



# Burnt Hill Recreational Trail Plan

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January 2006



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands

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# Acknowledgments

The Burnt Hill Recreational Trail Plan is the product of two grants from the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation for motorized recreation planning, and non-motorized recreation planning support from the Department of Natural Resources' recreation operating budget. The Department of Natural Resources and interested groups worked on the development of this plan in an effort to help direct recreation on and public use of Burnt Hill while lessening adverse impacts to both the natural and the built environment.

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January 30, 2006

Greetings:

Burnt Hill is a unique landscape that provides revenue for our counties and schools, habitat for many species of wildlife, and an opportunity for diverse types of recreation. The Burnt Hill Recreational Trail Plan was prepared in order to provide guidance for department site managers now and into the future. I deeply appreciate all of the time and energy contributed by the stakeholders who worked on this plan.

Achieving a balance among competing activities and public access needs in such a place is a management challenge that requires a high level of mutual coordination, cooperation, communication and commitment between DNR and the many recreation groups, nearby residents, and the general public. We simply can't do it without the help of those who care the most.

Completion of the Burnt Hill Recreational Trail Plan is the culmination of several years of hard work by a focus group, advisory groups, the public and the Department of Natural Resources. Many of the management recommendations within this plan are contingent upon the availability of resources. We believe that our strong partnerships with volunteers, stakeholder groups and others ensure that the sound recreation management of this forest will continue to evolve and be well supported.

I thank everyone who worked on this plan for your time and effort. As this plan is carried out over the next several years, I encourage you to stay involved and work with the Olympic Region staff to create a legacy of exemplary recreation stewardship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Sutherland", written over a horizontal line.

Doug Sutherland  
Commissioner of Public Lands



# Burnt Hill Recreational Trail Plan

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January 2006

Prepared by  
Washington State Department  
of Natural Resources



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

**Doug Sutherland** - Commissioner of Public Lands

**This publication is available from:**

**Asset Management & Protection  
Natural Heritage Conservation & Recreation Section**

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Printed on Recycled Paper. February 2006

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# Preface

The Burnt Hill Recreational Trail Plan is intended to guide the Washington State Department of Natural Resources in the management of recreation use on recreation trails and across the landscape within the Burnt Hill block for the next five years. Implementation progress and results will be frequently evaluated, and adjustments made as needed. The full plan will be reviewed in year five, or as close to year five as resources allow, and changes made as needed to ensure compatibility with trust obligations and overall forest management objectives.

Public involvement in this plan included a public survey, public meetings, a focus group, and the solicitation of comments on the plan, including those meetings held in compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).



# Introduction





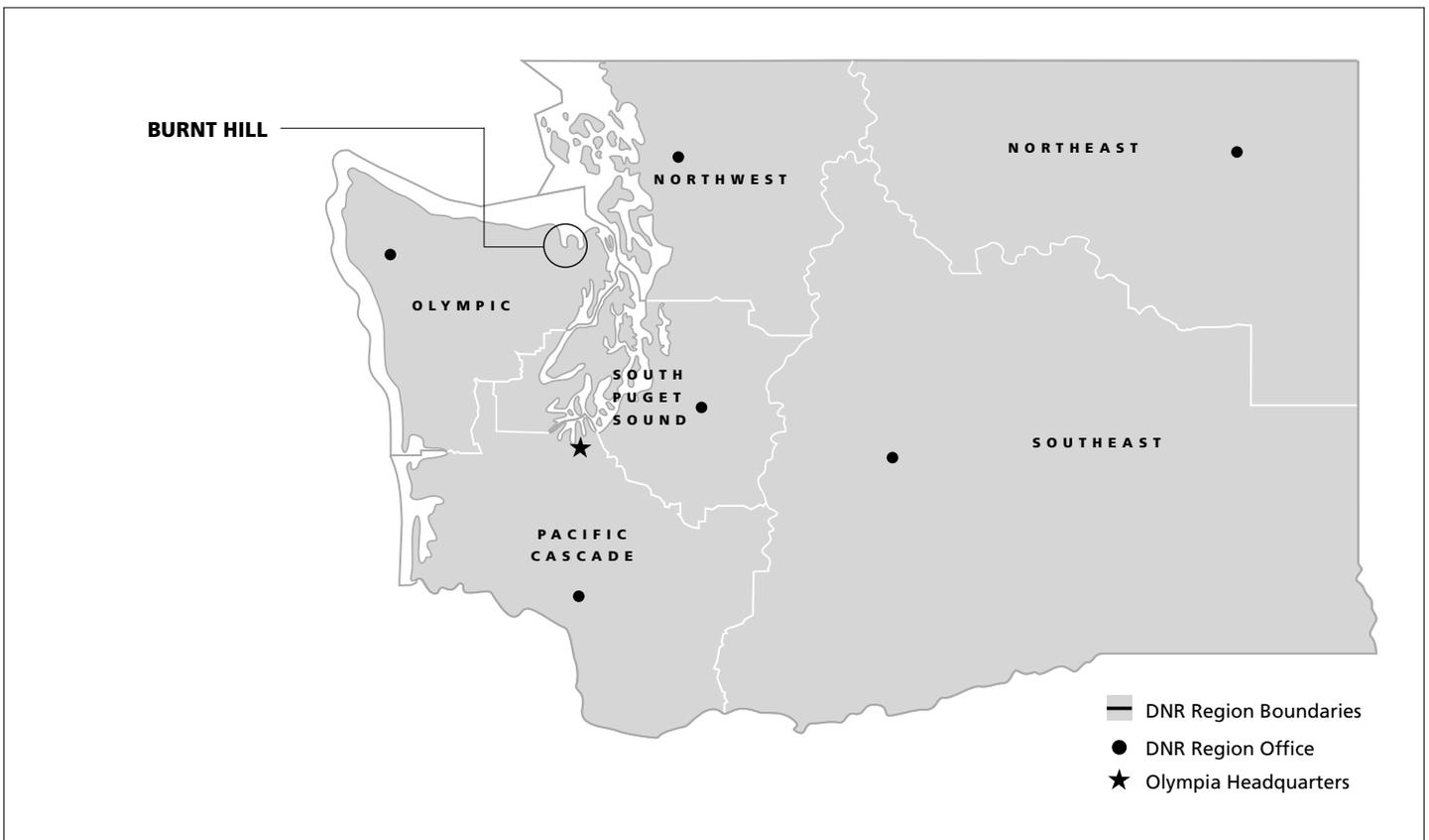
# Introduction

Burnt Hill, located just south of Sequim (see Figure 1), is both a timber-producing forest and a local recreation area. Visitors enjoy hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, off-road vehicle use, and hunting among other recreation uses.

This forest is part of the legacy of public lands managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR manages more than five million acres of state-owned forest, aquatic, agricultural, conservation and urban lands for long-term benefits to current and future trust beneficiaries and the people of Washington. As a working forest, Burnt Hill continues to be a place where people work and play outdoors, as planned harvesting and reforestation bring a stream of revenue to schools and county trusts.

This plan is intended to guide how DNR manages recreation and public access on Burnt Hill. It outlines the region's recreation goals and the priorities for managing existing recreation and recreation facilities. The plan also includes specific steps to be taken over the next five years toward achieving the plan goals.

**FIGURE 1.**  
Burnt Hill context map.



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## A Working Forest

Like many of the uplands DNR manages, the lands of Burnt Hill are trust lands. Some were granted by Congress in 1889 at statehood. Others are Forest Board trust lands, purchased or acquired later. By law, state-owned trust lands are to be managed to produce income for schools, universities, state institutions, county services, and the state General Fund. Since 1970, DNR-managed trust lands statewide have produced more than \$5.7 billion in revenue, reducing the need for taxes to pay for public projects and services.

Since 1971, state law (Chapter 79.10.100 RCW) directs DNR to allow multiple use, such as recreation areas, trails, hunting, fishing, etc., on trust uplands. The multiple use must be consistent with the applicable trust provisions and in the best interests of the state and the general welfare of the citizens.

In managing Burnt Hill, DNR works to:

- Responsibly harvest timber to provide revenue for the trust beneficiaries, as mandated by law
- Protect the long-term health of the forest's ecosystems, including wildlife and water quality
- Provide safe recreational and educational opportunities to the public

## Statewide Recreation

Across the state, DNR's recreation program maintains and operates 143 recreation sites and more than 1,100 miles of trail—some motorized, some non-motorized, and many support multiple use types, including mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, and ORVs<sup>1</sup>. Forest roads on trust lands provide access to designated<sup>2</sup> sites and also provide access for dispersed recreation, including hunting, fishing, berry and mushroom picking and sightseeing.

DNR's recreation facilities<sup>3</sup> complement those offered by other agencies across the state. These include federal agencies such as the USDA Forest Service (USFS) and National Park Service; state agencies, such as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Washington State Parks; and quasi-private land managers, such as Tacoma Power and Light. Many of these agencies offer facilities that are more developed, require fees or take reservations. In contrast, though there are a few permit-only facilities, DNR's recreation facilities are typically on a first-come, first-served, no-fee basis.<sup>4</sup>

## Olympic Region & Recreation

The Olympic Region is one of six regions with responsibility to manage state trust lands in Washington State, following DNR policies and state and federal laws. Out of 2.1 million acres of state trust forestlands statewide, the Olympic Region manages about 366,000 acres of state trust forestland and regulates forest practices on approximately one million acres of state and private forestland. The region also includes 5,245 acres of conservation land.

<sup>1</sup> ORV stands for off-road vehicle. Types of ORVs include motorcycles, all terrain vehicles (ATVs), and 4x4s. A place supports ORV use if it allows any, but not necessarily all, of these types of vehicles.

<sup>2</sup> Designated sites and trails are those that are maintained, managed, or have been approved by DNR for recreation use.

<sup>3</sup> DNR's recreation facilities include the designated trails, trailheads, campgrounds and other sites as well as their accompanying amenities, such as signage and restrooms.

<sup>4</sup> In the Olympic Region any advertised event and any event that charges an entry fee requires a permit.

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Additionally, there are state owned tidelands and bedlands that are managed by the Aquatic Lands program through the Orca District.

The Olympic Region covers Clallam, Jefferson and portions of Grays Harbor counties. The Olympic Mountains, an extension of the Coast Range from Oregon, form the core of the Olympic Peninsula. The peninsula is bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the north, and Hood Canal to the east. The southern flanks of the Olympic Mountains adjoin the lowlands of Grays Harbor Basin. Recreation is currently managed under two geographic districts, the Straits District, mainly spanning the Straits on the North Peninsula, and the Coast District, which stretches from Cape Flattery down to Grays Harbor. The region headquarters is located in Forks.

The Olympic Region manages recreation within various types of urban, rural and remote areas. High recreation concentrations are typically found in trust lands and sites that are close to urban areas. Region-wide, most recreation activities in the Olympic Region tend to be associated with hunting, fishing, camping, and ORV use.

There are 10 campgrounds, two designated multiple use trail systems, and two designated non-motorized trails in the region. There are also more than 65 miles of undesignated<sup>5</sup> trails in the region. Most of the designated sites are in close proximity to rivers with the exception of a few trail systems in the foothills. Water access is typically associated with fishing and is highly valued by those living in the Olympic Region. In addition, road access through DNR or other agency lands is of primary importance to both local and out-of-region hunters during the fall season.

## **Statewide Recreation Funding**

As is the case with other state programs and agencies, the recreation program within the DNR has seen a shrinking budget over the past few years. This reduction in funding has resulted in a few recreation site closures, reduced staff, reduced level of service at some facilities and fewer capital improvement projects being carried out. At the same time, we have seen an increase in visitors to the department's managed trust lands throughout the state.

The department receives its recreation funding from several different sources. A large portion of the funding comes from the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Program. This is revenue collected from the state gasoline tax. Every time a driver purchases fuel in Washington State, a small percentage of the tax paid goes towards funding recreation on DNR managed lands. Another portion of the budget comes from the state's General Fund. This is general tax dollars that are appropriated to the department by the Legislature to manage recreation. A third source of funding the department depends upon is grant funding from organizations such as the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC).

DNR applies for several grants each year to help fund recreation maintenance, improvements, education and enforcement. This grant funding is not guaranteed, however, as the department must compete on a project-by-project basis against other state and federal agencies and private organizations. In order to compete for grants, DNR must have the ability to provide matching funds and the staff resources to apply for and administer each grant.

<sup>5</sup> Undesignated trails and sites are those that are not built, managed, or approved by DNR for recreation use.

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## Burnt Hill Recreation Funding

DNR must have funding in place to maintain current recreation activities in a manner that protects the environment, is compatible with resource management objectives, and provides for safe recreation opportunities. Recreation and access opportunities on Burnt Hill may be limited if funding continues to be reduced and grants are not available to assist with this maintenance. This recreational trail plan depends on volunteers contributing their support by committing donated labor, materials and/or equipment. Even if grant funding is obtained, volunteer contributions will be needed.

