



Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan

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April 2010



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

Acknowledgments

The Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan was created through a public planning process that brought together users, neighbors, interest groups, citizens, and staff from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop a comprehensive plan to direct the future use of recreation and public access within the area. Public input was a key component and the first step in developing the plan. The following individuals and organizations contributed to the development of this document.

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Members of the Reiter Foothills Forest Planning Committee consisted of a variety of recreation interests including fishing, hiking, mountain biking, equestrian use, motorcycle, ATV and four-wheel drive (4x4) recreationists. In addition, there was conservation representation as well as representatives from Snohomish County, Wallace Falls State Park and the surrounding municipalities of Gold Bar, Index, Monroe, and Sultan.

The committee provided valuable and diverse input throughout the planning process. No final unified recommendation from the committee was reached. The final concept map is being recommended by DNR based on considerable input from the committee, the public and information learned during the planning process. Some of the committee members include:

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Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan



April 2010

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April 22, 2010

Greetings:

We are blessed to live in such a beautiful state with unique landscapes and natural resources that create recreation opportunities rivaled by few other places in our country. To maintain these amazing lands for future generations, we must chart a sustainable course to manage them now and forever.

Reiter Foothills Forest, located 30 miles east of Everett, is one of these unique landscapes. The area sits directly between sub-alpine wilderness and the Skykomish River valley, surrounded by beautiful snow capped mountain peaks. Yet Reiter is just a short drive from major suburban and metropolitan areas.

Reiter Foothills Forest provides revenue for Washington's counties and schools through timber resource management while protecting habitat for many species of wildlife. Reiter Foothills Forest is also attracts diverse types of recreation uses, including camping, hunting, fishing, and horseback and off-road vehicle riding.

The *Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan* is the culmination of two years of hard work by a dedicated citizen advisory committee, local user groups, the public, and staff from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). I deeply appreciate all of the time and energy these committed people put into creating this recreation plan. This plan will provide guidance now and into the future for DNR's recreation managers.

Reiter Foothills Forest is a popular area for recreation, drawing visitors from the heavily populated Puget Sound region. Achieving a balance between public access needs and DNR's responsibility as an environmental steward brings many management challenges that require a high level of coordination, cooperation, communication, and commitment among DNR staff and the many recreation groups, nearby residents, and the general public. We simply cannot do it without the help of those who care the most.

I thank all of the people who worked on this plan for their time and effort. I encourage everyone to stay engaged with staff from the Northwest Region as we put this plan to work on the ground over the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Goldmark".

Peter Goldmark
Commissioner of Public Lands
Washington State Department of Natural Resources

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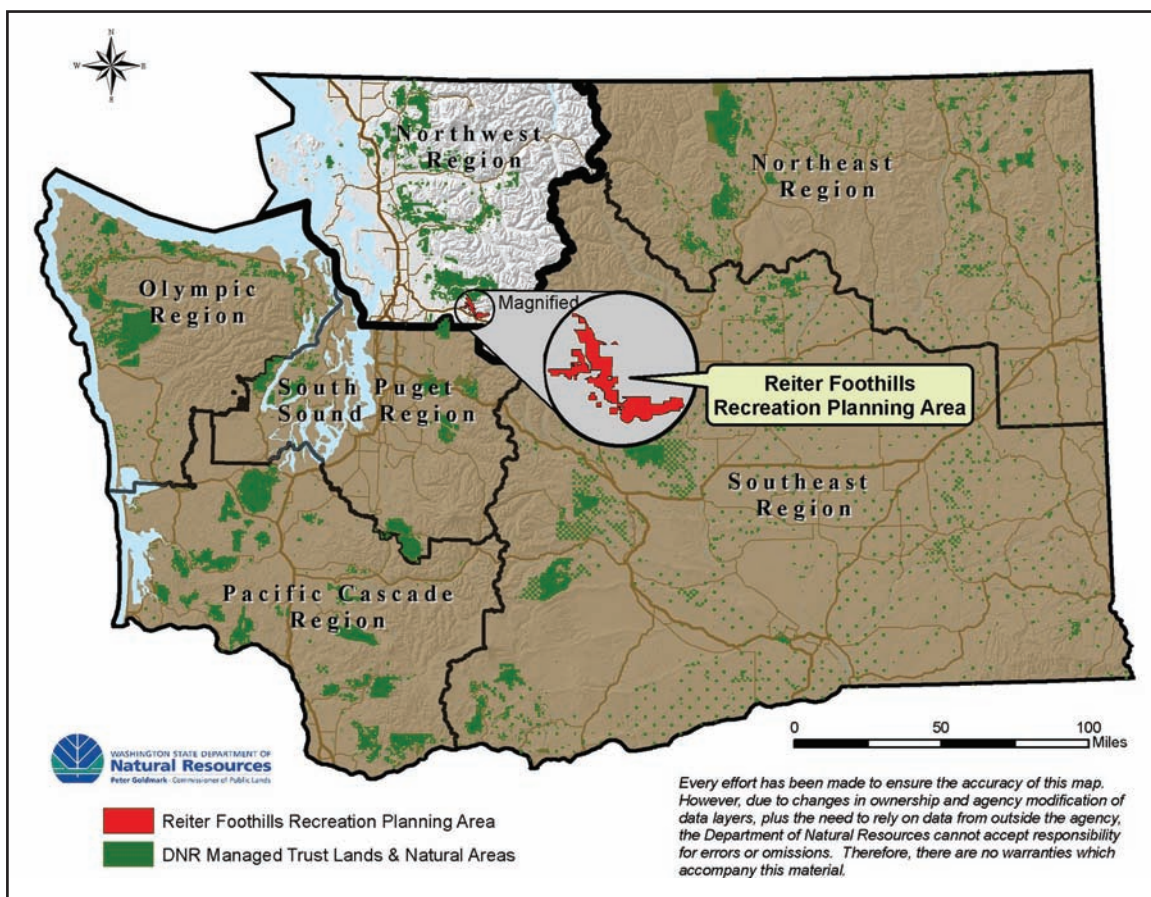
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Introduction

The Reiter Foothills Forest is part of Washington’s heritage of public lands managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Statewide, DNR manages more than five million acres of state-owned forest, aquatic, agricultural, conservation, and commercial lands for long-term benefit to trust beneficiaries and the citizens of Washington. (Figure 1) Revenues produced from DNR-managed trust lands contribute non-tax revenue to fund and support schools, universities, prisons, hospitals, libraries, county programs, and many other public facilities.

DNR is organized into six geographic regions (Figure 1). Reiter Foothills Forest is located in the Northwest Region, approximately 30 miles east of Everett, near the towns of Gold Bar and Index. In addition to offering a variety of recreation opportunities, the working forest at Reiter also provides revenue to support public schools through timber harvest and communication site leasing.

Figure 1. DNR regions and project location.



Reiter Foothills Forest comprises the southern end of a large contiguous block of state forest land that includes the Morning Star Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA). Reiter's 10,000 acres are a popular destination for recreation. Though DNR has not formally designated Reiter Foothills Forest as a recreation area, motorized and non-motorized recreation activities have been taking place there for decades.

Based on anecdotal information, motorcycle trails have been used since the 1970s. Guidebooks from the 1980s offer information about hikes in the Reiter Foothills Forest area. A trail inventory conducted as part of this planning process cataloged approximately 50 miles of user-built trails of different kinds in the forest. Reiter Foothills Forest has approximately five miles of forest roads that are open to motorized public access via conventional passenger vehicles or off-road vehicles (ORVs)¹. Dispersed² recreational use at Reiter Foothills Forest is permitted consistent with DNR's Public Access and Recreation rules (WAC Chapter 332-52).

Many visitors to Reiter Foothills Forest are local residents who use the area throughout the year. Based on proximity to US Highway 2, Reiter Foothills Forest also gets considerable use by residents from the Seattle metropolitan area. A 2008 online survey conducted by DNR's Recreation Program showed that approximately 65 percent of visits to Reiter Foothills Forest originate from within a 50-mile radius of the planning area. (Appendix E.)

Reiter Foothills—A Working Forest

Statewide, DNR manages approximately 2.1 million acres of forested state and other trust lands. Reiter Foothills Forest is one such trust land. DNR manages these lands primarily as working forests. Forest management activities produce revenue for trust beneficiaries—in the case of Reiter Foothills, primarily public schools, Snohomish county, and junior taxing districts—while allowing for recreation and providing other important forest amenities, including wildlife and fish habitat. These forest management activities have the potential to affect recreational use through temporary closure of roads, trails, trailheads, and campgrounds.

Offering recreation opportunities in Reiter Foothills Forest is consistent with DNR's authority to construct, operate, and maintain primitive outdoor recreation facilities under the 1971 Multiple Use Act (RCW 79.10.100-280). By law, state-managed trust lands are to be managed to produce income for schools, universities, state institutions, county services, and the state General Fund. Since 1970, DNR-managed trust lands statewide have produced more than \$5.7 billion in revenue, reducing the need for taxes to pay for these important public institutions. In managing Reiter Foothills Forest as a working forest, DNR balances the need to:

¹ ORV stands for off-road vehicle. Types of ORVs include motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and four-wheel drive vehicles (4x4s).

² Dispersed recreation occurs on DNR-managed lands outside of developed recreation facilities.

- Responsibly generate revenue for the trust beneficiaries, as mandated by law.
- Protect the long-term health of the forest’s ecosystems.
- Provide safe, sustainable recreational opportunities where they are consistent with trust responsibilities.

Agency Mission

DNR’s agency mission is:

- To provide professional, forward-looking stewardship of state lands, natural resources, and the environment.
- To provide leadership in creating a sustainable future for the trusts and all citizens.

In addition, DNR adheres to the principles of sustainability, public transparency in decision making, and management decisions based on sound science.

DNR’s Statewide Recreation Program Vision and Management Goals

DNR recognizes the diverse interests and values of the recreating public, and the importance of connecting people with Washington’s landscapes. DNR envisions a future in which the lands it manages offer distinct and diverse outdoor recreation opportunities within the overall fabric of recreation in Washington. Solid partnerships and a strong stewardship ethic among user groups, recreationists, private landowners, and government agencies help enhance enjoyable and safe outdoor experiences for everyone. Outdoor recreation on DNR-managed lands relies on sustainable funding from a variety of sources, as well as sound management and strategic planning. DNR’s vision statement for recreation and public access is to: “Manage public and trust lands in a manner that provides quality, safe recreational experiences that are sustainable and consistent with DNR’s environmental, financial and social responsibilities.”

The goals for managing recreation statewide including Reiter Foothills Forest are:

- **Goal 1:** Ensure the safety of the public, department employees and volunteers.
- **Goal 2:** Ensure recreation is consistent with trust obligations.
- **Goal 3:** Ensure recreation is consistent with resource protection.
- **Goal 4:** Provide quality recreation experiences that can be sustained over time.

Purpose and Use of this Plan

This plan is intended to guide DNR's management of recreation and public access in Reiter Foothills Forest for the next 10 to 15 years. It expands on previous planning efforts, outlines recreation program goals, and identifies priorities for developing new facilities in Reiter Foothills. The use of the plan is two-fold:

- Consider a long-term vision for recreation and public access in the forest by detailing recreation management goals.
- Present specific objectives and strategies to guide recreation and access management over the next 10 to 15 years.

This plan will be evaluated periodically and changes will be made as necessary to ensure compatibility with trust obligations and overall forest management objectives.

Part I. Objectives and Strategies

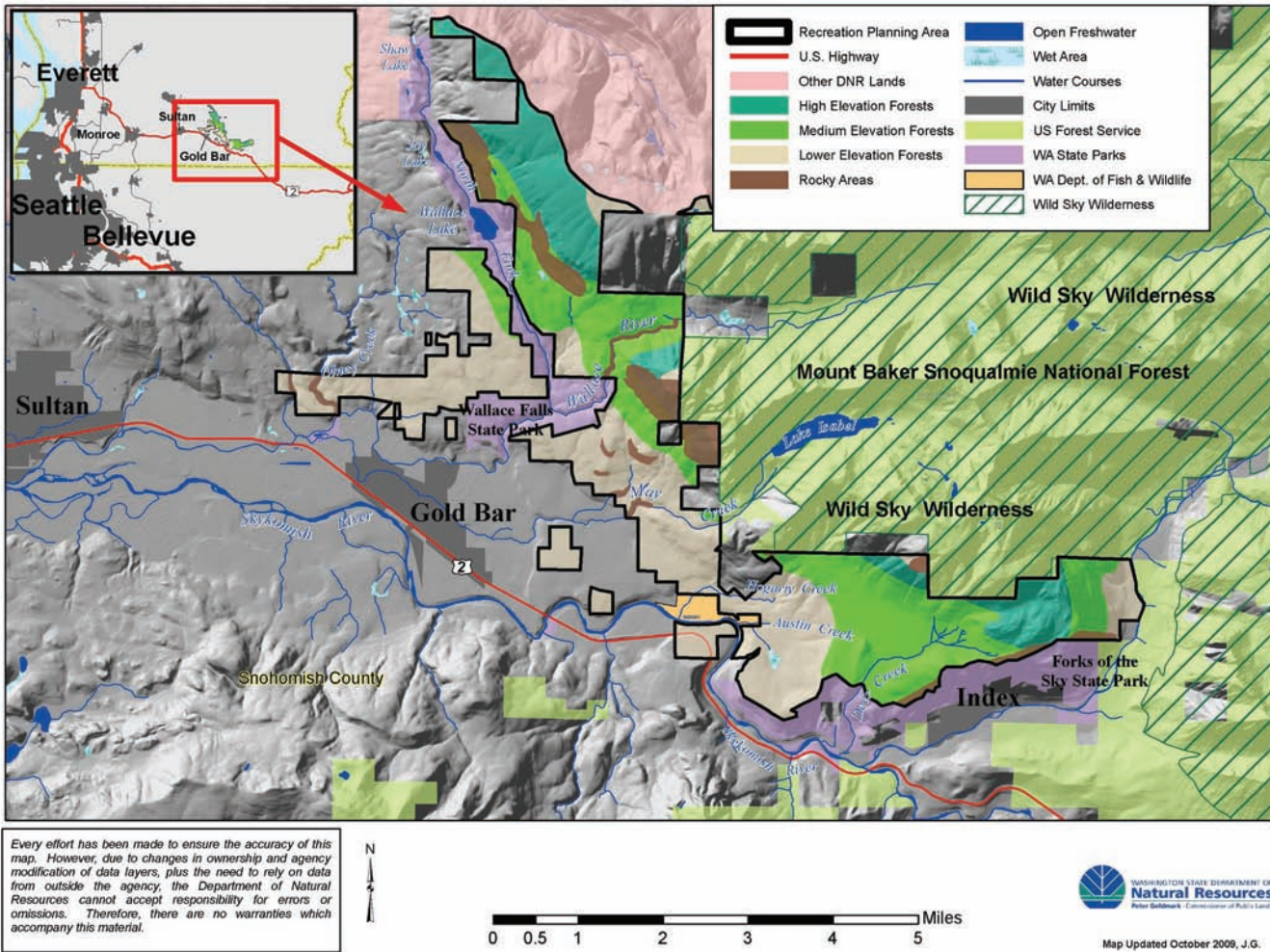
Project Description

DNR's Northwest Region manages recreation and public access in Reiter Foothills Forest in conjunction with the DNR's Recreation Program based in Olympia. Recreation on DNR-managed lands in the Northwest Region is generally guided by past planning efforts such as the *Northwest Region Recreation Inventory and Assessment* (RIA), which provides a comprehensive overview of recreation opportunities and challenges in the region. However, issues presented by the current level of public use go beyond the scope of past planning efforts. To address the need for an updated plan, in 2007, the legislature provided a direct appropriation to fund recreation planning in Reiter Foothills Forest [Chapter 46.09.170(4) RCW]. The scope of this plan addresses issues at a more detailed landscape level and is specific to the Reiter Foothills Forest Planning Area. Developing the *Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan*, as well as conducting recreation planning statewide, is a priority for DNR.

