



Reopening Reiter Foothills Forest: What will it take?

In April 2010, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) completed work on the *Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan* and the plan’s review through the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Since November 2009, DNR staff and volunteers have been restoring environmental damage and stabilizing stream banks, as well as designing and developing new trail systems in the area.

Goal for Reiter Foothills Forest: To provide a variety of fun, challenging, safe, and sustainable recreational opportunities while responsibly managing the state’s trust land assets and natural resources.

DNR may reopen Reiter Foothills Forest in several phases, starting with areas that need few, if any, permits or other regulatory requirements.

Q. What areas can DNR open without needing permits, site-specific SEPA review and approval, or other requirements?

A. DNR-managed forest roads in the area can be opened to recreation without needing permits. The area is currently open to dispersed foot traffic, including hunting and fishing.

Q. What can DNR open once the *Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan* and the SEPA review on the plan is completed and will not require county permits or site-specific SEPA?

A. We can reopen the sections of authorized trails that cross onto DNR lands, such as those from Wallace Falls State Park, provided we establish a formal agreement with adjacent landowners.

Q. Which trails and facilities require county permits, site-specific SEPA, and/or other regulatory requirements?

A. The following table lists what’s typically required to develop trails and trailheads.

TRAILS	Requirement	Agency
Bridges and culverts	Hydraulic project authorization (HPA)	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
All motorized trails	Site-specific SEPA review	DNR
All trails	Archaeological and cultural resources review (Executive order 05-05)	Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DHAP) / Tribes
Trails — depending on location	Critical areas review Review and approval for construction/ funding	Snohomish County Washington State Parks
TRAILHEADS		
Trailheads for motorized activities and/or parking for more than 20 vehicles	Site-specific SEPA review	DNR
Trailhead	Archaeological and cultural resources review (Executive order 05-05)	DHAP / Tribes
Trailhead	Stormwater/drainage and grading permit	Snohomish County
Trailhead, depending on road access	Road access permit	Snohomish County
Restrooms	Public health permit	Snohomish County Health District
Trailhead, depending on location	Critical areas review	Snohomish County
Trailhead, depending on location	Forest practice permit	DNR

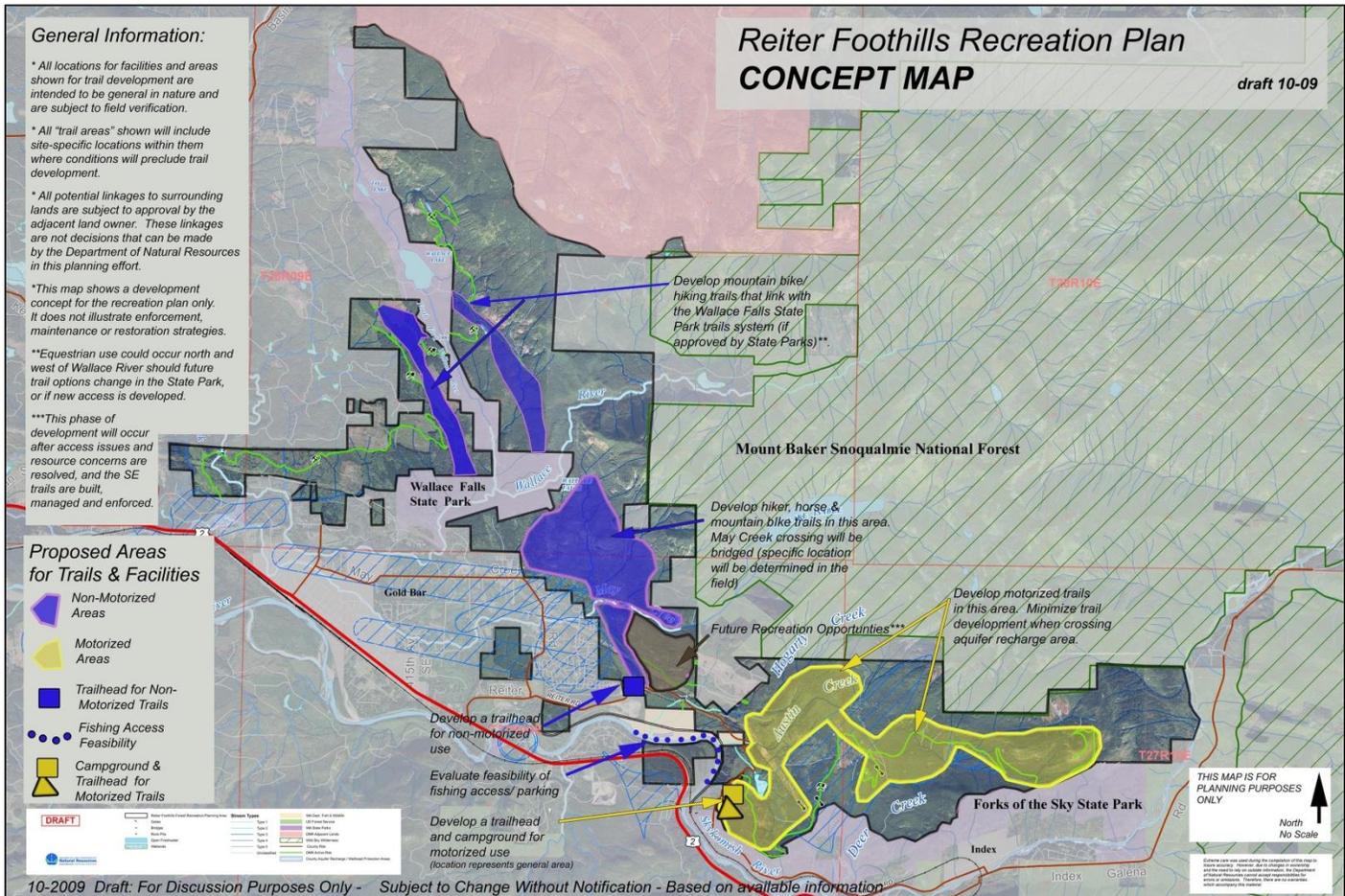
In addition, DNR will coordinate with Washington State Parks, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the town of Index, and other entities as appropriate.

Q. What else needs to be in place before DNR can open trails in Reiter Foothills Forest?

A. Items that will need to be in place include:

- Developed trails and established trailhead and parking areas.
- An education and enforcement strategy involving DNR staff, the volunteer forest watch program, and partnerships with other agencies.
- A maintenance strategy for trails and facilities involving DNR staff and volunteers.
- A monitoring plan to address unlawful behavior and natural resource protection, including water quality.

Securing funding and resources will be critical to accomplishing these tasks.



You can keep current with progress at Reiter Foothills Forest several ways:

- Sign up to receive regular email updates about Reiter. Send an email to Reiterfoothills@dnr.wa.gov with “subscribe” in the subject line.
- Check out DNR’s ‘Ear to the Ground’ Blog at: <http://washingtondnr.wordpress.com/>
- Become a Fan of DNR’s Facebook page and get notifications of volunteer events: www.facebook.com/pages/Olympia-WA/WashingtonDNR/273352136518
- Check us out on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/waDNR>