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Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests Recreation Plan

December 2013



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

Acknowledgments

The Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests Recreation Plan was created through a public planning process. The process brought together recreation 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 Recreation Planning 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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Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests Recreation Plan

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December 2013

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Peter Goldmark
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Commissioner of Public Lands

December 3, 2013

Dear Recreationist:

I am pleased to present the Recreation Plan for the Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests. This plan represents the culmination of three years of collaborative work by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), local user groups, a citizen advisory committee, and individual members of the public. Developing this plan provided opportunities for people that are passionate about these areas to share their ideas about how to best plan for recreation. Their efforts will guide managers in providing recreation opportunities for the next 10 to 15 years.

The recreation plan area includes Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests, the West Tahuya block, Sherwood block, and Anderson block, as well as scattered parcels of land just north of the Green Mountain State Forest. These are favorite destinations for recreation and encompass nearly 38,000 acres of DNR-managed land on and around the Kitsap Peninsula.

As the steward of our state's trust lands, DNR manages these areas as working forests in order to sustainably generate income for the trust beneficiaries, to protect water quality and critical wildlife habitat, and to provide access for activities such as recreation.

Balancing DNR's primary responsibility as a land manager with the public's need to have access to sustainable opportunities for recreation, requires a high level of cooperation and commitment between the department and the many recreation groups, local residents, and the general public.

I wish to thank everyone who worked on this plan for their valuable efforts, time, and dedication to our shared goals. I encourage each of you to remain engaged as we implement this plan over the coming years.

Sincerely,

Peter Goldmark
Commissioner of Public Lands



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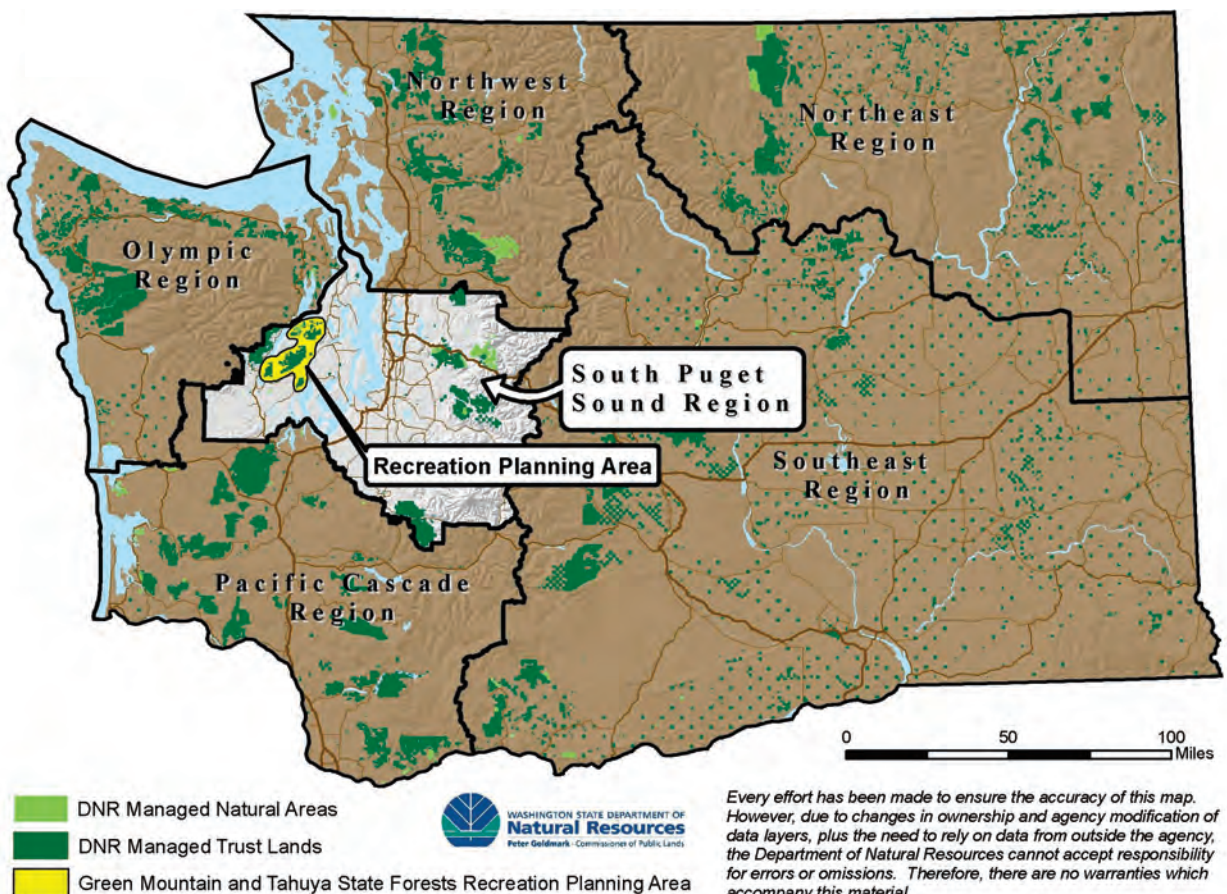
Introduction

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) uses a recreation planning process that actively engages the public in developing recreation and public use plans for popular DNR-managed landscapes. The Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests Recreation Plan provides guidance for recreation and public use on DNR-managed lands on and around the Kitsap Peninsula for the next 10-15 years. It builds on previous planning efforts for the area, balances forest management responsibilities, provides goals and objectives for recreational opportunities, and presents strategies for achieving the objectives and implementing projects.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources

The Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests Recreation Planning Area is part of Washington’s heritage of public lands managed by DNR. Statewide, DNR manages 5.6 million acres of state-owned forest, range, aquatic, agricultural, conservation, and commercial lands for the people of Washington. Approximately 3 million acres are state trust lands that generate more than \$200 million each year in non-tax revenue; much of it to support public schools, state institutions, and county services. The lands are also managed to provide fish and wildlife habitat, clean and abundant water, and public access to outdoor recreation.

Figure 1. DNR Regions and Recreation Planning Area Location



DNR also fights wildfires on public and private lands, manages a Natural Areas Program that protects native ecosystems, administers state forest practices rules, helps communities with fire prevention and urban forestry resources, provides geological services, regulates surface mine reclamation, and supplies knowledge about forestry, mining, rare and native plant species, ecosystems, and geologic hazards.

DNR-managed lands are organized into six geographic regions. Each region manages the day-to-day operations involved in protecting and managing the public lands. The Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests Recreation Planning Area is located in the South Puget Sound Region (see Figure 1).

State Trust Lands

By law, state trust lands are to be held in trust and managed to sustainably produce income for schools, universities, state institutions, and county services. Statewide, approximately 2.1 million acres of state trust lands are forested, many of which are working forests. Working forests are managed to provide a continuous supply of wood products and non-wood products, forest ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and water filtration, and habitat for flora and fauna, as well as recreation opportunities. Responsibly managed working forests provide a number of environmental, economic, and social benefits for current and future generations.

The beneficiaries of the federally granted lands are designated state institutions such as public schools, state universities, and charitable, educational, penal, and reformatory institutions. The beneficiaries of the state forest trust lands are counties, their junior taxing districts, and the state General Fund.

Since 1970, DNR-managed trust lands have produced more than \$7 billion in revenue, alleviating much of the tax funding for these important institutions. By managing state forests as working forests, DNR strives to balance:

- Responsibly generating revenue for the trust beneficiaries;
- Protecting the forest's long-term ecological health;
- Providing safe and sustainable recreation opportunities where they are consistent with trust responsibilities; and
- Economic support for local communities.

The average timber harvest cycle for DNR working forests is 60 years in length. Forest management activities, including timber harvest, have the potential to affect recreational use through temporary closures of roads, trails, trailheads, and campgrounds.

Agency Mission

In partnership with citizens and governments, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources provides innovative leadership and expertise to ensure environmental protection, public safety, perpetual funding for schools and communities, and a rich quality of life.

Agency Vision

Our decisions and hard work on the ground leave a legacy of healthy forests, clean water, thriving ecosystems, and a vibrant natural resource-based economy.

Our Guiding Principles

Manage the state's resources sustainably.

Through our sustainable management of resources entrusted to our care, future generations will have ample opportunities to enjoy and benefit from Washington's rich natural heritage. We will also ensure that revenues for our trusts will be stable or growing and that associated industries will thrive for generations to come.

Make decisions based on sound science.

Using sound science, data, and information to guide our decisions will result in the best possible outcomes for the State of Washington.

Make decisions in the public interest and with the public's knowledge.

Transparency and accountability are vital to earn the public's trust and appropriately manage shared resources. Decisions should be made for the benefit of current and future generations.

Part I. Project Overview

DNR's Statewide Recreation Program Vision and Management Goals

As directed by the Multiple Use concept (RCW 79.10), DNR provides recreation and public access opportunities on forested state trust lands where such uses are compatible with trust objectives. 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 land 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 state trust lands is managed by DNR's Recreation Program. Providing recreational opportunities is contingent on sustainable funding from a variety of sources, as well as sound management and strategic planning. DNR's Recreation Program vision statement for recreation and public access is:

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 statewide recreation are:

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

Statewide Recreation on DNR-Managed Lands

DNR seeks to provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities to the public throughout the state. Recreation on DNR-managed lands includes, but is not limited to, hiking, horseback riding, camping, off-road vehicle (ORV) riding, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, hunting, fishing, paragliding and hang-gliding, nature/wildlife viewing, rock climbing, target shooting, picnicking, and boating.

The agency provides trails and facilities such as campgrounds and trailheads in primitive and natural settings. Most recreation on these lands takes place in the 2.1 million acres of forests that DNR manages as state trust lands. DNR manages over 1,100 miles of designated trails, 143 recreation sites, and access for a variety of dispersed recreation opportunities in an assortment of landscapes across the state.

Recreation Plan Purpose and Use

The Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests Recreation Plan encompasses recreation and public access in the Green Mountain State Forest, Tahuya State Forest, Anderson block, West Tahuya block, Sherwood block, and various scattered parcels north of Green Mountain State Forest. These two state forests and multiple blocks of land are collectively referred to as the Recreation Planning Area. The Recreation Plan is intended to guide DNR in safe and sustainable management in the Recreation Planning Area for the next 10-15 years. The plan builds on previous planning efforts and has two primary purposes:

- Consider a 10-15 year vision for recreation and public access in the forests by describing recreation management concepts.
- Present specific objectives and strategies to guide recreation and access management over the next 10-15 years.

Recreation Planning Area Description

The Recreation Planning Area collectively spans 37,924 acres and has lands in both Mason and Kitsap counties (see Figure 2).

Tahuya State Forest is the largest block of land in the Recreation Planning Area at 19,613 acres. It is located in the southern portion of the Kitsap Peninsula in Mason County. Due to the glacial sediment soils, much of the forest has a high potential for a perched water table, or areas of ponded water. The Tahuya State Forest has relatively flat terrain, many small lakes, and several streams including the Tahuya River and Mission Creek.

Green Mountain State Forest is 6,344 acres in Kitsap County. There are several mountain peaks within the forest and a fair amount of steep, higher-elevation slopes which are primarily crescent basalt soils. Green Mountain is the second highest peak on the Kitsap peninsula at 1,639 feet elevation and offers views of the Puget Sound, the Olympic Mountains, the Seattle skyline and Mount Rainier. The headwaters of several streams start within Green Mountain State Forest, including Tin Mine Creek, Lost Creek, and Gold Creek.

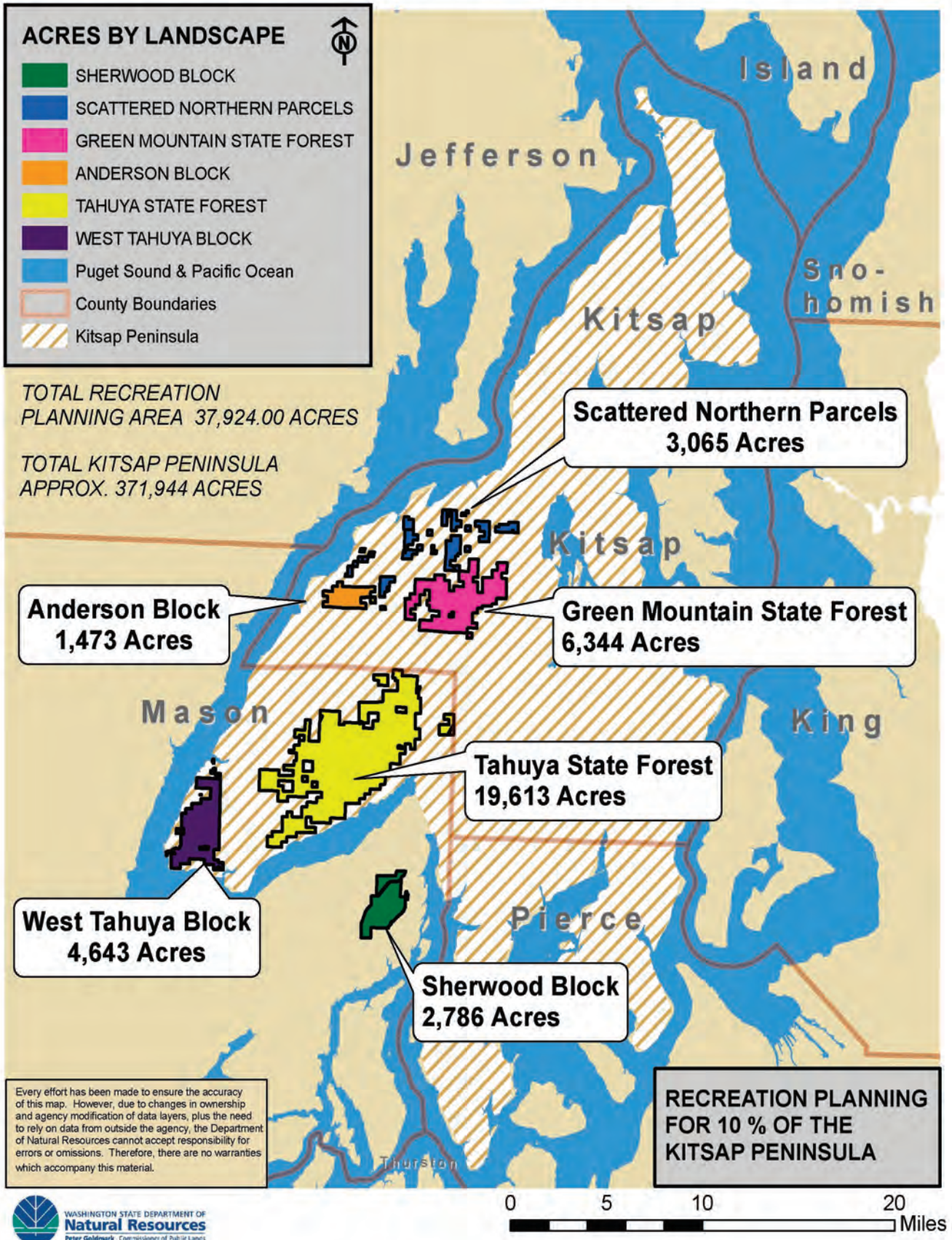
West Tahuya block is 4,643 acres at the southwestern-most tip of the Kitsap Peninsula in Mason County. It has hilly terrain, small lakes and streams including the Rendsland Creek which drains into Hood Canal.

Sherwood block is a 2,786-acre parcel of land located slightly southeast of the Kitsap peninsula in Mason County. The forest has rolling hills, small lakes and wetlands, and several small streams including Sherwood Creek.

Anderson block is 1,473 acres west of the Green Mountain State Forest on the Kitsap Peninsula in Kitsap County. The headwaters of Anderson Creek are located here along with several other small streams.