Planning Area Description

Reiter Foothills Forest contains approximately 10,000 acres of sub-alpine terrain situated between the Skykomish River to the south and the Sultan River Basin to the north. High-elevation U.S. Forest Service land, including the Wild Sky Wilderness Area, make up the eastern border of the planning area while a mix of public, private, commercial forest, and residential lands are located to the west. Nearby population centers include the cities of Monroe, Sultan, Gold Bar, and Index. Everett, the closest metropolitan area, is approximately 30 miles west. Gold Bar Nature Trails, a 273-acre private membership campground, borders a portion of the planning area on the west. Wallace Falls State Park is located in between the western and eastern portions of the planning area. This 4,735-acre state park provides camping, hiking, and biking opportunities and connects to the planning area via non-motorized trails.

Figure 2. Landscape features in Reiter Foothills Forest.



Elevations in the forest range from 140 feet at the Skykomish River to more than 3,000 feet at the east end of the planning area. Major streams within the landscape include the Wallace River, Austin Creek, Deer Creek, May Creek, Hogarty Creek and Olney Creek. These streams flow to the Skykomish River and eventually join the Snohomish River, which drains into Possession Sound near the city of Everett. Lakes in the vicinity include Shaw, Jay, and Wallace lakes in Wallace Falls State Park, and Lake Isabel in the Wild Sky Wilderness Area (Figure 2).

The majority of the timber from the trust lands within the planning area was harvested between 1900 and 1970. The area was predominantly naturally regenerated with western hemlock and Douglas fir. Harvest also occurred in the late 1980s and early 1990s. These areas were replanted with Douglas fir and red cedar.

Reiter Foothills Forest provides habitat for a diversity of mammal, bird, amphibian, and fish species associated with mountain forests. Primary habitat associations for these species include riparian areas, snags, late-

succession forest, wet meadows, caves, cliffs, and talus slopes. Based on landscape diversity and the presence of habitat for some threatened and endangered species, the Reiter Foothills Forest planning area is covered by *DNR's 1997 Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)* and the *Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan HCP*.

Reiter Foothills Forest also has a rich cultural history. DNR management and recreational activities will continue to follow relevant guidelines to protect cultural resources, including Governor's Executive Order 05-05 which requires consultation with Tribal entities and the Washington Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP).

Recreation in Reiter Foothills Forest

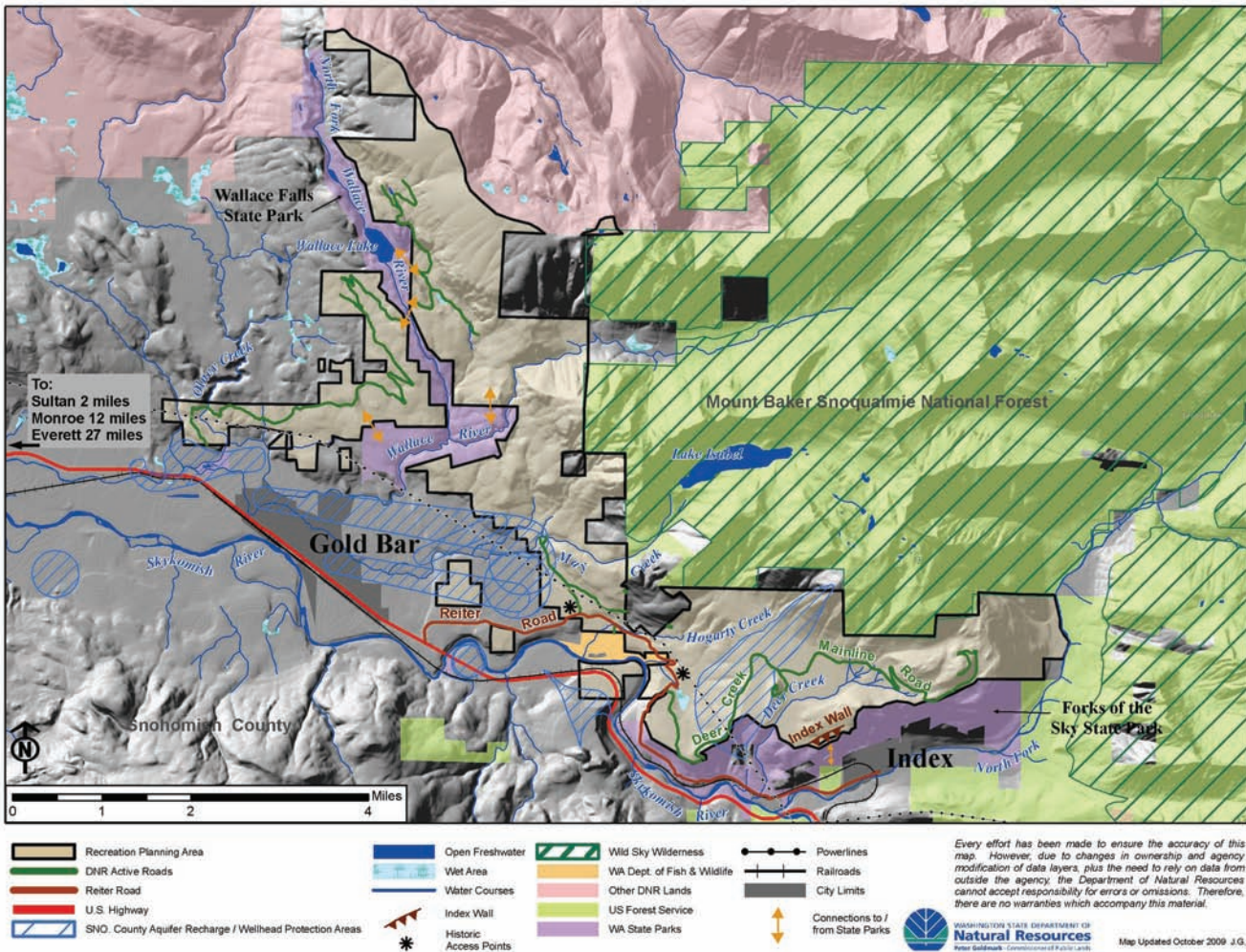
People visit Reiter Foothills Forest for a variety of outdoor recreation experiences; however, DNR has not created any designated recreation facilities in Reiter Foothills. Therefore, current public use can be characterized as “dispersed,” because it occurs outside of DNR-designated trails¹ or facilities.

The area is used by non-motorized users, such as hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers as well as motorized recreationists, including ORV, motorcycle, and four-wheel-drive riders. The proximity of other public lands to Reiter Foothills Forest provides some additional recreational opportunities.

Access to Reiter Foothills Forest typically occurs through DNR forest roads located in the southeast portion of the planning area (Figure 3). The most heavily used area is accessed via Reiter Road, a paved county road that begins east of Gold Bar and ends in Index. Two DNR forest roads can be accessed off of Reiter Road, as well as several old trails. The road to the north leads to May Creek. The road to the east is the Deer Creek Mainline road. Some users travel DNR roads to gain access. In addition, over the years, recreationists have primarily used two historic access areas—one is in a gravel pit area and one is under a Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) power line (Figure 3). These undesignated access areas have no existing facilities (except signs) and are heavily used by motorized recreationists. There are no official parking areas or recreation facilities at Reiter. To date, all existing use has been dispersed.

Designated trails are those trails that are maintained, managed, or have been approved by DNR for recreation use.

Figure 3. Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Planning Area.



Planning Area Context

Reiter Foothills Forest is bordered along portions of its eastern boundary by Forest Service land most of which is the Wild Sky Wilderness Area. There are two state parks adjacent to Reiter Foothills Forest - Wallace Falls State Park is located between the western and central portions of the planning area (Figure 3), and Forks of the Sky State Park is located to the south. Wallace Falls State Park provides two walk-in tent campsites and five cabins for overnight use. The park does not allow motorized or equestrian use, but hiking and biking trails connect to the western and central portions of Reiter Foothills Forest planning area. Potential exists for future non-motorized trail connections and the potential for shared facilities (such as trailhead parking) between Wallace Falls State Park and Reiter Foothills. Forks of the Sky State Park is an undeveloped state park that is popular for hiking and rock climbing. Some visitors access Reiter Foothills Forest from this park using a trail connection at the base of the Index Wall.

Current User-built Trails

Reiter Foothills Forest is heavily used, especially by motorized recreationists. It is estimated that 30,000 to 40,000 people use the forest annually. Some week-end and permitted events attract hundreds of motorized recreation users. DNR's 2008 trail inventory located approximately 50 miles of user-built trails. These user-built trails are not necessarily designed nor located for the level and type of use that occurs in the area. DNR recognizes that environmental and resource damage has occurred in portions of the planning area. One of the main goals of this plan is to provide a recreation management strategy to address past overuse and to direct future use.

Nearby Municipalities

The cities of Monroe, Sultan, Gold Bar, and Index are all located in proximity to Reiter Foothills. Each of these cities has economic ties to the recreation use that occurs at Reiter. These municipalities all showed support for some level of recreation use. Three of these cities had a representative on the Reiter Foothills Forest Planning Committee. DNR staff worked collaboratively with the cities to ensure that their issues were understood. To keep these cities apprised of the planning process, DNR staff attended city council meetings and periodically updated elected officials regarding the status of the planning process.

Critical Aquifer Recharge Area

Reiter Foothills Forest includes a designated critical aquifer recharge area and wellhead protection areas. In particular, a large portion of the critical aquifer recharge area for the city of Index is located in the southeast portion of the planning area (Figure 3). Critical aquifer recharge areas are defined as areas where an aquifer that is a source of drinking water is vulnerable to contamination that would affect the potability of the water (WAC 365-190-030). The designation of a critical aquifer recharge area is made according to the Growth Management Act, and counties are responsible for designating and mapping these areas. In Snohomish County, aquifer recharge areas are regulated through Chapter 30.62C of the Snohomish County Code (SCC) (Appendix A), and DNR mapped the recharge and wellhead areas using a data layer created by Snohomish County.

Through the provisions related to aquifer recharge areas, specific land uses are prohibited, such as hard rock mining and hazardous waste landfills. Other types of use, such as automobile washing facilities and below-ground storage tanks, are required to submit a hydrogeologic report prior to siting to identify any potential impacts to the aquifer.

Recreation use is not specifically listed in Snohomish County Code as either a prohibited use or as a use subject to the submission of a hydrogeologic report. However, the city of Index has expressed concern regarding

the aquifer recharge area for the city's water supply. While conducting the suitability analysis during the planning process, DNR included an assessment of the recharge area and a staff hydrologist was consulted. Through the suitability analysis, DNR stipulated that any proposed recreation facilities or trails in the recharge area will require consultation with the city of Index. As reference to the Recreation Plan Concept Map indicates, the majority of the areas proposed for motorized use are outside the recharge area (Figure 4). The plan includes limited motorized crossings through the recharge area in order to connect and access trails planned to the east.

Wild Sky Wilderness Area

In 2008, the United States Congress established the 106,577-acre Wild Sky Wilderness Area in a portion of Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest located immediately north and east of Reiter Foothills Forest (Figure 2). Wilderness areas are managed consistent with the federal "Wilderness Act." Activities in wilderness areas are restricted to scientific study and non-mechanized recreation; horses are also permitted, but motorized vehicles and equipment are not.

Two issues arose from discussions with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). First, since no USFS trail access to Wild Sky is currently planned for this portion of the wilderness area, the USFS does not support trail connections to Wild Sky from Reiter Foothills Forest at this time. Second, the USFS wanted to ensure that areas identified for ORVs and mountain bikes be located in portions of Reiter that would discourage and/or minimize potential for trespass into Wild Sky Wilderness Area. DNR accomplished this separation, in part, by using natural topography as a method to minimize the potential for trespass. Other methods such as signage and education will be used so that motorized users and mountain bikers are aware of the wilderness area and the restrictions related to motorized and mechanized use.

Access from adjacent private ownerships

For a number of years, many recreation users have accessed Reiter Foothills Forest directly from their adjacent private property. Much of that access has included ORV recreation activities. Some recreation users have expressed interest in continuing that access.

Cost of enforcement to local municipalities and fire districts

Concerns have been raised regarding the cost of ongoing responses to emergencies in Reiter Foothills. As the plan is implemented, DNR expects the number of emergency responses to decrease. DNR will continue to work with local law enforcement and emergency service providers to coordinate and partner in providing emergency response. Volunteer Forest Watch programs can also assist with improved emergency response.

Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan Concept Map

The recreation concept map (Figure 4) illustrates a summary of potential recreation development proposals for the Reiter Foothills. The proposals have been identified as the highest priority recreation development projects at this time. These projects were identified by the recreation planning committee in conjunction with agency staff during the spring of 2009. All project development depends on the availability of funding for development, maintenance and operations, and enforcement.

Recreation Management Objectives and Strategies

The following objectives are consistent with the goals of DNR's Recreation Program (page 3). Each includes detailed strategies that provide specific guidance on how to carry out the plan. All objectives and strategies depend on funding. For ease of reference, these objectives and their corresponding strategies are grouped into six categories:

- Education and Enforcement
- Partnership and Volunteer Coordination
- Restoration
- Facility Management
- Trail Management
- Sustainable Funding
- Adaptive Management

Education and Enforcement

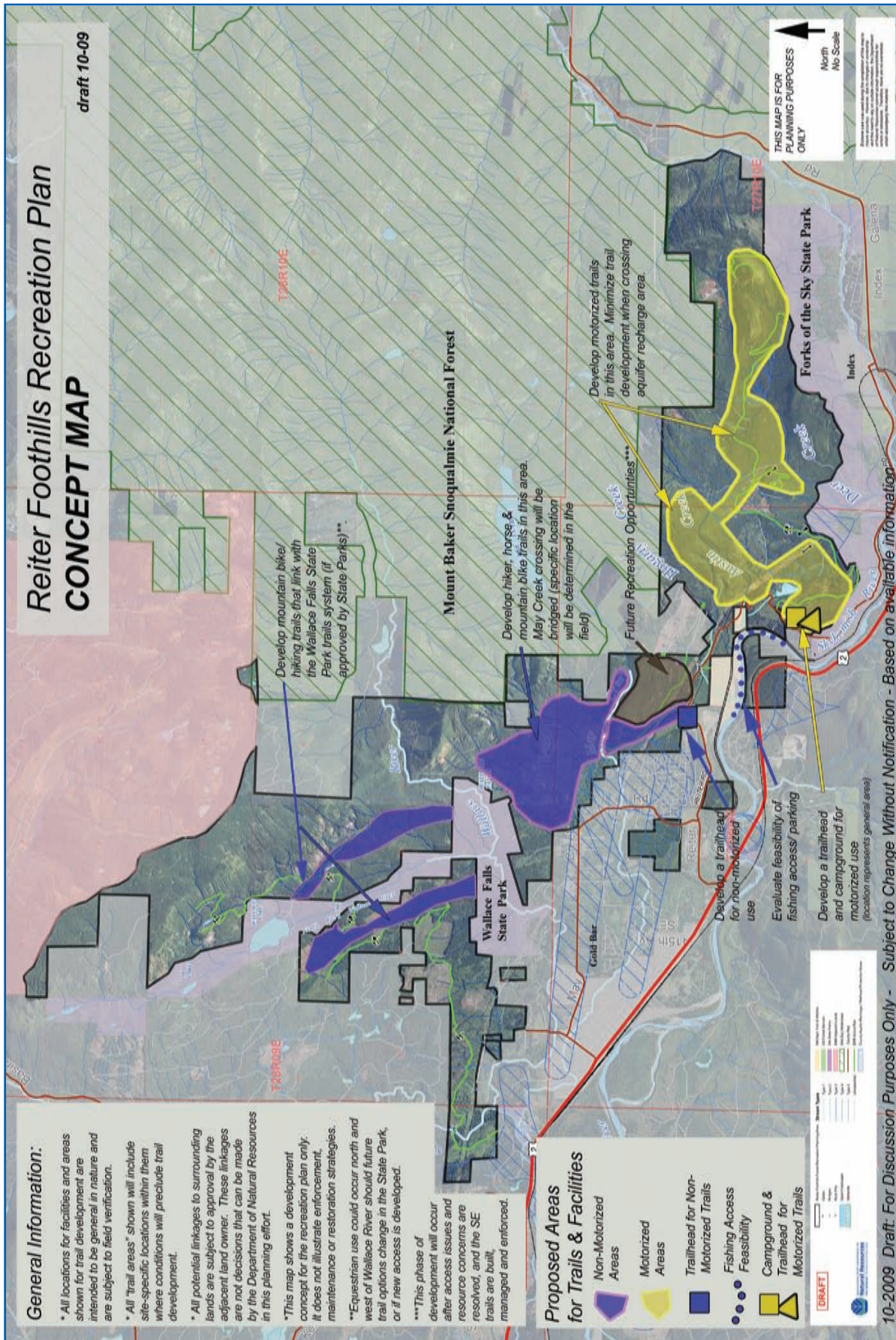
Education and enforcement efforts are essential to meet DNR's environmental stewardship responsibilities, trust management obligations as well as to provide quality recreational experiences to the public.

