WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF **Natural Resources** | Caring for your natural resources ... now and forever

Planning for the future of recreation in Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests

Help shape how DNR manages recreation on state trust lands on the Kitsap Peninsula

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is working with the public, user groups, local officials, and other stakeholders to develop recreation plans for the Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests and other DNR-managed state trust lands on the Kitsap Peninsula. The plans will guide how DNR manages recreation in this area for the next 10 to 15 years.

As a recreation provider, DNR's goal is to offer enjoyable, safe, and sustainable recreation opportunities that are compatible with our primary obligation as manager of nearly 3 million acres of state trust lands throughout Washington.

Why is DNR developing recreation plans for these lands?

Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests are popular year-round recreation areas for local residents and out-of-area visitors. More than 250,000 people visited these forests last year, with the number of visitors growing yearly. More and more people are competing for finite space on these landscapes, often resulting in serious impacts to the natural resources, water quality, and public safety.

Several years ago, DNR identified a need for well-planned, comprehensive recreation planning in Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests. With help from grant funding, the agency will embark on a two-year process to improve public access and safety; better protect natural resources, water quality, and habitats; restore damage to the environment; and provide opportunities that more closely reflect the diversity of today's recreation activities.

Public involvement is key to success

DNR will use science and public input to make recreation management decisions. During the planning process, DNR will look to citizens to help identify recreational issues and needs. In addition, DNR will work with a small group of citizens and local community members to develop draft recommendations for the sustainable management of recreation in the forests. The public will be able to comment on the draft plan throughout the planning process and during the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review process.

Estimated timeline for developing the plans

- Kick-off Open House meeting — October 26, 2010
- Application due for the citizen advisory planning group—November 15, 2010
- Convene citizen advisory planning group —January 2011
- Post online survey about recreation — January through October 2011
- Draft plan available and SEPA Review period — Fall 2012
- Final plan available — Winter 2012

CONTACT: Mary Coacher, Recreation Planner
Washington State Department of Natural Resources | 1111 Washington St. SE | PO Box 47001 | Olympia, WA 98504-7001
Phone: 360-902-1430 | mary.coacher@dnr.wa.gov
FS-10-018 PRINTED 10/25/10

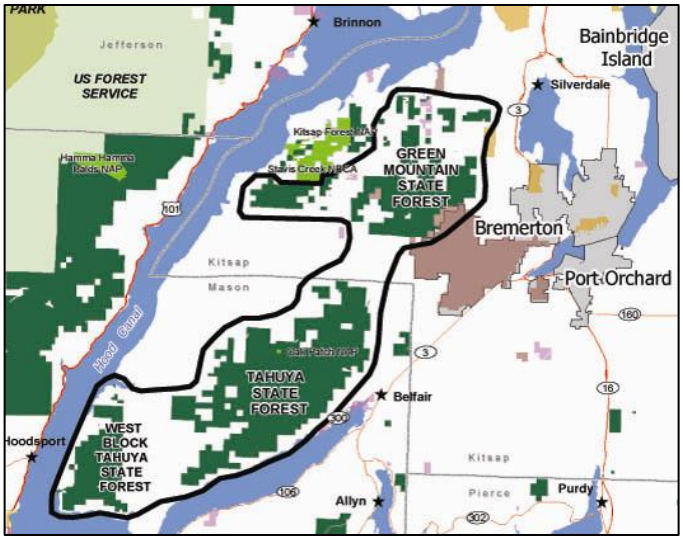
About the planning area

The planning area encompasses the following areas on the Kitsap Peninsula:

- Green Mountain State Forest, west of Bremerton in Kitsap County.
- State trust lands south of Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area.
- Tahuya State Forest, west of Belfair in Mason County.
- West Block of Tahuya State Forest.

Recreation in working forests

Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests provide a variety of recreation opportunities. Some of the more popular activities include hiking, horseback riding, off-road vehicle riding, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, mushroom and other plant gathering, geocaching, and kayaking.



Planning area for Green Mountain, Tahuya State Forests, and surrounding state trust lands.

DNR's primary responsibility to is to manage these state trust lands for future generations through sustainable timber harvests and reforestation. These working forests provide a stream of revenue to public schools and other trusts. Recreation plans must be compatible with DNR's obligation to the trusts, and must ensure public safety and protect natural resources and water quality.

How to get involved

The recreating public and other interested stakeholders will have a number of opportunities to be a part of planning for recreation in Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests, such as attending public meetings, completing an online survey, serving on a planning committee, or keeping in touch with DNR staff. For more information, contact Mary Coacher, Recreation Planner, 360-902-1430, or greentahuyaplan@dnr.wa.gov. Updates about the planning process will also be posted on DNR's website at: www.dnr.wa.gov/RecreationEducation/Topics/RecreationPlanning/Pages/amp_rec_green_mtn_tahuya_rec_plans.aspx

Funding the planning process

Funding for recreation planning in Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests comes from two sources—a grant from the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) program awarded in 2008 and funds from DNR's Recreation Program.

CONTACT: Mary Coacher, Recreation Planner
Washington State Department of Natural Resources | 1111 Washington St. SE | PO Box 47001 | Olympia, WA 98504-7001
Phone: 360-902-1430 | mary.coacher@dnr.wa.gov
FS-10-018 PRINTED 10/25/10