

## Leavitt, Dana (DNR)

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**From:** AKERS, ERYN (DNR) on behalf of DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 4:15 PM  
**To:** Leavitt, Dana (DNR)  
**Subject:** FW: 2016 DNR Whatcom County Recreational Plan  
**Attachments:** FW: Final Review: Upper Nooksack River Recreation Plan; Announcing the Availability of the North Fork Nooksack Access and Travel Management Environmental Assessment; Outdoor Recreation economic contribution to Whatcom County 2015

Added to email distribution list, per request.

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**From:** Mike McGlenn [mailto:mike@mikemcglenn.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:20 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham <bakertobellingham@dnr.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** 2016 DNR Whatcom County Recreational Plan

Department of Natural Resources Recreational Planning Committee,  
Thank you for putting Whatcom County on the Planning Process agenda. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the process and the particulars for Recreation in our area. I would like to make a number of comments starting first with the Station numbers you had set up at the meetings on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of January in Bellingham and Lynden.

Station #1, Recreating in the Forest.

What do you like about recreating in the Baker to Bellingham recreation area?

1. I live 4 miles East of Bellingham off the Mt Baker highway. Recreating in our county is fuel efficient and cost effective. I drive a large pickup and tow a horse trailer as I am a Back Country Horseman. It saves money and resources to recreate locally.
2. Recreating locally puts money into the local economy which I feel is important.
3. There are many trails open to stock in Whatcom county, some are USFS, Whatcom County Parks, Bellingham Parks Department, some DNR land.
4. The ability to ride year around is important. With the combination of lowland trails and high country trails it gives us the year around recreation.
5. The ability to literally ride from the mountains to the sound on trails in some of the most beautiful country in the world is one of life's biggest pleasures. From the snow covered slopes of Mt Baker, The Sisters and Mt Shuksan thru the Silent Wilderness of old growth forest, past the rushing glacier fed mountain streams the open glades with elk, deer, bear and mountain lion down to the salty tang of the coast with the bald eagles floating above, how can it be any better?

What is your favorite place to visit?

1. Stewart Mountain off the Y road trailhead. This is a trail head that BCHW built on Whatcom County land. We work with the Whatcom County Parks to maintain it. We

provide at our expense a portipotty for all to use. This access's quite a network of trails mostly on DNR land. These trails and the trail head access the new Reconveyence Park (perhaps to be called The Lake Whatcom Park) on the 8800 acres that the county just reconveyed back from DNR. A combination of trails, old logging roads and connectors made over the years by motorcycles and horses.

2. Saxon Road by the Lummi Fish Hatchery. This access's Whatcom County Land Trust property that then feeds into DNR land up along the South Fork of the Nooksack River. This route can go clear thru into Skagit County and to the Harry Osborn Forest and Les Hilde Trailhead on DNR land out of Hamilton.
3. Whatcom County South Fork Park and trailhead. Off the Mosquito Lake Road this new park will access the Nessel Farm by trail thru an easement/corridor on DNR land. It is also hoped, and in the long term planning stages, to make this trailhead and park one of the access points to a 70 mile circle route on USFS, DNR and private land that will go to Saxon, up the South Fork of the Nooksack, past Wanlick Creek to Pioneer Camp (USFS) over the pass into Elbow Lake, down to the Middle Fork of the Nooksack along , across the river there on a bridge then down the river on or near the USFS 38 road and up over Blue Mountain back to Acme South Fork Park. This route has been discussed with USFS and DNR with favorable response. Much of the route already exists as trail that needs some connectors to make the circle. It would be a unique trail for the Northwest allowing a horse or hiker pack trip on a circle route on the West side of the Cascades.
4. Blanchard Mountain. While Blanchard is in Skagit County and not really part of this new study, it should be kept in mind. The Chuckanut trail system in Whatcom County ties into the trail system on Blanchard. The 1996 Chuckanut Trail system study group with all user groups involved laid out the trails and both areas were included into one large system. While the final tie in for the two areas is still informal, the route is there and the plans all include it. It is on DNR, Private Timber company, Washington State Park and Whatcom County land.
5. Sumas Mountain and Vedder Mountain. There are stock trails, hiking trails and some dirt bike trails on both of these areas. BCHW has a stock trailhead on the Heady Road side of Vedder Mountain on Private Property I believe. There is also a horse camp with trails at Silver Lake with the Whatcom County Parks. Both the Silver lake and Vedder Mountain trailheads access both mountains and their trail systems.

Are there other questions?

1. More a comment perhaps than a question. Horsemen, hikers and mountain bikers share many trails in Whatcom County. With some exceptions this works pretty well. There are cases where the bikes really need/want a dedicated run down hill. Horses and hikers have issues with bikes coming down hill fast. There needs to be thought given to where the bikes can do this particular thing without being a danger to the rest of the users.