Objective A: Promote a more active education and enforcement presence.

Strategies

1. Initiate an education and enforcement strategy prior to developing recreation sites and trails, incorporating methods such as gate management, a strategy for keeping users on trails, and enforcement patrols by motorcycles.
2. Provide consistent signage that educates the public regarding allowed uses, existing regulations, campfire use, fire danger, and other applicable rules.
3. Clearly communicate information related to trail closures that explains the reasoning behind specific enforcement or management activities when practical.
4. Establish kiosks to provide the public with information. Include direction on how to report a problem.
5. Coordinate emergency enforcement responses with adjacent city and county jurisdictions.
6. Consider new methods for collecting visitor information (such as zip codes) to gain a better understanding of where visitors come from.

Figure 4. Concept map for recreation planning in Reiter Foothills Forest.



7. Provide members of the public with information regarding the private property boundaries.
8. Increase educational opportunities by improving web-based resources that include maps of the area and recreation rules.
9. Provide signage on trails and/or roads that informs recreation users of the aquifer recharge area. Include information that communicates allowable uses within the aquifer area.

Partnership and Volunteer Coordination

Partnerships with public agencies, user groups, and citizen volunteers are an important component of DNR's ongoing enforcement and maintenance programs.

Objective A: Pursue partnering opportunities for recreation projects with adjacent public agencies, counties and municipalities, adjacent landowners, and citizen volunteers.

Strategies

1. Form partnerships with citizen volunteers and recreation user groups who can help maintain trails, act as camp hosts, and provide an overall increased presence on the landscape.
2. Encourage users to volunteer through programs such as Forest Watch.
3. Pursue additional opportunities to partner with enforcement personnel from adjacent municipalities, U.S. Forest Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Snohomish County, Snohomish County Sheriff's Office and Washington State Parks.
4. Educate volunteers on the role of recreation in working forests, DNR's trust mandate, and acceptable behaviors to increase public awareness of these concepts.
5. Promote youth awareness by partnering with schools and involving students in maintenance and restoration activities.
6. Partner with volunteer groups to accomplish restoration activities.

Restoration

Dispersed recreation use, including motorized recreation, has occurred in Reiter Foothills Forest for several decades. Some user established trails and routes have been located in areas that have caused environmental and resource damage. A central component to restoration is directing recreation use to appropriate areas. The following restoration objectives address these impacts. The objectives are organized to address restoration priorities, protect restored areas, coordinate efforts with trail planning, and involve other agencies and the public as partners.

Objective A: Prioritize restoration in areas impacted by past recreation use.

Strategies

1. Redirect existing recreational uses to prevent further resource damage.
2. First priority: Restoration projects including the following types of actions:
 - a. Reduce or eliminate sediment delivery into streams.
 - b. Stabilize impacted stream banks.
 - c. Replant and/or repair soil in impacted wetland and/or riparian buffers.
 - d. Correct any habitat-related issues in areas with HCP species and/or sensitive, threatened or endangered species.
 - e. Address public health and safety concerns.
3. Second priority: Restoration projects including the following types of actions:
 - a. Repair areas with compacted soils.
 - b. Re-vegetate areas as needed.
 - c. Correct resource damage other than those types listed above.

Objective B: Protect areas that have been restored.

Strategies

1. Provide long-term protection of restored areas through:
 - a. Enhanced enforcement presence.
 - b. Signing areas where restoration efforts are underway to inform and direct public use.
 - c. Monitoring restoration efforts.

Objective C: Coordinate restoration efforts with trail planning.

Strategies

1. Organize restoration efforts according to the recreation planning concept:
 - a. Conduct winter stabilization efforts to protect stream banks and stop sediment delivery.
 - b. Begin restoration in areas that have not been proposed for trail development.
 - c. In areas proposed for trail development, identify designated trail routes. Once defined, begin implementing restoration projects in these areas along with trail construction improvements.

Objective D: Form partnerships and include the public when implementing restoration projects.

Strategies

1. Continue to consult with our natural resources agency partners such as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Ecology, the Tulalip Tribes, and the Snoqualmie Tribe during restoration activities.

2. Consult with recreation user groups regarding innovative ideas for restoration projects and to assist with field implementation.

Facility Management

DNR lands provide unique recreation opportunities for nearby residents and visitors from all over the state. As similar camping and day use opportunities on public lands become less available, facilities in Reiter Foothills Forest will play an increasingly important recreation role for the public.

Objective A: Develop opportunities for designated trailheads and a campground.

Strategies

1. Assess feasibility of a campground designed for motorized use in a location adjoining the motorized trail system.
2. Acquire and consolidate DNR ownership in Reiter Foothills Forest in order to provide benefit to the trust, which may increase recreation opportunities.

Objective B: Promote safety and sustainability through campground and day-use facility design and management.

Strategies

1. Coordinate the timing of plan implementation with restoration efforts.
2. Consider formation of a committee or committees to help plan the implementation of the recreation plan.
3. Use input from motorized and non-motorized user groups, professional trail designers, and DNR staff when determining designated trail locations.
4. To the degree possible, locate facilities adjacent to major roads to make them readily accessible for maintenance and enforcement.
5. Recruit campground hosts to provide a 24-hour presence in designated campgrounds during seasons of heavy use.
6. Ensure that future camping and day use facilities and renovations to existing facilities are built to DNR standards and are consistent with existing policies, rules, and regulations.
7. Make certain that proposed facilities have the required leases, easements, or agreements needed to compensate the trust and meet grant funding requirements.
8. Encourage separation of recreation uses through campground and facility design (i.e. facilities designed specifically for equestrian, motorized and non-motorized users, and day-use versus overnight use).
9. Consult with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) when planning facilities in the vicinity of the existing power line.

Objective C: Ensure that campground and facility design and location are consistent with DNR’s environmental stewardship responsibilities.

Strategies

1. Determine appropriate locations for new recreation facilities based on a land suitability process that considers habitat protection, soils and geological features, and forest management issues.
2. Ensure that new facility locations and designs are consistent with DNR’s Habitat Conservation Plan and other relevant policies, procedures, and regulations.
3. Coordinate the timing of plan implementation with restoration efforts.

Objective D: Promote safety and sustainability through designated trailhead and parking facility management and design.

Strategies

1. Apply trailhead and parking area design criteria, as resources allow, that include the following:
 - a. Mechanisms to clearly delineate parking locations and define lot capacity.
 - b. Toilet facilities and other amenities.
 - c. Signs that convey parking information, trail access information, and facility regulations.
 - d. Logs or other materials and methods to define the outside boundary of the facility.
 - e. Parking and trail access to accommodate the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
2. Consider the provision of motorized use areas for children and novice riders adjacent to motorized trailhead facilities to provide for safe supervision.

Objective E: Evaluate the feasibility of fishing access on the Skykomish River consistent with the “Recreation Plan Concept Map” (Figure 4).

Trail Management

Based on survey data and input from the Reiter Foothills Forest Planning Committee, additional trail opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized users are a priority.

Objective A: Promote additional opportunities for hiking, motorized and non-motorized trails, and trailhead construction that meet user needs and can be sustained over time.

Strategies

1. Provide a range of trail lengths, loop, and destination trails that provide a range of trail experience.
2. When establishing newly designated trails, consider incorporating existing user-built trails to the degree possible, if they are consistent

- with DNR environmental and management requirements and located in appropriate areas.
3. Pursue a management approach that encourages separate areas for motorized and non-motorized use through trail and trailhead design and location.
 4. Work with local schools to explore the idea of providing an interpretive trail to support public use opportunities such as school field trips.
 5. Consider a range of maintenance funding opportunities for trails including partnerships, commercial agreements, permits and fees.
 6. Formulate a committee to provide ongoing input regarding trail maintenance, field conditions and recreation user group considerations.
 7. Collaborate with other agencies to pursue maintenance and enforcement funding.
 8. Partner with volunteer groups to accomplish ongoing maintenance and restoration activities.
 9. Manage dispersed recreation, including recreational target shooting, consistent with the public use and recreation provisions contained in Washington Administrative Code Chapter (WAC) 332-52.

Objective B: Promote safety and sustainability through designated trail location, management, and design.

Strategies

1. Design all trails to have bridges or culverts at stream crossings.
2. Allow motorcycle, ATV, and 4x4 trails; however, establish an upper limit for vehicle width and/or vehicle size.
3. Use seasonal trail closures to minimize potential environmental impact.
4. Periodically evaluate seasonal closures to incorporate any trail projects that improve seasonal trail conditions.
5. To the degree possible, locate trails away from adjacent private property boundaries, unless trails are part of a planned linked system, to reduce potential for trespass and/or noise impacts on neighboring landowners.
6. Pursue trail plans for areas identified as potential locations for motorized and non-motorized trail systems consistent with the “Recreation Plan Concept Map (Figure 4).”
7. Consider design principles for trails that include loop trails and destination trails and variety to provide a quality user experience.
8. Provide signage that promotes cooperative use of trails by different recreation use types.
9. Consult with BPA when planning facilities in the vicinity of the existing power line.
10. The “Proposed Areas for Trails & Facilities” shown on the concept map are planning areas that are intended to be general in nature.

They are based on broad-scale mapping information. These areas may be altered based on site-specific conditions. Additional information is in the “General Information” section of the concept map (Figure 4).

Objective C: Ensure that trail design and location are consistent with DNR’s environmental stewardship responsibilities.

Strategies

1. Determine appropriate locations for trails based on a land suitability process that considers habitat protection, soils and geological features, and forest management issues.
2. Ensure that new trail locations and designs are consistent with DNR’s Habitat Conservation Plan and other relevant policies, procedures, and regulations.
3. Coordinate the timing of plan implementation with restoration efforts.
4. Consult with the water purveyor when planning activities over the aquifer recharge area or wellhead protection areas.
5. All trail planning efforts including any alterations that occur over the aquifer recharge area will be coordinated with the City of Index.
6. Should it be demonstrated that recreation use over the aquifer recharge area is negatively impacting the public water source for the Town of Index, DNR will work collaboratively with the Town of Index, Department of Ecology, Snohomish County and the Department of Health to develop a strategy and take corrective action.
7. Should it be demonstrated that the precautionary principle of limited trail access over the aquifer recharge area is not necessary in order to protect the public water source for the Town of Index, DNR will consider allowing additional trail access over the Aquifer Recharge Area. Consideration will include working with the Town of Index, other agencies and the interested public.

Sustainable Funding

Identifying sustainable funding sources to meet DNR’s facility and trail maintenance needs and to support capital improvements is essential to ensuring DNR’s statewide recreation program goals are met.

Objective A: Pursue sustainable funding opportunities that allow for the ongoing maintenance of facilities and trails.

Strategies

1. Continue to apply for grant funding through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and explore additional grant opportunities.
2. Work to increase public understanding regarding the costs associated

- with maintaining and operating trails and facilities.
3. Pursue additional funding to increase education and enforcement staffing in Reiter Foothills.
 4. Consider alternative funding sources for accomplishing plan objectives such as revenue based funding mechanisms including but not limited to: use fees, parking fees, commercial licenses, exclusive recreational leases, public recreational leases, and concessionaire agreements.

Adaptive Management

Adaptive management provides for ongoing modifications of management practices in order to respond to new information, change of circumstances on the ground, change of laws and scientific developments.

Objective A: As needed, the department will employ adaptive management practices to implement the recreation plan. The department will adjust its recreation management practices in order to respond to changing law, information and circumstances on the ground.

Part II: Implementation

Implementation of the *Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan* will occur through the restoration and capital projects listed in Table 1, as well through the ongoing, non-project management activities listed at the end of this section.

Table 1. Summary of implementation priorities.

Funding Source	Project
Capital and Operating	<p>Phase 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and undertake winter stabilization projects. • Prioritize restoration projects (i.e. sediment delivery, stream bank stabilization, etc.) outside of the areas designated for motorized and non-motorized trail and trailhead development. • Identify long-term trail corridors in areas proposed for motorized and non-motorized trail development. • Prioritize development projects necessary to bring trail corridors up to trail standard (i.e. bridges, hardening, drainage, etc.) and implement development projects. • Identify and prioritize restoration needed within the areas designated for trail and trailhead development and implement restoration projects.
Capital and Operating	<p>Phase 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement priority restoration projects throughout the planning area. • Acquire motorized trail easements and motorized trailhead lease. • Implement motorized trail development projects that have been identified.
Grants and Capital	<p>Phase 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement restoration projects throughout the planning area. • Implement motorized trail and trailhead development projects. • Acquire non-motorized trail easements and non-motorized trailhead lease • Implement non-motorized trail development projects that have been identified.
Grants and Capital	<p>Phase 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement restoration projects throughout the planning area as needed to complete work. Monitor restoration work. • Implement non-motorized trail and trailhead development projects. • Implement motorized trailhead development.

- Grants and Capital **Phase 5**
- Monitor restoration work.
 - Implement non-motorized trailhead and trails.
 - Assess the area identified for “future recreation opportunities” on the recreation plan concept map (both motorized and non-motorized opportunities).

- Grants and Capital **Phase 6**
- Monitor restoration work.
 - Develop and construct trail opportunities in the area identified for “future recreation opportunities” on the recreation plan concept map based on the outcome of the assessment.
 - Assess the area identified for a motorized use campground on the recreation plan concept map. Establish a mechanism for long-term maintenance and operation of the campground, and develop the campground
 - Evaluate feasibility of fishing access in the area identified on the recreation plan concept map.