The scattered parcels north of Green Mountain State Forest collectively equal 3,065 acres. Many small streams, lakes, and wetlands lie within these smaller blocks of land.

Figure 2. Recreation Planning Area & the Kitsap Peninsula



Current Recreation Opportunities in the Recreation Planning Area

Recreation in the Recreation Planning Area includes both developed and dispersed opportunities. Developed recreation occurs at a designated site or location built or improved for recreation on DNR-managed land such as a trailhead, vista, parking area, boat launch, picnic area, or campground. Dispersed recreation includes activities that occur on DNR-managed land outside of developed recreation facilities. Dispersed recreation includes, but is not limited to, activities such as hunting, nature observation, geocaching, birding, and mushroom and berry picking.

Current developed recreation opportunities in the Recreation Planning Area include:

- 4 overnight campgrounds
- 12 day-use facilities
 - 1 day-use scenic vista on Green Mountain
 - 6 trailheads
 - 5 lakes for day use, fishing, and water recreation opportunities
- Approximately 88 miles of designated trails in Tahuya State Forest
- Approximately 10 miles of designated trails in Green Mountain State Forest

Additionally, there are thousands of acres of undeveloped forest available for dispersed recreation opportunities.

Tahuya State Forest

Tahuya State Forest is a common destination for many forms of motorized, non-motorized and dispersed recreational activities, with an estimated 200,000 visits a year*. The relatively flat landscape hosts year-round motorized and non-motorized recreational activities. Motorized uses include All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV), motorcycle, and 4x4 riding. Non-motorized uses include hiking, trail running, mountain biking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, and harvesting of specialized forest products like berries and mushrooms. There are currently 4 trailheads, 2 day-use sites, and 3 overnight camping facilities within the Tahuya State Forest. (*Data obtained from DNR-owned and operated trail and facility counters.)

In addition to developed parking areas, dispersed parking occurs throughout the Tahuya State Forest. One area in particular where people access the forest is the Sandhill Gravel Pit area on the eastern side. A new and official trailhead north of the Gravel Pit has been designed and is planned for construction to provide additional developed access.

Table 1. Tahuya State Forest Facilities

Facility	Primary Use	Capacity	Recreational Activities
Kammenga Canyon Campground	Overnight Camping	6 campsites	Campground for motorized and non-motorized users
Kammenga 4 X 4 Trailhead	Trailhead	10-15 parking spaces	Primarily motorized (4 X 4) access
Tahuya River Horse Camp	Overnight camping	11 campsites	Primarily for equestrian camping; other non-motorized and motorized use allowed
Elfendahl Pass Staging Area	Trailhead and Day-use	40-50 parking spaces in lower and upper lots. 28 oversized parking spaces in parking area	Primarily motorized access; non-motorized access allowed, and picnic shelter
Elfendahl 4 X 4 Trailhead	Trailhead	3-4 parking spaces	Primarily motorized (4 X 4) access
Camp Spilman	Overnight camping	10 campsites	Primarily a motorized campground; non-motorized use allowed
Mission Creek Trailhead	Trailhead	15 oversized spaces or 30 standards spaces	Motorized and non-motorized access
Howell Lake	Day-use	10 parking spaces	Primarily for water-based activities and picnicking
Twin Lakes	Day-use	6 parking spaces	Primarily for water-based activities and picnicking

(See Tahuya State Forest Trail System map in Appendices)

Green Mountain State Forest

Green Mountain State Forest is a popular area for day-use/picnic activities and scenic viewing, and has trail access for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and motorcycle and ATV riding. Each year more than 50,000 visitors* come to the forest for the varied trail-based recreational opportunities and the spectacular views from the summit of Green Mountain. There are two trailheads, one scenic vista day-use site, and a volunteer-managed overnight campground. (*Data obtained from DNR-owned and operated trail and facility counters.)

Table 2. Green Mountain State Forest Facilities

Facility	Primary Use	Capacity	Recreational Activities
Wildcat Trailhead	Trailhead	20 parking spaces	Primarily for non-motorized access and low levels of motorized access
Gold Creek Trailhead	Trailhead	30 parking spaces	Primarily for non-motorized access and low levels of motorized access
Scenic Vista	Day-use	10 parking spaces	Primarily scenic viewing and picnicking
Green Mountain Horse Camp	Overnight camping	8 Campsites-with 20 additional parking spaces and one host site.	Primarily for equestrian camping; other non-motorized and motorized uses allowed

(See Green Mountain State Forest Trail System map in Appendices)

West Block Tahuya

West Tahuya block has three day-use, water access sites: Aldrich Lake, Robbins Lake, and Don Lake.

Table 3. West Tahuya Block Facilities

Facility	Primary Use	Capacity	Recreational Activities
Aldrich Lake	Day-use	10 parking spaces	Primarily for water-based activities and picnicking
Robbins Lake	Day-use	10 parking spaces	Primarily for water-based activities and picnicking
Don Lake	Day-use	20 parking spaces	Primarily for water-based activities and picnicking

Anderson Block, Sherwood Block, and the Scattered Northern Parcels

Anderson block and the scattered parcels north of Green Mountain State Forest are all open for dispersed recreation opportunities and lack any designated or developed facilities. Sherwood block has limited public access across private forestland.

Current Trail System

Tahuya State Forest has an estimated 88 miles of designated trails; approximately 25 miles of single-track, 53 miles of double-track, and 10 miles of four-wheel drive trails. Additionally there is an estimated 96 miles of undesignated trails. Many of the undesignated trails are located south of Hurd Road and are popular with motorcycle riders. Current designated uses found in Tahuya State Forest are 4x4, ATV and motorcycle riding, mountain biking, horseback riding, and hiking. Not every use is allowed on every trail.

Green Mountain State Forest currently offers approximately 10 miles of designated trails. Many of these trails are multiple use for both motorized and non-motorized opportunities. There is an estimated 20 additional miles of undesignated trails. Current designated uses that can be found in Green Mountain State Forest are hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and motorcycle and ATV riding. Not every use is allowed on every trail.

West Tahuya block, Sherwood block, Anderson block, and the scattered northern parcels do not have designated trails.

Part II. The Plan

The Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests Recreation Plan is intended to guide DNR in planning, developing, and managing recreational opportunities and public access over the next 10-15 years. It expands on previous efforts, includes DNR's recreation program goals, and identifies priorities for implementation. This plan will be evaluated periodically as part of adaptive management, and changes will be made as necessary to ensure compatibility with trust obligations and forest management objectives.

One key outcome of the planning process is the development of recreational use concept maps for the Recreation Planning Area. These maps reflect the general locations of existing and proposed recreation management concepts within the Recreation Planning Area. DNR developed the concept maps with involvement and feedback from the Recreation Planning Committee. The concept maps are based on broad-scale mapping information. Exact locations and site specific details related to the proposed projects will be generated from on-the-ground site assessments to ensure safety, sustainability, and a positive user experience.

These concept maps show the general locations related to what is proposed for the next 10-15 years as the plan is implemented.

Figure 3. Tahuya State Forest Concept Map

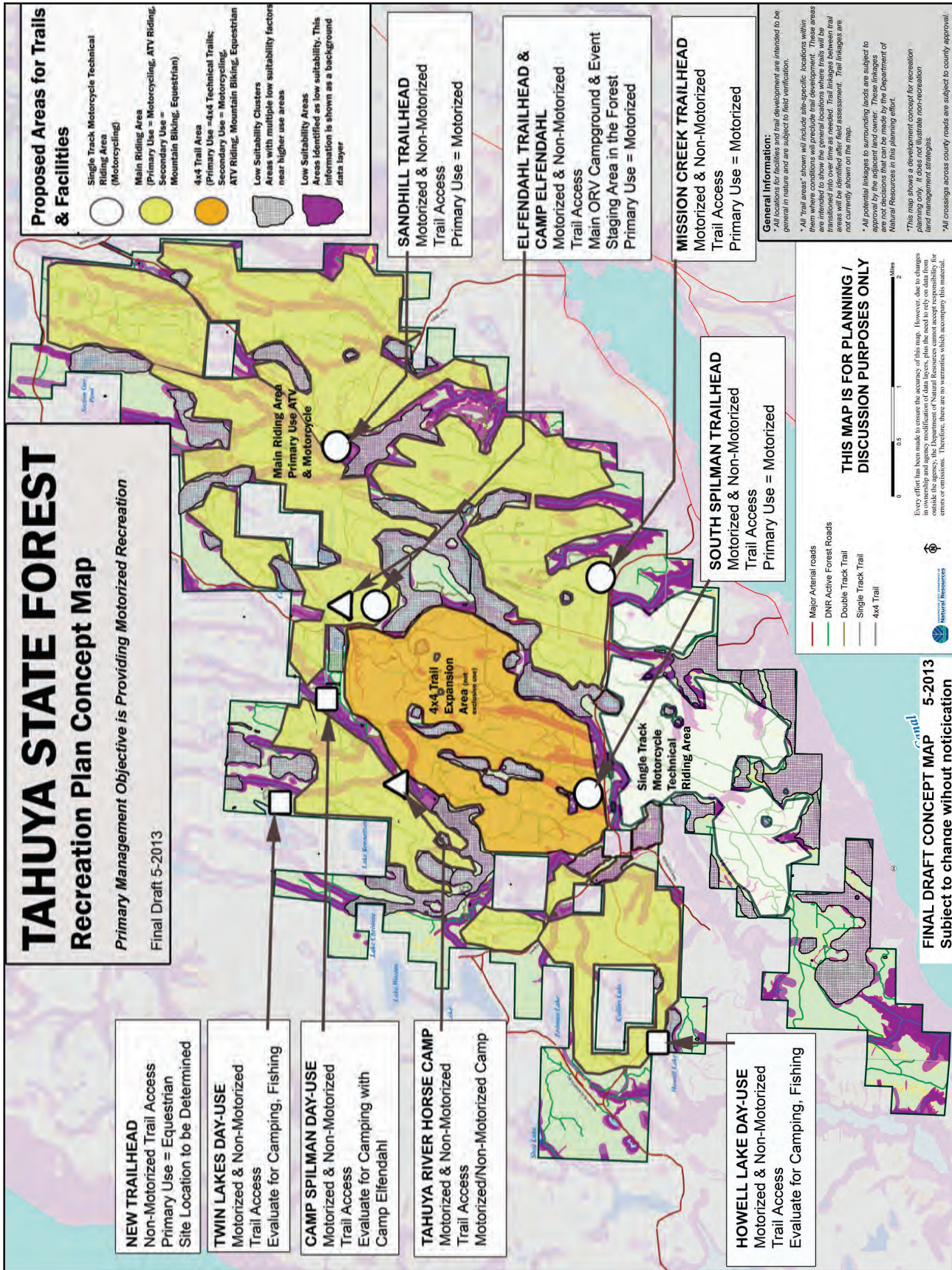
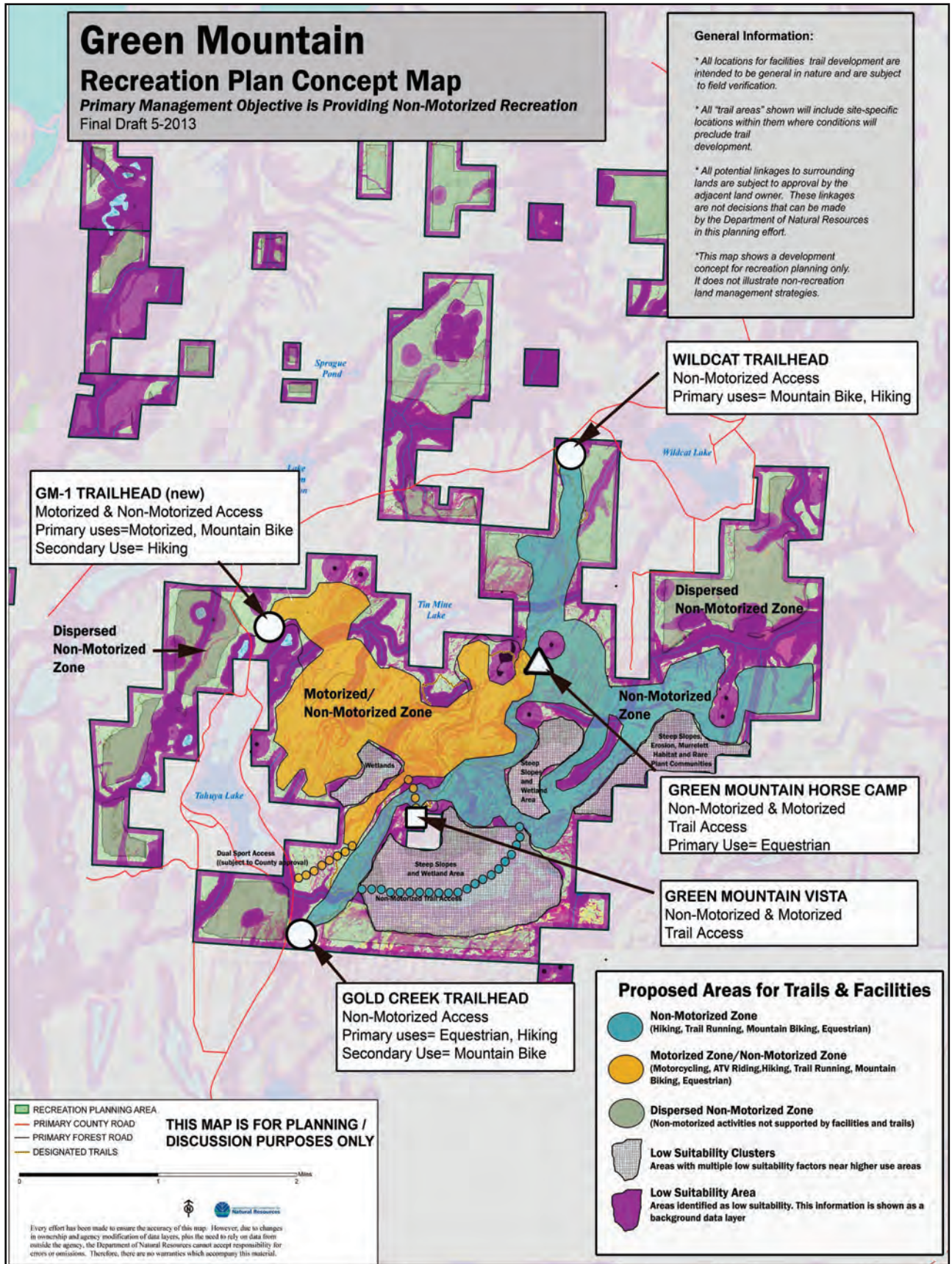


Figure 4. Green Mountain State Forest Concept Map



Objectives and Strategies

Another outcome of the recreation planning process is a list of facility, trail, and recreation management objectives and strategies for the Recreation Planning Area. The following objectives and strategies are intended to be consistent with the Recreation Program Goals found on page 4 of this document. They describe in further detail the proposed ideas and how they will be implemented and managed.

Primary Management Objective (PMO) means the principal recreational use for which an area or facility is managed. A PMO does not necessarily mean that other uses in the areas are excluded. It is a tool intended to provide recreational visitors with an understanding of the types of recreational activities to expect.

Recreation Planning Units

Objective A: Manage and provide recreational opportunities throughout the planning area in accordance with trust obligations and the following PMOs and secondary uses.

Table 4. Recreation Planning Unit Management Objectives

Recreation Planning Unit	Primary Management Objective	Secondary Use
Tahuya State Forest	Motorized Recreation, developed	Non-Motorized Recreation, developed and dispersed
Green Mountain State Forest	Non-Motorized Recreation, developed and dispersed	Motorized Recreation, developed
West Tahuya block	Non-Motorized Recreation, primarily dispersed	
Sherwood block/ Anderson block / Scattered Northern Parcels	Non-Motorized Recreation, dispersed	

Recreational Facilities

Designated recreation facilities within the recreational planning area include those facilities planned for and managed by the agency. Recreation facilities within the planning area include trailheads, day-use areas, and campgrounds.