The Burnt Hill Recreational Trail Plan was initiated in order to manage ORV and other trail uses. It is funded in part by a NOVA Off-Road Vehicle grant from the IAC under application number 02-1402 N. DNR received \$59,665, with DNR providing an additional \$5,000 matching funds for this grant. The non-motorized portions of this plan are funded by DNR staff time charged to department recreation program budgets and volunteers contributing non-grant hours.

## Recreation Planning Efforts

This planning process builds upon past planning efforts.

In 1999, DNR received a grant from the IAC for the Burnt Hill Inventory & Assessment, which was completed in 2001. As a part of this assessment, after initial input from recreation visitors, neighbors, interest groups and citizens at large, a focus group of these various interests was formed to continue conducting the inventory and assessment together with DNR. The results of that assessment supported the IAC grant request that partially funds this plan, and have been used as a foundation to this plan.

## Use of the Plan

The use of this Burnt Hill Recreational Trail Plan is intended as the following:

- Provide a five-year plan for ORV recreation, non-motorized recreation and public access in the forest by detailing recreation management goals
- Present specific objectives and strategies to DNR staff to guide recreation and access management
- Provide a recreational facilities master plan to guide trail renovation and relocation as well as parking accommodation over the next five years
- Supplement future funding requests with information from this plan

Part I

Background





# Background

## Purpose of Project

Burnt Hill is managed by DNR's Olympic Region and is located in the northwest portion of Washington State. Recreation and public access in the forest is managed through the Olympic Region in conjunction with the DNR's Recreation Program based in Olympia.

Recreation on DNR lands in the Olympic Region is generally guided under the Olympic Region Recreation Inventory and Assessment, 2005 (Olympic Region RIA). However, DNR recognized growing pressures and concerns regarding recreation use on Burnt Hill for which the resolution was beyond the scope of the Olympic Region RIA. Developing the Burnt Hill Recreational Trail Plan is a clear priority for DNR.

### THE GRANT APPLICATION DESCRIBED THE PROJECT AS FOLLOWS:

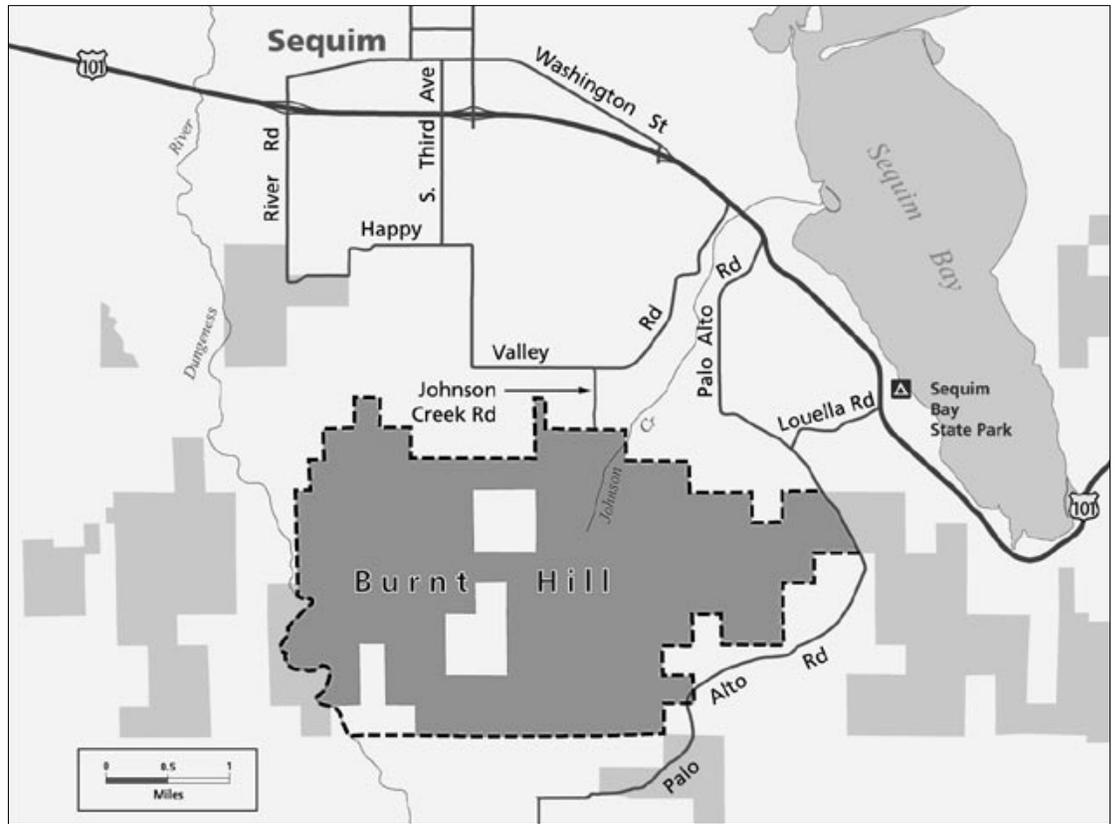
*“This ORV trail planning project will help determine ORV access routes, identify carrying capacity, and locate placement for needed trailhead facilities within Burnt Hill.<sup>6</sup> Other outcomes of the planning project will be layout and design of proposed trailheads, State Environmental Policy Act preparation, location and design of new trail connectors, and identification of existing trails to be renovated or relocated.<sup>7</sup> The DNR has recently completed a detailed inventory of all the trails in Burnt Hill.<sup>8</sup> This valuable information will be an important part of this trail planning project and will provide base information for meaningful decision making.”*

The Burnt Hill block contains 5,100 acres of DNR-managed state trust forestland (see Figure 2). The forestland is managed for revenue production. Consistent with state law, DNR allows compatible recreation use of state trust lands. Offering recreation opportunities on Burnt Hill is consistent with DNR's authority to construct, operate and maintain primitive outdoor recreation facilities under Chapter 79.10.140 RCW.

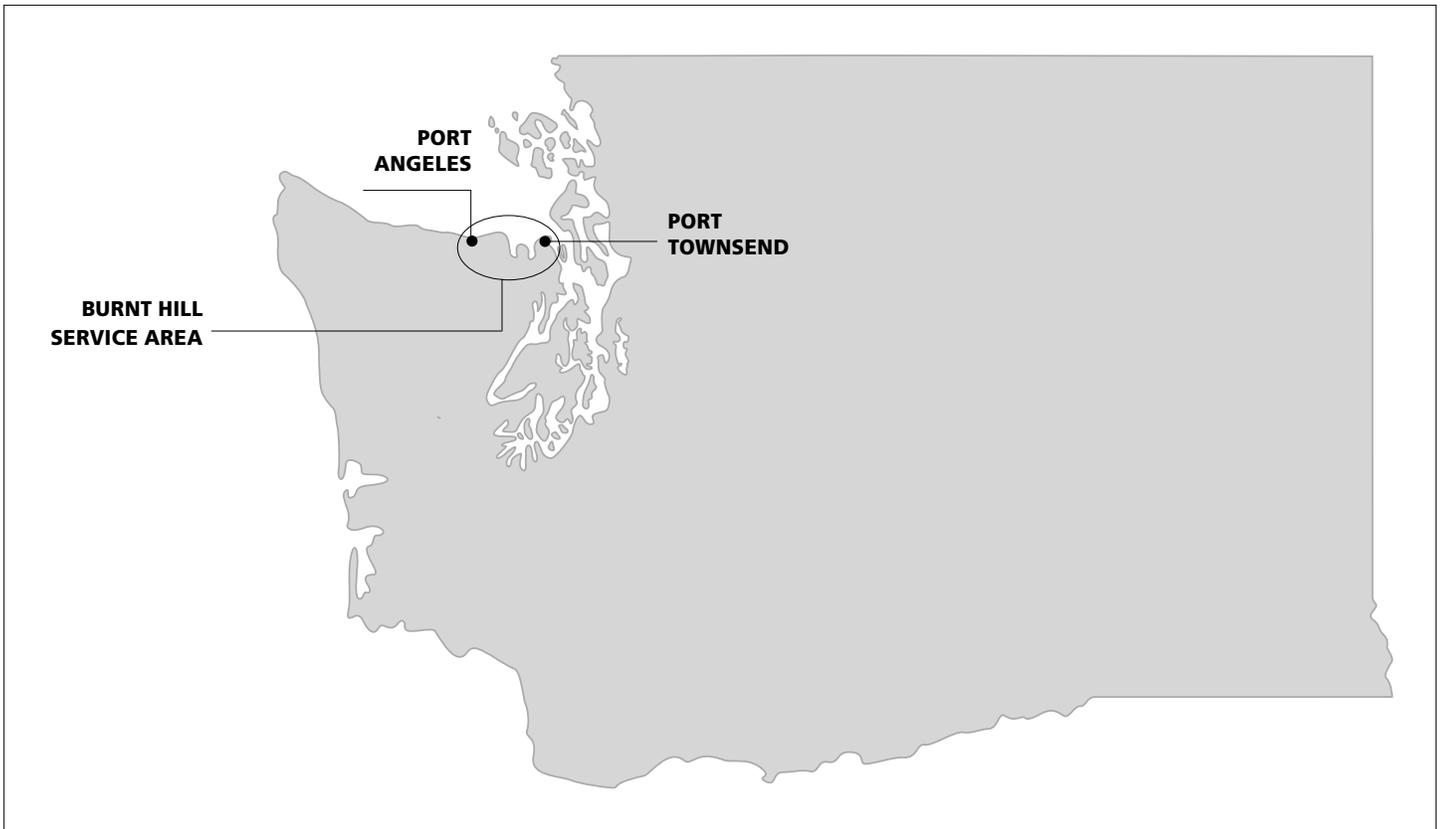
<sup>6</sup> Though not grant-funded, non-motorized planning was done concurrent with motorized planning.

<sup>7</sup> Site design is not a direct outcome of this planning project, but future design work will be based on this plan.

<sup>8</sup> The trail inventory was completed in 2001.



**FIGURE 2.** Burnt Hill.



**FIGURE 3.** Burnt Hill Service Area.

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Current recreation on Burnt Hill includes motorized and non-motorized uses on roads and user-built trails. However, recreation on Burnt Hill has not been designated and managed, and DNR's trust assets and natural resources are being damaged.

Outside of the realm of recreation, there are illegal activities that impact Burnt Hill, such as garbage dumping and vandalism, as well as increasing complaints from neighboring landowners about these and other issues.

As a part of the context of the Burnt Hill planning area, there are about 520 acres of private forestland within and adjacent to the DNR land. This private forestland is subject to development pressures. In addition to the expanding urban lands, rural lands and federal forestland border the planning area.

The purpose of this project, the Burnt Hill Recreational Trail Plan, is to develop a plan for Burnt Hill focused on managing existing recreation but, to the extent possible, it will also address illegal activities.

## **Inventory and Assessment**

### **SERVICE AREA**

The intended service area for Burnt Hill is from Port Townsend to Port Angeles, including Port Hadlock, Sequim and surrounding areas (see Figure 3). This has been defined as the intended service area because it is the approximate area from which the majority of current visitors originate.

### **FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE (SUPPLY)**

Within the service area there are a variety of general outdoor recreation facilities. These are shown on the following table, Table 1.

**Table 1. Recreation Facilities in the Service Area**

**SOURCES INCLUDE:**

**WASHINGTON STATE  
ACCESSIBLE OUTDOOR  
RECREATION GUIDE**

(<http://www.parks.wa.gov/ada-rec/detail.asp?region=CO>)

**CLALLAM  
COUNTY PARKS**

([http://www.clallam.net/CountyParks/html/parks\\_map.htm](http://www.clallam.net/CountyParks/html/parks_map.htm))

**AND**

**JEFFERSON  
COUNTY PARKS**

(<http://www.jcparksandrec.org/facilities/index.html>)

<b>Washington State Parks</b>	<b>Major Activities</b>
Anderson Lake	Hiking, fishing, boating
Fort Flagler	Hiking, camping, boating
Fort Worden	Hiking, camping, fishing, boating
Sequim Bay	Hiking, camping, fishing, boating
<b>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</b>	<b>Major Activities</b>
Port Townsend City Dock	City managed fishing pier
Dungeness Hatchery	Fishing, fish viewing
Elwha Rearing Channel	Fish viewing
<b>USDA, Forest Service</b>	<b>Major Activities</b>
Dungeness Forks Campground	Camping, fishing
East Crossing Campground	Camping, fishing
<b>Olympic National Park</b>	<b>Major Activities</b>
Olympic National Park Visitor Center	Hiking, photography, interpretation
Heart O' The Hills Campground	Hiking, camping, photography
Elwha Campground	Hiking, camping, photography
Altair Campground at Elwha	Hiking, camping, fishing, photography
Madison Falls Trail at Elwha	Hiking, wildlife viewing, photography
Whiskey Trails Bend at Elwha	Hiking, wildlife viewing, photography
Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center	Hiking, wildlife viewing, photography
Deer Park Campground	Hiking, camping, photography
Blue Mountain Overlook	
<b>Clallam County Parks</b>	<b>Major Activities</b>
Panorama Vista	Hiking, fishing
Port Williams	Hiking, boating
Wheeler River Park	Hiking, fishing
Dungeness Recreation Area	Hiking, camping, horse riding, hunting
Cline Spit Community Beach	Hiking, fishing, boating
Robin Hill Farm	Hiking, horse riding, bicycle access
Freshwater Bay	Hiking, fishing, boating, bird watching
Salt Creek Recreation Area	Hiking, camping, fields, nature viewing

## Recreation Facilities in the Service Area (Continued)

Jefferson County Parks	Major Activities
Jefferson County Fairgrounds	Camping, picnics, sports
North Beach	Picnics, waterfront
Recreation Center in Port Townsend	Picnics, sports, playgrounds
County Courthouse Park	Picnics, sports
Larry Scott Memorial Trail	Hiking, picnics, waterfront
Irondale Park	Picnics, sports, playgrounds
Chimacum Park	Camping, picnics
H.J. Carroll Park	Hiking, picnics, waterfront, playgrounds
South Indian Islands Park	Hiking, picnics, waterfront
Oak Bay Park	Camping, waterfront, playgrounds
East Beach Park	Waterfront
Beausite Lake / NW Kiwanis Camp	Camping, waterfront
Gibbs Lake Park	Hiking, picnics, waterfront
Lake Leland	Camping, picnics, waterfront

From the variety of recreation opportunities available, it appears that certain recreation needs, such as hiking and sightseeing, are well addressed. Other uses, such as off-road vehicle use, mountain biking and horseback riding, are not well addressed.