Capital and Grant Funding Requests*

Seek funding for:

- Restoration projects.
- Acquisition of motorized trail easements and motorized trailhead lease.
- Motorized trail development.
- Motorized trailhead development.
- Acquisition of non-motorized trail easements and trailhead lease.
- Non-motorized trail development.
- Non-motorized trailhead development.
- Assessment of the area identified for “future recreation opportunities” on the recreation plan concept map.
- Campground assessment and lease.
- Fishing access assessment.
- Acquisition and development of the area identified for “future recreation opportunities” on the recreation plan concept map.
- Campground development.

* Multiple funding requests may occur concurrently. In addition, funding requests for Education and Enforcement (E&E) and Maintenance and Operations (M&O) are made on an ongoing basis.

Prioritized Capital Project List

Working with the Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Planning Committee, the DNR generated a prioritized capital project list for use as funding becomes available. None of these projects have secure funding, and all are based on obtaining funding in the future.

Capital Facility Sequencing

Pursue capital projects over the next 10 to 15 years in the following sequence, dependent on funding for maintenance, management, and education and enforcement

- **Capital Facility Project 1:** Locate a designated motorized trail system, with associated trailhead, in the area identified on the “Recreation plan concept map.”
- **Capital Facility Project 2:** Locate a designated non-motorized trail system with associated trailhead in the area identified on the “Recreation plan concept map.”
- **Capital Facility Project 3:** Develop a campground designed for motorized recreation use in the area identified on the “Recreation plan concept map.”
- **Capital Facility Project 4:** Explore the feasibility of providing fishing access on the Skykomish River consistent with the “Recreation plan concept map.”

Access and Easement Priorities

Pursue acquiring the following access and easement priorities dependent on funding for maintenance, management and education and enforcement. This list does not include the easements and leases required for the capital projects listed above.

- **Access and Easement Priority 1:** Pursue an improved connection between the southeast and central portion of the planning area.
- **Access and Easement Priority 2:** Pursue adding to the planning area by acquiring adjacent parcels.
- **Access and Easement Priority 3:** Pursue improved public access (i.e. motor vehicle access) to the portion of the planning area west of Wallace Falls State Park.

Ongoing Management Implementation

In addition to capital and restoration projects, implementation of ongoing management strategies is essential to the success of the plan. Ongoing management strategies are listed as follows.

Education and Enforcement

- Initiate an education and enforcement strategy prior to developing recreation sites and trails, incorporating methods such as gate management, a strategy for keeping users on trails, and enforcement patrols by motorcycles.
- Provide consistent signage that educates the public regarding allowed uses, existing regulations, campfire use, fire danger, and other applicable rules.
- Clearly communicate information related to trail closures that

explains the reasoning behind specific enforcement or management activities when practical.

- Establish kiosks to provide the public with information. Include direction on how to report a problem.
- Coordinate emergency enforcement responses with adjacent city and county jurisdictions.
- Consider new methods for collecting visitor information (such as zip codes) to gain a better understanding of where visitors come from.
- Provide members of the public with information regarding the private property boundaries.
- Increase educational opportunities by improving web-based resources that include maps of the area and recreation rules.

Partnership and Volunteer Coordination

- Form partnerships with citizen volunteers and recreation user groups who can maintain trails, act as camp hosts, and provide an overall increased presence on the landscape.
- Encourage users to volunteer through programs such as Forest Watch.
- Pursue additional opportunities to partner with enforcement personnel from adjacent municipalities, U.S. Forest Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Snohomish County, Snohomish County Sheriff's Office and Washington State Parks.
- Educate volunteers on the role of recreation in working forests, DNR's trust mandate, and acceptable behaviors to increase public awareness of these concepts.
- Promote youth awareness by partnering with schools and involving students in maintenance and restoration activities.
- Partner with volunteer groups to accomplish restoration activities.

Restoration

- Continue to consult with our natural resources agency partners such as the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Ecology, the Tulalip Tribes, and the Snoqualmie Tribe during restoration activities.
- Consult with recreation user groups regarding innovative ideas for restoration projects and to assist with field implementation.

Facility Management

- Consider formation of a committee or committees to help plan the implementation of the recreation plan.
- Use input from motorized and non-motorized user groups, professional trail designers, and DNR staff when determining designated trail locations.
- Recruit campground hosts to provide a 24-hour presence in designated campgrounds during seasons of heavy use.

Trail Management

- Formulate a committee to provide ongoing input regarding trail maintenance, field conditions and recreation user group considerations
- Collaborate with other agencies to pursue maintenance and enforcement funding
- Partner with volunteer groups to accomplish ongoing maintenance and restoration activities
- Provide signage that promotes cooperative use of trails by different recreation use types.

Sustainable Funding

- Continue to apply for grant funding through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and explore additional grant opportunities.
- Work to increase public understanding regarding the costs associated with maintaining and operating trails and facilities.
- Pursue additional funding to increase education and enforcement staffing in Reiter Foothills.
- Pursue alternative funding sources for accomplishing plan objectives.

Part III. Planning Process

The *Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan* was created from the dedication, effort, and ideas of knowledgeable people from diverse backgrounds. Public input was a key component in developing the plan. The public helped form the recreation plan by attending public meetings; collecting trail data; contributing suggestions via DNR's Web site, e-mail, phone calls and letters; guiding the course of the planning effort through the Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Planning Committee; and participating in the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review process.

DNR incorporated these valuable insights, suggestions, and ideas to produce the plan. This collaborative process has yielded a plan that meets DNR's requirements under its trust mandate, addresses environmental responsibilities, and provides for continued public access and enjoyment of Reiter Foothills.

Developing the Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan

The process to develop this plan includes the following seven phases.

Phase 1. Pre-Planning

- Develop project scope.
- Identify data collection needs.
- Create a stakeholder involvement plan.

Phase 2. Recreation Land Suitability

- Identify and map areas with long-term limiting factors for recreational use.

Phase 3. Inventory and Public Involvement

- Identify public issues and concerns.
- Hold public meeting.
- Establish recreation planning committee.
- Conduct field inventory.
- Begin user survey.

Phase 4. Assessment

- Evaluate data and discuss issues and opportunities with planning committee.
- Complete compiling data from the user survey.
- Develop preliminary concepts for recreation management.

Phase 5. Alternatives

- Refine recreation concepts into one recommended plan.
- Develop objectives and strategies and implementation strategy for the proposed plan.
- Complete a draft write-up of the plan.

Phase 6. State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review

- Conduct the SEPA review for the project.
- Edit and format the plan for publication.

Phase 7. Plan completion

- DNR adopts the plan.

Recreation Land Suitability

This project included an environmental and management suitability assessment of the recreation lands in Reiter Foothills. The purpose of the assessment was to identify and map areas within the planning area that have long-term limiting factors that affect recreation planning. The suitability assessment is broad scale in nature and is not intended to replace future site-specific analysis for individual projects.

The assessment resulted in four composite maps that helped to guide the recreation planning effort (Figures 5-8). The composite maps identify areas that have been ranked as having either low or moderate suitability for locating recreation facilities, motorized trails, non-motorized trails (equestrian and mountain bike), and hiking trails.

Planners, scientists, geographic information systems (GIS) analysts, and land managers were involved in developing the suitability maps. The process included identifying and mapping biologic, soils/geologic, and management criteria within the planning area (Table 2).

Table 2. Suitability criteria.

Criteria category	Specific criteria
Biological criteria	Wetlands Wetland buffers Riparian areas Nesting, roosting, foraging habitat Fish habitat Talus, caves, cliffs, balds, and mineral springs Sensitive, threatened and/or endangered species* Suitable marbled murrelet habitat Mountain goat habitat Northern spotted owl nest patches
Soils/geological criteria	Floodplains Potential perched water tables Landslide information Slope steepness Soil erodibility High elevation soils
Management criteria	Aquifer recharge and wellhead protection areas Communication sites Rock sources Mineral resource lands Areas with leases, easements, and rights of way Lands near residential areas and adjacent ownerships Known cultural/archaeological sites

*A list of the species of concern likely to be found in the Reiter Foothills Forest Planning Area is included in Appendix B.

Individual data layers were first mapped separately and then combined and overlaid into composite maps. The resulting four composite suitability maps were used by the recreation planning committee and staff as they developed recreation management recommendations for the planning area. The suitability information was a fundamental piece of the planning process. However, other planning factors were considered including public demand, data from user surveys, road access, and long-term funding potential.

Figure 5. Recreation Land Suitability — Recreation facilities (geology and soils; biological; and management criteria)

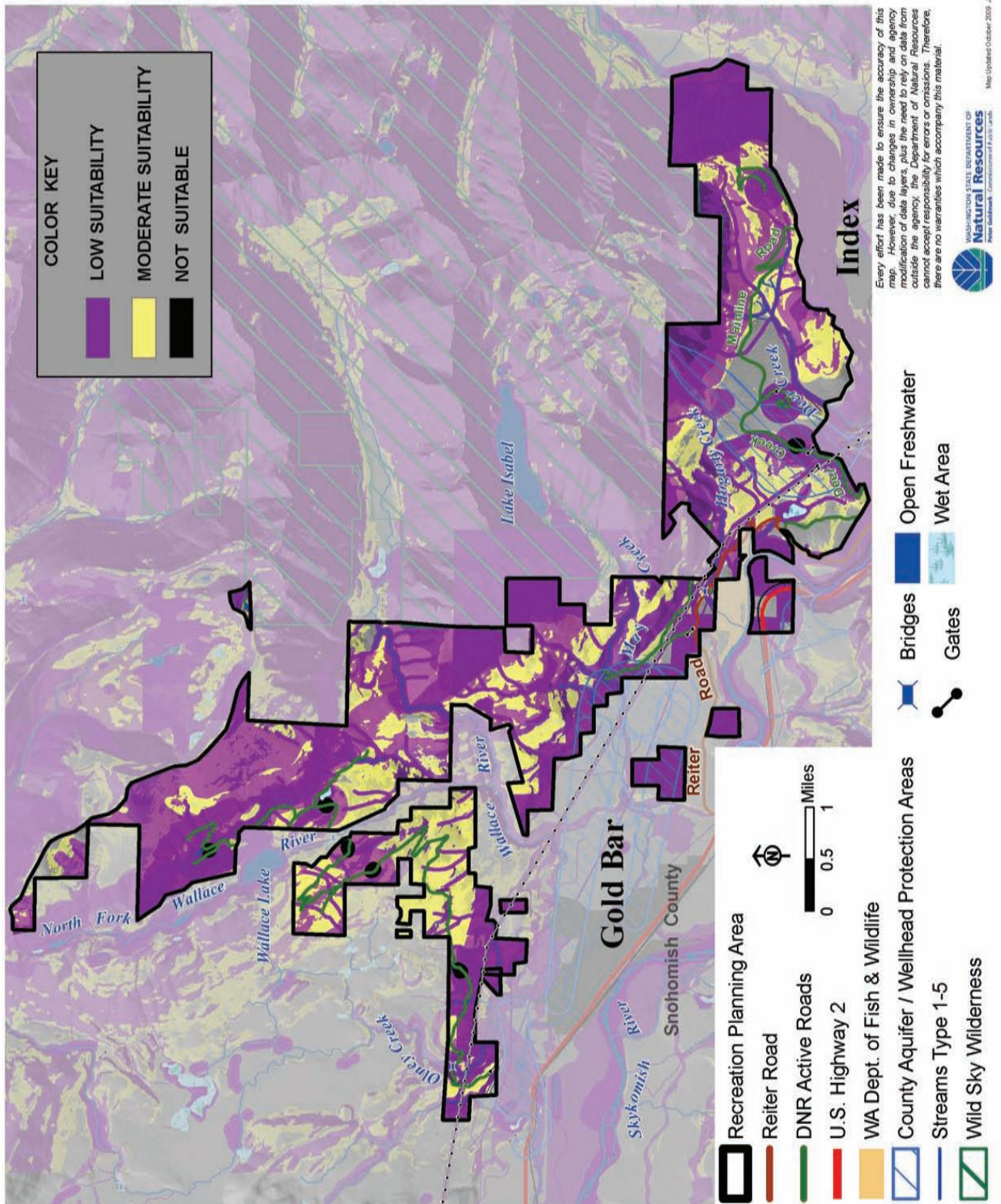


Figure 6. Recreation Land Suitability — Hiking Trails (geology and soils; biological; and management criteria)

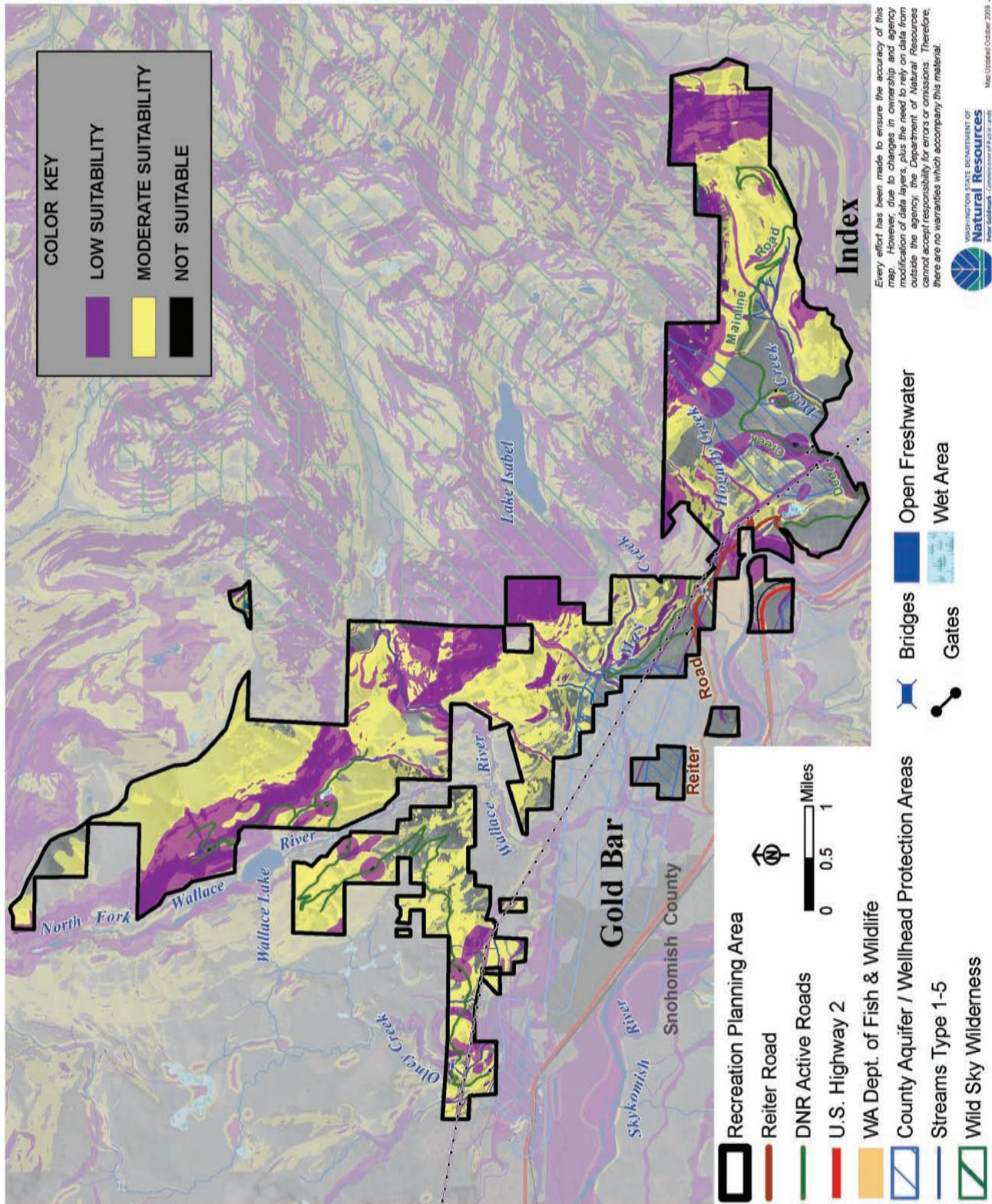


Figure 7. Recreation Land Suitability — Non-motorized trails (geology and soils; biological; and management criteria)