Green Mountain & Tahuya State Forests

Objective A: Provide and maintain a network of designated safe, enjoyable, and sustainable recreation facilities as defined by the following strategies.

Strategies

1. Plan new facility locations and designs that are consistent with DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan and other relevant policies, procedures, rules, and regulations.
2. Develop proposed facilities in conjunction with the required leases, easements, permits and agreements needed for counties, grant funding requirements, and trust compensation.
3. Design and maintain facilities that protect the environment and natural resources, support safe and sustainable recreation opportunities, and provide user accessibility.
4. Determine appropriate locations for new recreation facilities based on an assessment of biological, soils/geological, and forest management considerations.
5. Determine the size of new facilities based, in part, on a carrying capacity assessment of the trail system.
6. Renovate existing facilities to be consistent with DNR standards and existing policies, rules, and regulations.

Green Mountain & Tahuya State Forests and West Tahuya Block

Objective B: Provide sustainable water access recreation facilities and opportunities in the planning area.

Strategies

1. Evaluate water access opportunities as part of a fishing, camping, and day-use assessment to determine appropriate types and levels of future use at each area.
2. Implement assessment findings.
3. Develop water access facilities based on water access evaluation, renovating existing facilities as necessary to ensure environmental protection and minimize future maintenance needs.

Tahuya State Forest

Objective C: Provide high-quality recreation facilities that support ORV activities (ATV, motorcycle, and 4x4).

Strategy

1. Develop and/or maintain motorized facilities consistent with those described in the *2008 Tahuya State Forest Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Recreational Facilities Plan*. (*Note – The Four-Corners trailhead project was dropped from the plan during implementation phase of the planning process)

Objective D: Maintain equestrian opportunities at the Tahuya River Horse Camp.

Strategy

1. Continue to manage Tahuya River Horse Camp with the PMO of providing equestrian camping while allowing compatible motorized and non-motorized use.

Objective E: Provide equestrian access to the forest from a non-motorized facility.

Strategies

1. Determine a suitable location for a new non-motorized trailhead, primarily managed for equestrian access.
2. Design and develop a new non-motorized trailhead, primarily managed for equestrian access while allowing other non-motorized uses.

Green Mountain State Forest

Objective F: Provide an additional trailhead location to improve access to the Green Mountain State Forest trail system.

Strategy

1. Develop and manage three trailheads to provide access to the mountain; two trailheads for non-motorized access and one for motorized/non-motorized access.

Objective G: Provide a motorized access trailhead for the forest.

Strategies

1. Determine a suitable location for a new motorized access trailhead on the western side of the mountain (near the GM-1 road) to provide motorized access to the forest (see concept map).
 - a. PMO of the new GM-1 trailhead is motorized and mountain bikes access.
 - b. Secondary access is hiking.
2. Design and construct a motorized access trailhead.
3. Continue to provide for low levels of motorized access and use in Green Mountain State Forest while the new motorized trailhead is constructed. Motorized access and use will transition to the west side of the forest as the facilities are constructed.

Objective H: Provide non-motorized trailhead access into the forest.

Strategies

1. Renovate the Wildcat Trailhead and designate it as non-motorized access once the new motorized access trailhead is developed.
 - a. PMO of the Wildcat Trailhead: non-motorized access - hiking and mountain biking.
2. Renovate and upgrade the Gold Creek Trailhead and designate it as non-motorized access once the new motorized access trailhead has been developed.
 - a. PMO of the Gold Creek Trailhead: Non-motorized access – equestrian and hiking; Secondary access: mountain biking.

Objective I: Provide developed camping opportunities in the forest.

Strategies

1. Continue to manage the developed Green Mountain Horse Campground with the PMO for equestrian use; secondary uses are other non-motorized and motorized uses.
2. Continue to work with existing hosts and recruit new campground hosts and other volunteers to provide a presence in designated areas during the heavy-use season.

Objective J: Provide day-use and scenic vista opportunities on Green Mountain.

Strategies

1. Redesign and enhance the Green Mountain Vista Viewpoint for all users.

Sherwood Block/Anderson Block/Scattered Northern Parcels

The Sherwood block, Anderson block, and scattered parcels north of Green Mountain State Forest areas are being managed for dispersed non-motorized recreation. No developed facilities are planned in these areas. Sherwood block has limited public access.

Recreational Trails

A main component of all trail projects will include an evaluation of existing trails for sustainability and desired user experience while ensuring that new trails are sustainably located and built to provide a safe recreation experience without compromising environmental and resource health. Trail work will include restoring areas with known resource and environmental damage, relocating and developing trails in long-term sustainable locations, and restoring the old locations.

Designated trails within the recreational planning area include those trails planned for and managed by DNR.

Green Mountain & Tahuya State Forests

Objective A: Provide and maintain a network of safe, enjoyable, and sustainable recreation trails consistent with the following strategies.

Strategies

1. Maintain separate use trails, where appropriate, for safety of users and/or enhanced user experience.
2. Locate and design designated trails consistent with DNR’s standards, stewardship responsibilities, suitability criteria, safety and risk management, and desired user experience.
3. As trail projects are implemented, new trails will be added where appropriate, existing trails will be evaluated and improved where possible, and unsustainable trails will be decommissioned and/or relocated to new long-term locations, with old locations restored.
4. Create and maintain trail systems that minimize long-term maintenance and prevent or minimize the potential for erosion and sediment delivery into nearby water bodies.
5. Establish Trail Management Objectives (TMOs) for the designated trails. TMOs describe standards for planning, construction, and maintenance of new trails and trail segments.

Tahuya State Forest

Objective B: Provide high-quality ORV trail opportunities for ATVs, motorcycles and 4x4s.

Strategies

1. Designate an area south of the Belfair-Tahuya Road with a PMO of single track motorcycle riding, including an evaluation and enhancement of the existing motorized single track trails and development of a directed parking proposal.
2. Expand the 4x4 trail opportunities within the area defined on the concept map.
3. Enhance the 4x4 technical challenge opportunities on the existing trail system.
4. Continue to provide ATV opportunities within the central portion of the forest.
5. Evaluate existing trail access to lakes; continue to allow motorized trail access to lakes, where appropriate and sustainable, redesigning as necessary.

Objective C: Provide trail opportunities for equestrians and other non-motorized users.

Strategies

1. Relocate trails at Twin Lakes, Howell Lake, and other lakes where needed to protect resources and user experience.
2. Support non-motorized opportunities as secondary use on the trails.
3. Add equestrian and non-motorized trail connections between the proposed new, non-motorized trailhead and the existing trail system.

Green Mountain State Forest

Objective D: Expand and enhance non-motorized trail opportunities for equestrians, mountain bikers, and hikers.

Strategies

1. From the Wildcat trailhead, establish two separate trails, one for mountain biking and one for hiking, to the Horse Camp and the summit of Green Mountain. Portions of the trails may share use with other non-motorized users as appropriate.
2. Add an around-the-mountain, non-motorized trail route.
3. Design and reconstruct the GM-6 road into a non-motorized trail.
4. Add new trails on the eastern side of the forest with a TMO of mountain bikes.
5. Include mountain bike trail access from the new GM-1 trailhead on the west side of Green Mountain to the campground and the summit.
6. Enhance existing equestrian trail opportunities originating out of the Gold Creek Trailhead.
7. Allow for regional non-motorized trail connections, where appropriate and sustainable.

Objective E: Provide motorized trail access on Green Mountain.

Strategies

1. Manage motorized opportunities to maintain a low level of motorized use to ensure compatibility with a non-motorized PMO at Green Mountain.

2. Design and construct trails on the western side of the mountain that provide for motorized use, and connect the new GM-1 trailhead to the summit of Green Mountain and the horse camp. These trails will also accommodate use by mountain bikes.
3. Design and construct trails for motorized/non-motorized use on the western side of the forest (in the area shown on the concept map) that emphasize technical skills and includes opportunities to experience the terrain as well as to enjoy the views.

West Tahuya Block

This area is primarily managed for dispersed, non-motorized recreation; no developed trails are planned in the area with the following exception:

Objective F: In partnership with Mason County, consider a non-motorized link for a cross regional trail across this block, where appropriate and sustainable.

Strategy

1. Evaluate areas that could be suitable for locating a cross regional, non-motorized trail connector.

Sherwood Block/Anderson Block/Scattered Northern Parcels

These areas are being managed for dispersed, non-motorized recreation. No developed trails are planned in these areas.

Dispersed Recreation Management

Activities that occur outside the boundaries of designated recreational facilities and trails are considered “dispersed recreation”. Examples of dispersed recreation include, but are not limited to, fishing, hunting, target shooting, mushroom picking, nature viewing, and firewood gathering. (Camping in the Recreation Planning Area is only allowed in developed and designated overnight camping facilities.)

Objective A: Enhance hunting, fishing, and other dispersed recreation opportunities.

Strategies

1. Evaluate hunting, fishing, and water access opportunities.
2. Implement enhanced hunting, fishing, and dispersed recreation opportunities based on the findings of the evaluation.
3. Continue to provide opportunities for disabled hunter access where practical.
4. Open access points for hunting/fishing in appropriate locations, and provide more parking at closed gates in the West Tahuya block, where practical.
5. Continue to manage dispersed recreation under WAC 332-52.

Restoration

For the purposes of this document, restoration implies repairing resource damage that has occurred due to past recreational use. Fundamental to restoration is redirecting recreational access away from areas that are unsustainable, correcting erosion and sediment delivery issues, and supporting re-vegetation as necessary.

Objective A: Identify and restore areas that have been impacted by past recreational use.

Strategies

1. Evaluate existing trail systems using suitability criteria and field verification to determine optimal long-term trail routes.
2. Relocate trails or facilities that are located in unsustainable locations.
3. Once relocated, restore old routes (or recreation sites) and redirect existing recreational uses away to prevent further resource damage.
4. Implement restoration efforts based on the following criteria:
 - a. Address public health and safety concerns.
 - b. Reduce or eliminate sediment delivery to streams.
 - c. Stabilize stream banks.
 - d. Restore soil and vegetation on impacted wetland and riparian buffers.
 - e. Remediate habitat-related issues in areas with sensitive, threatened or endangered species, or with those listed in the Habitat Conservation Plan.
5. Implement secondary priorities that include:
 - a. Restore other resource damage.
 - b. Re-vegetate areas as needed.
 - c. Repair areas with compacted soils.

Objective B: Protect areas that have been restored.

Strategies

1. Use barriers (fencing, eco-blocks, boulders, stumps, etc.), signage, and public education to support restoration efforts.
2. Establish and implement a monitoring program that photographs and documents restoration efforts.

Objectives C: Communicate and educate the public on restoration objectives.

Strategies

1. Form partnerships with the public and local organizations during restoration projects.
2. Use a variety of communication tools that could include signage, public meetings, brochures, and DNR's website, to inform the public where restoration efforts are underway and to inform and redirect access.

Partnerships and Volunteer Coordination

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

Objective A: Maintain existing partnerships and encourage new volunteer and partnership opportunities.

Strategies

1. Continue to have a community based Tahuya-Green Mountain Recreation Focus Group and integrate the entire planning area into the ongoing Focus Group structure.
2. Encourage users to volunteer through programs such as DNR’s forest watch program and organized maintenance and clean-up events.
3. Form partnerships with citizen volunteers who can maintain trails, act as camp hosts, and provide an overall increased presence on the landscape.
4. Continue to partner with volunteer groups for specific on-the-ground development and redevelopment projects.

Objective B: Increase partnering opportunities for recreation projects with adjacent public agencies, counties, municipalities, schools, nearby landowners, user groups, and youth groups.

Strategies

1. Encourage opportunities that connect the local schools, boys and girls clubs, YMCA and other youth groups with DNR recreational opportunities.
2. Increase partnerships with adjacent landowners such as the Belfair State Park, Mason County, Kitsap County, City of Bremerton, ports, private neighbors, local transportation/transit entities, and the chambers of commerce.
3. Promote youth awareness by partnering with schools, scout organizations, service clubs and by involving students in maintenance, education, and restoration activities.
4. Increase partnership opportunities for all ages including the youth and older populations.

Objective C: Strengthen partnerships that enhance safety and support education and enforcement efforts.

Strategy

1. Pursue additional opportunities to partner with enforcement personnel from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks, and Mason and Kitsap counties sheriffs offices.

Education and Enforcement

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

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

Strategies

1. Employ an integrated enforcement strategy that establishes a routine presence through DNR Law Enforcement, Recreation Wardens, DNR recreation staff, and forest watch program volunteers.

2. Coordinate with law enforcement for Kitsap and Mason counties and local municipalities, where appropriate.
3. Develop tools and partnerships to increase security on trails and at trailheads to protect property and resources.
4. Maintain the volunteer managed weekend summer road access to the Green Mountain Vista, and utilize volunteer hosts at Green Mountain Horse Camp and the Tahuya River Horse Camp.

Objective B: Increase the availability of educational information about the area through enhanced signage, maps, and online information.

Strategies

1. Provide consistent signage that educates the public about allowed uses, existing regulations, campfire use, fire danger, adjoining watershed lands, and other applicable rules.
2. Provide signage and outreach in areas of mixed land ownership to reduce trespass potential.
3. Clearly communicate information related to trail closures through DNR's web site, signage, and outreach; explain the reasons for enforcement and management activities when practical.
4. Update web-based resources to include maps of the area, recreation rules, and recreation access information.

Objective C: Increase public awareness of the agency vision, the trust mandate, the multiple-use concept, and appropriate recreation and public use.

Strategies

1. Utilize written and electronic communication efforts in educating and encouraging volunteer participation in maintenance and planning projects.
2. Provide additional outreach on the unique features of the planning area through the web site, maps, blogs, social media, and coordination with local businesses.
3. Provide information about DNR's management objectives and responsibilities in various electronic formats including web site, blogs, and social media.

Objective D: Enhance emergency access to the developed areas of the forest.

Strategy

1. Work with local emergency responders and jurisdictions to develop an adaptive emergency access plan for the forest.

Organized Event Management

The Tahuya State Forest allows both motorized and non-motorized organized events. The Green Mountain State Forest only allows non-motorized organized events. There are no organized events in Anderson block, Sherwood block, West Tahuya block, and the scattered northern parcels.

Objective A: Manage organized events in the Tahuya State Forest and Green Mountain State Forest in accordance with trust objectives and in conjunction with strategies developed with public input.

Strategies

1. Continue to operate under the existing Tahuya/Green Mountain Recreation Focus Group Organized Events Strategies, amending and enhancing as needed.
2. Continue to work with the Tahuya/Green Mountain Recreation Focus Group on the non-motorized events strategy for Green Mountain, based on user request, resource protection, safety, and staff scheduling.

Adaptive Management

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

Objective A: Employ adaptive management practices to implement the recreation plan, adjusting recreation management practices in order to respond to changing laws, information, and circumstances on the ground.

Strategies

1. Evaluate site-specific conditions when implementing projects on the ground.
2. Respond and adapt to new or changing information and variable site conditions.
3. Consider proposals submitted to the agency by others (public and private) that are consistent with achieving the recreation plan concepts, goals, and objectives and are compatible with agency requirements.

Sustainable Funding

Sustainable funding is essential to meeting DNR’s goal of providing quality recreation opportunities for the public. It supports facility and trail maintenance needs, facility and trail development and improvements, and enforcement efforts.

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

Strategies

1. Continue to apply for grant funding for maintenance, development, enforcement, and facility construction projects.
2. Work to increase public understanding regarding the costs associated with maintaining and operating trails and facilities.
3. Identify and consider alternative funding sources for accomplishing plan objectives.