2. There is no legal place in Whatcom County where a Motorized dirt bike can be ridden. The nearest place is Walker Valley in Skagit County, a 40 – 50 mile drive away and with only 27 miles of trails. The dirt bikers need a legal place to ride. It needs to be local. It needs at a minimum 50 miles of trails with the room to expand to 100 or 150. The bike use is year around so the trail system needs to incorporate year around access as well as some higher trails that might be snowed in during the winter months. These bikes don't fit well with the other user groups. Having a place of their own is really a need. From several group discussions it appears that the other major user groups would back the effort for the dirt bikes to have such a system.
3. Parking. Many trail systems do not allow for adequate parking. Stock users travel with a Pickup and trailer. They need space to turn around, space beside the trailer to tie the horses and space behind the trailer to unload the horse. It takes a 50 -60 foot diameter circle to turn a truck and trailer around. The dirt bikers also use pickups and pickups with trailers so the need for them is very similar to the stock users. Hikers and Mountain bikers usually have cars or pickups with no trailers. However the hikers and the bikers need help in how they park so they don't eat up an entire parking lot with random parking all over the place. Horse parking and trailheads should not be paved. It is better and safer for the horses if the lot is gravel so they won't slip coming down out of the trailer.

## Station #2 Recreation Topics for Consideration.

Do you have any concerns about the future recreation management of the planning area.

1. Of concern are environmental impacts. The planning needs to consider the streams and rivers. The recent study by American Rivers (see attachment above with its attachments) with input from the Whatcom County users should be reviewed and included in the planning process. All of the issues DNR works with in planning timber cutting fits in with the recreation planning pretty closely for endangered species, unstable slopes, wetlands, viewscapes. Keeping the money flow to the trusts that rely on this land for the timber harvest.
2. The county population is growing. A study done in the late 1990's by the DNR showed that Washington was losing 200 acres a day to development. A growing population and the inherent economic value of recreation would require that the planning process look into the future to accommodate this increase in people and use. Once land goes into development it does not come back to public use.
3. Whatcom County perhaps more than most has a neighbor to the North. The Canadians, even when their dollar is not favorable, do come here to recreate. The population of British Columbia has a major role in Whatcom county. During planning this impact needs to be kept on the table.

What is missing from you recreation experience?

1. A quality horse/stock overnight camping site with adjacent trail system. Use the Les Hilde trailhead on the Harry Osborne forest in Skagit county as an example. With the exception of the shooting range gravel pit right in the middle of it a real downer. This has adequate parking, 100 miles of trails. Horse water. Fire rings, a shelter, high line poles, picnic tables and ADA standard toilets and loading/mounting ramp. One of the best examples of a stock user friendly trailhead around. Whatcom County would benefit from something similar. It is a 90 mile round trip to ride at Les Hilde for the Whatcom County folks. Fuel and other expenses are more than some can afford to travel that far for a day's ride.

Are there areas of environmental concern?

1. See Station #2 above.

Are there concerns about impacts to private property.

1. Private property is just that, Private. We as stock users often have reached agreement with Private property owners to be able to ride on their land. We are allowed this privilege because of our Leave No Trace ethic, our volunteer work on trails and trailheads and the fact that if the horse riders are there many of the other things like theft and vandalism are reduced. Thieves and vandals don't like to be seen. If we are there and see something out of line the law is only a phone call away. We don't want to lose those privileges.
2. Many of the large timber companies are now using a permit system to enter their lands. For the cost of 50 – 200.00 dollars you can buy a permit to allow you to hike or ride a horse on their land for a year. This fee, which is their right, really stops some folks. In other situations where they have limited the amount of permits, one user group has bought them all up therefore limiting the use to just that group. Public lands are very important to the general population even if some of them don't realize it yet or ever. The use of the public lands needs to be maintained.
3. Where public land fringes on Private land, the agency involved needs to try and work with the private party to see if there is a way for the trail to cross the land to regain access to the next public parcel. We as a user group or groups want to help with these efforts in any way needed.

Station #3 Accessing the Forest

Where do you go to get onto DNR Lands?

1. See Station #1, "What is your favorite place to visit?"
2. Blanchard Mountain (Skagit County)
3. Les Hilde Trail head (Skagit County)
4. Stewart Mountain, Y road trailhead, connects to the new Lake Whatcom County Park. Whatcom County.

5. Saxon Bridge. Public access thru Whatcom Land Trust property to DNR land along the South Fork of the Nooksack. Whatcom County.
6. Acme South Fork Park, Whatcom County park with DNR access thru the trail corridor to Nessel Farm. Potential access along the Middle Fork of the Nooksack over Blue Mountain. Whatcom County.
7. Vedder Mountain and Sumas Mountain via the Heady Road stock trailhead and the Silver Lake Whatcom County Parks Horse camp/trailhead. Whatcom County.

Do you access other public lands from DNR Lands? If so where?

1. Stewart Mountain Y Road Trailhead trails access the New Whatcom County Parks Lake Whatcom Park.
2. Stewart Mountain Y Road Trailhead trails access to the North American Timber Management (may not be the correct name) Private lands that now require a paid for permit.
3. Acme South Fork Park trail goes thru DNR land to Nessel Farm.
4. In the Middle Fork Drainage some access to DNR land from USFS land.
5. Vedder Mountain and Sumas Mountain access to private lands.