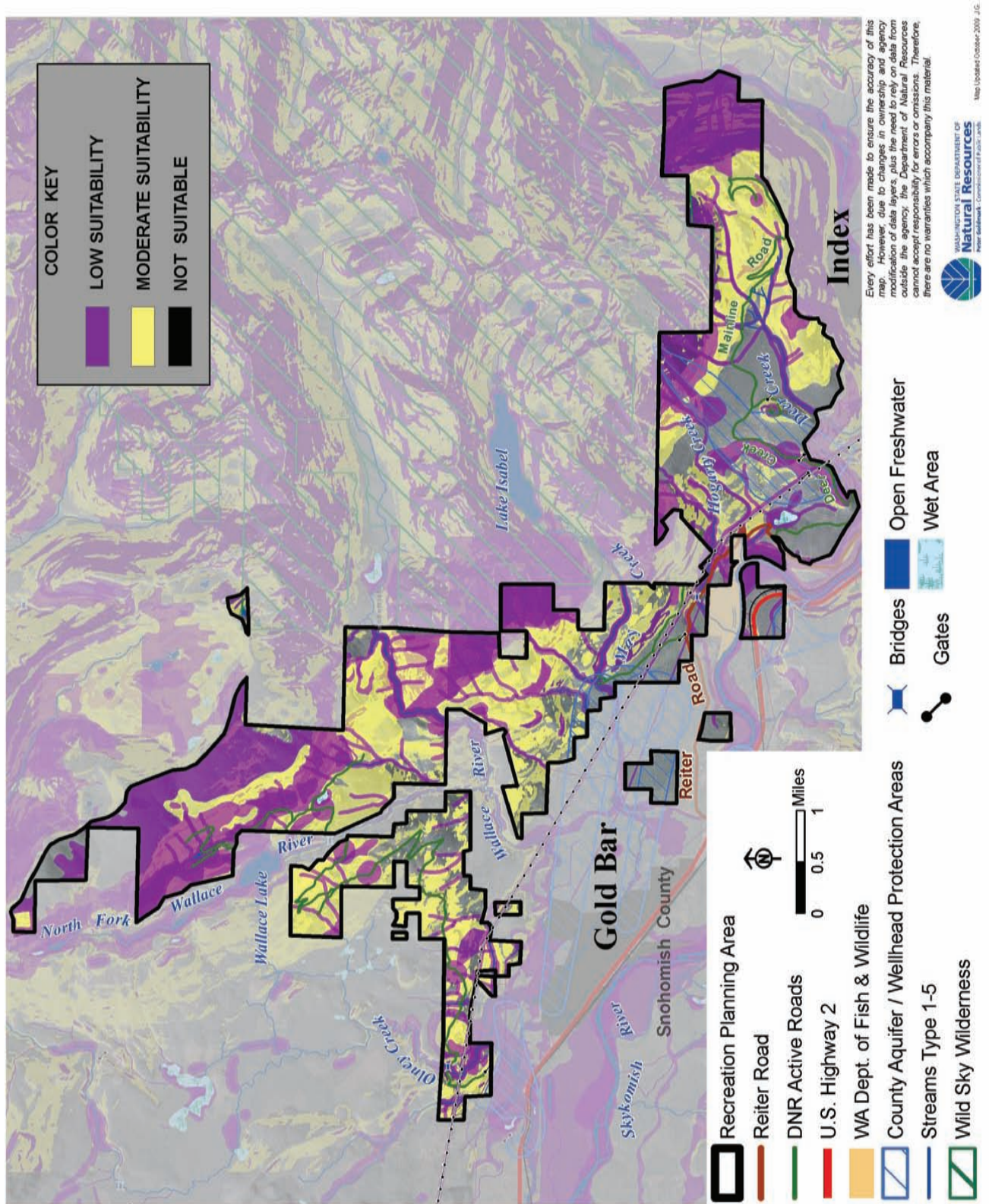
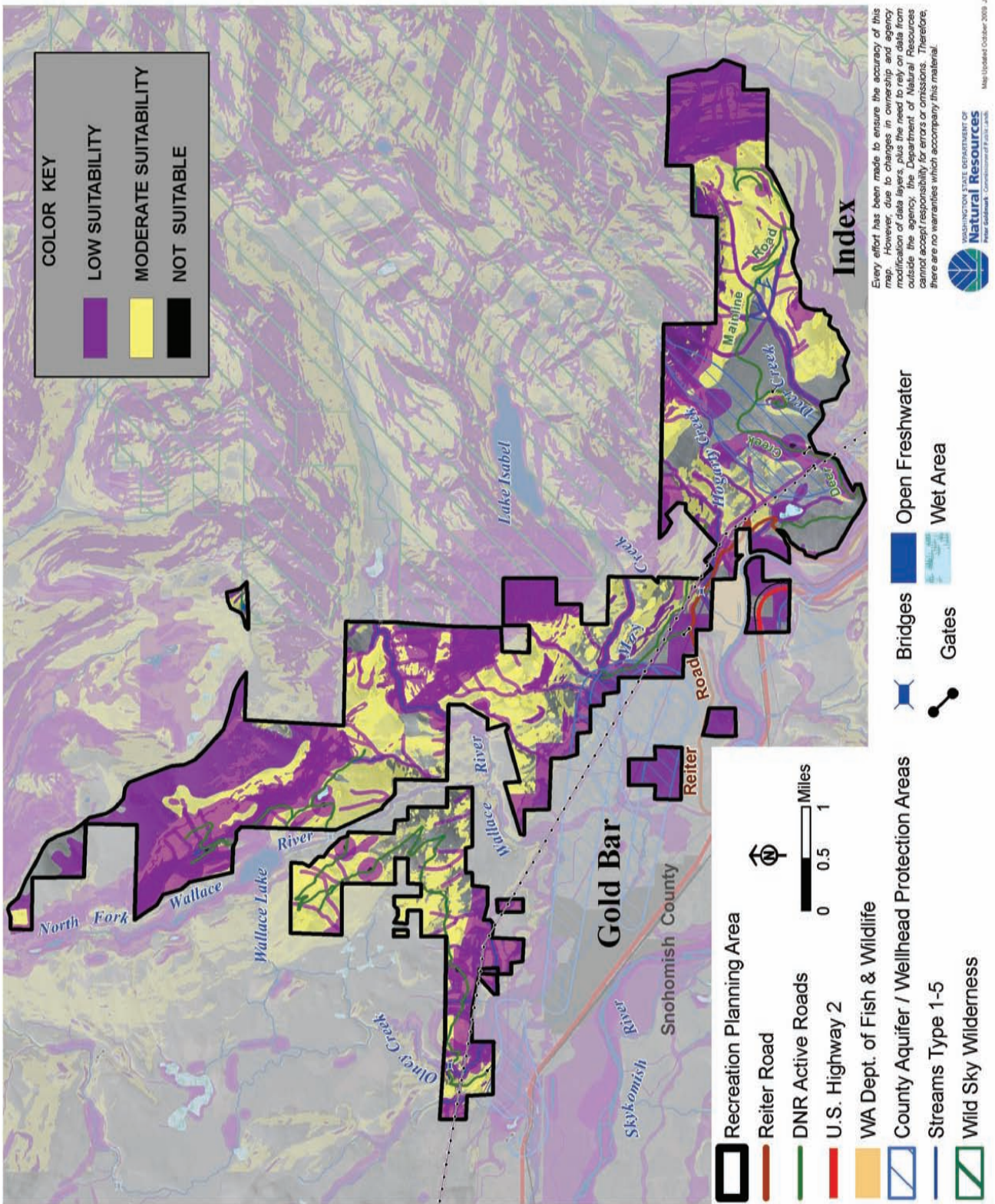


Figure 8. Recreation Land Suitability — Motorized trails (geology and soils; biological; and management criteria)



Public Involvement

Public participation in the planning process was an integral part of creating this plan. The outreach process included five main components (detail follows):

- A public “kick-off” meeting to introduce the project and collect public input.
- Formation of a citizen committee to discuss challenges and recommend improvements within the forest.
- Information gathering from a variety of sources including local recreation user groups, tribal interests, and surrounding municipalities.
- Creation of a web page to provide general information on the planning process and solicit comments.
- Distribution of a web-based survey to assess user patterns, concerns, and overall impressions of Reiter Foothills.

Public Kick-off Meeting

DNR began gathering public feedback at an open house on February 12, 2008. Approximately 140 people attended the meeting. Attendees learned about DNR’s role as a land manager and the planning process and were encouraged to respond to the following four questions:

- What do you enjoy about recreating in the Reiter Foothills Forest?
- What kinds of recreation do you do and where?
- What kind of opportunities are there to enhance recreation in Reiter Foothills?
- What are the most pressing issues and/or concerns that need to be addressed to ensure long term recreation activities at Reiter Foothills?

Attendees at the open house were invited to participate as members of the Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Planning Committee. Applications for committee participation were distributed at the meeting and through the mail. DNR staff also provided information about additional avenues for participation, including how to submit general comments to DNR’s Northwest Region office, volunteering to assist in collecting data for the trail inventory, and formal comment opportunities provided as part of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review process. A summary of the comments received at the kick-off meeting is included in Appendix C.

Citizen Planning Committee

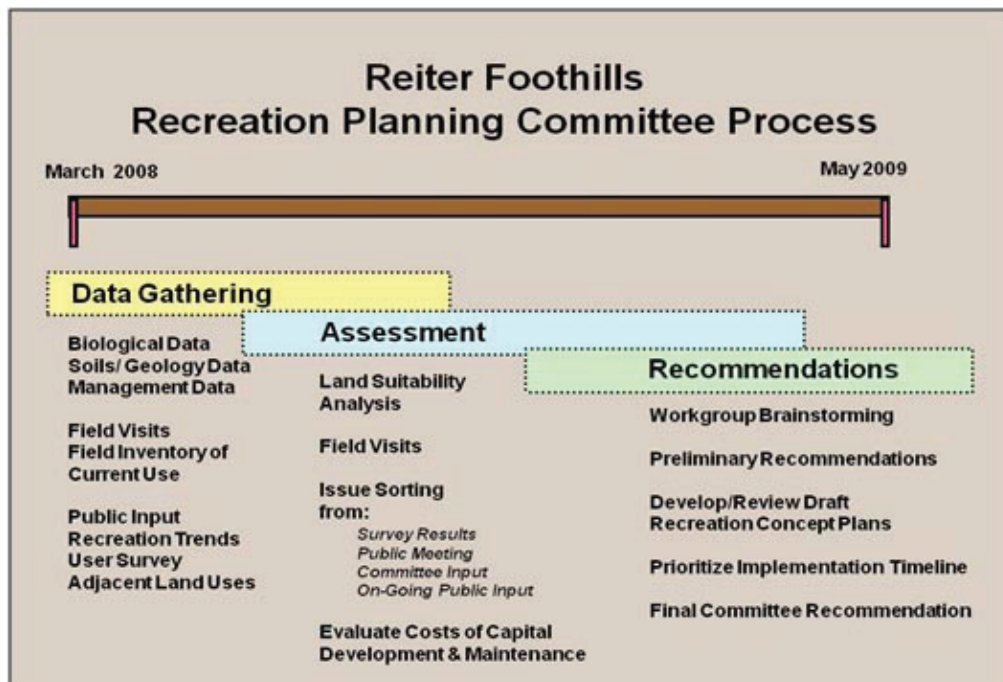
The Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Planning Committee met 12 times over a 13-month period. Summaries of each of their meetings were posted on DNR’s Reiter Foothills Forest web page. A complete list of meeting dates and topics discussed are in Appendix D. The committee’s mission was to provide insight and input to help DNR make decisions related to recreation management and to work with DNR staff to develop draft recreation management recommendations. Each work group member

committed to attending the monthly meetings and participating in field visits.

The committee included recreation representatives of four-wheel drive (4x4), all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and motorcycle use; equestrian use; and mountain biking, hiking, hunting, and fishing interests. Additional members included representatives from State Parks and Snohomish County Parks, as well as the surrounding municipalities of Gold Bar, Index, Monroe, and Sultan.

The committee meetings served a dual purpose. First, they provided DNR and the members with a forum to relate and explain the various recreation interests using Reiter Foothills. Second, DNR shared information regarding the environmental and trust issues and funding limitations that are key to making any decisions about DNR-managed lands. Committee members conveyed information to and from the groups they represented. The committee's recommendations reflect an understanding of DNR's regulatory and trust obligations as well as land suitability considerations for the planning area.

Figure 9. Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Planning Committee process.



Web page

DNR created a web page for the Reiter Foothills Forest recreation planning process that included maps of the area, a description of the planning process, project updates, summaries of the meetings, and the opportunity to submit email comments. The web page supported committee members in their public outreach and served to inform the general public regarding the planning process. The Reiter Foothills Forest Web page can be viewed at: www.dnr.wa.gov/RecreationEducation/Topics/RecreationPlanning/Pages/amp_rec_reiter_foothills.aspx

User Survey

DNR conducted a web-based survey of recreation practices in Reiter Foothills Forest to gather additional information from a broad spectrum of recreation users. While valuable information was gathered during this survey, it is important to note that the survey was not randomly sampled and is not scientifically representative of a larger population. A summary of survey results is included in the appendix.

Field Data Collection and Mapping

DNR staff conducted an inventory of existing user-built trails. Volunteers and a Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) work crew used Global Positioning System (GPS) units to collect and record trail locations. These locations were mapped and shared with the planning committee.