Implementation

Implementation priorities and phasing were established based on committee input, agency resource protection priorities, and logical sequencing of related projects. Development and construction of the Implementation Priorities and Phases is dependent on the availability and security of funding for construction, maintenance, operations, and enforcement.

Table 5. Implementation Priorities and Phases

Phase I	Convert the GM-6 road in Green Mountain State Forest to a non-motorized trail. 
	Evaluate water access sites as part of a fishing/camping/day-use assessment to determine appropriate types and levels of future use at each area.
	Locate, design, and construct the GM-1 motorized/non-motorized access trailhead and trails on the western side of Green Mountain State Forest. 
	Enhance and expand the existing 4x4 motorized recreation opportunities in Tahuya State Forest. 
Phase II	Design and construct two trails out of the Wildcat Trailhead in Green Mountain State Forest; one for hikers and one for mountain bikers. 
	Renovate and upgrade the existing Gold Creek and Wildcat Trailheads in Green Mountain State Forest.
	Construct Sandhill Trailhead in Tahuya State Forest.
	Design and construct mountain biking trails on the east side of Green Mountain State Forest. 
	Improve signs and kiosks at trailheads in Tahuya and Green Mountain State Forests.
Phase III	Construct South Spilman Trailhead in Tahuya State Forest.
	Evaluate individual trails south of Hurd Road in Tahuya State Forest and formalize a trail system. Designate the single-track area (in the Hurd Road vicinity) and develop a parking strategy for the area. 
	Install and improve signs and kiosks at gates in the West Tahuya, Anderson and Sherwood blocks.
	Redesign and enhance the viewing area at the vista on Green Mountain.
	Design and upgrade Elfendahl Trailhead (also referred to as Elfendahl Pass Staging Area), including parking for events, in Tahuya State Forest.
	Design and construct an “around-the-mountain” non-motorized trail on Green Mountain. 
Phase IV	Design and construct Camp Elfendahl for overnight camping in Tahuya State Forest.
	Relocate and expand the Mission Creek Trailhead in Tahuya State Forest.
	Locate, design, and construct a non-motorized trailhead in Tahuya State Forest.

 All trail projects will include an evaluation of existing trails; unsustainable trails will be relocated to new, long-term locations, with old locations restored.

Part III. Planning Area Background

South Puget Sound Region and Recreation

DNR's South Puget Sound (SPS) Region includes all of Kitsap, King, Pierce, and Mason counties and a small portion of eastern Lewis, Snohomish, and Thurston counties. The region office is located in Enumclaw. Sitting between the central Cascades and the Olympic Mountains, the SPS Region is divided in half by the Puget Sound, Hood Canal, and Lake Washington. This region is distinct in that much of the landscape is a rural-urban interface, with over 60 percent of the state's population residing here.

SPS Region manages over 216,000 acres of trust forestland and regulates forest practices on approximately 1 million acres of state and private forestland. The region also manages approximately 34,000 acres of conservation land. DNR's Shoreline District manages aquatic lands within the region, such as state-owned tidelands and bedlands.

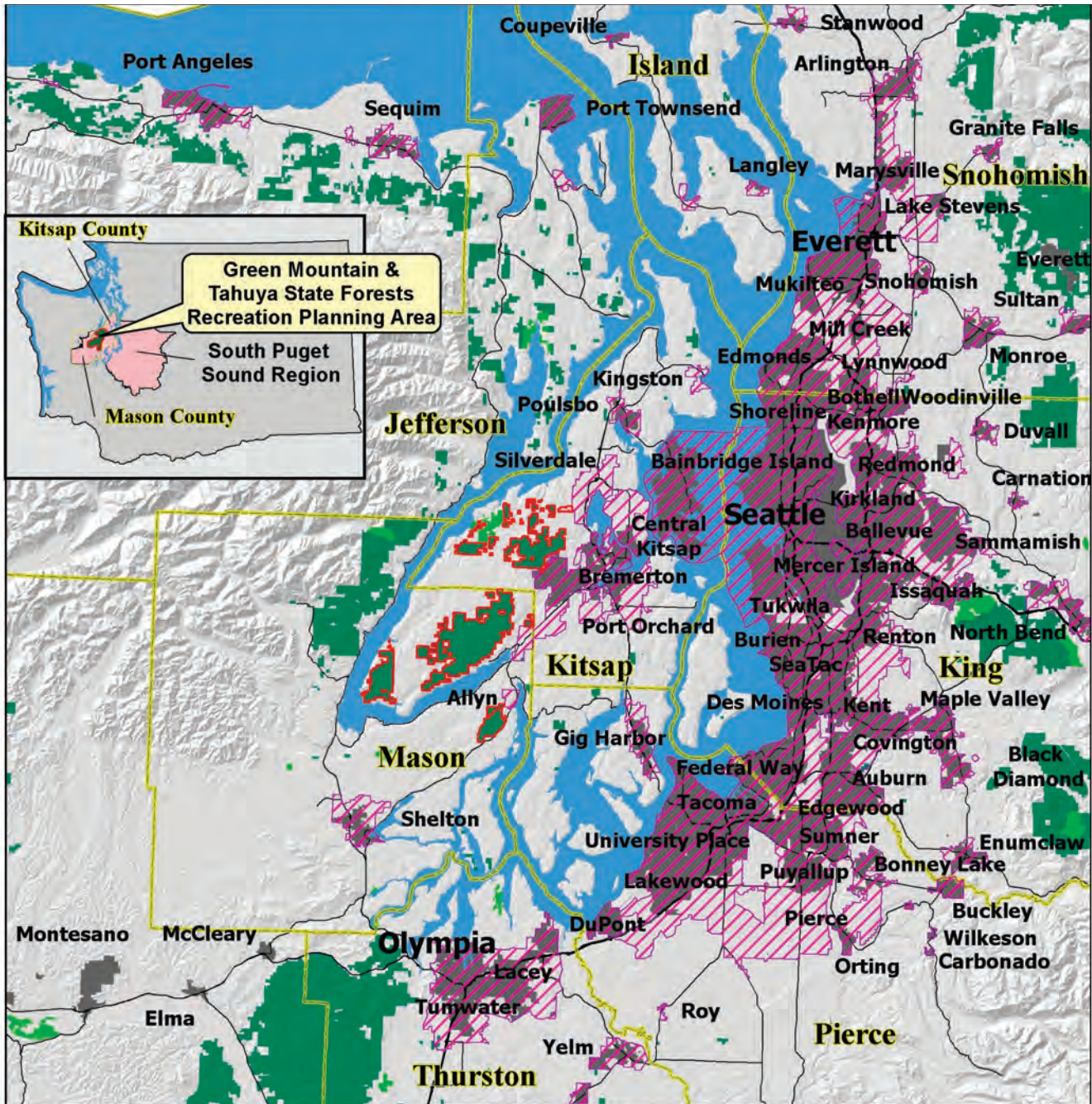
Levels of recreational use on state trust lands have increased over time and are expected to continue to rise. Popular recreation areas in SPS Region include not only the Tahuya and Green Mountain State Forests, but also areas such as Tiger Mountain, Mount Si, and the Elbe Hills and Tahoma State Forests. Dispersed recreation occurs throughout the region, but occurs most often in the western and southern portions of the region which includes Mason, King, Kitsap, and Pierce counties.

SPS Region currently offers the developed recreation amenities listed below:

- 38 recreational sites
 - 19 trailheads
 - 6 campgrounds
 - 10 day-use sites
 - Picnic areas
 - Vista points
 - Lakes
 - 3 ski huts
- 12 trail systems
 - 198 miles of multiple-use trails
 - 101 non-motorized trails
 - 57 miles of hike-only trails
 - 100 miles of winter ski trails

SPS Region manages recreation and public access in the Recreation Planning Area in conjunction with DNR's Recreation Program based in Olympia. Recreation in SPS Region is generally guided by past planning efforts such as the *Tahuya State Forest Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Recreational Facilities Plan 2008*, as well as the *2010 South Puget HCP Planning Unit Forest Land Plan*.

Figure 5. Recreation Planning Area & Proximity to Urban Growth Areas



-  Recreation Planning Area
-  DNR Managed Natural Areas
-  County Boundaries
-  DNR Managed Trust Lands
-  City Limits
-  2010 Urban Growth Areas*

Extreme care was used during the compilation of this map to insure accuracy. However, due to changes in ownership and the need to rely on outside information, the Department of Natural Resources cannot accept responsibilities for errors or omissions. Therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this material.

*Not all UGA's are annotated on the map



Map updated October 2012, J.G.



Recreation Planning Area Context

The Recreation Planning Area sits within two different counties, Mason and Kitsap, and is surrounded and influenced by numerous land uses including forested lands with multiple ownerships and purposes, municipalities, suburban developments, and designated natural areas (see Figure 5).

The Counties

Mason County was the fourth fastest growing county in the state, with a growth rate of 23 percent between the 2000 and 2010 Census. Most population growth takes place in rural, unincorporated areas of the county, such as Belfair and the lake developments (Mason County 2012).

Kitsap County is the northern end of the Kitsap Peninsula, jutting into the Puget Sound. It is located between the Hood Canal and Admiralty Strait, east of the Olympia Peninsula. Kitsap County is Washington's third smallest county in terms of land area, but it has the third densest population (Court 2012).

Nearby municipalities

There are a number of small cities, towns, and rural communities within a short distance of the Recreation Planning Area. State Route 3 is the main access road to the Kitsap Peninsula, traveling through Belfair and continuing up to the northern portion of the peninsula. Other communities located in close proximity to the Recreation Planning Area include Allyn, Bremerton, Gorst, Holly, Silverdale, Seabeck, Port Orchard, and the town of Tahuya. Each of these communities have ties to the recreation that occurs in this area and several of the Recreation Planning Committee members live and work in these communities. DNR staff worked to incorporate values from these communities into the planning process, including holding community meetings to provide information about the planning process as well as receive input from community members.

Belfair State Park

Southeast of Tahuya State Forest on the Hood Canal is Belfair State Park. The 65-acre, year-round camping park is managed by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. The Park boasts over 3,700 feet of saltwater shoreline, 120 tent sites, 47 utility sites, rest rooms, showers, and a dump station.

Protection of nearby watershed

The city of Bremerton owns about 8,400 acres of forested land adjacent to Green Mountain State Forest on the southeast side. Within this forested block of land is part of the Gorst Creek Watershed, a largely undeveloped area that provides moderate to high

floodwater retention, habitat, and water quality functions (Bremerton, June 2012).

Stavis NRCA/Kitsap Forest NAP/Oak Patch NAP

North of Anderson block is the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA), comprising 1,874 acres of a 3,700-acre proposed site. North of the Stavis NRCA is the 572-acre Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve (NAP). Sitting entirely within the Tahuya State Forest is the 17-acre Oak Patch NAP.

NRCAs and NAPs are managed under DNR's Natural Areas Program. These natural areas protect outstanding examples of the state's native species diversity. DNR-managed natural areas represent the finest natural, undisturbed ecosystems in state ownership and are often habitat for endangered, threatened, or sensitive plants and animals. They can also protect geologic, cultural, historic, archeological, and scenic sites. Environmental education and low impact uses such as hiking and wildlife viewing are allowable uses for natural areas, as long as the use does not impair the resources and values they are protecting.

Private ownerships of surrounding lands

There are a variety of privately owned parcels with an array of land uses surrounding the Recreation Planning Area, including forest management, conservation, and residential developments.

Ecological Description of the Kitsap Peninsula

The Kitsap Peninsula is a broad rolling lowland, characterized by a mild maritime climate, flanking the intricately cut coastline of Puget Sound. The Recreation Planning Area sits in a continental glacial trough, also called the Puget Trough, which includes many islands, peninsulas, and bays (EPA 1999). The Kitsap Peninsula has areas of flat lowlands interspersed with hills and low mountains (see Figure 6). Much of the planning area has soils that are derived from glacial deposits. Glacially derived soils tend to be shallow and include outwash plains, ground moraines, floodplains, and terraces.

This area is considered part of the Western Hemlock Zone, due in part to the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains and the gravelly glacial soils. Average annual precipitation is approximately 35 to 50 inches (Omernick & Gallant 1986). The native coniferous forest in this area is primarily of Douglas fir, western red cedar, white pine, and western hemlock. Both red alder and big leaf maple grow in the riparian areas, while red alder is also commonly found colonizing areas disturbed by fire or logging (LandScope 2013).

Understory native plants include bearberry, sword fern, shrubs such as snowberry, Oregon grape, salmonberry, rhododendron, madrona, and many others. In places the forest struggles against invasive non-native plants such as English ivy (LandScope 2013) and Scotch broom. Specialized forest products can be commercially harvested from the forest and include salal, evergreen, bow, and huckleberry. Additional products

from the natural forest understory, more commonly gathered for recreational and/or tribal purposes, include bear grass, bracken fern, various mushrooms, and berries.

The forests and neighboring coastline provide habitat for a wide diversity of birds and other wildlife species. A sample of wildlife that may be found in the Recreation Planning Area and vicinity include northern flying squirrels, cougars, otters, deer, black bears, raccoons, and coyotes. Examples of bird populations include bald eagles, osprey, tanagers, gross beaks, hawks, herons, common raptors and game birds, hummingbirds, migratory neo-tropical waterfowl, and woodpeckers. The many streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas within the Recreation Planning Area also serve as habitat for toads, frogs, several salamander species, and a variety of other amphibians and fish.

Threatened or endangered species known to be near or within the planning area include the Western Pond Turtle, the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon, and the Hood Canal Summer Chum Salmon.

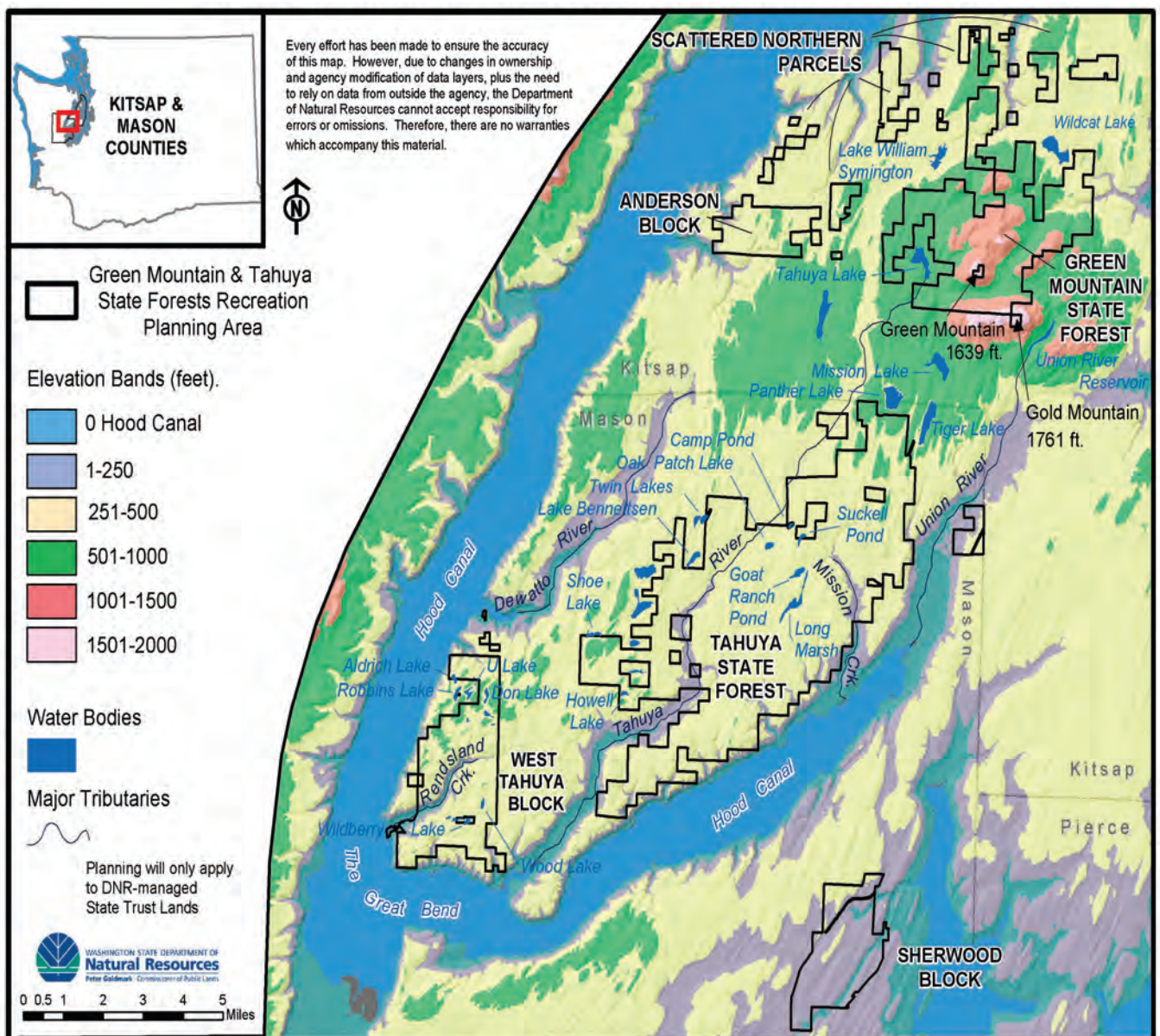


Figure 6. Landscape Features of the Recreation Planning Area

Tahuya-Green Mountain Recreation Focus Group

For several years, a group of committed local recreationists and interested public individuals have volunteered their time at regular Tahuya-Green Mountain Recreation Focus Group meetings. The Tahuya-Green Mountain Recreation Focus Group provides input and recommendations on user experience, trail maintenance, and area issues. DNR recreation staff meet regularly with the Tahuya-Green Mountain Recreation Focus Group to discuss strategies for both motorized and non-motorized events in the Tahuya State Forest and non-motorized events in Green Mountain State Forest. The Focus Group helps to keep DNR informed of new issues in the planning area and provides a valuable link with the recreating public.