Are there other questions?

1. As mentioned previously, access with pickups towing trailers with adequate parking is of paramount importance.
2. Concern for the access roads and the folks living on or near them is important from an increased traffic, speed and safety standpoint.

#### Station #4 Partnerships/Opportunities

What opportunities are there for partnerships with communities, other land agencies?

1. Most of the small communities in the study area suffer from a lack of commerce. Recreation is a large economic driver in the state as well as in Whatcom County. The County Executive, Jack Louws, is on record as wanting Whatcom County to be one of the leaders in Recreation in the state. (See the third attachment above) The DNR, being a State agency, needs to consider the economic benefits that the increase in recreation can bring to the area. This aspect of recreation is often not included in the planning thought process. It should be. Including the Chamber of Commerce, business leaders, recreational business's and the organized user groups can help flesh out both the recreational use as well as how it can help the region financially.
2. There are many areas within Whatcom County, which extends from the sound to the East past Newhalem, where the DNR lands adjoin USFS lands, both forest and Wilderness. They also adjoin some areas of the North Cascade National Park and Larrabee State Park as well as Whatcom County Parks.

3. The USFS is currently in the final stages of their new Sustainable Roads study for the Nooksack River area. (See the second attachment above and its attachments) DNR and the public need to be reviewing this to see where and if their road changes will affect access to DNR public lands. There will be public meetings in Whatcom County on the 16<sup>th</sup> of Feb at Kendall and on the 18<sup>th</sup> of Feb at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal.
4. The Back Country Horsemen, the WMBC (mountain bikers), Cascade Mountain Runners, Washington Trails Association (WTA) and others all have strong volunteer operations that have the skills, the equipment, pack horses and personnel to be a major asset in the care and feeding of trails and trailheads. The DNR needs to have a clear understanding of the volunteer effort and a clear path for the efficient use of these volunteer skill sets for both planning and execution of the plan.
5. There is in Whatcom County a group of folks that do volunteer work on back country roads. Doug Huddle and his group work on Forest Service Roads and could certainly work on DNR roads to aid in the maintenance. [Douglas.huddle@gmail.com](mailto:Douglas.huddle@gmail.com)

What opportunities are there for landscape connections with other lands – county, state and federal?

1. The landscape, mountains, ridges, rivers, streams don't know where the artificial boundaries of the various agencies are. Neither should the trails. A trail can't stop at a public land property line. All the agencies need to communicate and attempt to work together within the limits of the various laws and procedures that each has. In some cases, common sense should prevail. There have been attempts by DNR and others to stop trails at the property line. In most if not all cases this has been very ineffective. All user groups will find a route around the closure and have. Be realistic and work together to make the trail system workable.

Some added comments from other meetings regarding recreation that I participate in that make sense for this plan.

1. Review and include the new statewide DNR Trail Policies.
2. A common theme amongst the user groups, "we are all out there to enjoy the Outdoors and the Trails – regardless of the mode of transportation".
3. Be good stewards on the lands where we recreate and minimize resource damage.
4. There are many user – built trail networks in Whatcom County serving all user groups. Assess these and incorporate those that make sense with some modification if and as needed.

5. Each user group should be able to legally recreate on appropriate trails in Whatcom County.
6. The user groups want to help the DNR make this process successful within the two year timeframe.
7. Design out user conflicts by working with the user groups with the design of the trails and trailheads.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to participate in the early stages of this important planning process. Please add my name and email address to the distribution list for this process. If you have questions on any of my comments please feel free to call or write for clarification of the issue. A couple of quotes to leave you with, "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit", Nelson Henderson, and "Ain't Nothin' Better Than Ridin' A Fine Horse In New Country", Augustus McCrae.

Best Regards,

Mike

4 February 2016

Michael K. McGlenn, Inc.

Marine Surveyor and Consultant

Member of Back Country Horsemen of Whatcom County

1992 Harmony Road

Bellingham WA 98226

Cell: 360-739-2619

[mike@mikemcglenn.com](mailto:mike@mikemcglenn.com)



**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Henry Talley <henrytalley2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2016 7:48 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Single Track / Horse Trails for Baker2Bellingham

Hello,

I am a Geology Master's Student and beginning mountain runner. I learned about the Baker-to-Bellingham project in an email from Kevin Quillan (forwarded to me by the Western Washington University Geology Dept), and would like encourage the construction of single-track, biking, and horse trails, ideally connecting Bellingham to Koma Kulshan.

Thank you,  
Henry Talley  
Western Washington University

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Wes Johns <johns.wes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016 11:58 AM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** DNR land in Whatcom county

More hiking trails near Bellingham would be amazing! It's a huge draw for people to come to school up at western and it could attract a lot more people to the area. More trails closer to town would help make it easier for people to get outside and enjoy the beautiful state we live in. The more time our community spends outdoors the stronger our commitment will be to protect our surrounding lands and ecosystems.