Part IV. Background Information and Decision Criteria

Legal Rules, Policies, and Plans

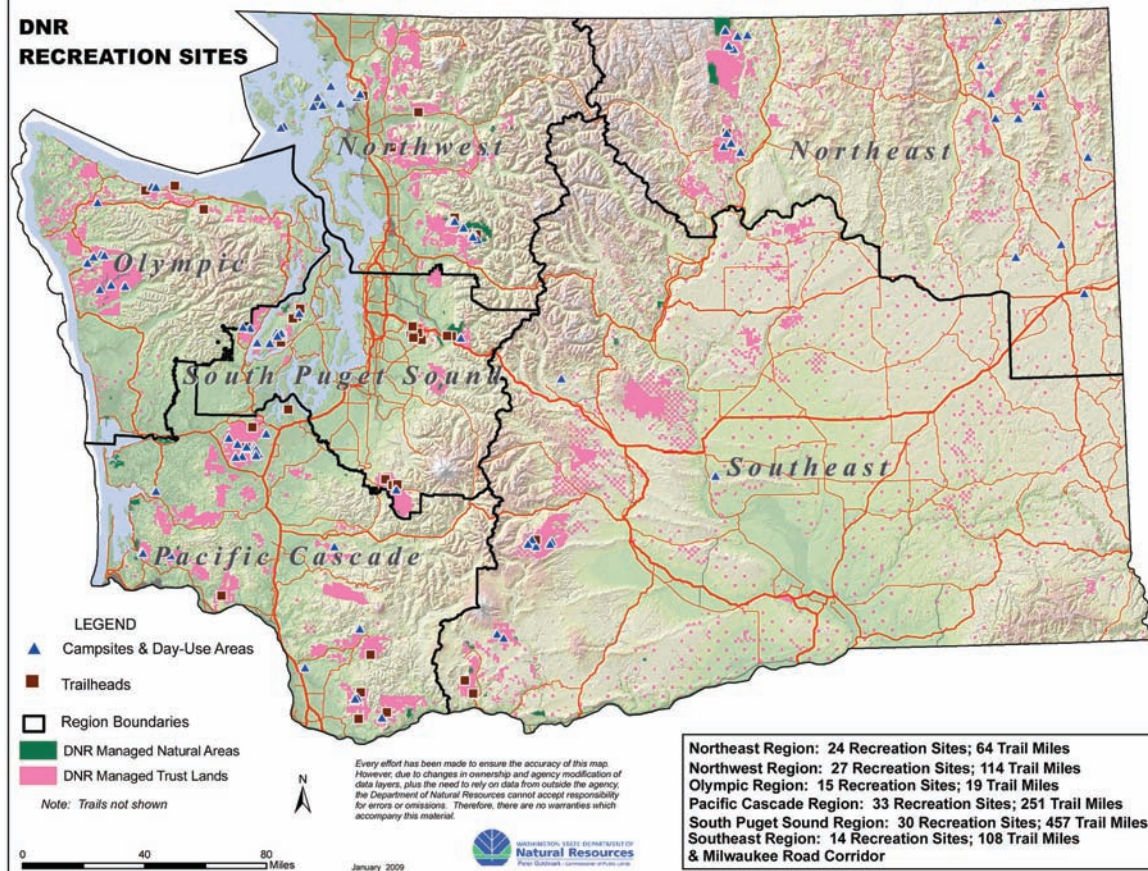
DNR is required to comply with local, state, and federal laws. Key components of the legal and policy framework that apply to recreation on DNR-managed trust lands include:

- **The Multiple Use Act** (Chapter 79.10.100 RCW). This 1971 legislation directs DNR to allow recreational use on trust uplands. Recreational use is to be consistent with applicable trust provisions. (apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=79.10.100)
- **The Policy for Sustainable Forests (PSF)**. Adopted in June 2006, this document directs DNR to conserve and enhance natural systems and resources on forested state trust lands. The PSF includes specific policies that apply to recreation and public access. (www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/StateTrustLandsForestManagement/Pages/policy_for_sustainable_forests.aspx)
- **DNR Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)**. Adopted in 1997, this long-term land management plan, authorized under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), is intended to protect threatened and endangered species. The HCP allows timber harvesting and other management activities, including recreation, to continue while providing for species conservation. (www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/TrustLandsHCP/Pages/trust_land_hcp.aspx)

Statewide Recreation on DNR-managed Lands

Across the state, DNR's recreation program maintains and operates 143 recreation sites and more than 1,000 miles of trail (Figure 10). Some sites and trails are designated for only motorized or non-motorized or hiking use, others are multiple use, including mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, and off-road vehicles (ORVs). Many forest roads on trust lands provide motorized and non-motorized access to designated sites and also provide access for dispersed recreation activities such as hunting, fishing and sightseeing.

Figure 10. Recreation sites on DNR-managed lands.



DNR's unique recreation niche

DNR's recreation facilities¹ complement those offered by other agencies across the state by filling a niche that many other recreation providers do not provide. Other agencies may require fees for using their facilities or prohibit particular uses altogether. In contrast, DNR's recreation facilities are considered primitive and are typically available on a first-come, first-served, no-fee basis. In providing primitive facilities, DNR offers recreation users a natural experience with limited amenities—typically no electrical services, sewage dumps, flush toilets, or showers are available. Some DNR facilities provide access to drinking or stock-use water.

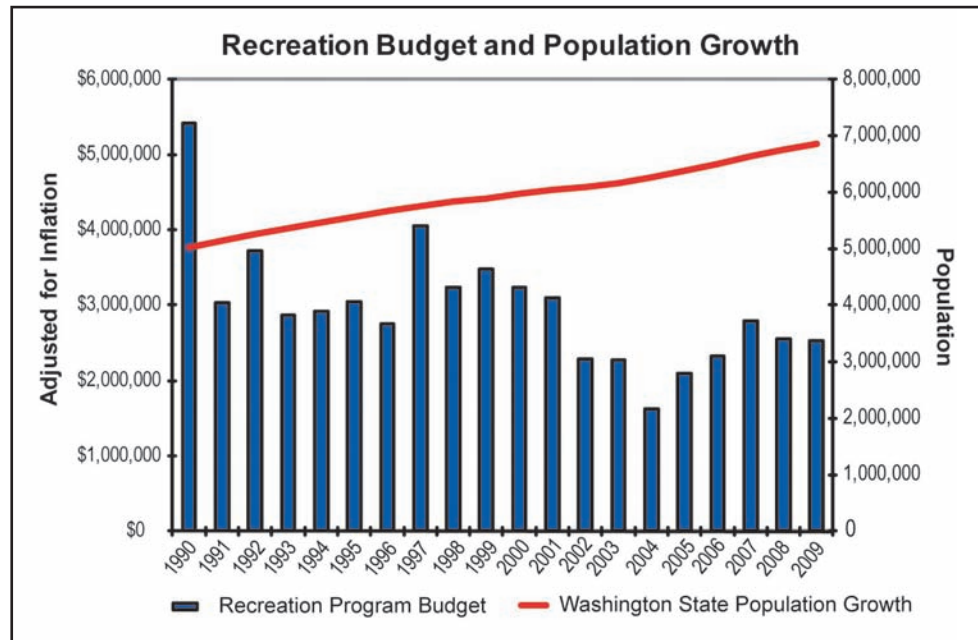
Other agencies that provide recreation in Washington State include: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); U.S. Forest Service (USFS); the National Park Service; and state agencies, such as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Washington State Parks, cities, and counties. In addition, some utility districts provide recreation opportunities to the public.

¹ DNR's recreation facilities include the designated trails, trailheads, campgrounds and other sites as well as their accompanying amenities, such as signage and restrooms.

Increased recreation use; decreased funding

As with other state programs and agencies, DNR's recreation program has experienced budget reductions during the past few years. The result is decreased staff levels, reduced level of service at some facilities, and fewer capital improvement projects. At the same time, the number of visitors to DNR-managed trust lands has increased throughout the state as rapidly expanding urban and suburban areas have made DNR lands closer and more accessible to larger numbers of people.

Figure 11. Rate of population growth in Washington state compared to funding for DNR's recreation program.



Funding for recreation

DNR receives its recreation funding from several different sources.

- The majority of recreation program funding comes from a percentage of the state gasoline tax.
- A small portion of the budget comes from the state's General Fund, which are general tax dollars appropriated to DNR by the state legislature to manage recreation.
- A third source of funding comes from grants offered by organizations such as the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The Non-highway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) grant program managed by RCO is made up of a portion of state gasoline tax as well as ORV tab fees. The ORV tab fee portion can only be used for ORV activities.
- A fourth source, with limited application, is funding received from DNR's management funds.
- Volunteer hours serve as an important in-kind funding source that can be used to provide matching dollars for grants.

DNR applies for many grants each year to help fund recreation maintenance, improvements, education, and enforcement. DNR relies on grants for approximately one-third of the funding for routine maintenance of existing recreation sites and trails. However, grant funding is not guaranteed; the recreation program must compete on a project-by-project basis against other state and federal agencies and private organizations.

Evolving Recreation Technology

An additional challenge comes from rapidly evolving recreation technology. The majority of DNR facilities and trails were constructed in the 1970s and designed for traditional uses such as tent camping, horseback riding, hiking and motorcycle use. Since then, recreational equipment has evolved and improved. For example, horse trailers have become larger, 4x4 vehicles provide accessibility to areas that are further afield, and recreation vehicles (RVs) and large trailers account for much of the camping use that occurs. New types of recreation use have evolved as well. For example, ATV use and mountain bike riding have different trail and facility design needs to provide the type of experience desired by these users.

Region Context and Description

DNR is organized into six geographic regions. Reiter Foothills Forest is located in the Northwest Region. The region, headquartered in Sedro-Woolley, includes DNR-managed land in Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island, and San Juan counties and runs from the King/Snohomish County line to the Canadian border. The region manages more than 350,000 acres of DNR-managed trust land and 35,000 acres of conservation land, including Natural Resources Conservation Areas (NRCAs) and Natural Area Preserves (NAPs).

The major population centers in the region are the cities of Everett and Bellingham. The principal interstate highway access route is Interstate 5. DNR lands in the region have historically attracted hikers, campers, hunters, equestrians, mountain bikers, off-road vehicle users, snowmobilers, and the recreating public in general. Levels of use have increased over time and are expected to continue to rise.

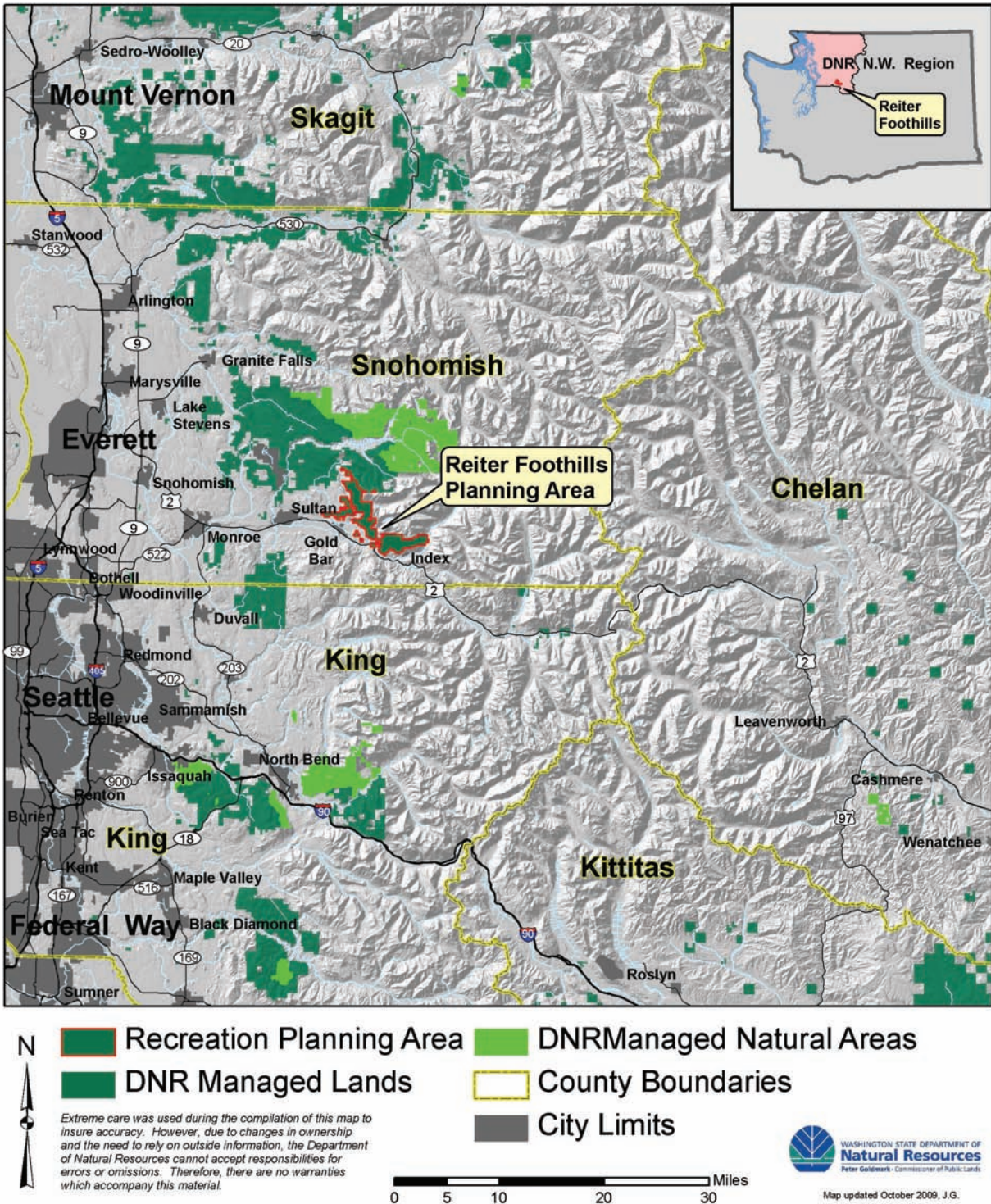
Recreation in the Region

The Northwest Region manages recreation on remote forest lands, as well as on lands closer to urban areas. In addition to Reiter Foothills, areas popular for recreation in the region include Blanchard Forest, the Les Hilde Trail System in the Harry Osborne Forest, Cypress Island, Greider Ridge, Mount Pilchuck, and Walker Valley ORV Area. Dispersed recreation occurs throughout the region.

Where do Visitors to Reiter Foothills Forest Come From?

Figure 12 shows the area of origination for the majority of recreation visits to Reiter Foothills. The service area was identified based on 2008 survey data, which showed that approximately 65 percent of recreation visitors come from within a 50-mile radius. This area includes the heavily populated I-5 corridor in eastern King, Snohomish and Skagit counties.

Figure 12. Reiter Foothills Forest service area



APPENDIX A: Snohomish County Code

Chapter 30.62C — Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

SNOHOMISH COUNTY CODE (OCTOBER 2009)

Chapter 30.62C CRITICAL AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS

PART 000 - GENERAL

30.62C.010 Purpose and applicability.

(1) The purpose of this chapter is to designate and protect critical aquifer recharge areas pursuant to the Growth Management Act (chapter 36.70A RCW) in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare and to protect groundwater resources. Critical aquifer recharge areas include: sole source aquifers, Group A wellhead protection areas and areas sensitive to groundwater contamination.

(2) This chapter applies to:

(a) development activities and actions requiring projects permits;

(b) agricultural activities as defined in SCC 30.91A.090 where critical aquifer recharge areas are present on the site; except that certain agricultural activities as defined in SCC 30.64.010 occurring on rural and agricultural resource lands are exempt from this chapter and are subject only to chapter 30.64 SCC; and

(c) other activities or uses that have the potential to harm water quality or quantity within critical aquifer recharge areas.

(Added Amended Ord. 06-061, Aug. 1, 2007, Eff date Oct. 1, 2007)

30.62C.015 Intent.

It is the intent of this chapter to provide the protection required by chapter 36.70A RCW for wetlands and for fish & wildlife habitat conservation areas while simultaneously protecting property rights. The county council nevertheless recognizes that implementation of some provisions of this chapter 30.62C SCC will inevitably entail some restriction of property rights. It is the intent of the county council that this chapter be always construed and interpreted so that property rights be restricted no further than strictly necessary for the critical area protection required under chapter 36.70A RCW.

(Added Amended Ord. 06-061, Aug. 1, 2007, Eff date Oct. 1, 2007)

30.62C.020 Relationship to Snohomish County Shoreline Master Program.

Protection of critical aquifer recharge areas located within shorelines of the state, as defined in chapter 90.58 RCW, shall be accomplished through compliance with the provisions of this chapter. Nothing in this section shall be construed to be inconsistent with RCW 36.70A.480.