Previous Recreational Planning Efforts

Two previous planning efforts for the Tahuya State Forest were created to guide recreational opportunities; the *1992 Tahuya State Forest Recreation Plan* and the *2008 Tahuya State Forest Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Recreational Facilities Plan*. This new plan builds on those previous efforts and also considers non-motorized and dispersed recreation, creating a more comprehensive effort that considers the entire Recreation Planning Area.

PART IV. The Planning Process

The Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests Recreation Plan was developed with the input and assistance of various individuals and organizations representing a wide range of interests and backgrounds. The public planning process included public meetings, Recreation Planning Committee meetings, a user survey, and public ideas and suggestions submitted via DNR's website, email, phone calls, and letters. The Recreation Planning Committee was a vital component of the overall process. This group of volunteers consisted of 10 community members that represented a wide variety of user interests; they helped to guide the course of the planning effort and offer input and suggestions.

DNR developed the Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests Recreation Plan with the help of ideas, insights, and suggestions from the Recreation Planning Committee and the public. The collaborative process yielded a plan that is consistent with DNR's trust mandate, addresses environmental responsibilities, and provides for continued public access and safe and sustainable recreational opportunities.

Developing the Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests Recreation Plan

The process to develop this plan included the following seven phases:

Phase 1: Pre-Planning

- Develop project scope
- Identify data collection needs
- Create 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 meetings
- Establish a Recreation Planning Committee
- Conduct a field inventory
- Begin an online user survey

Phase 4: Assessment

- Evaluate and discuss biological, geological/soils, and management suitability data with Recreation Planning Committee
- Compile the data from the online user survey
- Develop preliminary concepts for recreation management

Phase 5: Alternatives

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

Phase 6: State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review

- Conduct a non-project SEPA review for the proposed plan

Phase 7: Plan Completion

- Finalize the plan for publication
- DNR adopts the recommended plan

Recreation Land Suitability

Biological, geological/soils, and management suitability assessments were completed for recreation opportunities in the Recreation Planning Area in Phase 2 of this project. The assessments resulted in composite maps that helped to guide the Recreation Planning Committee and the planning effort. The purpose of the assessments was to identify and map areas within the Recreation Planning Area that have long-term limiting factors that could affect recreation planning.

The composite maps identify locations within the Recreation Planning Area that have low or moderate suitability for recreational facilities, motorized trails, non-motorized trails for bikes and horses, and hiking trails. The suitability assessment was intended to be broad scale and does not replace future site-specific analysis for individual projects where they are required.

Scientists, planners, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysts, and land managers were all involved in developing the suitability maps. The process included identifying and mapping biologic, geological/soils, and management criteria (see Table 6) within the Recreation Planning Area. Three examples of suitability maps are found on pages 34-36 of this plan. Additional maps are located on DNR's web site on the SEPA Center page for Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests Recreation Plan.

Table 6. Suitability Criteria

Criteria Category	Specific Criteria
Biological Criteria	Wetlands and wetland buffers
	Fish habitat
	Riparian areas and riparian buffers
	Suitable Marbled Murrelet habitat
	Caves, cliffs, and balds
	High quality and rare plant communities
	Sensitive, threatened or endangered species
Geological/Soils Criteria	Soils with high erosion potential
	Soils with poor drainage
	Deep-seated landslides
	Areas with high potential for landslides
	Slope steepness
	Perched water table potential
	Alluvial fans and flats
	100-year flood plain
Management Criteria	Communication sites
	Rock sources
	Utility easements and railroad right-of-ways
	Noise considerations and adjacent ownerships
	Water sources and watersheds
	Proximity to correctional facilities
	Cultural and archaeological resources

Figure 7. Recreation Land Suitability: Tri-Composite Map of Motorized Trails - Tahuya State Forest

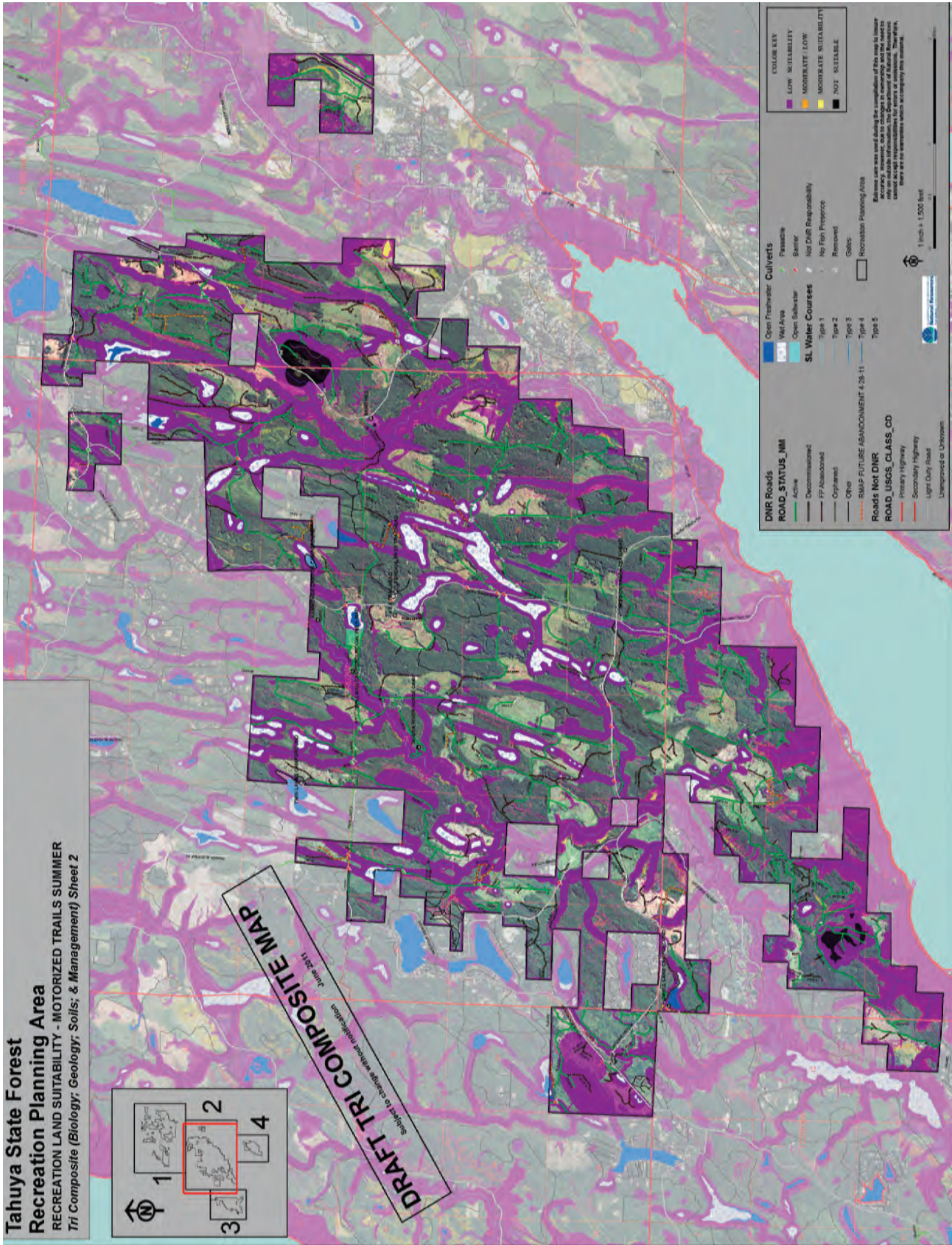


Figure 8. Recreation Land Suitability: Tri-Composite Map of Non-Motorized Trails - Green Mountain State Forest, Anderson Block, and Scattered Northern Parcels

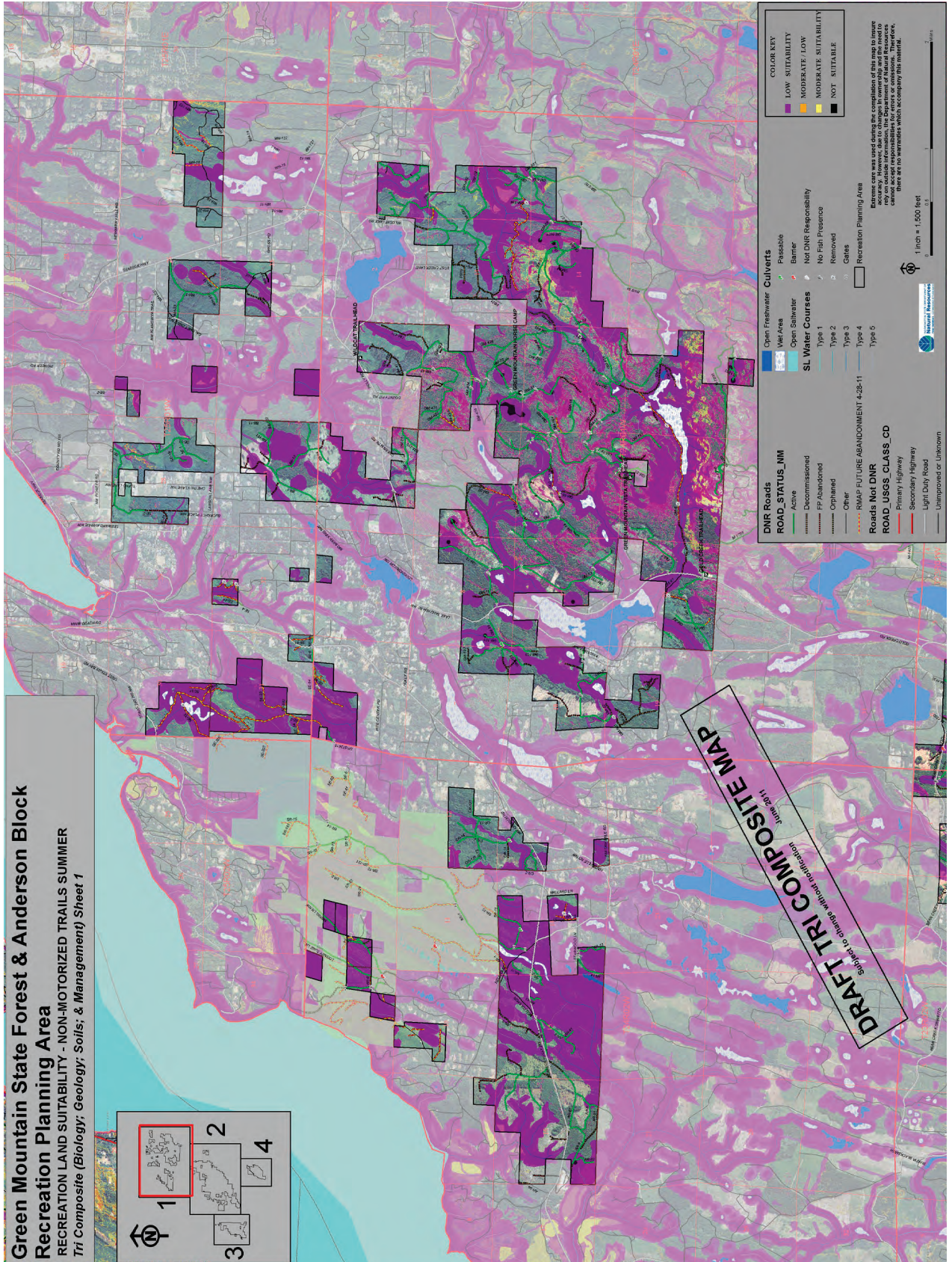
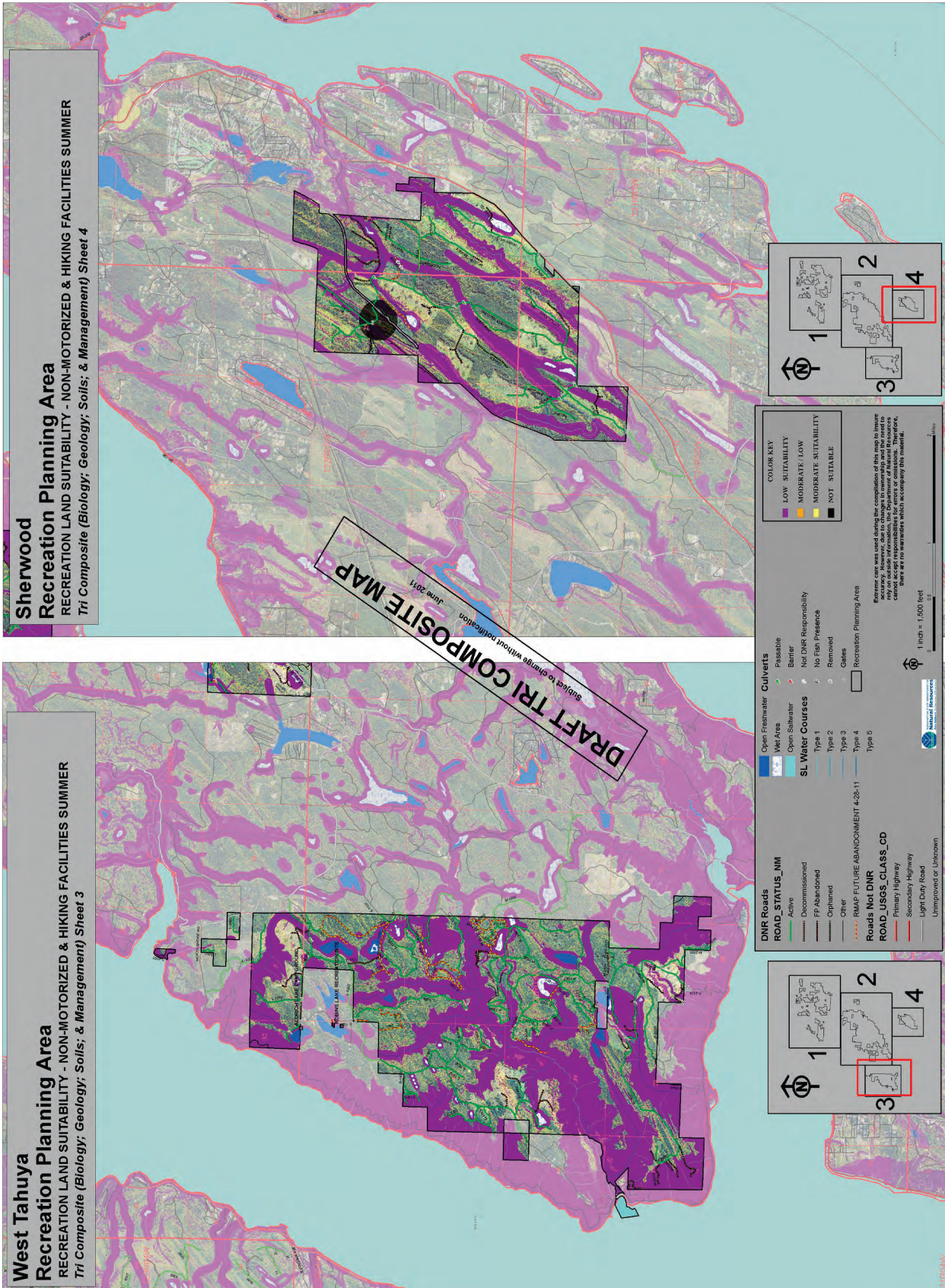


Figure 9. Recreation Land Suitability: Tri-Composite Map of Non-Motorized Facilities - West Tahuya Block and Sherwood Block



Public Involvement

Public participation in the planning process was an integral part of creating this plan. The outreach process included several main components:

- A public kick-off meeting to introduce the project and collect public input.
- Two community workshops to gather input and ideas from interested local residents.
- Participation in a web-based user survey.
- Formation of a citizen-based Recreation Planning Committee to work with staff to discuss challenges and recommend improvements within the Recreation Planning Area.
- External information gathering and issue identification from a variety of sources.
- Creation of a web page to provide general information on the planning process and solicit comments.