In addition to the facilities offered by other providers, DNR has a variety of lands in the service area that support recreation use, including the following:

<sup>9</sup> The purpose of this plan is to designate a trail system on Burnt Hill.

**Table 2. DNR Designated Trail Facilities in the Service Area**

Name	Major Activities
Foothills Trail	ORV, Mountain biking, Horse riding, Hiking
Sadie Creek Trail	ORV, Mountain biking, Horse riding
Little River Trail	Hiking
Striped Peak	Mountain Biking, Horse riding, Hiking
Murdock Beach	Hiking, Camping
Sadie Creek 4x4	ORV (4x4 in specific)
Burnt Hill <sup>9</sup>	ORV, Mountain biking, Horse riding, Hiking

---

By looking at the kinds of uses allowed on other recreation facilities compared to the kinds of uses allowed and occurring on DNR lands, it is clear that recreation facilities on DNR lands in this service area are filling niches that other recreation facilities do not.

## **Demonstrated Need (Demand)**

Providing designated and managed recreation opportunities on DNR lands is an important part of meeting the demand of residents in this service area for outdoor recreation activities such as ORV use. There are many general recreation opportunities available to those interested in activities like hiking and wildlife viewing, but there are very few opportunities available to those interested in horseback riding, mountain biking and ORV riding. In this service area, DNR lands may well represent the only opportunities for these activities.

The fact that all the trails on Burnt Hill at this point in time are user-built and have been being used for years is one strong demonstration of constant demand. Because of impacts to DNR's natural resources, as well as neighbor concerns and other issues, it is time for this recreation to come under DNR management.

Adopting a recreation plan meets the requirements of state law (Chapter 79.10.120 RCW), while it also helps to gain the support of recreation visitors in maintaining the area. This support will also lend itself to gaining potential grant funding, which helps with the staffing of education and enforcement personnel. Adopting a recreation plan offers the best opportunity for DNR to meet its land management obligations while achieving multiple use objectives.

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## Existing Environment

Burnt Hill is in the lower foothills of the Olympic Mountains south of the city of Sequim, east of the Dungeness River and south and west of the head of Sequim Bay. Elevation ranges from 800 feet to approximately 2400 feet. Burnt Hill is composed of two knobs separated by a topographic saddle. There are eight different soil types in the Burnt Hill planning area. Currently, most of the soil types are stable. The two identified as unstable are located on steep slopes that do not have existing trails or any proposed trails.

The project planning area is located in the following three Watershed Assessment Units: Dungeness Valley, Bell Creek and Sequim Valley. There are numerous small streams that flow from the Burnt Hill landscape. Several unnamed streams flow west into the Dungeness River, and subsequently into the Dungeness Bay. To the south and east sides of the hill streams flow into Dean Creek and then into Sequim Bay near the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's land. The Johnson Creek headwaters to the north has several tributaries that flow into Sequim Bay at the John Wayne Marina. There are seven wetlands in the vicinity. Only four of these wetlands are currently accessible by trail. Protection of these wetlands was addressed in the planning process through the closure of trails and restoration of the wetlands that had been impacted in the past. New trails will not be routed in the vicinity of any of the wetlands.

The plant communities consist of mixed communities of deciduous and conifer trees and their associated undergrowth vegetation. Tree species within the planning area include Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock, Grand Fir, Red Cedar, Big Leaf Maple, Red Alder, and Madrona. Their associate undergrowth includes Huckleberry, Salal, Oregon Grape, Ocean Spray and Pacific Rhododendron. Several wildfires, some of which may have originated in the Sequim prairie, have burned through this area in a regular cycle through time. In addition to early logging, this fire activity has left only scattered remnants of old growth trees.

The Burnt Hill area provides habitat for a diversity of mammal and bird species associated with mountain forests. An estimated 160 species of terrestrial animals are believed to inhabit the site during at least a portion of the year. Roosevelt Elk, Marbled Murrelet, and Spotted Owls are amongst the species that use the area. Through analysis it was determined that, due to stream gradients and downstream fish blockages, no fish species live in the tributaries located in the planning area.

In regards to the Roosevelt Elk, this plan recognizes the importance of migration corridors between the Sequim prairie, which is not DNR held, and areas used for forage and calving. Historically the calving areas were located in both the Caraco and Canyon Creek drainages which are on USFS lands on the west side of the Dungeness River. Cooperative efforts to increase forage opportunities have occurred in the Caraco Creek area and in several areas on Burnt Hill. This plan incorporates migration corridors through the DNR lands of Burnt Hill for access between the Sequim prairie and the calving and forage areas. The migration corridors on DNR land are primarily along the Johnson Creek riparian areas, which naturally lend themselves to this function. These riparian areas are being conserved as provided by DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan. In addition to the conservation of these corridors, with volunteer efforts the meadows located on the south slopes of Burnt Hill can continue to provide forage opportunities.

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## **Public Involvement**

### **SUMMARY OF METHODS USED**

A public meeting was held October 27, 1999, seeking information about existing public uses of these lands and to discuss how to find appropriate balance among various interests, including alternative ways to manage compatible recreation use. The initial known issues included garbage dumping, neighbor concerns, ORV use, and elk habitat needs. DNR's first task, however, was to identify what uses were occurring on Burnt Hill and identify the associated impacts.

The outreach process had three main components: public meetings with newspaper notices, a formal public survey, and a visitor/citizens focus group. Public outreach and focus group meeting dates are found in Appendix C.

### **PUBLIC MEETINGS**

A public meeting was held at Carrie Blake Park Center, Sequim, on October 27, 1999, to initiate the Burnt Hill public involvement process. A fourteen-member Burnt Hill Focus Group was formed from the sign-up sheet and interest that came out of this meeting, which was attended by approximately 200 people.

An Open House was held February 7, 2001, at Carrie Blake Park Center, Sequim, and was attended by approximately 100 people. The purpose of the open house was to review a list of recommendations drafted by the Burnt Hill Focus Group for DNR to consider in the future management of the area. Peninsula Community College, Clallam County Noxious Weed Board, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife provided displays relevant to the focus group's work. Each of these groups provided technical support to the focus group.

On October 20, 2004, at a meeting sponsored by several neighbors in Carrie Blake Park, a presentation was provided by DNR and was followed by a question and answer session. The purpose of the meeting was to update neighbors on where the plan and planning process were at that point in time as well as to hear concerns and answer questions. The neighbors attending this meeting were reminded of which neighbors were on the focus group, were encouraged to attend the focus group work sessions as observers, and asked to give their ongoing ideas to the focus group members who represent neighbor interests.

### **SURVEY**

DNR contracted with Peninsula College in November 1999 to conduct a recreational use survey for the Burnt Hill block. The college survey was started in January 2000 under the direction of Dr. Mike Sims. Seven hundred and ten surveys were mailed out. Forty percent of the mailing list consisted of residents or property owners living within two miles of Burnt Hill. The remainder of the list was composed of residents of the City of Sequim, residents from the eastern side of Port Angeles, and a random selection of names from various recreation organizations. Thirty-five percent of the college survey forms were returned, which is considered an extremely high rate of return for mail-out surveys. Peninsula College issued its independent report of the survey findings in June 2000.

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The college survey addressed several areas, including the following: visitor activities; distribution and frequency of visits; length and days of stay; trails and roads use; organized events; perceived status of the area; garbage dumping; conflicts between trail use, property owners, and environment; condition and adequacy of trails; improvement concerns; environmental concerns; problems observed by survey respondents; services desired; trail preferences; demographic information; and other activities respondents participate in within the counties. Results highlighted in the report include the following:

- Most evident problem: Garbage dumping.
- Conflict between visitors: Potential conflict between motorized and non-motorized was suggested.
- Most requested services: Trail marking, with a willingness to help maintain trail markers.

During the February 7, 2001 Open House, DNR shared with the public the findings of this survey.

### **FOCUS GROUP**

The Burnt Hill Focus Group was formed in November 1999. The group has been determined to see the project through, and has been willing to work with DNR on planning, and to negotiate their respective roles in the upcoming phases.

The Burnt Hill Focus Group is a diverse group made up of representatives of relevant types of recreation interests, neighbors, and wildlife management. There was one person from each recreation group and five citizens-at-large in the original focus group, as well as representation from a neighboring timber company, a group focused on elk habitat, and governmental bodies other than DNR. The original Burnt Hill Focus Group members included: Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Inc., Olympic Peninsula Chapter; Olympic Peninsula Motorcycle Club; Peninsula Trails Coalition (hikers); Olympic Peninsula Bicyclists; Just Jeep Junkies; Olympic Trailblazers (4 wheel drive); Dungeness Elk Advisory Committee; citizens-at-large (neighbors); citizens-at-large (hikers); citizens-at-large (motorcycles); Merrill & Ring Timber Company (neighbors); Clallam County; U.S. Forest Service; Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Clallam County Noxious Weed Board; and the City of Sequim.

As often happens with planning efforts that take place over time, those who chose to participate continuously were those who felt most invested in the outcome of the work immediately at hand. For example, those interested in wildlife habitat were very involved when the group was identifying and evaluating habitat on Burnt Hill, and considering how that information could and/or should influence the eventual trail plan. Once that work was completed, these interests knew that the more recent trail selection work would use their earlier input, and they were kept on the mailing list so they could track the progress of the work.

The focus group members who continued actively working throughout the process included two of the citizens-at-large representing neighbor interests, one representing motorcycle interests, and one representative each from the Backcountry Horsemen, Olympic Peninsula Bicyclists, and Just Jeep Junkies.

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In the end, representation on the focus group remained broad, and when special insight was needed from those whose participation had lapsed, DNR sought out their input.

The focus group meetings provided a forum for understanding the various interests in Burnt Hill, and the nature of each group's needs and concerns. Portions of the meetings were work sessions where sub group work was presented, such as each group presenting its trail preferences and priorities. In addition, meetings included time to review all the work, and identify what the group could agree on as a whole, relative to what had been seen and learned on site visits and from presentations up to that time. While conducted as work sessions with specific working agendas, the focus group meetings have also been open meetings for the public to attend and observe. Overall, the focus group found a level of respect for each other and has been willing to listen to the different points of view brought to the table.

The focus group has provided substantial and meaningful input into the development of this plan. Summaries of key focus group recommendations are in Appendix D.

## **Priorities Outlined**

Several priorities have been identified. These include the following: designating and managing trails to DNR standards, formalizing parking to accommodate existing use levels, accommodating existing motorized and non-motorized use types, providing signage, providing education and enforcement to address issues such as safety, noise, the protection of natural and ecological resources, etc., providing training for volunteers to address issues such as DNR maintenance standards, safety, etc., developing management partnerships with County Sheriffs, etc., and being mindful of neighbor concerns. Objectives and strategies addressing these priorities are covered in Part II, and the Recreational Trail Plan in Part III also supports these priorities.

## Part II

# Goals, Objectives and Strategies





# Goals, Objectives and Strategies

The Burnt Hill Recreational Trail Plan is a product of DNR developed in partnership with existing recreation visitors and other interest groups. The recreational trail plan for Burnt Hill addresses the varieties and quantity of public use provided in this working forest setting that are compatible with trust asset management and natural resource protection while offering a primitive and safe recreation experience. The goals, objectives and strategies outlined here will be met to the degree possible dependent upon the availability of staff, funding and other resources.