(Added Amended Ord. 06-061, Aug. 1, 2007, Eff date Oct. 1, 2007)

30.62C.030 Relationship to 30.61 SCC - environmental impacts.

Critical aquifer recharge area protective measures required by this chapter shall also constitute adequate mitigation of adverse or significant adverse environmental impacts pursuant to chapter 30.61 SCC, to the extent permitted by RCW 43.21C.240.

(Added Amended Ord. 06-061, Aug. 1, 2007, Eff date Oct. 1, 2007)

30.62C.040 Rulemaking authority.

The director shall have the authority to adopt administrative rules to implement the provisions of this chapter. Rulemaking authority shall include, but is not limited to, the adoption of best management practices for the protection of critical aquifer recharge areas.

(Added Amended Ord. 06-061, Aug. 1, 2007, Eff date Oct. 1, 2007)

PART 100 – PROCESS REQUIREMENTS

30.62C.110 Permit pre-applications.

Project proponents may request a pre-application meeting pursuant to SCC 30.70.020 to obtain a preliminary analysis of how the requirements of this chapter apply to the proposed project.

(Added Amended Ord. 06-061, Aug. 1, 2007, Eff date Oct. 1, 2007)

30.62C.120 Critical area services provided by the department.

The department may provide the following services to applicants upon submittal of the application and the payment of fees as required by chapter 30.86 SCC:

- (1) Review geotechnical, geologic, hydraulic, or groundwater reports; and
- (2) Designate critical aquifer recharge areas on site for single family residential (SFR) dwellings, duplexes, and accessory structures, and commercial structures of 8,000 square feet or less.

(Added Amended Ord. 06-061, Aug. 1, 2007, Eff date Oct. 1, 2007)

30.62C.130 Submittal requirements.

(1) When a project permit is required for any development activity or action subject to this chapter, the applicant shall submit a site development plan drawn to a standard engineering scale which includes:

- (a) Boundary lines and dimensions of the subject property;
- (b) Boundary lines and dimensions of the site;
- (c) Topography at contour intervals of five feet unless the underlying project permit requires a lesser interval;
- (d) Location, size, and type of any existing structures and other existing developed areas;
- (e) Location, size and type of all proposed structures and development activity on the site;
- (f) Location, size and type of all critical aquifer recharge areas on the subject property;
- (g) Location of all other critical areas regulated pursuant to chapters 30.62A, 30.62B and 30.65 SCC on and within 200 feet of the site; and
- (h) Location of structure setbacks as required in SCC 30.62A.320(1)(d), SCC 30.62B.340(2) and chapter 30.23 SCC; and

(2) A hydrogeologic report as required pursuant to SCC 30.62C.140.

(Added Amended Ord. 06-061, Aug. 1, 2007, Eff date Oct. 1, 2007)

30.62C.140 Hydrogeologic report.

(1) A hydrogeologic report is required for any activity or use requiring a project permit regulated in Part 300, and proposed within a sole source aquifer, Group A wellhead protection area or critical aquifer recharge area with high or moderate groundwater sensitivity.

(2) The hydrogeologic report shall be prepared by a qualified professional who is a geologist, hydrogeologist, engineering geologist, or engineer, who is licensed by the State of Washington and who has experience preparing hydrogeologic assessments.

(3) The hydrogeologic report shall contain the following information relevant to the critical aquifer recharge area:

- (a) The surface location of all critical aquifer recharge areas located on site or immediately adjacent to the site, and the permeability of the unsaturated zone;
- (b) Groundwater depth, flow direction, and gradient based on available information;
- (c) Currently available data on wells and springs within one fourth mile of the site;

- (d) Currently available information on the location of surface waters within one fourth mile of the site;
 - (e) Historic water quality data for the area to be affected by the proposed activity or use compiled for at least the previous five-year period;
 - (f) Discussion of the effects of the proposed project on the groundwater quality and quantity, including:
 - (i) predictive evaluation of groundwater withdrawal effects on nearby wells and surface water features; and
 - (ii) Predictive evaluation of contaminant transport based on potential releases to groundwater;
 - (g) Best management practices relevant to the proposed activity or use;
 - (h) Provisions to monitor the groundwater quality and quantity;
 - (i) A spill plan that identifies equipment and structures that could fail, resulting in an impact to the critical aquifer recharge area. Spill plans shall include provisions for regular inspection, repair, and replacement of structures and equipment with the potential to fail;
 - (j) Salt-water intrusion addendums shall be required for withdrawals of groundwater or reductions in available recharge within one fourth mile of any part of Puget Sound, or a greater distance inland where there is evidence that chloride (bicarbonate + carbonate) ratio exceeds 1.5 equivalent parts per million at any time of the year. The addendum shall include an assessment of the likelihood and extent of seawater intrusion into a critical aquifer and a description of probable impact on wells on adjacent or nearby parcels;
 - (k) An assessment of how the development activity meets the protection standards established in SCC 30.62C.320;
 - (l) If the hydrogeologic report identifies impacts to critical aquifer recharge areas, the project applicant will be required to:
 - (i) identify and provide an analysis of alternatives by which such impacts could be avoided or prevented; and
 - (ii) provide a detailed mitigation plan for any unavoidable impacts. The mitigation plan should include preventative measures, monitoring, process control and remediation and a contingency plan, as appropriate;
 - (m) Recommendations for implementation and operation of activities, including size limitations, monitoring, reporting and best management practices (bmp);
 - (n) An evaluation of potential nitrate impacts on the aquifer, including cumulative impacts of adjacent or surrounding developments and activities, and provide recommendations for monitoring and bmps of nitrate generating activities; and
 - (o) Any other information necessary to determine compliance with this chapter.
- (Added Amended Ord. 06-061, Aug. 1, 2007, Eff date Oct. 1, 2007)

30.62C.150 Notification to purveyors of Group A public water supply systems.

The department shall provide notification as required by chapter 30.70 SCC of any proposed development activity or actions requiring a project permit subject to Part 300 to purveyors of Group A public water supply systems established pursuant to WAC 246-290.

(Added Amended Ord. 06-061, Aug. 1, 2007, Eff date Oct. 1, 2007)

PART 200 – DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION

30.62C.210 Designation of critical aquifer recharge areas.

The county has designated critical aquifer recharge areas pursuant to RCW 36.70A.170 by defining them and providing criteria for their identification. Project proponents are responsible for determining whether a critical aquifer recharge area exists and is regulated pursuant to this chapter. The department will verify on a case-by-case basis the presence of critical aquifer recharge areas identified by project proponents. Specific criteria for the designation of critical aquifer recharge areas are contained in this chapter and Chapter 30.91 SCC. While the county maintains some maps of critical aquifer recharge areas, they are for informational purposes only

and may not accurately represent all such areas.
(Added Amended Ord. 06-061, Aug. 1, 2007, Eff date Oct. 1, 2007)

30.62C.220 Classification of critical aquifer recharge areas.

The county has established the following three classifications of critical aquifer recharge areas (CARAs):

- (1) Sole source aquifers designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-523);
- (2) Areas within the 10-year travel zone of Group A wellhead protection areas, determined in accordance with delineation methodologies specified by the Washington Department of Health under authority of chapter 246-290 WAC; and
- (3) Areas of high, medium, and low sensitivity to groundwater contamination, based on depth to groundwater and in accordance with The Ground-Water System and Ground-Water Quality in Western Snohomish County, Washington (United States Geological Survey, Water Resources Investigations, Report #96-4312, 1997).

(Added Amended Ord. 06-061, Aug. 1, 2007, Eff date Oct. 1, 2007)

PART 300 – STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS

30.62C.310 Purpose of Part 300.

Part 300 of this chapter establishes specific standards and requirements for the protection of critical aquifer recharge areas.

30.62C.320 General requirements.

(1) The project proponent shall make all reasonable efforts to avoid and minimize impacts to critical aquifer recharge areas pursuant to the requirements of this section, in the following sequential order of preference:

- (a) Avoiding impacts altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; or when avoidance is not possible,
- (b) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation, using appropriate technology, or by taking affirmative steps, such as project redesign, relocation, or timing, to avoid or reduce impacts; and
- (c) mitigation for the impacts to the critical aquifer recharge area;

(2) Any activity or use specifically listed in Part 300 shall comply with the best management practices and mitigation plan identified in the hydrogeologic report, and any additional requirements contained in SCC 30.62C.340.

(3) All development activities shall comply with the groundwater quality standards contained in WAC Chapter 173-200 and RCW Chapter 90.48. SCC Title 30 Page 538

(4) Where the department determines that an activity or use not specifically listed in Part 300 has the potential to harm water quality or quantity within critical aquifer recharge areas, the applicant shall comply with Part 100 and apply best management practices and all known and available reasonable technology (AKART) appropriate to protect critical aquifer recharge areas.

(Added Amended Ord. 06-061, Aug. 1, 2007, Eff date Oct. 1, 2007)

30.62C.330 Prohibited uses.

The following activities and uses are prohibited in sole source aquifers, Group A wellhead protection areas and critical aquifer recharge areas with high sensitivity:

- (1) Landfills, including hazardous or dangerous waste, municipal solid waste, special waste, wood-waste, and inert and demolition waste landfills;
- (2) Underground injection wells;
- (3) Mining of metals and hard rock;
- (4) Wood treatment facilities occurring over permeable surfaces (natural or manmade); and

(5) Facilities that store, process, or dispose of radioactive substances.
 (Added Amended Ord. 06-061, Aug. 1, 2007, Eff date Oct. 1, 2007)

30.62C.340 Uses and development activities subject to special conditions.

The following activities and uses shall be conditioned as necessary to protect critical aquifer recharge areas in accordance with the applicable state and federal regulations and recommendations from an approved hydro-geologic report required pursuant to SCC 30.62C.140.

Activity	Statute – Regulation – Guidance
Above Ground Storage Tanks	Chapter 173-303-640 WAC
Animal Feedlots	Chapter 173-216 WAC, Chapter 173-220 WAC
Animal feeding operations/concentrated animal feeding operations	Final Rule 40 CFR Parts 9, 122, 123, and 412]
Automobile Washing facilities	Chapter 173-216 WAC, Best Management Practices for Vehicle and Equipment Discharges (Washington Department of Ecology WQ-R-95-56)
Below Ground Storage Tanks	Chapter 173-360 WAC
Chemical Treatment Storage and Disposal Facilities	Chapter 173-303-182 WAC
Dangerous waste	Chapter 70.105 RCW, chapter 173-303 WAC, Snohomish Health District Sanitary Code chapter 3.5, and chapter 7.53.070 SCC
Above Ground Storage Tanks	Chapter 173-303-640 WAC
Animal Feedlots	Chapter 173-216 WAC, Chapter 173-220 WAC
Animal feeding operations/concentrated animal feeding operations	Final Rule 40 CFR Parts 9, 122, 123, and 412]
Automobile Washing facilities	Chapter 173-216 WAC, Best Management Practices for Vehicle and Equipment Discharges (Washington Department of Ecology WQ-R-95-56)
Below Ground Storage Tanks	Chapter 173-360 WAC
Chemical Treatment Storage and Disposal Facilities	Chapter 173-303-182 WAC
Dangerous waste	Chapter 70.105 RCW, chapter 173-303 WAC, Snohomish Health District Sanitary Code chapter 3.5, and chapter 7.53.070 SCC
Activity	Statute – Regulation – Guidance
Injection Wells	Federal 40 CFR Parts 144 and 146, Chapter 173-218 WAC
Junk Yards and Salvage Yards	Chapter 173-304 WAC, Best Management Practices to Prevent Stormwater Pollution at Vehicles Recycler Facilities (Washington State Department of Ecology 94-146)
On-Site Sewage Systems (Large Scale > 3,500 gal/day)	Chapter 173-240 WAC, Chapter 246-272 WAC, , Chapter 246-272B WAC, Local Health Ordinances
A single or multiple small on-site sewage systems with a combined design volume of greater than 3,500 gal/day	Chapter 246-272 WAC, Chapter 246-272A WAC , Local Health Ordinances
Pesticide and Fertilizer Storage and Use	Chapter 15.54 RCW, Chapter 17.21 RCW
Reclaimed water for groundwater recharge	Chapter 90.46 RCW
Sawmills	Chapter 173-303 WAC, Chapter 173-304 WAC, Best Management Practices to Prevent Stormwater Pollution at Log Yards (Washington State Department of Ecology, 95-53)

Activity	Statute – Regulation – Guidance
Solid Waste Handling and Recycling Facilities	Chapter 173-304 WAC
Surface Mining	Chapter 332-18 WAC
Wastewater Application to Land Surface	Chapter 173-216 WAC, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Washington State Department of Ecology Land Application Guidelines, Best Management Practices for Irrigated Agriculture

(Added Amended Ord. 06-061, Aug. 1, 2007, Eff date Oct. 1, 2007)

APPENDIX B: Species of Concern Likely to be Found in the Reiter Foothills Forest Planning Area

SPECIES OF CONCERN LIKELY TO BE FOUND IN THE REITER FOOTHILLS FOREST PLANNING AREA

Species	State Status	Federal Status	HCP Species?	How Protected
Western Toad	Candidate	Species of Concern	No	Riparian Areas, Wetlands
Red-legged Frog	None	None	Yes	Riparian Areas, Wetlands
Common Loon	Sensitive	None	Yes	Riparian Areas
Marbled Murrelet	Threatened	Threatened	Yes	Interim Strategy: Habitat deferral, buffers & timing restrictions for occupied sites
Bald Eagle	Threatened	Species of Concern	Yes	Management Plans (buffers, timing restrictions)
Golden Eagle	Candidate	None	Yes	Protection of nest trees; Large Structurally Unique Trees, Snags, Cliffs
Northern Goshawk	Candidate	Species of Concern	Yes	Protect nesting areas with buffers in designated NRF
Peregrine Falcon	Sensitive	Species of Concern	Yes	Cliffs
Spotted Owl	Endangered	Threatened	Yes	HCP Procedures
Pileated Woodpecker	Candidate	None	Yes	Snags, Riparian Areas, Wetlands
Vaux's Swift	Candidate	None	Yes	Snags, Large Structurally Unique Trees, nest and roost trees
Purple Martin	Candidate	None	Yes	Riparian Areas, Snags, Large Structurally Unique Trees, nest trees
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Watchlist*	None	Yes	Riparian Areas, Wetlands, Legacy Trees
Willow Flycatcher	Watchlist*	None	Yes	Riparian Areas, Wetlands, Legacy Trees
Chum Salmon	Candidate	Not Warranted	Yes	Riparian Areas
Coho Salmon	None	Species of Concern	Yes	Riparian Areas
Chinook Salmon	Candidate	Threatened	Yes	Riparian Areas
Steelhead	Candidate	Threatened	Yes	Riparian Areas
Bull Trout	Candidate	Threatened	Yes	Riparian Areas
Myotis Bats**	Varies	Varies	Yes	Caves, Talus, Cliffs, Snags, and Legacy Trees
Townsend's Big Eared Bat^	Candidate	Species of Concern	Yes	Caves, Cliffs
Grizzly Bear	Endangered	Threatened	Yes	Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, and Riparian Strategies; Site Management Plans (incl. road management strategies)
Pacific Fisher	Endangered	Candidate	Yes	Seasonal restrictions around dens
Wolverine	Candidate	Species of Concern	Yes	Seasonal restrictions around dens

* Watchlists for Partners in Flight and Audubon Society

** Includes 8 species within the Genus *Myotis* of which 4 are Federal Species of Concern and State Monitor Species and 1 a State Candidate Species

^ Includes 2 sub-species

+ *State Monitor Species* that are likely to occur in the planning area include: **Cascades frog, tailed frog, and black swift**. The first two species are addressed in the HCP as “Other Species of Concern”, and all three are Federal Species of Concern. *State “Priority Habitats/Species”* that have been documented in the planning area are the **harlequin duck and mountain goat**. Neither species is state or federally listed, but they are both state Game Species that are on the state Priority Species List. The harlequin duck is also an “*HCP species*”, with recommended management guidelines that are primarily focused on disturbance mitigation. Its breeding habitat is considered a “Priority Area” by the WDFW. Mountain goat populations are being monitored, and suitable habitat has been mapped by the WDFW. Breeding areas and areas of regular concentrations are considered “Priority Areas” by the WDFW.

