

South Puget Forest Land Planning

Issaquah

Stakeholder Informal Meeting, June 23, 2005

Summary of Input

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is moving forward with its planning effort for forested state trust lands in the South Puget planning unit, which generally includes state trust ownerships throughout the greater central Puget Sound region— the I-90 corridor including Tiger Mountain, the McDonald Ridge /Grass Mountain area, the Elbe /Tahoma area, and the Kitsap Peninsula including Green Mountain and the Tahuya and Sherwood forests.

Information gathered from this and subsequent public meetings and other input will assist DNR in developing management strategies specifically for these areas. Following are comments / ideas about three main subject areas gathered at the Issaquah stakeholder meeting attended by representatives of many recreation and environmental groups, trust beneficiaries, and forest products industries.

Public Safety, Access, and Abuse

- There is illegal mountain bike use on trails and illegal ORV use in general on Tiger Mountain that needs to be controlled.
- The road from the proposed trailhead and parking area at Sunset Way to High Point has insufficient access without being paved.
- Special events at High Point need regulation.
- Trails are confusing on Tiger Mountain and hikers do not always know where they are.
- Law enforcement is needed on Tiger Mountain, especially on the weekends, when mountain bikers are breaking rules.
- ORV's are accessing Tiger Mountain.
- Illegal activity is occurring on Tiger Mountain at night.
- Special events are not centralized and are unlimited.
- Outreach is not adequately funded.
- Information is not being published.
- Dog owners are not following leash rules and there is no enforcement of these rules.
- Confusion on how state hunting regulations apply to DNR land.
- There is not enough parking at Tiger Summit.
- There are not enough signs for recreation.
- Want to continue public recreational trail use and access.
- The Northwest Paraglider Club lacks enough keys for Poo Poo Point access and their key use agreement needs to be renewed.
- Trail clubs do not have enough keys to do trail maintenance.
- Recreational use is not allowed on both sides of Highway 18.
- There is no information for new users at entry points to Tiger Mountain.
- Mountain bikers are using logging roads, which is a safety concern.
- There is concern over vehicle and trail user collisions.
- The City of Tacoma Watershed is closed to public access to protect its permitting and water supply.
- Recreation users are crossing private land to get to DNR managed lands and vandalizing private land.

- There needs to be a trailhead and landing strip on Martin Marietta's property off of Courtney Rd. for horse trailers, hikers, and gliders.
- There should be a trail from the parking area to the top of the ridge connecting a logging road to Fruit Grower's land.

Habitat and Forest Management

- There are alder patches in West Tiger NRCA that need ecological restoration.
- Patches of blown down trees in the NRCA have not been salvage logged.
- There is concern that the area around Big Tree Trail in the NW corner of the West Tiger NRCA is going to be harvested instead of being used to develop educational opportunities for schools.
- Monthly tours to educate the urban public about DNR's management practices and sustainable forestry have not taken place.
- Stakeholders for Tiger Mountain have not been informed about planned activities despite frequent requests for such updates.
- There is concern that the public outreach process will not be funded adequately.
- Information about additional adaptive management has not been provided.
- Concerns with stands 50 years or older in age being thinned.
- Large harvest units and clear-cuts are not liked on Tiger Mountain.
- Harvesting on steep slopes, increasing pressure from recreation, and not enlarging the West Tiger Mountain NRCA is a forest health concern.
- Continue the cooperative relationship between City of Issaquah and DNR for managing the West Tiger Mountain/ Tradition Plateau NRCAs for habitat values, low-impact recreation, and scenic resources.
- Need to continue innovative harvest strategies on Tiger Mountain.
- The feasibility of commercial thinning at lengthened rotation age is a concern.
- Want to continue area regulation for Tiger Mountain.
- Viewsheds, trails, wildlife, maintaining an older rotation age and doing selective logging should be considered.
- There is concern that DNR will cut old growth including individual old growth trees.
- Concern that DNR has changed the harvest age for forests.
- Concern over Tiger Mountain not continuing to be a working forest and DNR trading out of DNR ownership.
- Private and public lands are not coordinating timber sales at the landscape level.
- Suitable sites for conversion from red alder dominant stands to mixed conifer stands have not happened.
- Lake Sammamish Watershed gets 15 to 20 % of its water from Tiger Mountain and activities that take place on Tiger impact water quality there.
- There are flooding issues in Issaquah and Raging Rivers from not providing hydrological control by keeping 65% of a basin with trees 25 years and older
- There is concern about aggressive application of herbicides on Tiger Mountain.
- Reclaim more logging roads.
- There is a concern that a road built recently near Paw Print is meant for a large logging operation and that if there is going to be an activity taking place there it should be as sensitive as the large north side clear-cut of the early 1990s.
- Work party and user group safety is impacted by not knowing where timber activities are taking place.
- DNR has not provided a bi-annual report on planned activities for stakeholders and interested parties of Tiger Mountain.
- There has been a drop in the Green River elk herd due to habitat loss, predation by bears and cougars, and car related fatalities.

Recreation

- The number of users on Tiger Mountain as well as the number and quality of hiking trails is not known.
- There are not enough trails, especially loop trails.
- Trail maintenance is neglected on the overgrown, muddy portions of the South Tiger Traverse Trail and in general for other trails.
- Alders trees along trails are over-growing them.

- There are no trails between different DNR managed lands linking Holder to Taylor to Tiger and Raging to Rattlesnake.
- There is too much hiking on the West Tiger 3 Trail and the public is not educated that there are other trails.
- The trails on Tiger Mountain are not consistent with other land use/trail plans.
- Trails are impacted by timber harvesting with slash not being cleared away or trails not being re-routed.
- There is no longer a trail crew for Tiger Mountain.
- Some recreation groups have expressed interest in buying timber rights along trails to keep the areas from being harvested.
- The Middle Tiger Trail is not appropriate for bicycles.
- The Tiger Summit trailhead is not big enough for horse trailers and separate parking for trailers is needed.
- There is confusion between the current trail policy and what might be developed through this planning process.
- The Taylor Mountain Public Use Plan and Trail Assessment have not been implemented.
- There is the need for more trail maintenance, funding to correct trail drainage, and improve mountain bike and equestrian trails.
- The 1000 road needs to be maintained properly for paragliders and other users.
- Restrooms are not adequately maintained.
- There is a signed 20-year adopt-a-trail agreement for the Tiger Mountain Trail and South Tiger Traverse.
- Backcountry horsemen do trail maintenance and might consider adopting more trails.
- Concerns have been raised over the protection of the west flank of Tiger Mt. from development.
- Recreation does not get enough budget money.
- Development near DNR managed lands impacts its management.

Adjacency and Private Property Issues

- There is a proposed hang-glider site that has 2 to 4 launch sites, motorized access to the launch sites, and a plateau for landing that is not on private property.
- The King County Council has identified a trail from Renton to Mount Rainier National Park that uses a railroad grade that crosses private land near DNR land.
- A historical cabin built by the pioneering family of the area has not been preserved.
- The public is crossing private land near DNR managed lands without owner permission.
- DNR doesn't provide a motorized use area to keep ORVs off private land.
- Neighbors want to curtail motorized use from private land.
- DNR isn't working with community groups to reduce illegal use.
- Easements across DNR land for people recreating will keep them from crossing private property.
- Near DNR managed land development credits have been bought on Plum Creek land and it was suggested that they be bought on Fruit Grower's land.
- Law enforcement is lacking to ticket people on private land.