



## RECREATION PLANS update

## Green Mountain & Tahuya State Forests

AUGUST 12, 2011

- [GM-6 Road closure update](#)
- [Report from the July recreation planning committee meeting](#)

### QUICK LINKS



[Green Mtn -Tahuya State Forests Recreation Plan on the web](#)

[Planning area map](#)

[Update archives](#)

### GM-6 Road closure update

We've heard a great deal of frustration and concern about the closing of GM-6 Road in Green Mountain State Forest.

In June, DNR abandoned the 1.5-mile stretch of forest road to address environmental issues associated with the road's proximity to a fish-bearing stream and wetlands. As a result of this work, much of the road has been torn up and can be difficult to navigate.



The newly abandoned GM-6 Road sits right next to a wetland in Green Mountain State Forest. Standing on the road are Mark Thibo (left), Assistant Region Manager, and Jesse Sims, Recreation Manager, with DNR's South Puget Sound Region.

We apologize for the frustration this has caused and certainly understand the desire for the GM-6 Road to again be open for recreation. Our efforts to communicate about the road abandonment could have been better. We hope the following information about why the road was abandoned and what we are planning for the road will answer some of your questions.

#### **Why did DNR abandon the GM-6 Road?**

The road is located in the middle of a riparian--or streamside--forest buffer. Riparian areas are important links between ecosystems, providing

a transition between water and the land. During the wet season, silt runs off GM-6 Road into the wetland and a salmon-bearing creek. The undersized culverts were preventing fish from passing under the road to their upstream habitat.

In addition to abandoning the road to reduce resource damage, DNR no longer needs the road for timber management.

Throughout the state, DNR and other timber land owners are abandoning old forest roads that were not built to today's standards. As DNR moves forward with abandoning below-standard roads, to the extent possible, we will address how we can continue to provide public access while protecting the environment and meeting our obligations as manager of state trust lands.

DNR is committed to preserving habitats, ecosystems, and resources.

These actions are in line with our legal obligations to the state trust lands Habitat Conservation Plan and Forest Practice laws.

#### **What is the plan for GM-6 Road?**

We will explore several alternative trail plans for this area, seeking both a short-term solution and a long-term approach. The Green Mountain and Tahuya Recreation Planning Committee will consider the GM-6 Road closure in their overall planning efforts. In addition, we will provide opportunities to gather input from the broader community as well. DNR is fully committed to providing recreation access to the area.

We will keep you informed about the GM-6 Road in future issues of this e-newsletter.

---

## **Report from the July recreation planning committee meeting**

The [Recreation Planning Committee](#) had a full agenda when they met on July 19. The following are highlights from the meeting.

- DNR staff provided a summary of [public comments](#) from the **community workshops** that took place in late June in Silverdale and Belfair. These workshops yielded valuable information, which the committee members discussed at length. They will consider these ideas as they develop recommendations for the draft Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forest Recreation Plans.
- Continued discussion of **issues related to recreation planning** in the forests. We've gathered these issues from a variety of sources, including public workshops, an online survey conducted last winter, previous recreation planning meetings, and email suggestions.

Speaking of emails and issues, **we still want to hear from you!**

Send your comments and questions about recreation on DNR-managed lands in Kitsap and Mason counties to [greentahuyaplan@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:greentahuyaplan@dnr.wa.gov). We will share them with the

recreation planning committee members.

- We presented additional **maps for the committee members to review** and consider for planning **facilities** in the area. At the June meeting, they had the opportunity to review maps that will help them make recommendations about planning **trails**. The maps are composites of the criteria (biology, geology and soils, and management) used to determine the suitability of areas for recreation planning.

DNR staff asked the committee members to take these maps to their fellow recreationists and brainstorm about the kinds of recreation opportunities they'd like to see in the forests. The August meeting has been postponed so that committee members could have adequate time to gather input. The group will meet again on September 20 to share what they learned from their peers.

- Committee members **shared information with their fellow members about details relating to their primary recreation interest**. This was a valuable exercise that helped to deepen fellow committee members' understandings of other recreation activities they may not have been familiar with.
- The planning committee is also **considering another field trip**. Last May, they visited Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests, as well as the West Tahuya Block. Many committee members expressed an interest in visiting some of the less known and undeveloped parts of the planning area.

#### **Next Recreation Planning Committee meeting - September 20**

As mentioned, the August committee meeting has been postponed. The next meeting is September 20 in Belfair.

The Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests Recreation Planning Committee meets from 6 to 9 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the [North Mason Timberland Library](#) in Belfair. The public is welcome to attend and observe these working meetings.

---

Have questions or comments about the Green Mountain & Tahuya State Forests Recreation Plans? Send an email to:

[greentahuyaplan@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:greentahuyaplan@dnr.wa.gov)

Or, for more information, contact:

**Doug McClelland**

Assistant Region Manager - South Puget Sound region

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

206-920-5907

[doug.mcclelland@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:doug.mcclelland@dnr.wa.gov)

[www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov)



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

Find us on Facebook 

Follow us on 



[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to [toni.droscher@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:toni.droscher@dnr.wa.gov) by [greentahuyaplan@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:greentahuyaplan@dnr.wa.gov) |  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Washington State Department of Natural Resources | 1111 Washington St. SE | Olympia | WA | 98504