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## **GOAL 1**

**Support safety for the public, department employees and volunteers**

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## **GOAL 2**

**Ensure department-managed assets, including natural resources, are protected and sustained**

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## **GOAL 3**

**Provide an enjoyable recreation experience**

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## **GOAL 4**

**Pursue sustainable staff and funding resources for managing recreation and public access, including those achieved through adoption agreements**

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## Objectives and Strategies

The following objectives and strategies work to meet each of the above goals.

<sup>10</sup> Mixed-use trails will accommodate the following types of uses: hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, ATV use, and motorcycle riding. There is also one 4x4 route that other use types may share. And, there is one route for non-motorized use only.

### OBJECTIVE A

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**Accommodate existing types of day-time motorized and non-motorized trail use<sup>10</sup> and appropriate dispersed activities at 2005 use levels in ways that are mindful of the environment, forest management and neighbors.**

#### STRATEGIES

- Plan the recreation facilities with the intention that they do not promote increased numbers of recreation visitors
- Designate sustainable trail systems
- Plan an appropriate trailhead parking facility
- Locate, design, build and maintain trails and parking to reduce impacts on the natural environment, such as streams, elk calving areas and other habitats
- Locate motorized trails away from the exterior DNR property boundary to reduce impacts on neighbors such as noise and visibility
- Design, build and maintain trails for technical, low-speed riding
- Group events that are sponsored, advertised or charge fees will first be reviewed by the Burnt Hill stewardship group and DNR, and will be approved by DNR

### OBJECTIVE B

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**Educate recreation visitors about how to enjoy their experience safely, and how to act responsibly towards the environment, DNR employees, volunteers and neighbors.**

#### STRATEGIES

- Continue to seek funding for the Education and Enforcement (E&E) program, which works to educate recreation visitors to stay on designated trails, not use closed trails, and not build new undesignated trails
- Promote and expand the Forest Watch volunteer program
- Patrol for garbage, vandalism and other illegal activities
- Work to ensure that visitors adhere to current noise laws, as per WAC 173-60-040
- Develop and install appropriate signage to guide recreational use, behaviors, and safety
- Continue developing a strong DNR partnership with the Clallam County Sheriff's Department

### OBJECTIVE C

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**Design, build and maintain Burnt Hill recreational facilities to DNR standards.**

#### STRATEGIES

- Require all those involved, including volunteers, to meet DNR design, construction and maintenance standards

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## **OBJECTIVE D**

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**Close undesignated and designated but un-adopted trails.**

### **STRATEGIES**

- Coordinate with Olympic Region state lands to close, where feasible within management needs, those road segments no longer designated as part of the recreational trail system
- Work with adoption volunteers for trail removal and forest restoration on closed trails in areas the volunteers are upgrading, building, and/or maintaining designated trails
- Seek and train additional volunteers for trail removal and forest restoration
- Adoption agreements not successfully met will result in closed facilities

## **OBJECTIVE E**

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**Rely primarily on donated labor, materials and equipment to enhance and maintain the recreation facilities; secondarily seek grant funding.**

### **STRATEGIES**

- Place all designated facilities under adoption agreements
- Provide training on safety, trail standards and methods, and expectations of volunteers for all those signing up for adoption agreements
- When necessary and appropriate seek additional resources, including grants, donations not associated with adoption agreements, and other volunteer activities such as Forest Watch

## **OBJECTIVE F**

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**Manage access to enhance recreation, to reduce garbage dumping and vandalism, and to reduce neighbor impacts such as night noise.**

### **STRATEGIES**

- Manage Burnt Hill recreation as a day-use only activity
- Use a gate to manage access
- Provide no parking at the day-use only gate during closed hours

## **OBJECTIVE G**

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**Monitor the physical and environmental condition of the recreation facility to work to ensure that DNR standards are being met.**

### **STRATEGIES**

- Balance monitoring of changes in the landscape due to recreation with monitoring of changes due to management activities
- Monitor changes in recreational use patterns over time
- Achieve monitoring goals with outreach and educational activities when possible

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## **OBJECTIVE H**

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**Create a Burnt Hill stewardship group that represents a broad spectrum of stakeholders to meet on a regular schedule and provide ideas and information to DNR regarding plan implementation.**

### **STRATEGIES**

- Develop a charter that outlines, at a minimum: the role and responsibilities of the stewardship group; methods for selecting and replacing members; meeting format and expectations; methods for sharing information about the stewardship group's work with other interested parties
- Seek active volunteer participation from stewardship group members in on-the-ground activities, including monitoring, maintenance, restoration, Forest Watch, garbage pickup, etc
- Solicit information and problem-solving ideas from the stewardship group as needed throughout the year
- Solicit input from the stewardship group during the annual review process

## **OBJECTIVE I**

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**Implement an annual review process to facilitate effective implementation of the Burnt Hill Recreational Trail Plan.**

### **STRATEGIES**

- Identify, document and review accomplishments of the year, work remaining, and process issues
- Review observed results and develop a work plan for the coming year
- Write a summary of the annual accomplishments and upcoming work plan

Part III

Plan Definition and Implementation



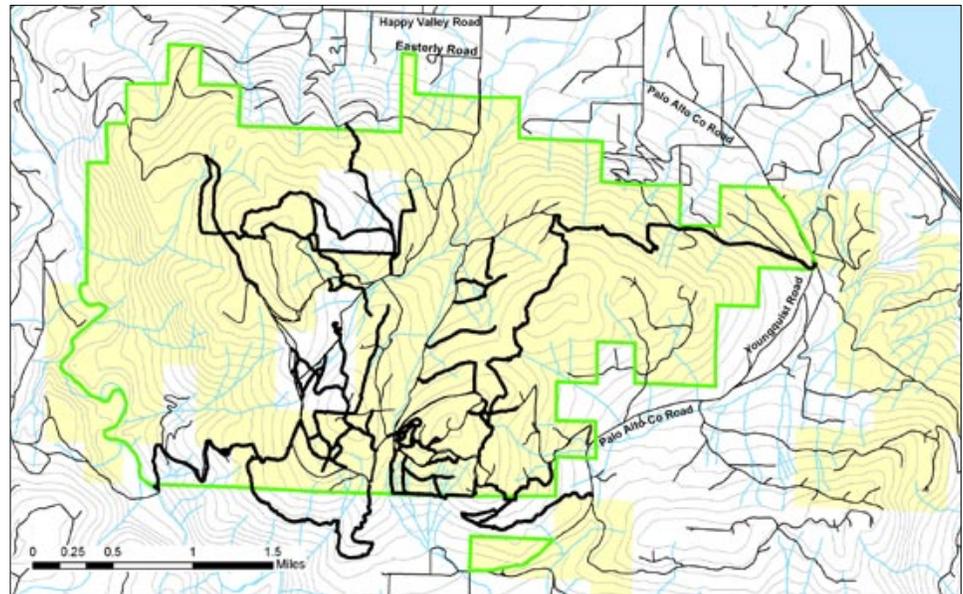


# Plan Definition and Implementation

## Overview

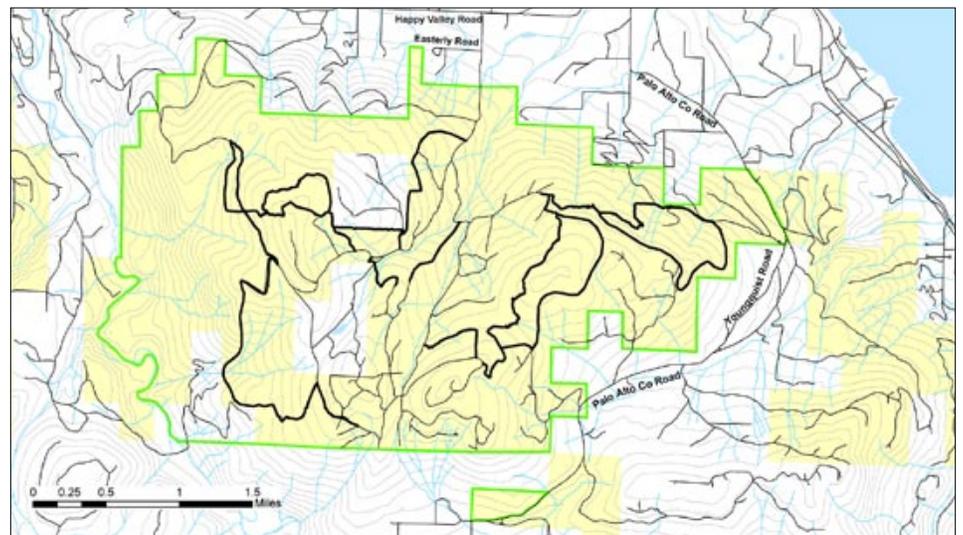
In consultation with the focus group, DNR has planned a trail system. Figure 4 shows the undesignated trail system that was already in place. Figure 5 shows the planned system of designated trails.

**Figure 4. (Before)  
With Undesignated Trails.**



**Figure 5. (After)  
With Designated Trails.**

- DESIGNATED TRAILS 
- ROADS 
- 100 FOOT CONTOUR 
- STREAMS 
- BURNT HILL TRAIL SYSTEM BOUNDARY 
- OPEN WATER 
- STATE TRUST LANDS 



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## Timeline

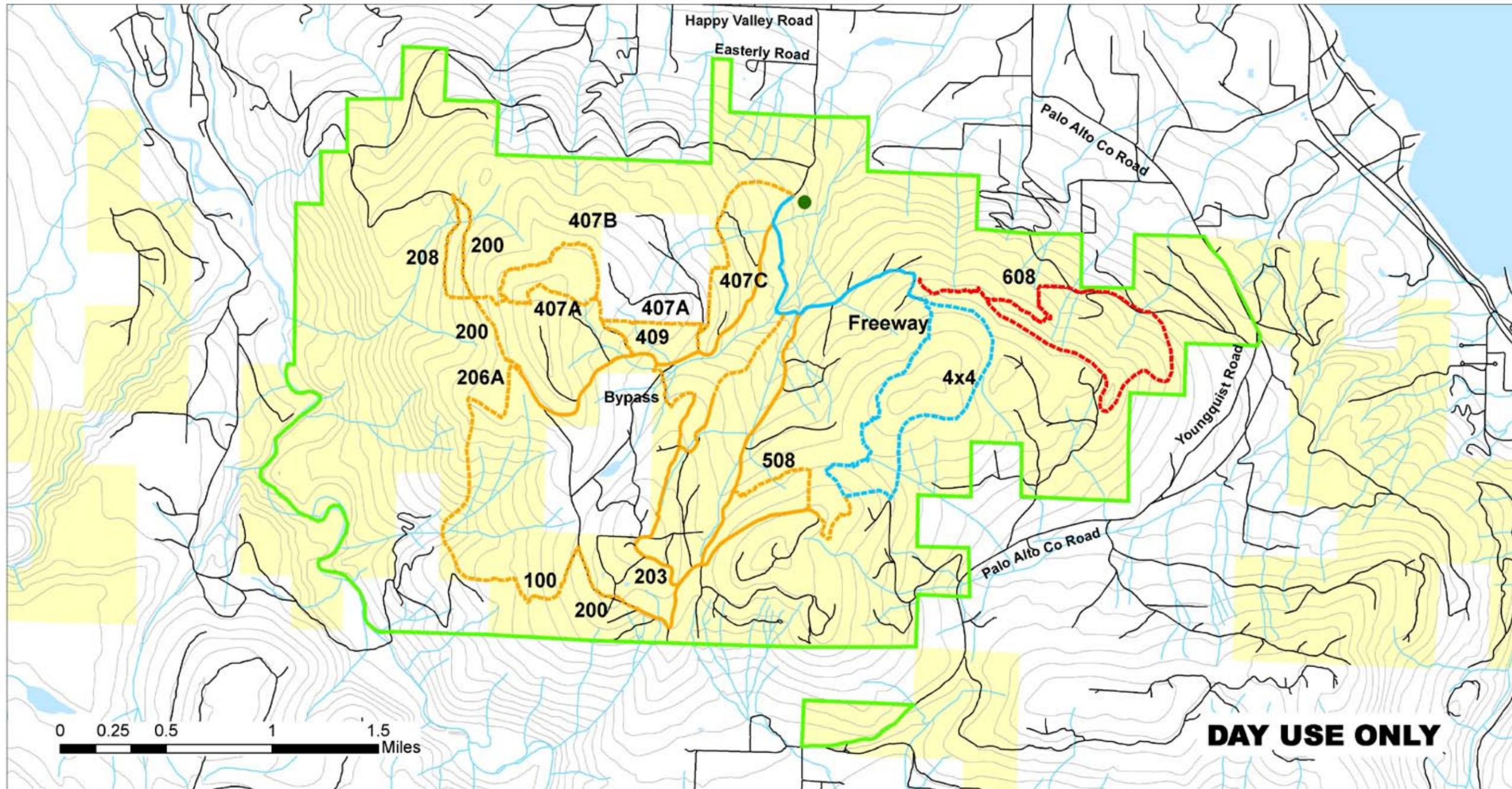
A summary of the projects to be pursued follows in tables, year-by-year. Except for the 608 trail, which is a non-motorized only trail, all trails are intended for use by ATV riders, motorcyclists, hikers, horseback riders and mountain bikers. Additionally, 4x4s will be allowed on one route (see Figure 6). Except for the 608 trail, which will be maintained to DNR's standards for non-motorized trails, all trails will be maintained to DNR's standards for ORV trails. Note that the cost estimates given in the tables below are rough estimates that include the value of volunteer labor, etc.; they are not DNR project budgets.

