



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

DNR's vision statement for recreation and public access

“Manage public and trust lands in a manner that provides quality, safe recreational experiences that are sustainable and consistent with DNR’s environmental, financial and social responsibilities.”

DNR Recreation Planning for Reiter Foothills State Forest

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is beginning to plan for future recreation in the Reiter Foothills State Forest. The plan will guide recreation management objectives for the State Forest, located in northwest Washington. DNR is focusing on this area, because of the variety of uses that occur in this area, including off road vehicle access in the Reiter area.

The Reiter Foothills State Forest is part of the legacy of more than five million acres of state-owned forest, aquatic, agricultural and urban lands managed by DNR for long-term benefits to current and future trust beneficiaries and the people of Washington.

The State Forest is a “working forest” – a place where people work and play outdoors, as planned harvesting and reforestation produce a stream of revenue to schools and county trusts, and where native plants and animals and their habitats thrive.

The Reiter Foothills State Forest is a continuous block of forest land located between Sultan and Index, and sandwiched between Highway 2 and the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Thousands of visitors annually use these trails and facilities to enjoy ORV riding, horseback riding, hiking, and mountain biking.

The Planning Process

This planning process initiated in January 2008 is intended to guide how DNR manages recreation and public access in Reiter Foothills State Forest. This area has a pressing need for well-planned recreation facilities that can be managed and maintained to DNR standards.

A goal of this project is to determine recreation management objectives. Key decisions include what types of recreation will occur in what places, and what facilities are needed where. This project builds on previous assessments, and will result in an agency-approved, prioritized implementation strategy.

Topics to be addressed include: analysis of recreational needs, such as trail and camping needs; how best to provide for different types of recreational activities; and how to ensure environmental resource protection.

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Public Involvement Opportunities

During the planning process, there will be many opportunities for citizens to be involved. In the next 12 months, there will be meetings and workshops to discuss, review and gather feedback on how best to manage recreation facilities and trails in this popular area of the forest. A diversity of participation is very important to the planning process. Feedback from recreation visitors, neighbors, members of local government, and the general public will ensure successful implementation of the plan.

For the latest information about upcoming events related to the Reiter Foothills Recreation Plan, visit our website at www.dnr.wa.gov/recreation.