The Public Kick-off Meeting

To kick off the planning process, DNR invited the public to an open house held on October 26, 2010, at North Mason High School in Belfair. The purpose of this open house was to give the public an opportunity to share thoughts and ideas about recreation in the two forests and outlying parcels as well as learn more about the planning process. Close to 80 people attended the kick-off meeting, sharing their favorite activities and experiences in the Recreation Planning Area. Recreation interests noted within the forests included hiking, mountain biking, 4x4 riding, horseback riding, motorcycle and ATV riding, camping, fishing, hunting, geocaching, and more.

Kick-off meeting participants were asked to share feedback about:

- Opportunities for partnerships.
- Enjoyable recreation activities in Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests.
- Missing recreation opportunities in Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests.
- Favorite places within the forests to visit.

Community Workshops

In June 2011, DNR held two community workshops intended to gather input from the public about recreational opportunities and their impact on Kitsap and Mason counties' economic vitality, Mason County's ACHIEVE Healthy Communities grant, and quality of life. Two meetings were held, one on June 29th in Silverdale and the other on June 30th in Belfair. Attendees shared insights and ideas that were presented to the committee during the planning process.

User Survey

From January through March 2011, DNR conducted a voluntary online survey to gather information on people's recreation experiences and needs in the Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests. More than 1,000 responses were received. The main recreational activities that users reported for Green Mountain State Forest were hiking, mountain biking, motorcycling, and horseback riding. The main activities reported in Tahuya State Forest were motorcycling, camping, ATV riding, and 4x4 riding.

The survey asked participants about a variety of topics including travel distance, camping, recreational concerns, and demographics. The survey was not intended to be a statistical representation of use. It was utilized as a tool to gain additional information about how the Recreation Planning Area was being used for recreation.

Recreation Planning Committee

A committee of 10 citizen volunteers with diverse recreational interests was selected to assist in the recreation planning process. These volunteers committed to a 14-month planning process consisting of monthly meetings, field trips, and outreach with various user groups for input and ideas. The committee was guided by a Recreation Planning Committee Charter that described DNR's mission, vision, guiding principles, and goals as well as the Committee's mission, commitment, and authority.

The committee included representatives with a broad variety of recreational backgrounds including mountain biking, motorcycle riding, camping, horseback riding, four-wheel driving (4x4), hiking, hunting, and fishing interests. Several local jurisdictions were also represented, including Mason County, Bremerton Watershed, and the Shelton/Mason County Chamber of Commerce. Additional members included citizens from surrounding areas concerned with impacts to surrounding residential areas, family recreation opportunities, and environmental responsibility.

The committee members were able to provide DNR with information about various recreation interests in the planning area. DNR was able to share information with the committee regarding trust obligations, environmental and resource responsibilities, and funding limitations. Committee members served as a conduit of information to the groups they represented. The collective information was critical in making recreational use recommendations within the Recreation Planning Area.

The first several meetings focused on relaying important information related to the Recreation Planning Area and DNR's management responsibilities. Recreation Planning Committee members were given an overview of the Recreation Planning Area, including the history of use, developed versus dispersed recreation, current use patterns, and illegal or inappropriate use.

Several meetings were dedicated to presentations that provided critical information about biological, geological/soils, and management criteria as it relates to land suitability for recreational use. Suitability maps were developed that helped identify general areas less suitable for recreational use. These maps provided a foundation for the recreational use draft concept maps of the Recreation Planning Area. Specific locations of all proposed facilities and trails were not identified as part of this process; they will be determined by on-the-ground site assessments.

Committee members were asked to present information about their recreational pursuits in the planning area as well as input they collected from their peers and interested user groups. Following the presentations, there was a group discussion where committee members were encouraged to ask questions about the each other's concepts and share feedback about ideas they could support or needed more information about.

The committee spent a large amount of time reviewing and discussing various recreational use draft concepts for the Recreation Planning Area, with an objective of finding a concept that they all could support. Historic use, past planning efforts, current conditions, land suitability, resource protection, public use needs, and other identified issues were considered during the draft concept review and discussion process.

The final recreational use concept plan recommended by the committee reflects the comprehensive planning process and was supported by the majority of the Recreation Planning Committee.

Planning Area Issues

A vital part of the planning process involved identifying existing issues within the Recreation Planning Area and discussing and developing strategies to address those issues. Identification of issues was achieved through a variety of means, including outreach to the public and nearby residents, recreational user input, feedback from the Recreation Planning Committee, public meetings, community workshops, an online survey, the Tahuya-Green Mountain Focus Group, and general comments through email, letters, and phone calls.

The Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests Recreation Plan aims to address a number of key issues that were identified through this process. The following summary captures some of the main issues discussed; however, it is not intended to be comprehensive of all issues or suggestions that were submitted to the agency by the public.

Topics discussed throughout the planning process included:

- Protecting and improving areas for dispersed recreation (e.g. hunting, berry & mushroom picking, birding);
- Evaluating water access and camping opportunities for enhancement;
- Expanding signage and emergency access for the forests;
- Concerns related to noise from recreational use;
- Opportunities to experience Green Mountain's terrain and vistas;
- Options for managing the various recreational use types on trail systems and trailheads;
- Ensuring long-term, non-motorized access to the trails in the Tahuya State Forest (particularly for equestrians);
- Creating additional trail opportunities for hiking and mountain biking;
- Providing more challenge areas for 4x4s and motorcycles; and
- Designating single-track trails in the Tahuya State Forest.

Field Data Collection and Mapping

DNR staff directed an inventory of existing trails in the planning area. Volunteers and a Washington Conservation Corps work crew used Global Positioning System (GPS) units to collect and record trail locations. These locations were mapped and shared with the Recreation Planning Committee.

In Closing

This plan is intended to guide recreation and public access opportunities for the next 10-15 years within the Recreation Planning Area. Objectives and strategies and implementation priorities and phasing were developed with the active participation of the Recreation Planning Committee and public input.

Implementation of individual projects is contingent on acquiring adequate funding. Future development of facilities and trails will undergo site-specific analysis. This plan will be evaluated periodically as part of adaptive management, and changes will be made as necessary to ensure compatibility with trust obligations and forest management objectives.

PART VI. Regulations and Policy Information

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

[Public Lands Act \(Title 79 RCW\)](#)

Many of DNR’s obligations and authorities as a land manager are established in the state Public Lands Act. This statute defines “multiple use”, “state lands”, and “sustainable harvest”, which are key concepts that help shape the Policy for Sustainable Forests.

[The Multiple Use concept \(79.10 RCW\)](#)

This Chapter authorizes DNR to manage the lands for multiple uses that are compatible with those basic activities necessary to fulfill the financial obligations of trust management. Additionally, DNR is authorized to construct, operate, and maintain primitive outdoor recreation and conservation facilities to achieve maximum effective development consistent with the purposes for which the lands are held.

[The Policy for Sustainable Forests](#)

Adopted in 2006, the purpose of this policy is to conserve and enhance the natural systems and resources of forested state trust lands managed by DNR to produce long-term, sustainable trust income and environmental and other benefits for the people of Washington.

DNR’s Trust Mandate

Washington State’s public trust lands are managed by DNR for the trust beneficiaries. DNR is guided by a “trust mandate”, which is a legal obligation to manage state lands to generate sustainable revenue for the beneficiaries, which include counties and designated state institutions. The role of trustee directs DNR to act with undivided loyalty to the trust beneficiaries, manage the trust assets prudently, preserve the trust property (the “corpus” of the trust), make the trust property productive, deal impartially with beneficiaries, and consider the interests of successive beneficiaries.

[State Environmental Policy Act – SEPA \(43.21C RCW\)](#)

SEPA is a state policy that requires state and local agencies to consider the likely environmental consequences of a proposal before approving or denying the proposal.

[DNR’s Public Access and Recreation Rules \(332-52 WAC\)](#)

The purpose of these rules is to set standards for public use on lands managed by DNR. These rules promote public health and safety and protect DNR-managed lands, property, and resources. All persons who use DNR-managed lands should know and follow the department’s rules.

South Puget HCP Planning Unit Forest Land Plan – Final EIS (January, 2010)

The purpose of the South Puget Forest Land Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was to develop management strategies that will provide guidance in forest land management at the operational level. The strategies are based on local conditions and issues (ecological, socio-cultural, and economic) and are implemented throughout the South Puget Planning Unit over the long term. Management strategies are designed to implement Board of Natural Resources policies, which ensure revenue to trust beneficiaries, habitat for multiple species, and other benefits.

DNR State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan 1997

The State Trust Land Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) guides management of approximately 1.8 million acres of forested state trust lands within the range of the northern spotted owl. This HCP is a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and DNR.

This plan guides the management of state forested trust lands and enables compliance with the Endangered Species Act requirements. By providing conservation objectives and strategies that provide habitat for listed and unlisted species while providing greater certainty, flexibility, and stability, the trust is better able to meet its responsibilities of generating revenue for the beneficiaries.

DNR is also currently moving forward on a long-term Marbled Murrelet Conservation Strategy as part of the HCP. When the HCP was signed in 1997, managers had insufficient information to create a long-term conservation strategy. An interim strategy was implemented while extensive surveys and research were conducted to support the development of the long-term strategy.

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Appendix A

Glossary of Terms

For the purposes of this Recreation Plan, the terms are defined:

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

Alluvial fans - fan-shaped deposits of water-transported materials, typically formed at the base of topographic features where there is a marked break in the slope. As water flows down a slope, it can pick up sand and other materials. As it reaches the base and spreads onto flat lands, the material is deposited and over time an alluvial fan is created.

Balds - open spaces within forests which support a very different suite of plants and animals than the surrounding forest communities; typically found in rocky areas with shallow soils.

Day-use area - an area which supports daytime recreational activities but is not designed for overnight camping activities.

Deep-seated landslides - a slow but continuous movement of a large volume of soil and rock that sometimes transforms into a catastrophic movement. Depths of deep-seated landslides are usually more than 10 meters and generally mobilize the bedrock underneath. Most deep-seated landslides tend to fail incrementally. Movement is usually triggered by cumulative rainfall over long periods or by high ground accelerations experienced during large magnitude earthquakes.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - Washington state government department dedicated to educating and preserving Washington's natural resources. DNR manages 5.6 million acres of state lands, including approximately 3 million acres of trust lands.

Designated trails - trails planned for and managed by DNR.

Developed recreation - recreation that occurs at a designated site or location; built or improved for recreation on DNR-managed land such as a trailhead, vista, parking area, boat launch, picnic area, campground, or water trail site.

Dispersed recreation - activities that occur outside the boundaries of designated recreational facilities and trails. Examples of dispersed use include, but are not limited to, fishing, hunting, mushroom and berry picking, nature viewing, and geocaching.

Floodplains - flat or nearly flat land adjacent to a stream or river that experiences occasional or periodic flooding.

Ground moraines - till, or unsorted glacial sediment, that is deposited directly beneath a glacier. Rock and other material carried and deposited in the base of glacier.

Integrated Enforcement Strategy - a comprehensive plan to provide safe and sustainable recreation opportunities while enforcing rules and regulations such as the Discover Pass. It includes the participation and cooperation of DNR's Law Enforcement Services and the

Recreation Program, consistent implementation of policies and procedures, regular staff presence on the landscape, coordination of program activities, and management support.

Maritime climate - a temperate regional climate under the predominant influence of the ocean; characterized by a narrow annual range of temperatures.

Multiple use recreation (shared use) - trails and facilities that allow and support different kinds of trail based recreational activities which can include any combination of activities such as hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, off-road vehicles, etc.

Outwash plains - an extensive stretch of sediment carried by a meltwater stream from a glacier's tip.

Perched water tables – an accumulation or pooling of ground water that is above the main groundwater table. The ground water becomes trapped above an impermeable layer, such as clay, and forms a layer of saturated ground material separate from the ground water table below.

Primary Management Objective (PMO) - means the principal recreational use for which an area or facility is managed. A PMO does not necessarily mean that other uses in the areas are excluded. It is a tool intended to provide recreational visitors with an understanding of the types of recreational activities to expect.

Rain shadow - an area of reduced rainfall on the side of a mountain facing away from the direction of the wind (lee side). Air, wind, and clouds lose their moisture as they travel up and over a mountain or mountain range; consequently, the lee side of the mountain and area beyond get a comparatively reduced amount of precipitation.

Recreation land suitability assessment - a process where biological, geological, soils, and management data were applied in geographic layers and overlaid to produce composite maps. These maps assisted the committee in identifying areas with long-term limiting factors that would alter or affect recreation planning in the Recreation Planning Area.

Recreation Planning Area - the DNR-managed lands that are included in the planning process for this plan. Included are Green Mountain State Forest, Tahuya State Forest, West Tahuya block, Anderson block, Sherwood block, and scattered parcels north of Green Mountain State Forest.

Recreation Planning Committee - a committee of citizen volunteers with diverse recreational interests, selected to assist in the recreation planning process.

Restoration - for the purposes of this plan, restoration implies repairing resource damage that has occurred due to past recreational use. Fundamental to restoration is redirecting recreational access away from areas that are unsustainable, correcting erosion and sediment delivery issues, and supporting re-vegetation as necessary.

Staging area - a developed recreation facility that can be used for parking, picnicking, and activity set-up prior to accessing trails.

State trust lands - DNR-managed state lands held as a fiduciary (financial) trust and managed to benefit specific trust beneficiaries such as public K-12 schools and universities, capitol buildings, counties, and local services such as libraries.

Suitability criteria - characteristics used to identify locations within the Recreation Planning Area that have low or moderate suitability for recreational facilities or trails.