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## NOTES

**A.** Recreation visitors had expressed interest in a couple of projects that are not represented here. One is a motorized trail that ties the 100 trail to the 205A and will require an easement across M&R ownership. Another is a non-motorized trail that ties the DNR 200 to the DNR 400 and also will require an easement across M&R land. The recreation visitors will have to acquire these easements on their own, at which time they are welcome to coordinate their development of these trails with the work that will be ongoing under this plan.

**B.** Based on SEPA comments received, it appears that a horseback-riding group may be interested in an additional non-motorized trail. DNR is willing to consider this under a separate planning process. Such a trail would need to meet the "loop" criteria for trails, would connect to the trailhead identified in this plan, and would require the same type of adoption agreement that trails under this plan will be open under. If ongoing interest is demonstrated in this proposed additional non-motorized trail, DNR will seek funding to pursue planning for it under a separate planning effort.



**FIGURE 6** depicts the planned trail routes and is coded by the types of recreation. There are three basic types:

- NON-MOTORIZED ONLY
- MIXED USE EXCLUDING 4X4
- MIXED USE INCLUDING 4X4

This plan results in a total of the following:

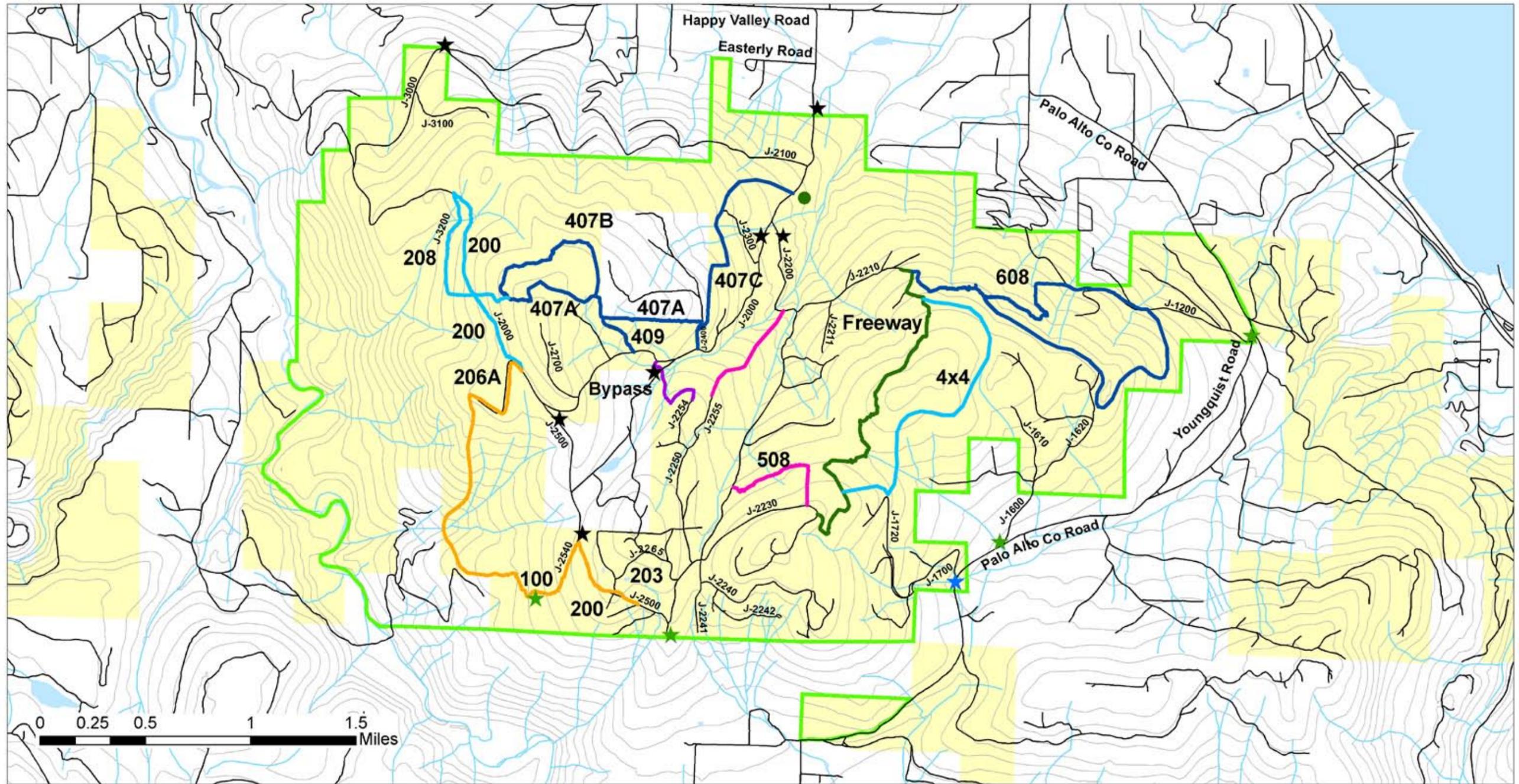
- TRAILS, NON MOTORIZED ONLY = 3.20 MILES
- TRAILS, MIXED USE, NO 4X4 ACCESS = 10.20 MILES
- TRAILS, MIXED USE, WITH 4X4 ACCESS = 3.33 MILES
- ROADS, NO 4X4 ACCESS = 5.88 MILES
- ROADS, WITH 4X4 ACCESS = 1.27 MILES

**Burnt Hill Trail System (proposed completion 2011) - Designated Uses**

- Trail - Non Motorized Only
- Trail - Multiple Use, No 4x4 Access
- Trail - Multiple Use, with 4x4 Access
- Road - No 4x4 Access
- Road - with 4x4 Access
- Road - Not Part of Trail System
- Burnt Hill Trail System Boundary
- 100 Foot Contours
- Streams
- Open Water
- State Trust Lands
- Trailhead Parking



**FIGURE 7** depicts the planned trails and is color-coded by the year in which they are anticipated to be brought up to DNR standards. Before each project is implemented, the routes will be field-checked.



**Burnt Hill Trail System**

- |        |        |                                    |                     |                                       |
|--------|--------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| — 2005 | — 2008 | — Roads                            | — Open Water        | ● Trailhead Parking                   |
| — 2006 | — 2009 | — State Trust Lands                | — Streams           | ★ Access Management Points - existing |
| — 2007 | — 2010 | — Burnt Hill Trail System Boundary | — 100 Foot Contours | ★ Access Management Points - 2006     |
|        |        |                                    |                     | ★ Access Management Points - 2007     |



**TABLE 3**  
Implementation  
timeline  
for 2005.

<b>2005</b>		
<b>Estimate: \$15,000 – \$20,000</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Probable Funding</b>
Education & Enforcement (E&E)	Continue E&E program	Matching grant
Bypass	New east-west trail to eliminate DNR recreation access across private land and avoid sensitive wetlands. Already reviewed under SEPA.	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds

**TABLE 4**Implementation timeline  
for 2006.

<b>2006</b>		
<b>Estimate: \$150,000 – \$160,000</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Probable Funding</b>
Education & Enforcement (E&E)	Continue E&E program	Matching grant
Trailhead Parking	To accommodate approximately 25 vehicles	DNR funds
Freeway	Renovation of a trail that runs north/south on the east side of the block	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds
Access Management	Junction of 608 trail and Youngquist Rd., junction of 608 trail and private ownership, junction of J-1600 Rd. and Palo Alto Rd.	DNR funds
Closures	Undesignated trails in surrounding areas will be closed, including J-1210 Rd., 101 trail, portions of 100 trail	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds
Sign Plan	A sign plan will be developed	DNR funds
Signage	Signage will be provided as needed	Donated labor in combination with DNR funds for materials
Maintenance	Maintenance as needed	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds

**TABLE 5**Implementation timeline  
for 2007.**2007****Estimate: \$30,000 – \$40,000**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Probable Funding</b>
Education & Enforcement (E&E)	Continue E&E program	Matching grant or DNR funds
407B	Renovation of a trail that circles the west and north sides of West Knob	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds
Johnson Access	New trail to tie the 401 road to the 409 trail, includes some renovation as well	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds
608	Trail renovation — non-motorized loop	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds
Access Management	Junction of J-1700 and Palo Alto Rd.	DNR funds
Closures	A sign plan will be developed	DNR funds
Signage	Signage will be provided as needed	Donated labor in combination with DNR funds for materials
Maintenance	Maintenance as needed	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds

**TABLE 6**Implementation timeline  
for 2008.

<b>2008</b>		
<b>Estimate: \$30,000 – \$40,000</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Probable Funding</b>
Education & Enforcement (E&E)	Continue E&E program	Matching grant or DNR funds
200/208	Renovation to form a loop	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds
4X4 Trail	provides a short section of new trail for 4x4 use	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds
Closures	Undesignated trails in surrounding areas will be closed	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds
Signage	Signage will be provided as needed	Donated labor in combination with DNR funds for materials
Maintenance	Maintenance as needed	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds

**TABLE 7**Implementation timeline  
for 2009.

<b>2009</b>		
<b>Estimate: \$30,000 – \$40,000</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Probable Funding</b>
Education & Enforcement (E&E)	Continue E&E program	Matching grant or DNR funds
508	Proposed renovation trail segment that connects the 500 and 700 roads — dependent upon further analysis	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds
Ridgeline Trail	New trail that ties the 500 road to the 200 road — dependent upon further analysis	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds
Closures	Undesignated trails in surrounding areas will be closed	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds
Signage	Signage will be provided as needed	Donated labor in combination with DNR funds for materials
Maintenance	Maintenance as needed	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds

**TABLE 8**

Implementation timeline  
for 2010.

<b>2010</b>		
<b>Estimate: \$30,000 – \$40,000</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Probable Funding</b>
Education & Enforcement (E&E)	Continue E&E program	Matching grant or DNR funds
206A/100	New trail to the southwest, includes some renovation as well, whether non-motorized or motorized will be designated 2010	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds
Closures	Undesignated trails in surrounding areas will be closed	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds
Signage	Signage will be provided as needed	Donated labor in combination with DNR funds for materials
Maintenance	Maintenance as needed	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds

**TABLE 9**

Implementation timeline  
for 2011.

<b>2011</b>		
<b>Estimate: \$30,000 – \$40,000</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Probable Funding</b>
Education & Enforcement (E&E)	Continue E&E program	Matching grant or DNR funds
Maintenance	Maintenance as needed	Donated labor and materials supplemented by existing materials with supervision out of DNR funds

## Appendices



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# Appendix A

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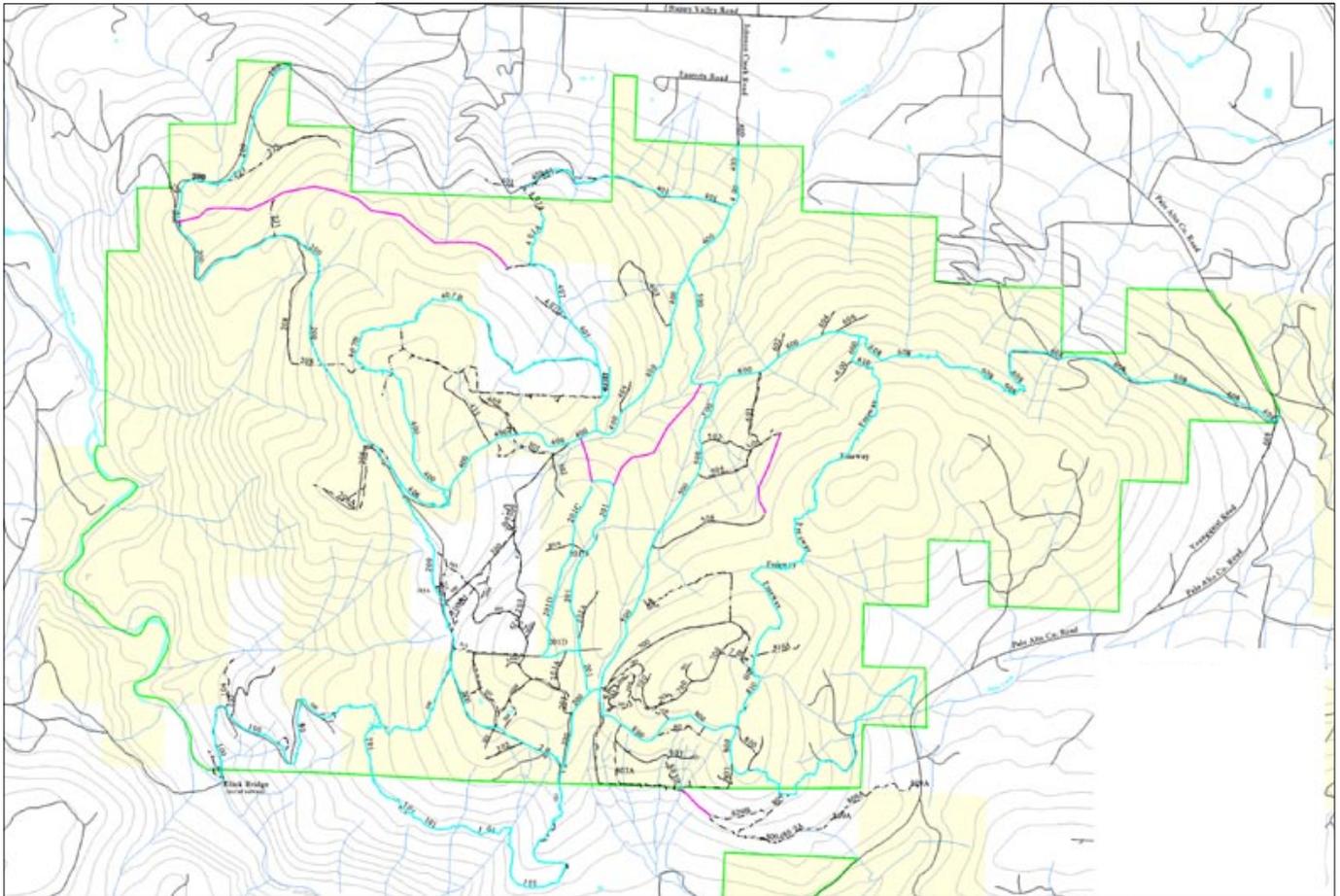
## Preferences Inventory and Maps

Each group was asked to review the trails inventory to identify which trails they were using at the time, and which trails were their highest preference.