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Hal Wershow <haroldwershow@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016 10:39 AM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** trail use - non-motorized!

Hello,

My name is Hal Wershow, I'm a Bellingham resident and passionate outdoorsmen and conservationist. I am thrilled with the Baker to Bellingham concept. However, I am concerned that motorized traffic (ATVs, Snowmobiles) would jeopardize both the safety of hikers and bikers as well as contributing to environmental degradation of this beautiful place. Therefore, I would advocate strongly for prioritizing hikers and bikers. After all, the goal should be healthy communities and healthy lands, and motorized trail use is damaging to both.

Thank You

Hal

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Hal Wershow  
Graduate Student  
Department of Geology  
Western Washington University  
Bellingham, WA

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Curtis Landers <curtislanders@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016 9:42 AM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** DNR Land Allocation

I am VERY happy to hear that some of our public DNR lands are no longer given to the timber industry and the PUBLIC will finally have access to PUBLIC lands. Being an avid hunter, I would like to see more land allocated to hunting possibilities.

Sent from my iPhone

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Sean Lahusen <seanlah@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016 9:23 AM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** More Non motorized trails please!

Hello,

I am writing to express my support for more access to non-motorized trails (mountain biking, hiking) on DNR land as part of the baker to Bellingham project.

Thank you for your time!

Sean LaHusen

## Leavitt, Dana (DNR)

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**From:** Colin Ridgley <colinzridgley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016 4:07 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Whatcom County Planning

Hi,

I'm emailing to voice my support for the inclusion of mountain bikers and mountain bike accessible trails on the DNR lands of Whatcom county. The mountain bike community is both large and well organized in Whatcom county and this has two distinct benefits for land managers. First mountain bikers are a huge resource for volunteer trail maintenance and construction. I feel that this does offset increased wear from the use of mountain bikes on multi use trails. Secondly word of trail closures, restrictions, and rules spreads quickly through the community and the vast majority of mountain bikers are happy to cooperate. The continuing use of the Galbraith Mountain trail system is testament to this. Lastly I feel that where it is feasible and does not negatively impact other members of the public, Whatcom county residents have a right to use public lands for recreating in whatever form they choose. I hope that you will include the mountain bike community in the planning process and embrace the tremendous volunteer resource available to you.

Thank you for your time,  
Colin Ridgley (Bellingham WA)

please add me to your email list.

## Leavitt, Dana (DNR)

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**From:** Patrick Kennedy <pakenne@rei.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016 12:19 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** email list

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please add me to the email list regarding the recreation plan on DNR lands.

Thank you for holding public input meetings!

Patrick Kennedy  
Bellingham REI Market Coordinator  
360 647 8955  
[pakenne@rei.com](mailto:pakenne@rei.com)  
[www.rei.com/bellingham](http://www.rei.com/bellingham)  
[www.facebook.com/REIBellingham](http://www.facebook.com/REIBellingham)

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Kevin Quillan <quillak@students.wvu.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2016 8:01 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Volunteer

Hi there,

First off, I appreciate the work and effort that was put into the Bellingham meeting on the 19th. That was very exiting, and I know that for every person in that room, there were 20 more people just as exited to see this take place.

I am contacting you for volunteer opportunities/suggestions. I do not know if I can help out DNR itself, but I am a mountain biker working towards my graduate degree in geology at Western Washington University. So, I might have some value in the Phase 2 part of the project for mapping/site analysis/hydrology etc. Whatever I can do to benefit your end of the project will eventually benefit me with experience and peace of mind knowing I helped in some way.

Do I need to just get in touch with WMBC? Thanks for your help.

Kevin Quillan  
Graduate Candidate,  
Western Washington University,  
Bellingham, WA 98225

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** O'Flaherty, John V <john.o'flaherty@bp.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2016 8:17 AM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** ORV use area

To whom it may concern

My family and I would like to see an ORV use area in Whatcom county.

Thanks

John O'Flaherty

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Voree <jiggermenow@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 23, 2016 10:12 AM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** DNR user input

Dear DNR,

Happy to hear you are accepting feedback from the various user groups. I am from Skagit County and do most of my hiking, backpacking, mountain biking and snowmobiling in Whatcom County. I would like to do most of my Dirtbiking there as well.

As you are aware, the only legal motorbike trail system in both counties is Walker Valley, which is clearly inundated with concentrated motorized vehicles of all sorts. I believe the North Fork of the Nooksack would be a great starting location to expand both a motorized and downhill mountain bike shuttle accessed system. In general I do not feel that medium to heavy use moto trails can be combined with anything but DH Mtb trails and then primarily on a directional basis. I ride moto and unless trail entries are blocked by high skill level maneuvers, there will be significant damage caused by beginners on advanced trails.

The only legal motorized trail is The Canyon Ridge trail, but I believe that is USFS.

I believe the snowmobiling access is actually pretty good though It is primarily USFS as well.