Sustainable trails - trails with the principal characteristics of minimal impact to the environment, meets the user's needs and desired experiences, and requires minimal maintenance.

Terraces - a flat or gently sloping surface that is bound on one side by a steeper ascending slope.

Trail Management Objective (TMO) - a description of the planned purpose for a specific trail or trail segment. TMOs include information such as the primary recreational use of the trail as well as any other allowed uses, design criteria, and any special considerations.

Undesignated trails - trails that have not been developed or managed by DNR. They are not formally recognized, managed or signed to support sustainable recreation opportunities on DNR-managed lands.

Watershed - an area of land where all the water that is under it or drains off of it goes to the same place.

Western hemlock zone - a biogeoclimate that experiences significant rainfall and is characterized by cool summers and mild winters. The Western Hemlock Zone occurs at low to middle elevations, mostly west of coastal mountains along the entire British Columbia coast and into Alaska, Washington, and Oregon. Western Hemlock is often the most common species (hence the name) in the native forest cover.

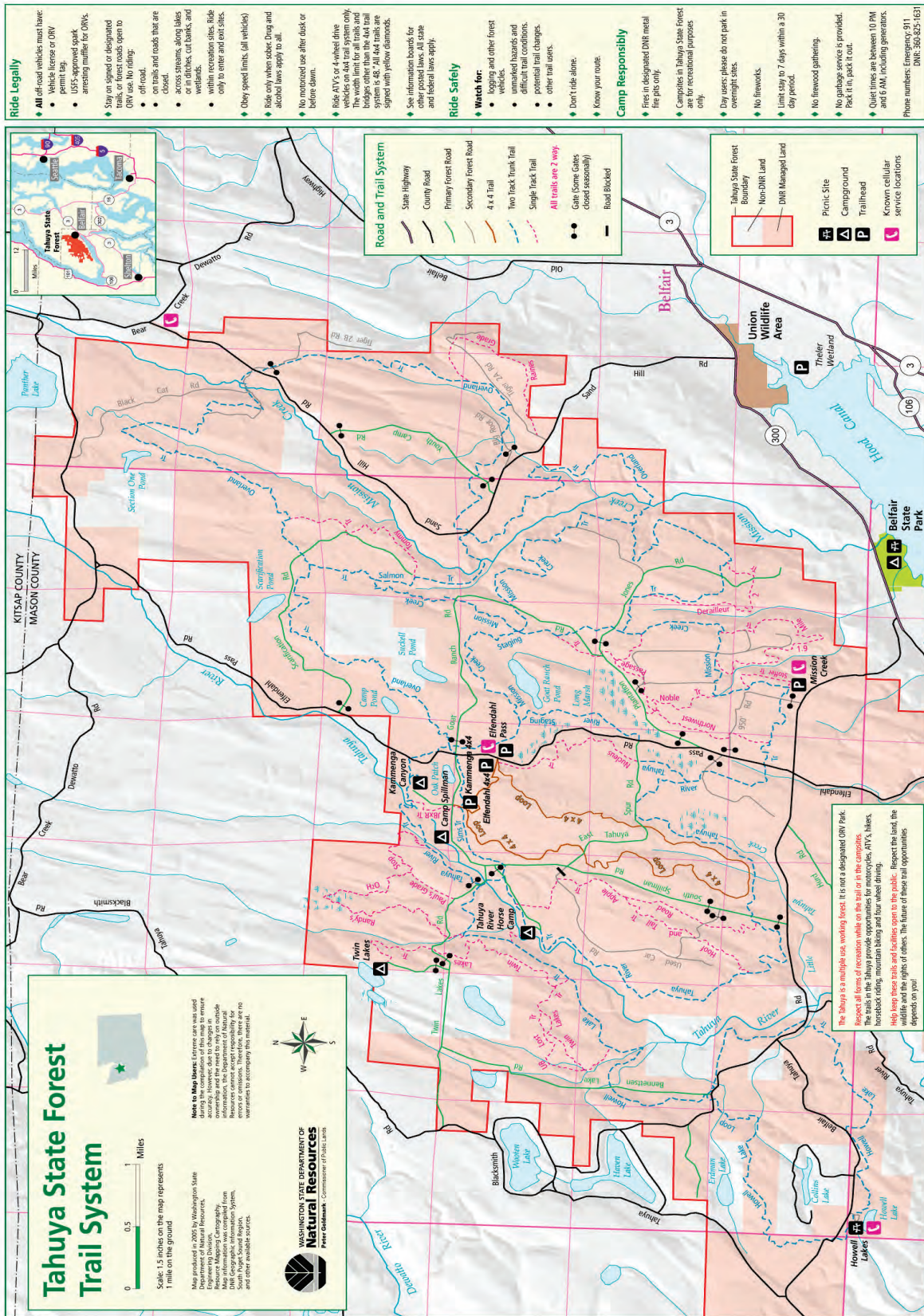
Appendix B

Recreation Planning Committee Meetings and Main Agenda Items

Meeting Date	Main Agenda Items
January 18, 2011	Introductory meeting: meet DNR, committee members, overview of planning process, group charter, DNR's land management objectives
February 15, 2011	Overview of planning area, recreation trends discussion, field tour planning
February 27, 2011	Tour of major facilities within the Recreation Planning Area
March 15, 2011	Biological Suitability Criteria presentation
April 19, 2011	Geology and Soils Suitability Criteria presentation
May 17, 2011	Management Suitability Criteria presentation
June 21, 2011	Review tri-composite suitability maps, recreation survey results, identify planning area issues
July 19, 2011	Summary of community workshops and issue update, committee member presentations on recreational activities in the planning area
September 20, 2011	Committee member presentations on recreational activities in planning area, group discussion and questions on presentations
October 18, 2011	Final committee member presentations, plan goals/objectives/strategies, issue sorting and discussion, field trip planning
November 6, 2011	Second field tour of planning area (Stavis NRCA, Anderson block, Sherwood block)
November 15, 2011	Tahuya and Green Mountain State Forests mapping exercise, discussion on partnerships and education and enforcement
December 20, 2011	Review and discuss preliminary draft ideas and options, additional discussion and strategy identification on partnerships and education and enforcement
March 20, 2012	Update on public input, present and discuss new draft concept ideas, discuss implementation priorities
May 8, 2012	Review and discuss revisions to draft concept ideas, continue discussion on implementation priorities, discuss plan strategies
December 13, 2012	Final committee meeting for review, discussion and consensus on final draft concept, objectives and strategies, and implementation priorities

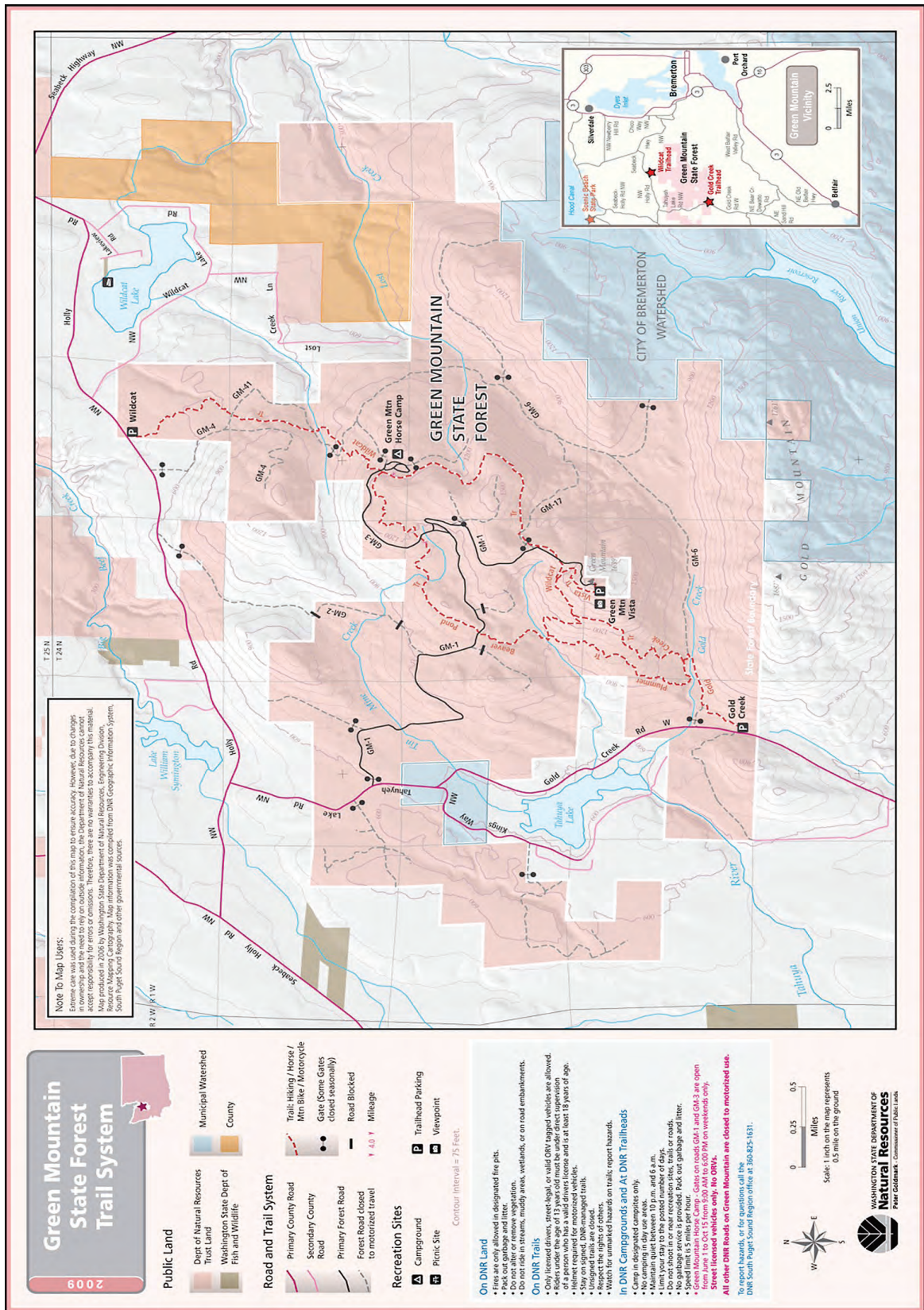
Appendix C

Tahuya State Forest Trail System Map



Appendix D

Green Mountain State Forest Trail System Map



Appendix E

2008 Tahuya State Forest Off-Road Vehicle Recreational Facilities Plan Executive Summary

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages the 23,000-acre Tahuya State Forest in Mason County. The forest is located within Hood Canal on the Tahuya Peninsula near Belfair and lies within the DNR's South Puget Sound Region.

Tahuya State Forest is a working forest, managed for timber production, wildlife habitat and recreation. Recreation and public access opportunities must be compatible with overall forest and trust management objectives to be allowed within the forest landscape.

In 2003, DNR received a Non-highway and Off-road Vehicles (NOVA) grant from the Recreation Committee for Outdoor Recreation (formerly Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation) to develop an Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Recreation Facilities Management Plan for Tahuya State Forest. The purpose of the planning effort is to:

- Evaluate current recreation use of present facilities.
- Provide direction for a desired future as it relates to recreation facilities.
- Guide the wise use of limited resources as it relates to facilities and attached trail system.

The planning process, conducted from June 2003 through November 2006, included DNR staff, private consultants and a planning subcommittee from the Tahuya Focus Group. The planning working group was made up of seven individuals who represented various recreation types of use. The planning group worked with DNR staff and private consultants to develop guidelines for facility design, concepts drawings and trail management objectives outlined in Part II. The plan is divided into three parts:

Part I: Background

Part II: Recreation Management Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Part III: Facilities Overview and Plan Implementatio

Part I: Background

The Tahuya State Forest is a working forest managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The department, by law has a responsibility as manager of the land to produce revenue for trust beneficiaries, such as counties, while protecting natural resources. DNR must balance this responsibility with the public interest, which includes providing recreational opportunities.

The Tahuya State Forest is primarily a destination area for ORV trail riding. Each year, more than 150,000 motorized and 50,000 non-motorized recreationists visit the forest to ride the 170 miles of trails. Examples of non-motorized recreational uses include fishing, hunting, mountain biking, horseback riding, firewood gathering, hiking and recreational mushroom harvesting.

This region has seen an increase in population and urban-related impacts, which puts pressure on the department to provide more recreational opportunities. Demand for public access is also heightened as many nearby private landowners restrict public access to their land.

Part II: Recreation Management Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

The Tahuya State Forest ORV Recreation Facility Plan outlines the type of ORV use, general location and/or intensity of recreation uses to manage the forest for the next 10 years. The decisions in this plan are guided by DNR's Policy for Sustainable Forestry and will also be guided by the South Puget Forest Land Plan. More specifically, this plan is intended to guide the recreation management for ORV use within the Belfair Planning Unit's Tahuya State Forest Block by concentrating on:

- o Access concerns.
- o Locating ORV recreation facilities away from congested areas.
- o Strengthening trail circulation around existing facilities.
- o Determining the capacity of facilities.
- o Providing ORV "first year/first gear" areas to redirect beginner use and pit riders from parking lot.
- o ORV facility development and design guidelines.
- o Locating facilities near road with a host site.
- o Establishing a border around perimeter of the facility.
- o Directing visitors with designated paved parking spots, kiosks and signage.
- o Allowing the ability to close facility with entrance and trail gates.
- o Providing ADA parking, a unisex toilet, and trail information board at facility entrance.
- o Utilizing first year/first gear (beginner riding/warm-up) areas as a way to focus non-trail related ORV use.
- o Centralizing ORV campground development.
- o Consolidating ORV overnight camping.
- o Redirecting ORV camping from four locations to one central location.
- o Reducing environmental impacts by eliminating informal camping at the staging area(s).

Public participation during the planning process was an integral part of creating this plan. Public outreach methods included:

- o Gathering information from the Tahuya Focus Group.
- o Forming the Tahuya Planning Subcommittee, June 2003 – November 2006.
- o Distributing more than 1,000 recreation user surveys.
- o Holding public meetings (two) advertised in the Mason County Journal.

Part III: Facilities Overview and Plan Implementation

This plan examines existing ORV facilities and outlines proposed new ORV facilities, which includes four ORV trailheads and an ORV campground. The plan calls for a 10-year schedule to develop ORV facilities and ORV trail access points from existing ORV facilities.

Appendix F

2008 Tahuya ORV Recreational Facilities Plan Guidelines for Carrying Capacity

Carrying capacity, as it applies to recreation, is the type and level of visitor use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resources and social conditions. (Paraphrased from *The Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) Framework, A Handbook for Planners and Managers*, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Services, page 96.)

The Tahuya State Forest ORV Recreation Facilities Plan addresses use levels by determining a carrying capacity of 80 percent with a target of 300 (approximate) parking spaces.

Interim Carry Capacity Background

Steve Uheles, ORV consultant, recommended six riders per trail mile. Taking the 170 miles of trail times 6 riders per trail mile equals 1,160 trail riders in the forest = **100 percent**

Assuming four riders travel in a vehicle: (1,160 divided by 4)	290 parking spaces
Assuming three riders travel in a vehicle: (1,160 divided by 3)	386 parking spaces
Assuming two riders travel in a vehicle: (1,160 divided by 2)	580 parking spaces

At 80 percent of capacity, there would be 928 trail riders in the forest.

Assuming four riders travel in a vehicle: (928 divided by 4)	232 parking spaces
Assuming three riders travel in a vehicle: (928 divided by 3)	309 parking spaces
Assuming two riders travel in a vehicle: (928 divided by 2)	464 parking spaces

At 50 percent of capacity, there would be 580 trail riders in the forest.

