



Planning for the future of recreation in the Snoqualmie corridor

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is working with the public, recreation user groups, and local stakeholders to develop a comprehensive recreation plan for the Snoqualmie corridor. The plan will guide how DNR manages recreation on the state lands we manage in this area for the next 10 to 15 years.

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 and more than 145,000 acres of natural areas throughout Washington.

Why is DNR developing recreation plans for the Snoqualmie corridor?

The Snoqualmie corridor, located in eastern King County, offers tremendous opportunities for outdoor recreation near the ever-growing Seattle and east King County metropolitan areas.

In the past 20 years, through land exchanges and other transactions, DNR has increased the amount of land it manages in the corridor.

With all of this land available for recreation, the public, the trust beneficiaries, and the environment will be better served by a comprehensive and strategic approach to recreation management.



Granite Lake, Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCA

Recreation in the Snoqualmie corridor

With its snow-capped peaks, alpine meadows, rivers, and lakes, the Snoqualmie corridor is a haven for outdoor recreation enthusiasts—in all seasons. Here, DNR-managed lands provide numerous opportunities for recreation, including hiking, mountain biking, paragliding, hang gliding, horseback riding, trail running, kayaking, rafting, rock climbing, sight-seeing, and picnicking. The Snoqualmie corridor also attracts school groups, providing an ideal outdoor classroom for environmental education.

Comprehensive recreation planning in the area will improve public access and safety; offer enjoyable recreation opportunities; better protect natural resources, water quality, and habitats; and ensure timber revenue for schools; while maintaining healthy ecosystems.

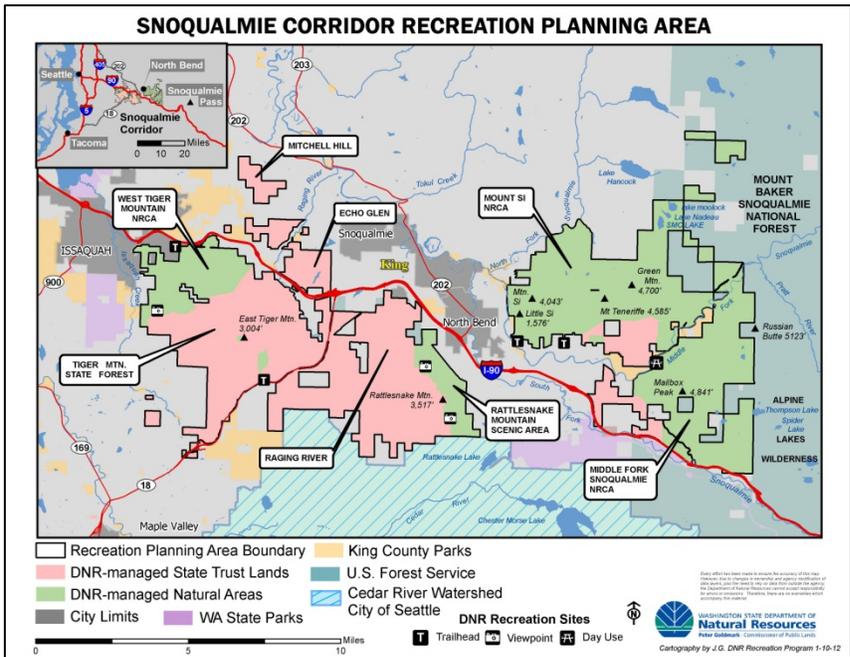
Public involvement is key to planning effort

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.

About the planning area

The Snoqualmie corridor recreation planning area encompasses 53,000 acres of DNR-managed state trust lands and natural areas, including:

- Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA)
- Raging River State Forest
- West Tiger Mountain NRCA
- Tiger Mountain State Forest
- Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area
- Mount Si NRCA
- DNR-managed forestlands surrounding the rural community of Preston



The Snoqualmie Corridor recreation planning effort will focus primarily on the Raging River State Forest, the Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCA, and neighboring rural lands managed by DNR. Raging River and Middle Fork are the most in need of planning. The other landscapes have existing management plans, which will be updated during the planning process. In addition, the planning effort will explore options for improved connectivity of public recreation access among the variety of landscapes.

Recreation in working forests, natural areas, and other lands managed by DNR

DNR’s primary responsibility is to manage forested state trust lands for this and future generations through sustainable forest management that includes timber harvests and reforestation. Management in this landscape is guided by a trust lands Habitat Conservation Plan that helps DNR enhance and protect habitat for at-risk species. These working forests provide a stream of revenue to public schools and other trust beneficiaries. The new Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan needs to be compatible with DNR’s trust obligations and existing plans.

DNR’s natural areas—such as the Middle Fork Snoqualmie NRCA and Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area—provide protection to some of the state’s most diverse ecosystems and rare plant and animal habitats.

How to get involved and stay informed

The recreating public and other stakeholders will have a number of opportunities to be a part of planning for recreation in the Snoqualmie corridor, such as attending public meetings, completing an online survey, serving on the recreation planning committee, keeping in touch with DNR staff, and providing your input to DNR by email.

Sign up for free online updates about the planning process by sending an email to snoqualmiecorridorrecplan@dnr.wa.gov. Enter the word “subscribe” in the subject line.

In addition, look for updates about the planning process online at www.dnr.wa.gov. (Enter “Snoqualmie Corridor Recreation Plan” in the search box.)

ESTIMATED PLANNING TIMELINE

• Open House	February 1
• Convene first meeting of the recreation planning committee	Early March
• Draft plan available and SEPA review	Summer 2013
• Final plan available	Fall 2013
• Implementation	Fall 2013