Combining, refining, expanding and interconnecting many of the user built mountain bike systems would be my priority and will yield the largest and most organized volunteer groups and thus would be the easiest to do.

Thanks for your time and allowance for public comment.

Sincerely,

Voree Smith

## **Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Cody Hunt <codyhunt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2016 1:40 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Recreating on DNR Land in Whatcom County

To the DNR Team,

First off, I'm really glad to see this process in action. Whatever the outcome. Of course I have my many preferences for the outcome but here are the highlights:

Involve the user groups in the planning and build - The users know the experience they want and how to achieve that.

Build trails for all ability levels - Flat gravel paths are super boring but have their place. All user groups want advanced, challenging and exciting trails.

Base trail priority (what gets addressed in what order) on the involvement of the user group - Please don't build something that will not or will barely get used when there is another user group ready to put in the volunteer sweat equity, collect funds, etc. to make something else happen.

Divide trail use by speed - Hikers, horses and uphill bicycles are slow. Moto and downhill bicycles are fast. Downhill biking is unique in that it almost mandates user group specific directional trails.

Access to the snow - I'm not a snowmobiler but I have friends who are. They are crammed into Glacier creek and Canyon creek. They don't need much more than a defined area to recreate and a place to park and unload near the snow. I do splitboard and would also use any new access points for recreation. The two previously mentioned areas have very long distance approaches which makes them unreasonable for non-motorized recreation.

There is a considerable recreation oriented community in Bellingham and the trails we have are huge draw to the area. I can only imagine how much more popular this area would be if we created the amazing trail system we're all dreaming of.

Thanks for taking you time to read this,  
Cody Hunt

## **Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Barbara Karabin <barbarakarabin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2016 12:56 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** DNR Trail Planning Recommendations

Dear DNR,

I attended the planning meeting at the Ferry Terminal in Bellingham and was very pleased with the turnout, presentation and opportunity to provide input towards my regions planning process. I am glad that you are putting together a committee of different user groups and hopefully recreational and environmentalist type folks. Working with the local recreation groups is a big plus since it improves your outreach and you will hopefully receive better quality information.

I label myself first and foremost as a mountain biker, but enjoy hiking, backpacking, and trail running as well. I respect the moto and ATV group and recognize that they too need a place to recreate, as well as the equestrians. I believe that our user groups have naturally set up areas that we recreate on where there isn't a lot of overlap. There is some mutual respect and recognition that certain DNR regions are where mountain bikers recreate more, or motos recreate more, etc. As the president of the Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition, I believe that the different user groups will be working together behind the scenes to make sure that we share and respect each other but hope that you can facilitate that good relationship.

To simplify thing, I've provided a list of information that I hope is considered during the planning process.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to be heard and to work with you!

Sincerely,

Barbara Karabin

### **RECREATING IN THE FOREST**

- Need a variety of trails for different styles of mountain biking (long epic cross country, downhill, beginner loops, etc)
- Need a variety of trails for different levels of difficulty within the different styles of riding.

## **PARTNERSHIPS/OPPORTUNITIES**

- What opportunities are there for partnerships with communities, other land agencies?
  - I hope that local user groups are utilized for trail development and maintenance. These groups can be used to manage any issues that come up with “user built” trails, parking issues, etc.
  - Would like neighboring communities to benefit from this by being able to host events, open up convenience stores, etc.

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Seth Burke <drsethburke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2016 12:33 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** MTB trails

Hello,  
I'm emailing you to Express the need for mountain biking trails on DNR lands. I have been riding in this area for nearly 10 years on some of the best trails in North America and its a shame that they have to be closed down due to being "illegally built." The amount of volunteer effort that has gone into these trail systems is mind-boggling. Although slope angle and erosion obviously have to be considered, long-standing logging on the same lands is undoubtedly much more impactful. I urge you to adopt these existing trail systems into your plans and allow the millions of dollars of volunteer hours to not go wasted.

Sincerely,  
Seth Burke

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Thomas Glover <tng1374@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 20, 2016 9:56 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Bellingham to Baker & Whatcom Traverse Trails

I'm sending this email to express my interest in the proposed Bellingham to Baker and Whatcom Traverse Trails. I have personally ran and continue the use the trails already developed around these two epic adventures and would love to see these projects completed. It is my understanding that just a few more miles of trail needs to be be built to make these awesome projects a reality. It is my hope that they few miles, I believe is 15 on the Whatcom Traverse and 20 on the B2B trail will be approved by this years committee and the DNR. With the help of the CMR (Cascade Mountain Runners) and I'm sure the WTA we can build these two trails at a low cost. Thank you for your time and listening to my interests.

Cheers & Happy Trails,

Thomas Glover

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** rondiscgolf777 <rondiscgolf777@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 20, 2016 2:08 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Disc Golf

Please give us chance ! I've met the best people in my life playing disc golf for seven years ! I played golf for twenty years and didn't meet as many nice respectable hard working people play disc golf ! Give us a chance you'll love what we can do with 20 acres of land ! Thank you and God Bless!

