. That is simple – more OHV trails. Hiking trails are found in every corner of this state, yet the 100s of thousands of OHV users have a criminally disproportionate number of trails.

b. Given that politics almost never follows common sense what I would like to see happen probably never will. I would like to see our state stop stealing recreation funds from dedicated accounts, like NOVA.

Becca

becca@polevaultpower.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 10:06 am

I would like to see a healthy State Parks system that is thriving and offering a safe environment where the public can learn about and interact with nature.

I would not like to see further budget cuts that result in the closure of many State Parks which will lead to vandalism, irreparable damage to structures, unsafe environments for the public, damage to natural resources, crime and more.

Christopher

live2grow0420@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:55 am

I would like to see more designated trails for each type of user. Ie horse trails for horses, single track trails for dirtbikes,2 track trail for 4 wheeled vehicles. With sever fines if you are caught on the wrong trail.What I do not want to see is motorized recreation disappear from Washington state due to overcrowding and trail misuse because there is not enough motorized access.

Kerplunk

dunkerley.thomas@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:53 am

I appreciate the opportunity to chime in with my personal opinion. And I underscore ‘personal’ since my motives are not driven by financial or political gain, but strictly based on my need for recreation to promote health and happiness – a common goal for most of my peer group. I am a 51 year old IT professional that has been an active road bicyclist for many years. Until that is many of my cyclist friends have been getting killed. Fearing for my life, I switched my cycling activity to off-road trails (i.e. mountain biking) and fell in love with the sport, which despite the perceived dangers is MUCH safer than riding on the road. I have yet to hear of any deaths related to mountain biking, though

road cyclists are killed daily across the country.

I have seen a huge growth in the sport of mountain biking with the more popular areas overflowing with families and individuals on the weekends. This is great! There is a growing community of responsible, environmentally conscious riders that desire to expand our sport beyond the confines of the current trail system. I personally have volunteered many hours in trail building and subsequent fauna restoration and invasive species removal, highlighting that mountain bikers as a group have evolved greatly and desire to be a represented fairly in plans regarding the use of our natural resources.

To directly answer the survey questions, I would like to see the expansion of mountain biking trails, including multi-use cross country style trails, and bicycling-only downhill trails that can be used safely without fear of cyclist / hiker / horse conflicts.

I fully oppose growth of motorized off-road (motorcycles, ATV's, 4-x4, etc.) use as, in my own opinion, it has much more impact on the environment via noise pollution, spilled fuel and oil pollution, and trail surface destruction by much heavier and powerful machines than bicycles. Motorized off-road sports also do not have the same health benefits as bicycling and through their pollution actually decrease the health of all. I get enough of that in the city; why do I want to inhale gas fumes in the forests and mountains too?

Again, thanks for this opportunity to speak up!

Paul Knowles

pknowles@spokanecounty.org

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:45 am

a. I would like to see recreation opportunities expanded and connected to form a network of parks, trails, and open spaces that connect communities, water bodies, preserved habitat. A fully-developed, interconnected network, would provide residents with ample opportunities to get outside and connect with the places that make Washington State a great place to live. I would like to see more multi-jurisdictional efforts and regional planning efforts that will help make that interconnected system be realized in a logical, efficient, and well-located way.

b. I would not like to see funding or efforts towards these types of projects decrease, but rather increase.

Julie Lauzon

munichjulie@hotmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:39 am

I would love to see more options for Mountain biking.

AC

anthony.cree@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:37 am

a. More multi use trail systems with connectivity, allowing for loops to be connected so a ride can be as large or small as desired.

b. Segregation of users into user group specific trails. There isn't enough space, funds, or labor available to build these sufficiently, and it's not an efficient use of resources.

Mike McGlenn

mike@mikemcglenn.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:33 am

Outdoor recreation is one of Washington's strong points financially. It is also very important to the physical and mental state of our citizens. An article in the December issue of Outside magazine called "Take Two Hours of Pine Forest and Call Me in the Morning" details some ongoing studies that point out how important getting out into the woods can be for your mental health.

Our politicians continue to cut funding to the Parks and to Recreation. They need to see that funding these recreational areas can be as important if not more so than many of the social welfare programs.

I would like to see the state continue to support the infrastructure needed for horse riding, hiking, nature walks. I am not physically able to hike with a heavy pack anymore, so the opportuinity to be outdoors, up high on a mountain on my horse is very important to me.

In the future I would like to see more equestrian access in the state parks on shared mulituse trails. Continued access for horses on state DNR land. The Back Country Horsemen of America have been working at volunteering “Keeping America’s Trails Open” for 40 years. We want to continue to keep the trails open and to ride them as well as watch our grand childern do the same.

Mike Reed

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Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:09 am

What I would like most to see happen with outdoor recreation in WA is to keep it natural. I would like to see continued support for trails, campsites and mooring fields.

What I would like least to see happen would be for it to become commercialized with things like zip lines and hot dog stands.

K.C. Butler

kcbutler@wavecable.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 9:08 am

More opportunties for mountain biking on private and public lands. Its a continually growing sport, especially amoung youth. Studies show it is enviornmentally safe on trails. MTBing offers great recreation, health benefits, and increases intrest/passion for the forests.