Maps showing each group's trail preferences are included. Trail inventory data and preferences inventory data are shown for trails on all ownership within the Burnt Hill block. However, DNR's plan will apply only to DNR-managed lands. Further, the designated trails on DNR lands will not lead into other lands. Trail visitors will need to obtain easements from other landowners in order to use trails on their lands.

Some of the trail miles shown on preference maps are currently closed to use to protect meadow areas after reseeding for elk forage, or due to other landowner access closures. The future status of these trails was not determined at the time of the inventory.

Focus group members completed both the trail and the resource inventories before doing the group preferences exercise. This allowed them to use their knowledge about other visitors and environmental sensitivities when stating their preferences.



**BURNT HILL TRAIL SYSTEM**

-  STREAMS
-  ROADS
-  BURNT HILL BOUNDARY
-  GPS SURVEYED TRAILS

**MOTORCYCLES**

-  PREFERENCES
-  PROPOSED

STATE TRUST LANDS IN YELLOW  
 CONTOUR INTERVAL IS 100 FEET  
 NO SCALE  
 SEPTEMBER 2001

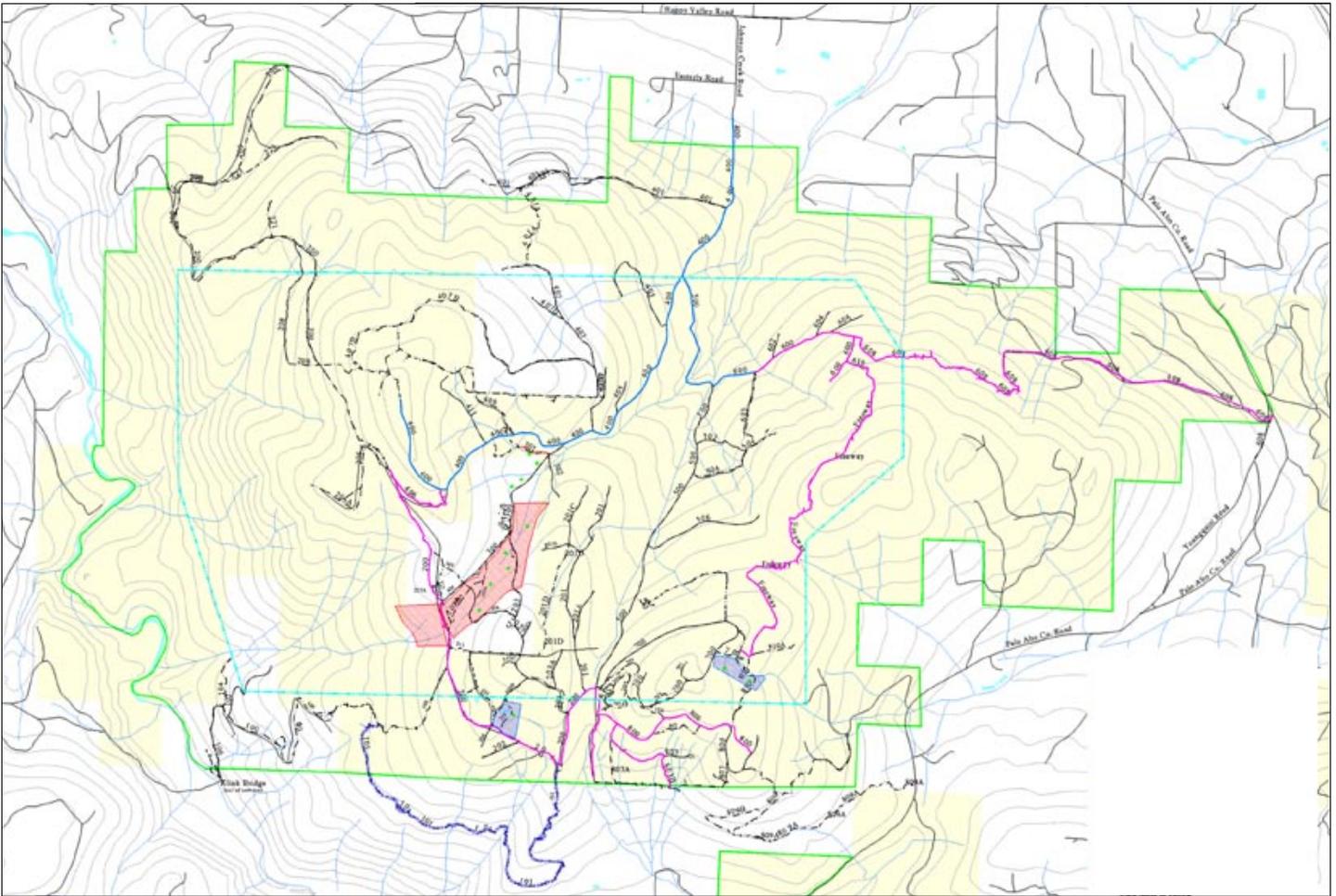
**Motorcycle Use Preference**

Areas open to motorcycle use are more limited than in the past, even as the population and demand increase. M&R has closed their lands and road access to motorized use. The cross-country trail being planned to the south will likely be non-motorized. Motorcyclists would like to use the entire hill, but they recognize the pressures and the environmental concerns of others. They accept the assessment conclusions that motorized use should stay out of the Dungeness River area for environmental reasons, and 1/4 mile away from the state trust land boundary line for noise reasons.

Initially, motorcyclists used nearly all 47 miles of roads and trails. In the preference inventory, approximately 25-26 miles of existing trail were identified as high preference. This was in combination with a proposal for 2.82 miles of new trail to create loop connections. The loop connections were proposed to help maximize the rider experience on reduced trail miles.

The motorcycle representatives believe the final character of the motorcycle experience will in itself limit the growth of use. Generally, experienced adult riders want long trails that don't backtrack, and the ability to get up some speed. They also like wild, rather than finished, trails. Based on the assessment work and the interaction of use, the motorcycle experience will likely be more limited than that on Burnt Hill. Discussions to date have emphasized a route with two loops connected by a section of road over which one must backtrack, and on bringing the trails up to DNR trail standards. Bringing trails "up to standard" and emphasizing roadbeds and wide trails is appealing to young and old riders, but less appealing to experienced adult riders who want a "wild" ride.





## Neighbor and Hiker Use Preference

### BURNT HILL TRAIL SYSTEM

-  STREAMS
-  ROADS
-  BURNT HILL BOUNDARY
-  TRAIL SYSTEM

### NEIGHBORHOOD AND HIKERS

-  "A" OPEN FOR AUTOMOBILES
-  "A" OPEN FOR HIKERS
-  CLOSED TO 3 & 4 WHEELED VEHICLES
-  CLOSED TO ALL MOTORIZED ORVS
-  BUFFER ZONE OUTSIDE THIS LINE, CLOSED TO ORVS
-  CLOSED TO 3 & 4 WHEELED VEHICLES
-  CLOSED TO ALL MOTORIZED ORVS
-  REMEDIATION PRIORITY

STATE TRUST LANDS IN YELLOW  
 CONTOUR INTERVAL IS 100 FEET  
 NO SCALE  
 SEPTEMBER 2001

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## Neighbor Use Preference

The neighbors generally want scenery and salmon protected and they want relative peace and quiet. Some of them are also recreation visitors, so they recognize that value. In original work with neighbors, it appeared the majority opinion was not to push anyone off, but to create a plan that meets all these needs.

The neighbors want to limit noise, traffic, trespass, and visual impacts. At the very least, that means for these elements to remain stable. They also don't want elk habitat destroyed. At the same time, they want to keep the area open to general access for recreation. (For mapped road and trail preferences, see "Hikers" below.)

The neighbor representatives proposed a 1/4-mile buffer to help protect against visual and noise impacts. They feel this may need more attention in an actual plan proposal, since it may not be adequate distance in some areas, particularly parking areas. They see a potential for increased ORV use and more passenger vehicles, which could increase traffic and noise, particularly on Palo Alto and Happy Valley roads.

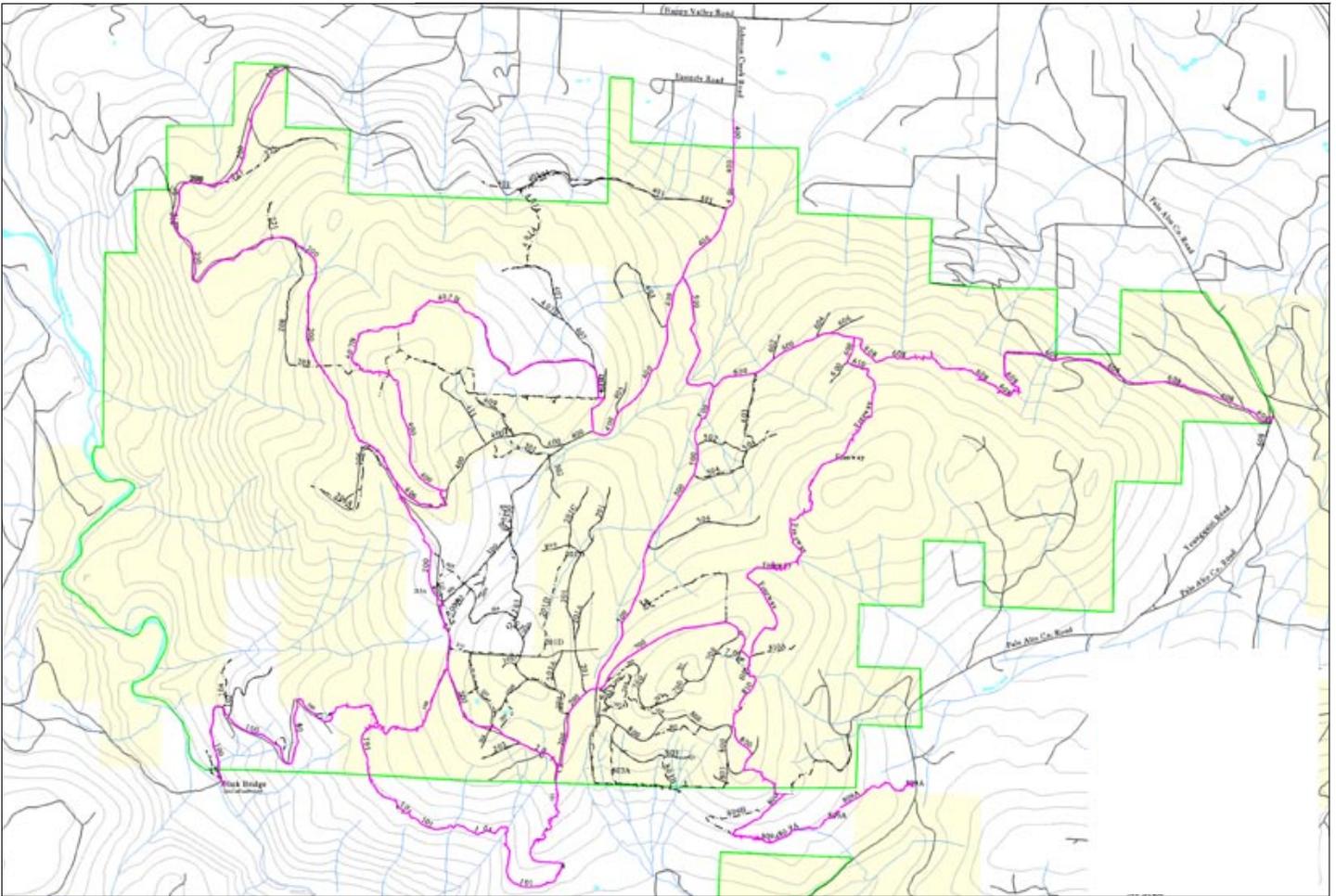
The preliminary planning ideas within the focus group will not be acceptable to the neighbor representatives until they can see there is a mechanism to limit the total number of motorized vehicles using the area at the same time (e.g., events), and that there is effective education and enforcement.