Sent on the new Sprint Network from my Samsung Galaxy S@4

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Jakob Perry <japerry@jademicsystems.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2016 11:33 PM  
**To:** Milliern, Brock (DNR); DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Past ORV Trail proposals and Maps in Whatcom County

Hi Brock,

Hope the planning session went well tonight! Sorry I could not attend, as Bellingham is a bit far from Portland. However, I've attached two links to the EIS for proposed ORV parks on both Sumas Mtn and the Van Zandt Dike. Also, attached is a proposal from a group of ORV users who wanted to resurrect use on Sumas mountain back in 2009. Lastly, a map of the ORV trails and rough area that users had before closure in 2005.

Sumas EIS:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/c8uc239j8rncizg/FullSumasEIS.pdf?dl=0>

Sumas December 2009 Proposal:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/68ye5e3ltovb7me/Sumas%20Draft%20Proposal.pdf?dl=0>

Van Zandt Dike EIS:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/9qlbri32sjh3ff0/VanZandt-Whatcom%20ORV%20park.pdf?dl=0>

North Fork ORV Map (before 2005 closure):

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/v17n5cb0423ovrp/North%20Fork%20ORV%20Map.png?dl=0>

If there are any other materials or slides from a presentation you can share from the meeting, I'd love to take a look at them.

Cheers!

~Jakob

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Jon Hansen <jhansen@aesgeo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2016 12:30 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Trail access on DNR lands

I would like to voice my eager support for increased mtn bike trail access on DNR lands. I have been a long time active member of the Bellingham/Whatcom County community and moved back to Bellingham many years ago for the easy access to the outdoors. In the past and continuing through today, trail access for mtn bikers on DNR lands has not been clear and as a result the local bike community have suffered a huge loss by not being able to legally access these publically held land tracts. I strongly urge you now to take this opportunity (as many other municipalities have done...including Larrabee State Park and DNR managers on Tiger Mtn) to constructively work with the mtn bike community and allow access to these public lands.

Respectfully,

Jon D. Hansen

Sent from my iPad

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Laurie M <tl\_morgan@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2016 6:30 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** trails

Was interested in helping any way I can.

Input, the committee team or other ways.

We came from Wyoming where trails are every where and we were allowed to ride endless.

Was trying to figure out ways in Whatcom County before and would love to be a part of this amazing possibility.

Thank you

Laurie Morgan

Mrs. Wyoming Crown Jewel 2008

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** James Steel <james.steel@live.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2016 4:19 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Recreation Plan - mountain bike trails

I just wanted to take this opportunity to promote the idea of developing new hiking / mountain biking trail systems in the proposed DNR managed forest areas.

If Galbraith Mountain is any indication of its future success, then I have no doubt this would be such an amazing enhancement for the Whatcom County community both in terms of recreation and attraction of tourists to the area. Let's get this done!

Thanks,  
James Steel

Sent from my iPhone

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Chris Whitaker <chrisrwc@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2016 9:03 AM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Baker to Bellingham

My family is extremely excited about the possibility of an ORV area in Whatcom county. My wife, both kids, and myself all enjoy multiple types of outdoor recreation. We hike, fish, hunt, dirt bike, jeep, big tree hunt, explore, Geocache, take nature field trips, ski, bike, swim, and all around spend our play time outdoors.

We travel the country looking for our next expedition. We have specifically traveled to areas that have outdoor recreational opportunities. Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Grand Canyon, Painted valley, Moab, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, and our home state of Washington are all places that we have enjoyed different types of recreating in. We represent far more than one type of user that this ORV area would affect.

Each time we return home to Whatcom county, our thoughts are on the next opportunity to continue our outdoor exploration. Not having a legal place to enjoy all of our outdoor activities "at home" is always a let down. We must travel to be able to experience some of the greatest outdoor experiences that could happen right here in our own county. We strongly believe the ORV area will not only provide an outlet for the outdoor enthusiasts, but bring tourist type money into our economy.

Chris Whitaker Rolling Wheels Construction

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** lkornelis@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2016 8:30 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham

Sent from Windows Mail  
An ORV in Whatcom county! What a wonderful idea! Make it happen

Sandi Kornelis

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** john grinter <john\_grinter@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2016 9:31 AM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Biking trails around Glacier please.

Sanctioned cross country bike trails in the Glacier area please. Thank you for the trails that are already there and for this opportunity to comment. We are a family of 4 and love to walk and ride trails.

John Grinter  
Glacier

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Josh Parrish <keylime@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 12, 2016 4:16 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Baker to Bellingham

Hello,

As a longtime Bellingham resident, I wanted to write in to make sure that mountain bikes are considered in recreation planning for the Baker to Bellingham project. Please work with the Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition (WMBC) to develop a plan for adding/maintaining a network of mountain bike trails. I also appreciate campgrounds, hiking trails, and other opportunities for recreation, but mountain biking is most important to me.

Thanks!

