

WELCOME!

Recreational Trails Policy Committee Meeting

December 17, 2014 | 12 pm to 3 pm

USFS Snoqualmie Ranger District – North Bend Office
Conference Room

902 SE North Bend Way, *Building 1*
North Bend, WA 98045



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Peter Goldmark - Commissioner of Public Lands

Agenda

- **Welcome**
 - Agenda Review
 - Staff introductions
 - Committee introductions
- **Importance of the Committee**
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Committee charter and ground rules
- **Background Information Presentation**
 - DNR 101 & 102
 - ESHB 2151
 - Policy requirements
- **Committee Issue Forum**
 - Topic sharing
 - Group discussion
- **Wrap-up**
 - Schedule next meeting
 - Committee homework
 - Staff tasks
- **Audience comments**



Staff and Committee Introductions



- Name
- Where you are from
- Favorite recreational activities
- 2 fun facts about yourself



Examples of fun facts:

- Favorite vacation spot
- Favorite movie, TV show, book
- College major
- High school activities
- First car
- First job
- Nickname
- Favorite holiday tradition
- Pets you have now/first pet
- Play any musical instruments?
- Favorite Saturday morning activity
- Prizes/raffles/contests you have won
- Favorite food
- Least favorite food
- Best Christmas gift you ever received
- "Can't believe that happened" moment
- First time performing/speaking in public
- Any brothers/sisters and how many?
- Any kids and how old?
- Unusual talent
- Other...whatever you want to share

Committee Charter

- DNR's Mission and Guiding Principles
- DNR's Recreation Program Visions and Goals
- Recreational Trails Policy Committee Mission, Role and Authority
- Recreational Trails Policy Commitments

Ground Rules

- Review
- Discuss
- Agree





Background information presentation

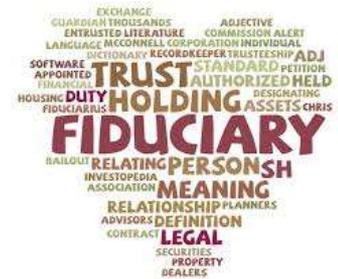


DNR is a Trust Land Manager

Fiduciary relationship with beneficiaries

- Originated with the Federal Enabling Act and the State Constitution

Support of common schools and other public institutions



“Trust Mandate”

The legal obligation to manage state trust lands for the benefits of the beneficiaries:

- Public schools and universities
- Counties
- Other Designated institutions.



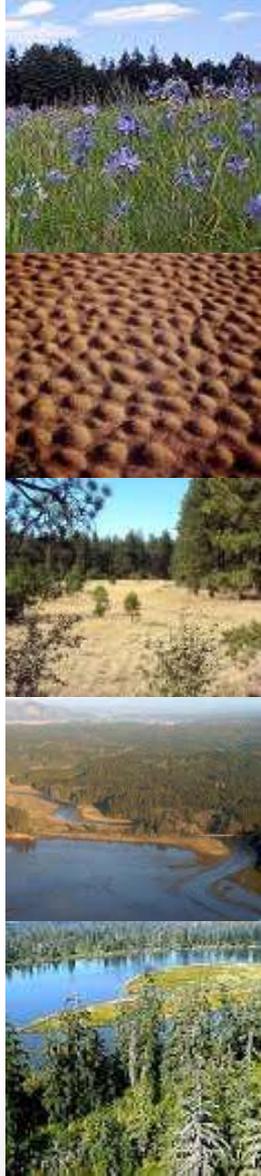
Creates considerable differences in how these lands are managed compared to other public lands.

Legal Duties of Managing a Perpetual Trust

1. Acting with ***undivided loyalty*** to the interests of the trust beneficiaries
2. Exercising reasonable care and prudence in management of trust assets;
3. Displaying impartiality toward present and future generations of trust beneficiaries
4. Make trust property productive = produce income

Natural Areas

- **Natural Area Preserves (NAPs)** RCW 79.70
 - Areas of land or water which:
 - Have retained their natural character
 - Important for preserving rare or vanishing flora, fauna, and representative examples of native ecosystems
 - Managed to maintain natural features
 - Directed public access where appropriate
- **Natural Resources Conservation Areas (NRCAs)** RCW 79.71
 - Lands possessing:
 - High priority conservation for natural systems, wildlife habitat, geological, archeological, scenic, or similar features of critical importance
 - Environmentally significant sites threatened with conversion
 - Opportunities for low-impact public use
 - Managed for conservation and public access values



Natural Areas Management

- Low impact recreation trails and facilities
- Invasive species control
- Ecological restoration
- Volunteer support



Public Access and Recreation in DNR Natural Areas

All DNR Natural Areas:

Approved research
Environmental Education

NAPs

- Limited development
- Public access where appropriate
- Conservation is highest priority
- Highest level of protection

NRCAs

- Low-impact public access
 - Does not adversely affect resource values
 - Appropriate to maintenance of natural features
 - Does not detract from long-term ecological process
- Must be compatible with conservation goals

How can we have recreation on state trust lands?