## Hiker Use Preference

The hikers feel their use is less controversial, since it's lighter impact. More hikers would probably have been using the area if it had not been for all the garbage dumping, that was occurring while Burnt Hill use was unmanaged. The experience most hikers want is for vistas mixed with woodlands, and a solid trail without mud.

Hikers and neighbors identified almost six miles of maintained road they would like to see kept open to passenger vehicle traffic, and a little over eight miles of road as trail and trails for hiker and neighbor use. Their map also shows areas they'd like to see closed to motorized use. All these roads and trails are currently multi-use. The multi-use compatibility needs to be examined more closely and individual trail use sorted out for the final plan. They are interested in connecting the three hilltops (for views).

The hikers have identified the areas they use most, and the specific trail segments they see as most desired for continued "hiker-friendliness". However, this was based on limited input, so the representative suggests trying to retain "hiker friendly" trails in all three major areas on the hill. "Hiker friendly" would mean the trail is firm, with reasonably even footing, has pleasant scenery (vistas and flora/fauna), and a reasonable pitch to the trail; the trail would not be deeply rutted or gulled, or muddy.



**BURNT HILL TRAIL SYSTEM**

-  STREAMS
-  ROADS
-  BURNT HILL BOUNDARY
-  TRAIL SYSTEM

**MOUNTAIN BIKE**

-  PREFERENCES

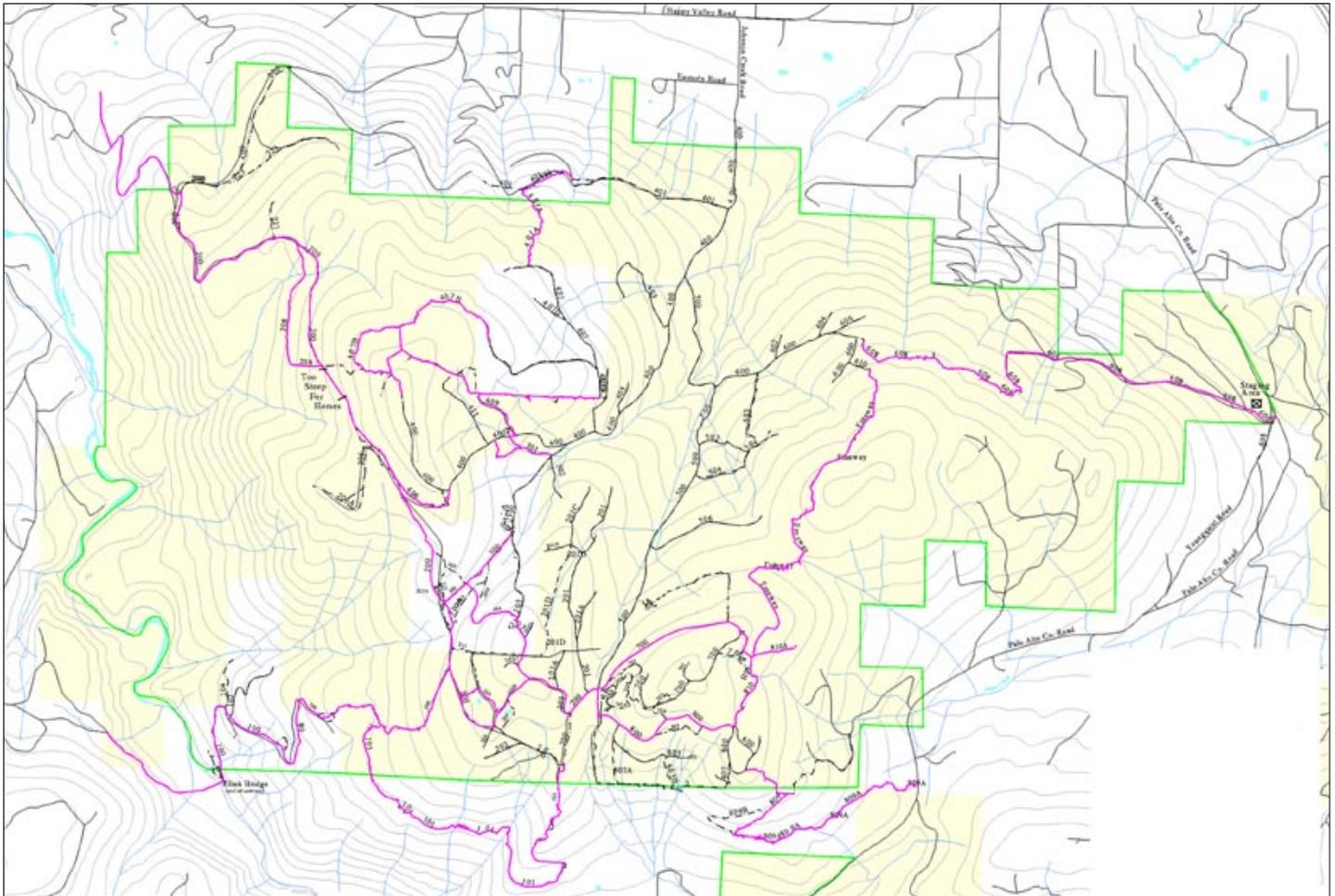
STATE TRUST LANDS IN YELLOW  
 CONTOUR INTERVAL IS 100 FEET  
 NO SCALE  
 SEPTEMBER 2001

**Mountain Bike Use Preference**

Mountain bikers like views and loops that can be ridden in three to five hours. Burnt Hill provides lots of these. Trails that are close and tight are most fun for experienced riders. Some of the riders like to ride down the motorcycle trails. The mountain bike riders used to access private land, but that is no longer allowed.

The mountain bike preferences emphasize trail 407B, Klink Bridge, Freeway trail, and they would like better access through Palo Alto. Just over 21 miles of road and trails were identified as mountain bike preference.

This group, like the others, also feels “eyes watching” will be important for enforcing the final plan, and that education of peer groups can help.



**BURNT HILL TRAIL SYSTEM**

-  STREAMS
-  ROADS
-  BURNT HILL BOUNDARY
-  TRAIL SYSTEM

**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN**

-  PREFERENCES

STATE TRUST LANDS IN YELLOW  
 CONTOUR INTERVAL IS 100 FEET  
 NO SCALE  
 SEPTEMBER 2001

**Horse Use Preference**

Backcountry Horsemen consider their use to be low-impact, second only to hikers. They look for trails close to town. They also require parking. Approximately one acre would be desirable. Their use is generally single riders, and they usually stay on the trails. They have about one group “ride” a year, which averages about 15 riders. The Discovery Trail is good for horse riding, but Burnt Hill offers a more mountain-like experience.

The horse rider preference map identifies approximately 16 miles of existing roads and trails. The map also shows their preferred parking area.

# Appendix B

## Public Outreach and Focus Group Meetings

1999	Description	2002	Description
10/27/1999	Public Open House	01/17/2002	Focus Group Meeting
11/18/1999	Focus Group Meeting	02/07/2002	Focus Group Meeting
12/02/1999	Focus Group Meeting	03/07/2002	Focus Group Meeting
		04/11/2002	Focus Group Meeting
		06/06/2002	Focus Group Meeting
		08/02/2002	Focus Group Meeting
		10/03/2002	Focus Group Meeting
		11/07/2002	Focus Group Meeting
		12/05/2002	Focus Group Meeting
2000	Description	2004	Description
02/03/2000	Focus Group Meeting	05/06/2004	Focus Group Meeting
02/07/2001	Public Open House	06/02/2004	Focus Group Meeting
02/24/2000	Focus Group Meeting	07/07/2004	Focus Group Meeting
03/02/2000	Focus Group Meeting	08/05/2004	Focus Group Meeting
03/23/2000	Focus Group Meeting	10/07/2004	Focus Group Meeting
04/08/2000	Focus Group Meeting	10/20/2004	Neighborhood Meeting, Carrie Blake Park
04/20/2000	Focus Group Meeting	11/07/2004	Focus Group Meeting
05/04/2000	Focus Group Meeting	12/02/2004	Focus Group Meeting
06/01/2000	Focus Group Meeting		
07/06/2000	Focus Group Meeting		
08/03/2000	Focus Group Meeting		
09/14/2000	Focus Group Meeting		
2001	Description	2005	Description
02/06/2001	Public Open House	01/06/2005	Focus Group Meeting
03/01/2001	Focus Group Meeting	01/20/2005	Dungeness Audubon Society
04/05/2001	Focus Group Meeting	02/10/2005	DEWT
05/03/2001	Focus Group Meeting	02/17/2005	Alliance for Recreation and Conservation (ARC)
06/07/2001	Focus Group Meeting	03/03/2005	Focus Group Meeting
07/12/2001	Focus Group Meeting	05/05/2005	Focus Group Meeting
09/20/2001	Focus Group Meeting	06/30/2005	ARC Meeting, Overview of the Burnt Hill recreation plan
10/04/2001	Focus Group Meeting	10/04/2005	SEPA Open House
11/14/2001	Sequim Elk Herd Management, a technical advisory group — later becomes the Dungeness Elk Working Team (DEWT)		
12/06/2001	Focus Group Meeting		

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# Appendix C

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## Focus Group Recommendations

The Burnt Hill groups came to better understand each other's interests, needs and the types of experiences they value. On October 5, 2000, the Burnt Hill Focus Group agreed on the following recommendations, based on the information they had reviewed and discussed at the time.

- What we have is valuable to all of us
- Get rid of the garbage
- Control noxious weeds
- Protect the wildlife habitat, particularly the meadows and wetlands
- Need to address trail maintenance; there also needs to be a commitment to maintenance by focus group members
- Remediation and maintenance needs to occur in ditches and wetlands
- Respect private property
- Manage what we have there now
- An education component is needed
- Signs are needed for trails (allowed use, etc.) and general rules and information
- Agree to address and define parking area(s), including location and size

Based on all the inventory work and site visits, the focus group members also agreed in April 2002 on a basic synthesis product. There are five elements:

- A 1/4-mile noise and visual buffer along the outer boundary of the planning area
- Elk travel corridor to and from elk calving areas on the west side of Burnt Hill
- Consider potential traffic patterns related to trail and parking area locations that could emerge with use, and how these relate to neighborhoods and county road capacity
- Protection of the two different wetland areas in the southern part of the planning area
- River and riparian areas, and unstable slopes (as related to locations for any potential new trails; existing trails were not impinging on these areas)

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# Appendix D

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## Estimates of Population by Recreation Type

Two studies have been used to get a broad-stroke understanding of the possible recreation visitors in the service area. These two studies, one on a statewide level and one on a local level, have been used to augment the experienced insight and understanding of field staff. For reference there is also a third statewide study included. These particular studies were chosen because they each consider motorized recreation and non-motorized recreation simultaneously in an integrated manner.

Since these studies mostly speak in terms of percent population, some rough population numbers were gathered. The population numbers used are from the communities in the service area for which the Office of Financial Management (OFM) has published the 2000 census numbers. In 2000, the US Census counted 18,397 people in Port Angeles, 8,334 in Port Townsend, and 4,334 in Sequim, meaning that there are well over 31,000 people in the service area (OFM at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/april1/finalpop2004.xls>).

In An Assessment of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State: A State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) Document 2002-2007, prepared by the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, it is stated that the following percentages of the Washington State population participate in the general recreation categories below.

Recreation in Washington State as reported in the SCORP.

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### RECREATION ENJOYED BY WASHINGTON RESIDENTS

Recreation Category	State Population
Walking/ Hiking	53.0% 
Outdoor team and individual sports	44.8% 
Nature Activities	43.0% 
Sightseeing	23.0% 
Bicycle Riding	21.0% 
Indoor	20.5% 
Picnicking	20.0% 
Water Activities	19.0% 
Snow/ice Activities	18.0% 
Fishing	13.0% 
Camping	13.0% 
Off-Road Vehicles	8.9% 
Hunting/Shooting	6.1% 
Equestrian Activities	3.0% 
Air Activities	1.7% 

Based on this information, one may estimate that there are at least 2,760 people in the service area that use off-road vehicles (8.9% of 31,000).<sup>11</sup> Yet, it is the sense of field personnel that the current number of off-road vehicle users in the Burnt Hill planning area is approximately 1/3 of that number.