Josh Parrish  
2405 Humboldt Street  
Bellingham, WA

360-746-0256

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Roger Nelson <rogerramjet1961@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2016 4:23 AM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Trail heads and trails for horses

Hi my name is Roger Nelson and I would like to see more trailheads and trails for horses.thanks Roger

Sent from my iPhone

## Leavitt, Dana (DNR)

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**From:** Neibauer, Chris (NSSEA) <Chris.Neibauer@nucor.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 08, 2016 12:44 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Input for public land

Hello,

I am not available to come to the meetings. How am I able to provide effective input?

Chris Neibauer

*Chris Neibauer*  
*Nucor Steel Seattle, Inc.*  
*Rolling Mill Parts Dept.*  
*206-933-2298*  
*2424 SW Andover Street*  
*Seattle, WA 98106-1100*



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**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Hugh Conroy <hugh@wcog.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 08, 2016 11:10 AM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Cc:** Bob Wilson  
**Subject:** Interest in Bellingham-to-Baker Recreation Plan

Hi,

Having recently become aware of your office's work on this planning effort I'd like to let you know that the Whatcom Council of Governments (WCOG) is interested in following how the future activities identified by your process may affect regional transportation needs and/or present opportunities for multi-modal transportation network initiatives by other entities that could complement planned recreational uses.

WCOG will be updating the region's 20-year transportation plan over the next 18 months and as part of that will be consulting with various public land management agencies including DNR.

Please let me know who would be the most appropriate point of contact at your office for checking in time to time about where our interests intersect.

Thanks and Happy New Year.  
Hugh

**Hugh Conroy**

Director of Planning  
Whatcom Council of Governments  
314 E Champion St  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
Ph: 360 676-6974  
web: [www.wcog.org](http://www.wcog.org)

**Please Note:** My incoming/outgoing email is subject to public disclosure requirements per RCW 42.56

## Leavitt, Dana (DNR)

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**From:** Ellen Baker <orion@telcomplus.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 08, 2016 4:51 AM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Open houses and planning - Bellingham & Lynden??

I was dismayed to see the BBJ article below\*\*

I'm not sure who's coordinating this effort, but I'm very unhappy to see that meetings for this "Baker to Bellingham" recreation plan are being held in Bellingham and LYNDEN - not in the actual geographic corridor between Mt. Baker and Bellingham, that basically follows the Nooksack along Mt Baker Highway.

Who will decide which citizens will serve on a committee that will recommend "guidelines" for recreation in our area??

I've lived in Glacier for more than forty years, and numerous "area" recreation plans have been dreadful because input has hardly ever been gathered locally, as it absolutely needs to be.

What sort of corridor - area - does the DNR envision?

Over many years, a limited number of groups with very narrow interests (including, frankly, self-serving commercial interests) have claimed that they have entire communities behind them, when nothing could be farther from the truth.

Which "groups" are involved so far, who will review the "applications" for this committee? Will their meetings be OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS? Will the material be made public, open to the PUBLIC RECORDS ACT? How? Where?

Also, who (at which DNR office) is in charge of this effort?

I'd like to know more - and others up here would too, no doubt.

Please advise, and thanks

Ellen Baker  
9945 Mt Baker Hwy, Box 5149  
Glacier, WA 98244  
360-599-2544

\*\* Business Journal Article

## State seeks help developing Mount Baker area recreation plan

by jimdavis

Filed on 06. Jan, 2016 in Contents, News

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Natural Resources is looking for help as it develops a new recreation plan for state lands from Mount Baker to Bellingham.

## Leavitt, Dana (DNR)

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**From:** John Bremer <johnpaulbremer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 07, 2016 9:30 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Dirt bikes  
**Attachments:** DSC00542.JPG

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on recreation in Whatcom County. As a volunteer land monitor, over the past ten years, I have spent thousands of hours in woodlands in the Nooksack and Samish valleys. As the years go by, I enjoy my time in the woodlands more.

The purpose of this memorandum is to request that you act to rein in the armed dirt bike gangs that roam heedlessly through your DNR domain and into private property destroying our environment temporarily with their disgusting noise and fumes and long-term with their wheel-spinning forays through wetlands and up and down steep slopes both on established trails and off.

For example, only this past weekend, while I was working on a forestry project, two groups came through our Whatcom County property. The first two men were from Burlington, a Skagit County town. The next five men were from Seattle, that is, King County. The Seattle group were rude and evasive and refused to identify themselves. Except for one man who conversed for a while about his conservationist credentials they refused to answer questions and rode off. After these two groups came through, I walked for two hours to each of the entrances that they might have used from DNR property and found that our boundary markers were in place and decorated with flagging tape.

We block trails with brush piles and they ride around. A man from the neighborhood looking for a missing person commented that since he last rode for recreation there are a lot of new trails.

Generally, I ask riders who ignore our property boundaries as they pass from DNR property to stop and talk. One neighborhood gang harasses me, entering from DNR property and racing through our property at high speed.

Occasionally, these armed gangs threaten violence and vandalism. See the attached terroristic note that was left on my windshield. As DNR knows, routinely the gangs vandalize and steal your signs and ours. In August, your signs in the parking lot near our property lasted about a week.