John Bremer

john.bremer@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 8:58 am

a. I would most like to see outdoor recreation in Washington managed as part of a comprehensive strategy for the environment, like that developed for the Willamette Valley with the Natural Capital Project. Our main events are global warming, ocean acidification, and biodiversity loss; we need action today, not tomorrow.

b. I would not like to see outdoor recreation managed as an adjunct to extraction by Wall Street racketeers and lawyers, who, for example, would convert Whatcom County and the Salish Sea to a coal wasteland and cesspool.

BH

brent@hulinginc.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 8:53 am

I would like to see a continued growth in mountain biking trails. EMBA has been a great advocate and it would be great for the trail growth to continue.

I continue to get frustrated with the hikers and their stubborn mentality regarding trails. They feel trails should only be for hikers and continue to ignorantly think mountain bikers cause all the problems. Either allow mountain biking to grow and let the community build some mountain bike only trails, or get the hikers to become more flexible in their possession of trails.

Keith Wisnieski

kwisn@aol.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 8:31 am

a. I would like to see more shared usage of existing facilities and trails.b. I don’t want to see any groups excluded from being able to use public lands. There should be room for all us.

Ed

ed.heiser@rco.wa.gov

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 8:18 am

Maintain existing state parks. Re-open closed state parks. Increase the number of state parks for family oriented camping and other recreational opportunities like hiking, fishing, swimming, etc.

Tootie Crowson

crowson2@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 8:08 am

I WANT TO SEE THE ROADS TO HORSE CAMPS REPAIRED AND MAINTAINED. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE BIKES AND MOTORIZED VEHICLES USING BIKE AND MOTORIZED TRAILS, LEAVING THE HORSE TRAILS TO HORSES. tHE BIKE RIDERS COME AROUND THE CORNERS GOING AS FAST AS THEY CAN GO. IF THEY HIT MY HORSE THEY WOULD VERY LIKELY BREAK HER LEGS.

Mike Slevin

mikeslevin@comcast.net

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 7:46 am

First I would like to see ATV use allowed on non paved forest service roads. This is very a nearly no cost item as trucks, cars, jeeps etc… already use these roads. The reason ATVs get such a bad rap for tearing up the environment is that there is only a handful of legal riding locations which then results in overcrowding and overuse of these sites.

Second I would like to see most of the funding go towards facilities that are used by the most people, sports fields on the west side of the state are very hard to schedule, baseball, football, soccer, track, etc are all needed very badly. We should not focus our monies on the few who want mouintan bike trails or other exotic low density or use items. We need to get our kids outside locally, organised teams are playing as late as 11:00 PM at night because of how tightly scheduled the play fields are.

Thx

Mike

Steven Meacham

ddandsteve@q.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 7:42 am

a) What I would most like to see in Washington outdoor recreation opportunities is to maintain and increase availability to all citizens regardless of income level AND maintain and eventually increase protection and stewardship of additional quality recreation locations and areas with unique natural features, even if this means mothballing some sites for the near future.

b) What I would not like to see is The Washington State Park system or other public recreation sites to become a shrinking collection of over developed and over commercialized sites that price out many citizens and appeal to a shrinking segment of the public by mimicking what the private sector already offers, in an effort to be completely self sustaining.

Ron

rcraig@willapabay.org

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 7:34 am

Stop buying lands, develop the lands we have.The state is broke, back-off and better use the money avaliable.

Andrew Reding

aareding@gmail.com

Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 7:34 am

a. Keeping access to wild and recreational lands affordable. I am hoping the State Supreme Court declares all the Tim Eyman initiatives that require two-thirds votes of the

legislature unconstitutional. I would not mind paying a higher sales tax to support our parks.

b. Not selling off public lands except where they are truly surplus.

Beth Blay

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Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 7:26 am

1. We want to have shared trails and loop type trails when possible. The ODT trail is an example of a problem trail for horse use because horses are prohibited from parts of it making it impossible to effectively enjoy a long distance ride in many areas. Also, signage should be provided at trail heads to educate users on shared use concept.

2. With regard to trail heads, many times horse trailer parking is impossible because cars, etc are parked in horse trailer parking areas. This makes it unuseable to horse use despite sometimes having traveled some distance to reach a trail head that now is blocked to us. This is a trend that I would NOT like to have continue. Back Country Horsemen have been partners in keeping trails useable & in installation of trail heads.Please designate horse trailer parking areas is ONLY for that.

r.j.herd

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Submitted on 2013/02/07 at 7:20 am

a. What I want most, is the ability to load up the kids and go spend some time in the woods… in nature… doing all sorts of things. Camping, hiking, biking… near lakes and rivers, skipping rocks, a little fishing.

b. What I don’t want to see, is that when I load up the kids to go spend time in the Woods, is having to have to pay for parking when I get there, or having to buy a permit for the privilige of walking/biking in the woods… or get taxed through some other method. I don’t mind paying my fair share… I just don’t want to have to cough up money

to spend time in nature.