June 10, 2008

Author’s Work – Subject to Change without Notification

APPENDIX C: February 12, 2008

Public Kick-off Meeting Comment Summary

[NOTE: The following is presented as received and not edited.]

Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan February 12, 2008 6:00 to 8:30 Monroe High School - Monroe, Washington Public Meeting Comment Summary (Unedited)

What do you enjoy about Recreating in the Reiter Foothills?

- Size of the area.
- Close to major cities.
- Large trail system of ORV use trails.
- World class trials trail terrain.
- Close and provides challenging terrain, good elevation and great views.
- Large variety of trails types.
- Scenery.

Good areas and models to follow

- Great job in Walker.
- Good model is little Naches area with its multiple uses.
- Enjoy riding at Walker and Tahuya. They are good examples of what could be done at Reiter.
- Use Capitol Forest as a model—separate riding areas.

What kinds of recreation do you currently do?

- Motorcycle riding
- Family-oriented use
- Mountain biking (in Reiter, Deer Flats and Lake Isabel areas)
- Horseback riding (in Wallace Lake, Snow Lake and Jay Lake areas)
- Hiking
- Quad riding
- Fishing
- Camping
- Shooting and target practice
- Organized events
- 4x4 riding
- Snowmobiling
- Volunteer trail maintenance
- RV Camping
- Sight seeing

What kind of opportunities are there to enhance recreation in Reiter Foothills?

Planning

- Consider that ORV use is an existing use that has occurred for more than 40 years within and beyond the planning area.
- Disappointed by closing of the P-5000 area and Sultan Basin without public involvement.
- A bridge at May Creek is needed.
- Have a gate keeper concept like Walker.
- Allow night use.
- Set up a system that allows for volunteers to maintain trails (in cooperation with DNR).
- Take advantage of volunteer skills and abilities by providing easy access to maintenance equipment and supplies.
- Provide for safety and equipment use (chainsaw) training.
- Allow for public involvement.
- Design trail locations that conserve areas and provide areas for re-growth.
- Provide donations signs.
- Include habitat conservation as a consideration during planning.
- Tax ORV usage to maintain area.
- Camping could be good source of revenue.

Education and Enforcement

- Provide enforcement at night.
- Apply a “leave no trace” program.
- Provide patrolling.
- Better marking of illegal trails.
- Have more ORV officers patrolling the area.
- Ensure that public safety is protected.
- Police illegal use including meth labs.
- Provide education for users.

Access, Trails and Use

- Provide access into Wallace Falls State Park for:
 - Hiking
 - Biking
 - Horseback riding
- Open up secondary roads (i.e. logging roads that are not county roads) for all ORV types.
- Expand trail system for motorcycling (i.e. west towards Wallace Falls).
- Provide mountain bike trails (there are none in the Hwy 2 corridor) with 12+ miles of trails for a good user experience.
- Put a children’s motorized beginner trail near the trailhead.
- Re-open the trail that used to go to Index in the 1960’s and 1970’s.
- Have trails of different difficulty.
- Provide areas for target shooting.
- Encourage family rides in the planning area.
- Provide longer loop trail systems.
- Provide trail maps with trail miles shown.
- Build trails that are scenic.

- Maintain the single-track trails.
- Finish the Lake Isabelle trail.
- Provide diverse trail options for higher level mountain bike riders.
- Stop trail blazing.
- Provide more trails around the radio towers on the connector road to Wallace Falls and the lake.
- Provide a safe place to shoot recreationally, perhaps with a local enthusiast maintaining the spot.
- Horseback riding is currently located along Skokomish River, would rather ride in Wallace Lake Area and Sultan Basin.
- Provide horse trails, camping with horses and parking facilities for trailers.
- Provide more trails for hikers and horses.
- Provide a rest area.
- More guardrails in pit areas or have designated entrances
- Make a trail connection between lower and upper pit.
- Leave the Reiter pit area alone but provide patrol for illegal activities.
- Provide mountain bike trails. We have almost no trails to ride anywhere in the area, and the terrain at Reiter is perfect for mountain bikes. Trails could be anywhere in the forest, but area with elevation change are best, such as the area surrounding Wallace Falls State Park.
- Mountain bikes are low impact, and can co-exist well with almost any other recreational use. A good mountain bike trail should have at least 10 miles of trails for a good user experience. We really need a place to ride mountain bikes here in Snohomish County.

Camping and Facilities

- Need dispersed camping.
- Like to see fire pits, restrooms and garbage cans.
- Provide camping in the Reiter pit area.
- Allow camping with motor homes.
- Make it an all-over RV park.
- Camping is needed. If the lower pit area were to be expanded possibly as far as the power lines it would provide easy access for motor homes, campers and trailers which would result with more family use.

Parking and Staging Areas

- Need Wallace Falls main line parking area to access area west of Wallace Falls State Park.
- Need an RV round about.
- Provide improved staging areas that are attractive and safe.
- Existing parking lot needs to improved.
- Provide toilets and facilities at staging areas.
- Split parking area into two parking areas—one for horse trailers and one for ORV trailers.

Signage

- Add road signage (who yields).
- Clearly mark DNR land boundaries.
- Provide enhanced signage in parking areas.
- Provide signage stating no littering or dumping.

Erosion

- Provide protection for City of Index water quality.

What are the most pressing issues and or concerns that need to be addressed to ensure long term recreation opportunities at Reiter?

Planning and Maintenance

- Provide more opportunity for public involvement and feedback.
- Improve habitat conservation, environmental damage reduction and protection.
- Don't over regulate.
- Equal user fees for motorized and non- motorized users.
- Maintain the trails and facilities that are built.
- Concern as to what DNR will do if Reiter is not managed.
- Concern for what the ultimate plan will be? Want to ensure that recreation use is planned and managed.
- Allow clubs to seek expansion of the trail system.
- Address noise issues at late hours.

Access, Trails and Use

- Provide places to ride horses that are free of traffic and motorized trails.
- Emphasis on multiple use trails to maximize use.
- Try to spread trails over large areas to minimize impact.
- Motorized use on designated routes only.
- Decommission unauthorized motorized routes (with unsuitable soils, etc.).
- Reduce user conflicted by having designated areas for users like Tahuya (by blocks)—4x4 has taken over too many motorcycle trails.
- Provide gated access for areas to the north part of planning area.
- Provide sustainable trail design.
- Reiter is being loved to death (too concentrated and not designed that way).
- Concern over potential for loss of existing ORV trails to non-motorized uses.
- Wild Sky Wilderness area must be protected from motorized access
- Provide more areas on the west side to help with overcrowding.
- Trails near Hagerty Creek should be reopened.
- Provide trail maps.
- Do not reduce the trail miles.
- Camping for horseback use.
- Non-motorized uses are driven out by motorized use.
- Need single track maintained as single track.
- Provide an area for safe shooting but “designated” area may not be popular.
- Concern that trails are becoming freeways.
- Need to provide horse stalls, corral tie racks and stock water.
- Need trails that are more family oriented.
- Safety and enforcement of illegal equipment and behavior. STOP the jeeps and quads from converting single-track trails into 8 foot wide clear-cuts.
- Provide sustainable multi-use trails. Long term, ensured access to mountain bike trails. These features will promote a strong user base with an interest in building, providing for and maintaining such trails.

- Mountain bikers are a pro-active group and would definitely be involved in building any new trails with our volunteer workforce (working with DNR, of course) and could provide full plans for trail layout/design.

Education and Enforcement

- Firearms issues.
- Lack of education.
- Partying issues.
- Noise issues.
- Lack of respect.
- Drug users and illegal dumping issues need to be addressed.
- Strict enforcement of laws.

Littering

- Keep it clean, open, and protected.
- Littering and dumping of cars and trash is a problem.
- Not cleaning up after camping.
- Alcohol abuse is a problem.
- Vandalism.

Parking and Staging Areas

- Provide speed limits in staging and trailer parking areas.
- Ensure peak-use capacity (enough parking and trailer space).

Water Resource, Endangered Species Act and Fisheries Issues

- Correct erosion issues especially at water crossings.
- Use a similar strategy to Walker Valley (eco blocks) to control erosion in mountain areas.
- Protect drinking water sources.
- Water holes on trails are too deep.

APPENDIX D: Reiter Foothills Forest Planning Committee Meeting Dates and Major Focus

Over the course of a 13-month period the Reiter Foothills Forest Planning Committee met 12 times, and committee members participated in field visits to Reiter Foothills Forest and Walker Valley ORV Area. Detailed meeting notes for each of the Reiter Foothills Forest Planning Committee meetings are posted on DNR’s *Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan* web page located at www.dnr.wa.gov/RecreationEducation/Topics/RecreationPlanning/Pages/amp_rec_reiter_foothills.aspx

Reiter Foothills Forest Planning Committee Meeting Dates.

Meeting dates	Major focus of discussion
April 8, 2008	Introductions. Outline the DNR recreation planning process. Committee’s roles and responsibilities.
April 30, 2008	Overview of the DNR trust management responsibilities and planned land management activities. Identify future trends in the planning area.
June 10, 2008	Update on the Reiter Foothills Forest Area tour and a highlight of committee members’ observations on environmental and management issues. Discuss the DNR’s biological suitability analysis for recreation facilities and trails.
August 27, 2008	Confirm a common understanding of DNR’s recreation planning process. Review public comments. Set up future meetings dates.
September 24, 2008	Discuss geology and soils analysis for recreation facilities and trails. What are factors that create a good recreation experience?
October 29, 2008	Discuss management suitability analysis. Continued discussion on factors that create a good recreation experience.
November 18, 2008	Discuss biological suitability analysis. Continued discussion on factors that create a good recreation experience.
December 3, 2008	Review the summary of good user experiences and identify and map Committee member’s initial ideas for planning recreation opportunities in Reiter Foothills.
January 28, 2009	Review Committee member’s mapped ideas for recreation opportunities in Reiter Foothills. DNR presentation on recreational program project costs and funding.
March 18, 2009	Review committee member’s ideas for recreation opportunities; preliminary recreation concept ideas; and timeline for developing recommendations.
April 22, 2009	Discuss recreation concepts, issues, and strategies. Review priorities for project implementation and the next steps for developing committee recommendations.
May 20, 2009	Review and discuss mapped recreation concepts, issues, and strategies. To review and discuss recreation management objectives, strategies and priorities.
October 28, 2009	Additional meeting to review the draft recreation plan.

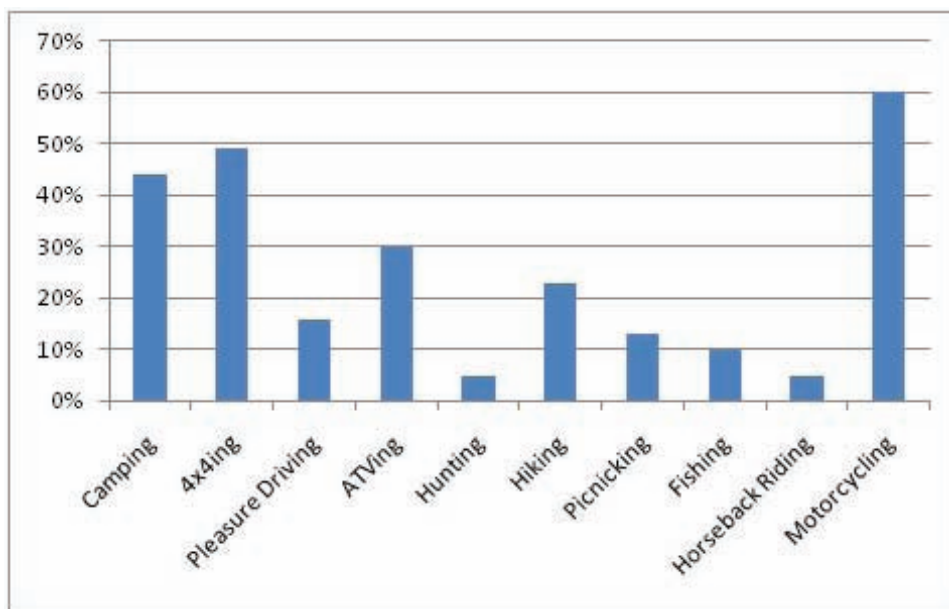
APPENDIX E: Summary of 2008 Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Survey

DNR conducted a web-based survey of recreation practices in Reiter Foothills Forest to gather additional information from a broad spectrum of recreation users. While valuable information was gathered during this survey, it is important to note that the survey was not randomly sampled and is not scientifically representative of a larger population. More than 1,800 people responded to the survey.

Types of recreation in Reiter Foothills Forest

Survey results indicate that individual users participate in multiple recreation uses—for example, 4x4 users may also camp and hunt. Figure E-1 shows the most popular activities.

Figure E-1. Popular recreation uses in Reiter Foothills Forest. (Source: 2008-2009 online survey by DNR's Recreation Program.)



Frequency of use:

- 63 percent of all respondents use Reiter Foothills Forest on a monthly basis and 28 percent on a weekly basis

Time of visit:

- Weekends are the most popular time to visit the forest although 34 percent of respondents also use the forest during the week.
- More than 89 percent of respondents use the forest in the spring, summer and fall—52 percent use the forest in the winter.

Length of visit:

- 18 percent of respondents stay for a half day.
- 62 percent of respondents typically stay for a full day.
- 18 percent stay from two to three days.

Average drive time to reach Reiter Foothills Forest:

- 7 percent travel 1 to 15 miles.
- 20 percent travel 16 to 30 miles.
- 38 percent drive 31 to 50 miles.
- 27 percent drive 51 to 100 miles.
- 9 percent travel more than 100 miles.

What types of recreation amenities are needed in the forest:

- Trail maps (63 percent)
- Restrooms (58 percent)
- Maintained trails (50 percent)
- Signage (50 percent)
- Trailheads/parking (46 percent)
- Campsites (44 percent)

Greatest concerns in Reiter Foothills Forest:

- Garbage dumping (70 percent)
- Limited number of trail miles (40 percent)
- Maintenance of trails (36 percent)
- Conflict between recreation use types (36 percent)
- Environmental damage (32 percent)

Willingness to pay a fee:

- 74 percent of respondents that they were willing to pay up to \$10 a day to visit the forest

APPENDIX F:

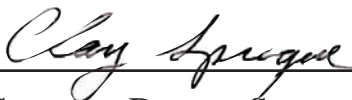
Certificate of Adoption



REITER FOOTHILLS FOREST RECREATION PLAN

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

The signature below certifies the adoption of this document by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources for the recreation management of Reiter Foothills Forest.



Clay Sprague, Deputy Supervisor Uplands

4/22/10

Date