Recent research has shown that noise stresses birds and drives them out of urban neighborhoods. Is it not shameful that we allow these armed gangs to penetrate our woodland sanctuaries with their loud and destructive machines?

These views are my own. I don't represent any organization. From past experience with similar surveys, I understand that perhaps five percent of the folks who respond to your survey will request more established dirt bike intrusions into our natural environment. If you should decide to act on their request, I am sure you will responsibly police whatever land you allocate for their destruction; that would be an improvement over the ongoing unmanaged lawless armed gang activity on DNR land in Whatcom County.

Sincerely,

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** kenworth3406@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 07, 2016 3:53 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham

Equine needs more trails that are user friendly

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Michael <colferm@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 07, 2016 3:15 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Input to trail decisions

NO internal combustion engines on our trails, please. They are polluting and destructive of public lands. They are a serious danger to hikers and backpackers, whose activities result in the least destruction of biosphere. Please keep all ATVs and the like out of the trail system.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

---

**From:** Logan Riggs <logan.riggs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 07, 2016 12:07 PM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Motorized Trails

Hello,

Please consider creating a motorized trail (motorcycle) system in this area. There is no where to ride in Whatcom county and I'm sure there is plenty of demand for such a system. I'd be happy to volunteer anyway I can to help with this.

Thanks,  
Logan Riggs

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Rick Quint <Rickjeepin4x4@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 07, 2016 10:56 AM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** New recreation plan, Whatcom County

Does this new recreation plan in Whatcom County include any motorized usage - single track, two track and 4x4 - or is it, as usual, shutting down motorized access for the benefit of the non-motorized users?

**Leavitt, Dana (DNR)**

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**From:** Country Buggy <CountryBuggy@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 07, 2016 9:29 AM  
**To:** DNR RE Baker to Bellingham  
**Subject:** Help shape recreation

DNR has not planned for usage of UTV and side by side type vehicles (dimensions are typically 4.5-6' wide and 8-12' long) in its previous off-road access designs. This has resulted in use of 50" width constrained ATV trails or use of logging/fire roads due to lack of access for these vehicles. In the past DNR has claimed there was little utilization of this class vehicle, but it is due to the lack riding locations rather than lack of vehicles that has limited their reported use and exposure. Since fresh plans are being drawn for this area, this is the best time to include all forms of off-road vehicle access. This is also the opportunity to open up more roads to WATV use since the infrastructure to regulate the vehicles is in place and has been successful.

Peter Hruby  
Snohomish County Resident  
206-200-0826



## Comment Card – Naneum Ridge State Forest Recreation Plan

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

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

I have had the opportunity to be part of the recent attempts to retrace the footsteps of the original Mt. Baker marathon. The route is of important historical significance, and it would be amazing to have a trail following the route for multiple user groups to enjoy.  
-Dusty Caseria

For additional information about the Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan, please visit DNR's website:  
[www.dnr.wa.gov/BakertoBellingham](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BakertoBellingham)



## Comment Card – Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan

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

Deeply concerned about the more impactful uses on the land like ORV use, 4x4 trucks and down hill motorizing. Please reserve these types of uses to small areas that are already trashed by logging. The DNR needs to do a better overall job of their logging practices. What you do know is not sustainable. The state should not be clearcutting!

For additional information about the Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan, please visit DNR's website:  
[www.dnr.wa.gov/BakertoBellingham](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BakertoBellingham)

COMMUNITY MEETINGS 1/19/2016



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

### Comment Card – Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan

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

Thank you for this opportunity!!!  
Mountain Biking is an important part of my health and sanity. Any new trails w/ directional options for safety are welcome and encouraged. I also love to volunteer on trails!

For additional information about the Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan, please visit DNR's website:  
[www.dnr.wa.gov/BakertoBellingham](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BakertoBellingham)



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

### Comment Card – Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan

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

Build a multi-use  
Mt. Baker Trail  
(see maps circulated at the meeting)

For additional information about the Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan, please visit DNR's website:  
[www.dnr.wa.gov/BakertoBellingham](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BakertoBellingham)

Mark K

# Baker to Bellingham



## Comment Card - Baker to Bellingham Recreation Plan

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1111 Washington St. SE  
MS 47014  
Olympia, WA 98504-7014

C. Roberts. NMA V.P.  
mycoart@gmail.com  
northwestmushroomers.org

- ① Most activity sports represented, need balance with ecological/naturalist groups.
- ② Where can we get copies of the Charter?
- ③ Can interested parties <sup>eg. NMA</sup> make recommendations regarding preservation of a piece of land based on scientific interest/important species habitat.
- ④ Regarding legislation on mushroom hunting - ~~can~~ can the Northwest Mushroomers Association have input on that please?
- ⑤ There is currently no comprehensive list of rare/endangered species of mushroom - mycologists are working on this. Until then, how can we as mycologists (professional and amateur), ensure preservation of plots of land containing unusual habitats/suspected rare species?