



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

DNR RADIO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Radio Stations: Two (2) audio cuts in .mp3 are available for this story — click on audio clip links below.

****News Directors: Statewide list of DNR Recreation sites affected by potential March budget cuts follows text****

JANUARY 21, 2010

(ANNOUNCER) Outdoor recreation is a big part of life in the Evergreen State. This March, funds could run dry for several popular recreation sites managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Among the possible closures are Mt. Si on the Westside and Lake Spokane Campground on the Eastside. That comes on top of dozens of service cuts DNR had to make last summer.

DNR Recreation Manager Mark Mauren (*Mowr-wren*) says the state needs a better way to fund outdoor recreation on state lands. Few trails, campgrounds and other facilities have been added in the past 20 years but the public's demand keeps growing.

(Cut ONE—9 seconds)

Download audio clip at:

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/em_mauren_20100121_mauren_sustrecreation_one.mp3

(MARK MAUREN) “WE’RE REALLY INTO A DEFICIT SITUATION. WE HAVE A HUGE DEMAND, NOT VERY MANY TRAILS AND FACILITIES, AND THESE FACILITIES ARE GETTING OVERUSED.”

(ANNOUNCER) Mauren says DNR is asking lawmakers in Olympia to reform the way the state funds DNR’s recreation programs. DNR would like to charge access fees at some sites and work with other state outdoor agencies on a multi-agency pass system.

CUT TWO (10 seconds)

Download audio clip at:

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/em_mauren_20100121_mauren_sustrecreation_two.mp3

(MARK MAUREN) “THE INTENTION IS TO BUILD THE INFRASTRUCTURE TODAY THAT WE’RE GOING TO NEED FOR THE NEXT 20 TO 30 YEARS JUST LIKE THE PREVIOUS GENERATION BUILT FOR US.”

(ANNOUNCER) A package of 11 recommendations for sustainable recreation funding is now before the Legislature. The ideas come from a work group of recreational users that conducted surveys and held public meetings across the state.

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DNR RECREATION SITES AFFECTED BY PROPOSED CUTS IN STATE GENERAL FUND SUPPORT in March 2010:

Pacific Cascades Region

McLane Creek Day-use Area (15,000 visits/year)
Mima Mounds Interpretive Center (12,000 visits/year)
Butte Creek Picnic Area and Trail (1,000 visits/year)

Olympic Region

Little River Trailhead (3,650 visits/year)
Bear Creek Campground (4,680 visits/year)
Lyre River Campground (9,950 visits/year)
Minnie Peterson Campground (3,600 visits/year)
Willoughby Creek Campground (1,620 visits/year)

South Puget Sound Region

Little Si Trailhead (150,000 visits/year)
Mount Si Trailhead, *16 miles of trails* (350,000 visits/year)
Middle Fork Snoqualmie, *15 miles of trails* (30,000 visits/year)
Rattlesnake Trails, *8 miles of trails* (30,000 visits/year)

Northwest Region

Cattle Point & Trail (95,000 visits/year)
Cypress Island Natural Resources Conservation Area: Cypress Head Campground and 18 miles of trails, Pelican Beach Campground, and Eagle Cliff Trail (1 mile). (10,000 visits/year)
Lummi Island Campground (1,500 visits/year)

Northeast Region

Dragoon Creek campground (10,000 visits/year)
Lake Spokane Campground (30,000 visits/year)
Leader Lake (15,000 visits/year)
Palmer Lake (15,000 visits/year)

Southeast

Indian Camp (10,000 visits/year)
Milwaukee Road Corridor, *34 miles of trail* (1,000 visits/year)