In addition to looking at the SCORP to get a sense of statewide averages, it is also important to consider the findings of the local survey. In the survey, prepared by the Peninsula College in Port Angeles, WA, it is stated that the following percentages of those in the survey study area identify the general recreation categories below as their primary activity choice for this location.

Recreation in Washington State as reported by Peninsula College.

<sup>11</sup> Similarly, it can be estimated that there are at least 6,510 people in the service area bicycle riding (21.0% of 31,000), 930 people partaking in equestrian activities, 16,430 walking/hiking, etc.

**BURNT HILL RECREATION ENJOYED BY THOSE IN THE STUDY AREA**

Recreation Category	State Population
Hiking	34%
Wildlife Viewing	11%
Motorcycle Riding	11%
Target Shooting	7%
Hunting	7%
Horseback Riding	7%
4x4	6%
Camping	4%
Mountain Biking	2%
Jogging	<1%
Other	11%

ORV use as a primary activity choice of visitors here appears to be nearly two times greater than one might guess from the statewide average of recreation activities enjoyed. Similarly, horseback riding appears to be two or more times greater. Hiking, though still a primary activity choice for many visitors, appears to be less than one may assume based on the statewide average. Similarly, mountain biking appears to be lower.

It is the sense of field personnel that primary recreation types on Burnt Hill in 2005 are consistent with the findings of the college survey shown above.

In a preliminary review of this plan the focus group expressed that it was important to recognize that there is no one study that perfectly reflects recreation. Therefore, the findings of the Washington State Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities Fuel Use Survey prepared for the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation by Herbert Research, Inc., 2003, are shown below.

Recreation by vehicle owners in Washington State as reported for NOVA.

<sup>12</sup> This study included owners of passenger cars, SUVs, pickup trucks, street licensed motorcycles and mopeds, motor homes, and ORVs including all-terrain vehicles, non-street legal four-wheel drive vehicles, dirt bikes, etc.

**RECREATION ENJOYED BY WASHINGTON RESIDENTS WHO OWN VEHICLES<sup>12</sup>**

Recreation Category	State Population
Hiking	26.6% 
Off-road use (ORV)	12.1% 
Cross-country skiing	8.5% 
Mountain biking	6.7% 
Snowmobiling	2.1 % 
Equestrian	3.8% 
Other	42.0% 

This study shows the statewide interest in ORV use to be higher than was shown in the IAC study first described, and the comparison between this statewide study and the local study would indicate that interest in ORV use in the area still is greater than the general statewide interest. Comparisons like this can go on being made, but the IAC SCORP will continue to be relied upon for the statewide perspective because it included the broadest selection of recreation types, and respondents were not limited to vehicle owners. Further, as stated previously, field personnel are those who have the clearest picture of recreation on Burnt Hill, and it is the understanding of field personnel that the Peninsula College survey, though imperfect, most closely reflects the current recreational activities on Burnt Hill.

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# Appendix E

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## Parking Assessment Methodology and Findings

The main access into the Burnt Hill block is via the Johnson Creek Road. Recreational visitors also gain some access through a combination of un-designated trails and old road grades. Through the implementation of this plan, un-designated opportunities for access will be reduced or eliminated. As a part of this plan a parking assessment was conducted. The methodology and findings follow.

### Goals

- Estimate the number of vehicles to support existing use
- Recommend preferred location(s)

### Constraints

- Parking will accommodate existing use levels
- Parking will be close to trails
- Parking will have minimal impact on natural and ecological resources

### Methods

- Assess current use based on the SCORP and local population statistics
- Assess current use based on counters
- Obtain input from the focus group regarding current existing parking patterns
- Obtain input from the focus group regarding optional areas to formalize parking
- Conduct site assessments to evaluate optional areas for formalized parking, including assessing any impacts to natural or ecological resources, and traffic pattern changes
- Analyze information gathered to recommend possible locations and possible parking amount ranges

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## ASSESSED CURRENT USE BASED ON THE SCORP AND LOCAL POPULATION STATISTICS

Est # People in Service Areas	SCORP Recreation Type
2,760	ORV
6,510	Bicyclist
930	Horse
16,430	Hiker

### Totals and Estimates

26,630	People per year (est total)
2,219	People per month (est average)
74	People per day (est average)
37	Vehicles per day (est average) *

\*Note:  
The Peninsula College survey indicated that people tended to travel in pairs; 74 people traveling in pairs would be using 37 vehicles.

## ASSESSED CURRENT USE BASED ON COUNTERS

In order to better understand traffic patterns on Burnt Hill, DNR is using trail and road traffic counters. Initial counts were made in Dec 2004-Jan 2005, and resumed in May 2005. Use counts will be an ongoing project. By collecting data over time, a more accurate reflection of seasonal, weekly and daily use patterns will be gained. Although data collection is just in its beginning stages, and more counts are needed in order to gain a reliable picture, we can begin to draw some preliminary conclusions.

### TRAIL COUNTER FINDINGS

Within the study period, 0 to 21 counts a day on a trail is common, with 10 being the median count. Further, approximately once a week during the month of June there were nearly 40 counts. Each count is one trip through the counter, not round trips. These counts happened during daytime hours, and showed early afternoon activity as common. Therefore, this early data could be interpreted as 0 to 10 visitors in a typical summer day, occasionally with as many as 20 visitors (+/- 7) in a day, and with as many as two round trips through a given point on a trail.

### INTERNAL ROAD COUNTER FINDINGS

During the study period, counts on the main roads within Burnt Hill show 56 as the median and 93 as the mean counts per day, with a lot of variability from one day to the next. However, when looking at the timing of the road counts, it was found that the hours between 8 PM and 8 AM account for approximately 40% of the use. While a portion of this use is legitimate, the timing pattern suggests activities such as nighttime parties, garbage dumping, and other illegal or nuisance behaviors. These activities are a source of concern for DNR as a land management agency, as well as for legitimate recreation visitors and neighboring landowners. To help control illegal activities, DNR is moving Burnt Hill into a day-use only status.

**OBTAINED INPUT FROM THE FOCUS GROUP REGARDING CURRENT EXISTING PARKING PATTERNS**

Location	Est Number
Easterly	11
Johnson Ck Landing	3
400-500 Johnson Ck Junction	5
Helter Skelter Pit	2
West Knob	4
Party Spot	10
Palo Alto/Yundquist	2
Above Lester	0
Back End	0
Est Total	37

**OBTAINED INPUT FROM THE FOCUS GROUP REGARDING OPTIONAL AREAS TO FORMALIZE PARKING**

*The focus group identified the following possible locations for parking:*

Location Options	Reported Pros	Reported Cons
Bell View Landing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Year-round access</li> <li>■ Close to main roads</li> <li>■ Most come in there</li> <li>■ Good for trailers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ No motorcycle trails</li> <li>■ Close to housing</li> <li>■ May project noise</li> </ul>
400-500 Johnson Ck Jntn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Possibly easy pull-thru</li> <li>■ Further from housing</li> <li>■ Less noise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Too steep for trailers</li> <li>■ No trails</li> </ul>
Truck N Trailer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Best for horses</li> <li>■ May reduce HV* traffic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ All of 1700</li> <li>■ No 4WD trails</li> <li>■ May increase PA* traffic</li> </ul>
1700	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Good for trailers</li> <li>■ Close to 4WD</li> <li>■ May reduce 4WD impacts elsewhere</li> <li>■ May reduce HV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ No trails</li> <li>■ May project noise</li> <li>■ Far from main roads</li> <li>■ May increase PA traffic</li> </ul>
West Knob	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Best view on hill</li> <li>■ Place to park and walk as hiker</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Too steep for trailers</li> <li>■ Don't want motorized</li> </ul>
4-Corners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Near trails</li> <li>■ Large crossroads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ At headwaters of Johnson Ck, further damage eco resources</li> <li>■ Too steep for trailers</li> <li>■ Far from main roads</li> </ul>

\*HV = Happy Valley Road

\*PA = Palo Alto Road

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**CONDUCTED SITE ASSESSMENTS TO EVALUATE OPTIONAL AREAS FOR FORMALIZED PARKING, INCLUDING ASSESSING ANY IMPACTS TO NATURAL OR ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES, AND TRAFFIC PATTERN CHANGES**

*A DNR parks planner and a DNR land manager conducted site analyses and concluded:*

<b>Location Options</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Bell View Landing	This appears the best location overall, allowing for year-round access for all current visitor types without changing current traffic patterns, off-loading ramps for ORVs &/or horses could also be provided here, possible capacity, depending on design, 35+/-
400-500 Johnson Ck Jntn	Not viable due to drainage issues and nearby parking will need to be eliminated — probably with rip rap barrier
Truck N Trailer	Parking for trucks pulling horse trailers could easily be provided here, but this location may change traffic patterns, possible capacity, depending on design, 6+/-
1700	Not viable for multiple reasons including, far from main road, too steep for trailers, no trails nearby, may change current traffic patterns
West Knob	This area is one of Burnt Hill's greatest amenities — a view — and could provide limited parking for access to this amenity — ideal for hikers but the waterbars on the road up there need to be significantly modified / fixed, possible capacity, depending on design, 6+/-
4-Corners	Headwaters to Johnson Ck a significant issue, but if carefully handled limited parking could be provided away from the wetlands — regardless, wetland protection needs to occur with a 50' planted buffer, further cordoned off with rip-rap barrier, possible capacity, depending on design, 6+/-

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## **ANALYZED INFORMATION GATHERED TO RECOMMEND POSSIBLE LOCATIONS AND POSSIBLE PARKING AMOUNT RANGES**

### **DNR LOCATION RECOMMENDATION**

The best location was found to be Bell View Landing, as it allows for year-round access for all current visitor types without changing the existing traffic patterns. This location is also close to trails, and will have minimal impact on natural and ecological resources.

### **DNR AMOUNT RECOMMENDATION**

At this point it is reasonable to estimate that approximately 25 vehicles will need to be accommodated. The SCORP used in combination with the population estimates from the year 2000 indicates that a reasonable estimate of visitors to be accommodated is 74 people per day. Since the Peninsula College survey found that visitors often traveled in pairs, parking for 37 vehicles would be needed. Notably, the focus group had estimated that 37 unofficial parking spaces already exist on Burnt Hill. However, some early data from trail counts suggests that on a heavy-use day there may be approximately 20 (+/- 7) visitors, which is less than the estimated 74 people. If these visitors were two per vehicle, that would mean parking for about 14 vehicles. Further, the early data from internal road counts shows an average of 56 visitors a day, with about 40 percent coming at night. Therefore, 60 percent (daytime usage) of this 56 yields approximately 34 daytime visitors, with parking then needed for about 17 vehicles. The trail count data and the internal road count data, though preliminary, seem to roughly correlate – just as the information from the focus group and the SCORP data seem to correlate. Based on all the information gathered and reviewed, DNR recommends approximately 25 vehicles be accommodated at the trailhead.

### **DNR PARKING GUIDELINES**

All trail users will be required to park in the parking lot. People will still be allowed to drive up to viewpoints, to pause along the roadside to pick berries, etc. But if a visitor is a trail user, they will be required to use the parking lot.

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# Appendix F

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## **Volunteer Organizations and Hours**

As of Spring 2005, the Burnt Hill Focus Group has volunteered approximately 2500 hours including, for example, participation in a two-day meadow restoration project.

With guidance from the Clallam County Noxious Weed Coordinator, knapweed control has been implemented by the Backcountry Horsemen. In 2002, 272 hours were volunteered. In 2003, 75.5 hours were volunteered. In 2004, 234 hours were volunteered. Prior to 2005, total volunteer time from Backcountry Horsemen for knapweed control has been 679.5 hours.

Dungeness Elk Management Team has volunteered 456 hours for Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation forage projects.

Focus group members and other local residents were invited to participate as Forest Watch volunteers, and offered Forest Watch Volunteer training. Several people participated in the training in October 2001, and all were signed up as Forest Watch Volunteers.

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# Appendix G

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## **Adoption Agreements**

A citizen-at-large representing ORV/ATV interests has committed to co-signing an adopt-a-trail agreement that would cover trails located on Burnt Hill.

A representative of the Olympic Peninsula Motorcycle Club and ORV/ATV interests has committed to co-signing an adopt-a-trail agreement that would cover trails located on Burnt Hill.

A representative of ORV/ATV interests has supported signing adopt-a-trail agreements for trails on Burnt Hill – pending final commitment.

A representative of the Backcountry Horsemen has supported signing adopt-a-trail agreements for trails on Burnt Hill – pending final commitment.

A representative of four-wheel drive interests on Burnt Hill has agreed to the signature of adopt-a-trail agreements, either by local clubs (Just Jeep Junkies/Mud Toys) or by the Washington branch of the Pacific Northwest Four-wheel Drive Association.

A representative of mountain bike interests has supported signing adopt-a-trail agreements for trails on Burnt Hill — pending final commitment.







WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**  
Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands

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