



North Mountain Bike Trail System Public Meeting Comments Darrington, November 16, 2015

Summarized from comments received at listening stations. Comments may have been edited for clarity and are in no particular order.

Partnerships Listening Station – who wants to be included in the project?

- Work with the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) program, Glacier Peak Institute for design and planning
- River Time Brewing – local company
- Youth (young and teenage) – how are we going to connect and gain their input prior to design? Sooner at the table is better.
- REI Alderwood
- Land exchange with private owners and other agencies to improve access and continuity
- Communicate with timber sale purchasers to set expectations
- Every bike shop within 100 miles
- “She Jumps NW” and other women-specific groups
- Equestrian clubs
- Texas Pond – consider develop for camping
- Create partners for long-term sustainability of project
- Friends of North Mountain
- Bike maintenance education – possibly part of STEM
- Snohomish County
- Centennial Trail Coalition
- Recreation and Conservation Office
- Tribal opportunities: grants that support local tribes and cultural connections
- PMBC - Pilchuck Mountain Bike Club
- Arlington Cycling Steering Committee

Economic Benefit – how can this project help strengthen the local recreation economy?

- How soon will Darrington community reap an economic benefit?
- Use local: lumber from local mill in construction; supplies from local hardware store
- Bid on contract from local skilled trail contractors (PTBA)
- More visitation and increase in MTB demographics
- Connect with local businesses to leverage economic boost
- Partnerships with local businesses for events and races
- Find ways to compensate/reimburse volunteers for mechanized trail construction (e.g. fuel costs)
- How does it provide long-term traction for economic boost and community growth?
- Important to communicate that it’s a working forest to set appropriate expectations – there will be

harvests

- Parking areas should be associated with Darrington and Whitehorse Trail
- Support bike racks
- Support local liaison to maintain trails
- What is funding source for maintenance?
- Shuttle business
- Cross promote with North Mountain Lookout
- Patronize the local businesses
- Use as a way to train local how to build trails: first learning then community leads engage the youth

Culture and History – how should we incorporate these into the project and the trails?

- Include Native American history, possibly with interpretive stations on the land with pictures of artifacts
- Message should be: respect the land as native people have for 9,700 years
- Embrace and explain Sauk-Suiattle names and history, e.g. use tribal name for the mountain
- Use local community and schools to help design/plan/create a plan for showing how past and current cultures are joined
- Local or native names for trails
- How does DNR and Evergreen Mountain Bike fit into the culture/history or how does it become a part?
- Consider the previous equestrian and 4WD use
- Highlight timber harvest history, possibly with artifacts on site
- Interpret the geography: lahar, rivers, etc
- Look at “Logging Railroads of Skagit County”
- Texas Pond history and consider creating a bike camping area

Trails and Mountain Biking –what should be considered in planning and construction?

- Provide variety plus opportunities for skill progression
- Consider costs of road maintenance
- Downhill trail is better than any other; look at lower Glacier for well-designed and sustainable
- Distance! Long way down, traverses, views, circumnavigate the mountain, rolling, place to camp
- Make the trails work as a system. E.g. hub, central gathering area, minimum intersections, make road crossings flow
- Consider all users on mountain – include equestrians on different trails (not MTB) or use old roads
- Make it shuttleable
- Downhill MTB with built features, wood, banked turns
- Provide connector trail from the town and Whitehorse Trl to system
- Make it family friendly – an entire loop as family friendly
- Climbing trail
- One trail easy and two-way traffic; two trails easy and for one-way
- Phased approach for development: first build two-way top to bottom then build more advanced trails
- Focus on locals as priority number one
- Trail schools held on-site: one for design and one for construction
- Engage school kids to design a trail
- Provide a difficult technical, black diamond, trail for climbing