I am so glad you asked!

The Multiple Use Concept (RCW 79.10)

“Multiple Use” means DNR should provide for several uses simultaneously on a single tract consistent with the provisions of RCW 79.10.100.

*I'm confused.
No wait...
Maybe I'm not.*

What does that mean???



(RCW 79.10.120)

Uses that are additional to and compatible with those basic activities necessary to fulfill the financial obligations of trust management.

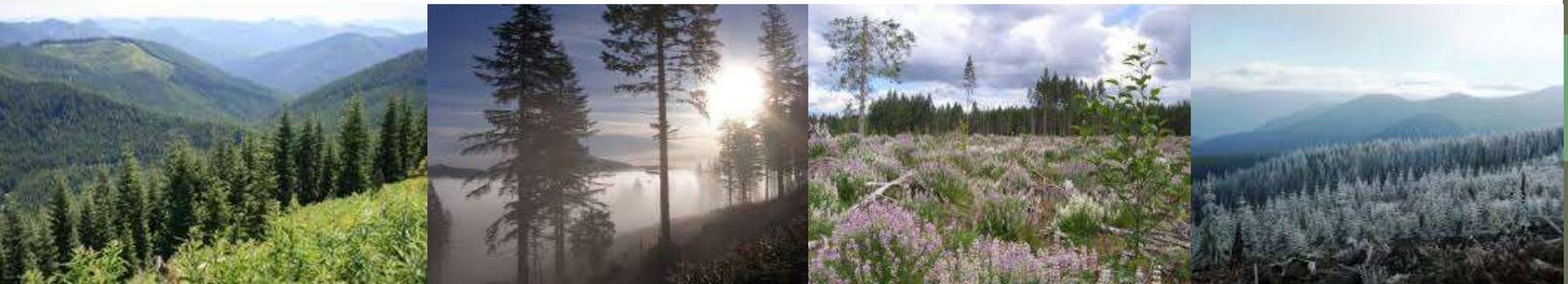
What does that include?

- Recreational areas;
- Recreational trails for vehicular and non-vehicular uses
- Special events
- And others....



What if the use isn't compatible?

The use may be permitted only if there is compensation that satisfies the financial obligations



Statutes, rules, policies, plans, etc.

- Title 79 RCW: Public Lands
- Chapter 332-52 WAC: Public Access and Recreation
- Final Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) 1997
- Policy for Sustainable Forests
- Chapter 43.21C RCW: State Environmental Policy (SEPA)
- Strategic Plan 2014-2017



ESHB 2151

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RCW 79.10.500 - 510



DNR must develop and implement an official recreational trail policy that is consistent with this section and the management mandate of the department.



The trail policy must be adopted by October 31, 2015.

RCW 79.10.500

The policy must provide for trails to be developed and managed to ensure the following principles:

- 1. Causing the least impact to the land**
- 2. Providing environmental and water quality protection**
- 3. Maintaining the lowest construction and maintenance costs that are reasonable.**

Trails developed or maintained consistent with the policy must comply with Title 79 RCW and all applicable state laws and rules, including those administered by DOE.



More RCW 79.10.500 & 510

- DNR should incorporate public input on new and existing trail systems.
- DNR should support public forums to allow the public to share concerns and ideas or organize themselves for volunteer maintenance.
- The policy must provide for DNR to enter into hold harmless agreements with all volunteers.
- DNR should work with local governments to find efficiencies in permitting trails and facilities.



After the policy... more from 79.10.500

DNR should use trail standards developed by the USFS as primary guidelines.

- DNR must develop its own standards and Best Management Practices (BMPs) when the others are insufficient or inapplicable.

DNR should evaluate existing non-designated trails for compliance with trail standards and incorporate those trails that are compliant and consistent into recreational management plans.



What is a DNR Policy?

- Policies set forth the basic operating philosophy of the department.
- They are intended to provide general and broad direction upon which decisions can be based.
 - Explain authorities
 - Set priorities
 - Provide clarity



Committee Issue Forum

- Committee member key topic/issue/concern
- Discussion:
 - Policy vs standard?
 - Local vs statewide?
 - How does it fit within DNR's management obligations?
 - Does it meet the legislative requirements?



Wrap Up

- Next meeting
- Committee homework
- Staff tasks
- Audience comments