Assuming four riders travel in a vehicle: (580 divided by 4)	145 parking spaces
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Assuming three riders travel in a vehicle: (580 divided by 3)	193 parking spaces
Assuming two riders travel in a vehicle: (580 divided by 2)	290 parking spaces

Proposed Facility	Camping sites	Day-Use parking spaces
Sandhill Trailhead		64
South Spilman Trailhead		60
Camp Elfendahl	48 + 2 hosts	50
Elfendahl Pass Staging Area	1 host/manager	49
Mission Creek Trailhead		35
Total	48 + 3 hosts	258

Appendix G

Public Kick-off Meeting Summary of Comments | October 26, 2010

(These are unedited public comments, in no particular order)

What opportunities are there for partnerships?

- Northwest Runners (Trail Runners)
- Bike Clubs
- School Districts
- Fly Fishing Groups
- YMCA's
- 5.5 Tahuya Trail riders Yahoo Group – 100 members
- Pastoral Groups
- 4-H Groups
- Community/Housing Groups
- Local Community College
- Bremerton Sportsmen's Club
- West Sound Cycle club (WSSC)
- Realtors
- Tourism Bureau
- Chambers of Commerce
- Schools—Senior Projects
- Inmate Labor
- Company Sponsors
- Backcountry Horsemen & other Equestrian Groups
- Bremerton Sportsman's Club
- 4x4 Clubs & PNW
- H camping to BSA sites for same
- Pogies

What do you enjoy about recreating in Green Mountain State Forest?

Types of activities people like to do in Green Mountain

- Camping
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Sightseeing/View
- Horses, Pack Stock
- Mountain Biking
- Wildlife Viewing
- Motorcycling
- Trail running
- Geocaching
- Camp Hosts
- Trail Maintenance Training
- (YMCA groups)

What is missing from your recreation experience in Green Mountain State Forest?

- Accessible Horse Camp during the week
- Extended trail mileage for passive-non-motorized use i.e. Mountain Bike/running/hiking
- Segregation of land for Human powered activities. Works at Capitol
- Better maps with trails shown
- Maintaining closed watershed to Bremerton-Union River surface watershed
- Single track talking to Prendergast
- Usable replacement for the Tin Mine trails for all users
- More multiple use including motorized
- Better use of the topography more opportunities – less erosion
- A place to hunt safely and quietly (only a 3-4 week season)
- More safe quiet places for horses
- Narrow trails
- Trail system connecting Green Mountain & Tahuya (multiple-use)
- Trail system connecting to Newberry Hill Heritage Park
- If we convert some areas to more motorized or non-motorized be equitable so users don't lose ground
- Keep some trails non-motorized
- No hunting (small area)
- Shotgun, black powder & Bow only – no modern fire arms too many trails roads houses
- More trails & more maintenance
- Keep Trails rustic (single track)
- More involvement with Scouts & Youth groups
- Add Scouts & Youth Groups, Boys & Girls club to stakeholders
- More enforcement & public awareness of the rules
- Trails bike play area (1 or 2 acres would be good). Used to be there on telephone line trail
- Keep single track trails, challenging, don't make too easy

What do you enjoy about recreating in Tahuya State Forest?

- Want single track trail from Prendergast – Green Mtn – Tahuya (Please)
- Segregated trails if we have at least same mileage
- Horseback & Camping
- Camping key to Tahuya – closures have hurt this connection
- Rock play areas 4x4 - more challenges takes time, meet new vehicle skills
- Need more challenge areas for Motorcycles
- Tahuya is a great place to raise kids, outdoor & active & safe
- Diversity of opportunities
- Quality of facilities, signage
- Great place to stage events
- Hunting area undisturbed by bikers
- Additional play areas meet demands of new 4x4, need to try to keep challenging
- Tahuya has not lost trails – 4 trails rest of state lost trails. Impacts but makes Tahuya even more valuable

- Horse riding, hunting – needs some separation or closures during key seasons. West block Tahuya is key area for hunting & non-motorized uses
- West Tahuya special place – quiet – aka Hurd Rd – How do we keep them unique
- Secret, quiet trails are valuable
- Decades use of Tahuya for hunting & fishing – should not be pushed out by other uses
- User fees – support programs
- Single track – last lowland places
- Hurd Road – critical to remain single track
- E&E critical
- Capitol forest E&E – Tahuya in winter
- Large Expanse of Tahuya – before Memorial weekend
 - Ability to ride 50-60 miles on motorcycle in (oops that are challenging & memorable)
- Solid special Place -
 - 40 acres Rhododendron between used Car Rd & S. Spilman road – wonderful place – solid pink

What is missing from your recreation experience in Tahuya State Forest?

- Noise (West)
- Private Property (West)
- Illegal Use (West)
- Hunting (Private Property) (West)
- Campgrounds that stay open
- Safe parking for vehicles at staging areas
- Trailhead for non-motorized use (Horses – Bicycles)
- More miles of technically challenging 4x4 trails
- Mountain Bike skills area
- Quiet place to hunt in season (1/2 of area?)
- Scouting/Youth Programs
- More trail loop
- Enforcement
- Open roads during hunting season
- Current trail maps
- E&E man hours
- Trails crew hours
- More motorized single track mileage-multiple use
- Substantial Single track for passive/human power i.e. Biking/hiking only
- West Block needs horse camp/staging area
- Safe hunting area and season – no noise, freeways, just forest
- Horses spooked by loud noise safety problems arises
- Man-made difficult 4x4 trails/obstacles
- More extreme 4x4 trails
- Develop more dedicated single track motorized trails
- Traditional access for hunting and camping hunting dominated for decades
- Dedicated trails motorcycle riding area for observed event

What is your favorite place to visit?

Note: As part of this question, meeting participants also placed sticker dots on maps to identify their favorite places to recreate in addition to providing the following comments.

- My private property to see wildlife (West)
- Totally non-motorized
- Motorized mileage increase
- Any narrow trail at Tahuya/Green Mountain is fun to visit on my motorcycle
- Separation of motorized/non-motorized
- Like the trails for good workout for horse – the vistas-Good experience before tackling some of the trails in the Olympics.
- All of it – but the West end needs to stay non-motorized
- Non-motorized – pay my taxes! Motorize some of it! NAH! All of it
- Dirt bike trails! A current map would be nice

Other comments:

- Likes the challenging terrain the Green Mountain provides for motor bikes
- Beautiful views from Green Mountain

Comments received from comment cards.

- My concern is that this planning process is the beginning of further reductions in the motorized trail systems. Green Mtn. and Tahuya are some of the very few motorcycle accessible trails left. Pressure from other closures only increases impact. Please do not restrict our legal trail mileage
- More trails at Green Mountain to reduce use- conflicts. Additional wildcat one way trails to eliminate downhill conflicts

Comments received after the Oct. 26 meeting.

- Because of the amount of annual visitors—camping needs to be addressed (supply and demand issues)
- Overcrowding at the staging facilities and trailheads (Safety factor)

Appendix H

Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests Recreation Plans

Community Workshops June 2011

In June, DNR held two community workshops to gather input from the public about how outdoor recreation opportunities in Kitsap and Mason counties help support economic vitality, healthy communities, and quality of life in the region. The first meeting was June 29th in Silverdale. Close to 40 people attended and provided their insights and ideas. The next day's meeting, June 30th in Belfair, was not as well attended, but the discussion was valuable and provided new ideas to consider during the planning process.

The following are the unedited comments we received from the two workshops, in no particular order.

Workshop #1

June 29, 2011

Silverdale Community Center, Silverdale

Economic Vitality

- Get good numbers of trail use on Green Mountain.
- Motorized use is year round economic benefit compared with other uses, mostly in Tahuya.
- Camping opportunities are needed – reopen Kammenga and Spilman.
- Camping creates demand for goods and services.
- Mushroom picking on Green Mountain – gate access: web information could be improved when gate open.
- Belfair economy is linked to existing recreation – motorcyclists shop at minimarts and restaurants.
- Kitsap Penn Visitors & Convention Bureau – Market specific areas for individual uses motorized, non-motorized, market the primary experiences for use.
- Partnership opportunities with Belfair State Park for camping (park closed last winter to camping).
- Develop trail map with Kitsap visitor center brand the Kitsap Peninsula “Natural-side.”
- Lots of money into local community from horse use, supplies, feed store.
- Bremerton cruisers donate to local food bank and Red Cross.
- Positioning and/or branding area as a hotspot will attract new retailers (REI) and services, lodging, and other amenities.
- Users of open space tend to be advocates and/or volunteers.
- More access to small lakes.
- Partner with Ports and others to address state tourism.

- Business opportunities of other lesser known recreational pursuits, such as mushroom picking and birding.
- Provide opportunities to get outdoors for older populations too, not just youth.
- Potential to partner youth with older populations.
- Gate on Green Mountain Road has made area safe again = good for economy.
- Safe areas contribute to getting youth and families outdoors.
- Mushrooming on Green Mountain and other areas.
- Increase access to Green Mountain (hard to get to some areas higher up – too far to walk).
- Could be seasonal access for mushroom and rhododendron gatherers.

Healthy Communities

- Connect trails with adjacent community (west side of Green Mountain).
- Helps address obesity.
- Keeps people healthy.
- Protect connections between Kitsap County, City of Bremerton and DNR.
- Connect transit to trailhead.
- Public knows more about the opportunity.
- Connecting schools, boys and girls clubs and YMCA with recreation opportunities.
- People choose different ways to exercise, need to be open and provide for multiple recreation/exercise opportunities.
- GM -6 important to local community.
- Motorized and non-motorized uses need to be separated.
- Kids interested if parents can take them on trails.
- Gold Creek trail – too narrow to have both.
- Whistler in summer has areas set aside fun areas for kids and adults.
- Partnerships with Bremerton Watershed SE corner of DNR where abut Bremerton Watershed which connects to Ueland Tree Farm.
- No loss of motorized trail opportunities.
- Over usage of trails especially in the winter detracts from user enjoyment.
- Maintain Green Mountain as multiple use.
- Separate trails (motorized and non-motorized) on Green Mountain.
- Climbing rocks on Green Mountain – great place for beginner climbers.
- Look to other counties for what type of uses and amenities – Starbucks.
- Preserve natural habitat.
- Keep working forest working and allow for multiple uses. Other areas for preservation.
- Active and passive recreational opportunities should be accommodated but not together and should be consistent with the surrounding communities. Example passive: hikers, horse riding, Mtn bikers. Example active: motorcycle, ATV, 4x4. Safety issue to coming these together.
- Better signage and maps to help educate on value of natural environment and cause and effect of in appropriate uses.
- Events – develop or coordinate events with existing park and recreation: birding, mushrooming, native plants.

- Green Mountain has unique recreation trail experience due to topography, scenic, more primitive trail experience and lower usage, dry trails. Don't want to lose this type of trail experience.

Quality of Life

- Environmental concern regarding Gold Creek Trail – it is degraded and the vegetation has diminished.
- Don't mix motorized and non-motorized use due to safety concerns. It is hard to hear motorcycles coming around the bend.
- Better parking area management which would enhance the experience with better signage.
- Separate uses like Capitol Forest.
- I disagree with excluding one group. I am from the BCH and we work closely with motorcycle groups and I would not want to exclude this use from Green Mountain
- Access to Lake Tahuya.
- On signs, maps and other materials, educate users about trail etiquette and how motorized uses yields to hikers.
- Most of the maintenance of the Green Mountain on trails is done by BCH. Other groups need to get involved in the maintenance.
- Howell Lake needs ADA access to the outhouse.
- Gold Creek Trail was narrow, now there are more motorcycles up there and they have widened the trail. Also motorized riders ride on both sides of trees making their own new trails. Now the trail is destroyed.
- At Lake Howell motorcycles go around the gate regardless of signing. There needs to be enforcement.
- Access through Bremerton Watershed from Green Mountain.
- Biker's yielding to traffic on Elfendahl Pass.
- Keep natural setting and habitat to ensure animals stay.
- Leave West Tahuya for Hikers.
- Passive and active separated yet accommodate both, in order to respect the Quality of Life and decrease safety concerns.
- Active (motorized) recreation use is limited in the state/region. So this results in the use in the areas where allowed to be concentrated and congested. Spread motorized use out.
- As a motorcyclist, I am worried about horses and their safety.
- Passive users have more land available to recreate in the Region (i.e. Newberry is only non-motorized). DNR is the only place in the region where active use is available.
- Green Mountain has unique features for motorcycle riding: viewing mountain vistas, more challenging trails, streams, forested. It unlike TSF, which is flat.
- Ensure wildlife is protected = part of the experience.
- Connect corridors for wildlife.
- Forest lands very important for aquifers.
- Need educational hikes for students.
- Educate people about Forest Practices or activities that help forest health.

- Make maps available so know where to go and able to find access points.
- Diversity of recreation available in Kitsap County adds to the quality of life. I actively choose to be here because of the diverse offerings. Don't have to drive 3 to 4 hours to access.
- Partnerships with more user groups talking together to understand and not make assumptions about each other.
- Engage different user groups and outdoor volunteer activities to help clean-up, maintain, etc.
- Safety issues for residents near DNR logging activities – son almost fell on alder on a old road.
- Connectivity with private landowners in the western portion of Green Mountain.
- Old roads abandoned and going away takes trail miles away.
- Green Mountain is big enough for all uses (motorized and non-motorized).
- Data about motorized and non-motorized encounters, accidents (check IIRs).
- Need larger blocks of land in forest for wildlife.
- Protect plants for forest such as wetlands – biodiversity.
- Quality of life for all ages – lots of retired people in Kitsap (elderly and disabled).
- Backcountry experience? Should DNR be responsible for providing this kind of experience?
- Education of Green Mountain makes it special to the area.
- Access to both TSF and GM for gathers of native plants.
- Disabled and retired access to GM 1.

Workshop #2

June 30, 2011

North Mason High School, Belfair

- If there was more camping spots, there would be more people out there camping.
- In the past, families would go to the Olympics, now we need a movement to reconnect kids with nature.
- Working hard with Bremerton School District so kids get out to nature more.
- This area needs a place for people to shoot safely.
- A shooting range is a good idea with economic value and something that is not there now.
- There are two rifle ranges that are expensive. DNR is state lands and I am excluded to make way for more ORV riders.
- Shooting is a recreation. DNR can't just say don't shoot here, they have to direct people to a place to shoot, otherwise they will go a little ways down the road and shoot.
- We need more camping. We have campground and people can't camp there (Kammenga and Spilman are closed).
- We have a good mix of trails. All trails are multiple uses.
- Horse people are anti-motorized. Mountain bikes are hard for horse to hear that motorcycles.

- Mountain bike encountering a mountain bike on a trail is the worst.
- Shooters want 50 acres. How come we can't have 50 acres to shoot safely in Tahuya? If we had 50 acres (across from the gravel pit) we could help enforce and clean up.

Healthy Communities

- Possible to sponsor church kid's camps and reserved the horse camp.
- I take kids and elders to the forest with the YMCA. We start at GM6 and offer an easy and hard choice.
- If kids are out in the forest, it is because their folks are there too. Otherwise kids are not there without their families. It is the families who value physical activity that get their kids out into nature.
- DNR work with county to have an adequate shoulder for safety of young hikers/riders.
- GM 6 is flat which people enjoy; they go back to the mine. There are a lot of dog walkers.
- Elderly focus (not just youth).
- Young children today are doing computers, Game boys and not getting outside.
- Partner with scouts and other service clubs to get kids out into nature. In addition to Boy and Girl Scouts, there are 4-H groups that camp at the Horse Camp.

Quality of Life

- My club can't exclusively reserve Elfendahl for an event or close off one section to Tahuya for an event.
- Ban ORV use during the first two weeks of hunting season.
- Close pheasant area in the past for exclusive use.
- DNR needs better online information about access. Also, there needs to be better signs.
- Mountain bikes really don't have a main group; it is hard to maintain a club.
- Horse groups are the most organized.
- Peninsula Wilderness Group maybe a potential partner.
- Gains need to be made, because a lot of groups are splintered. There needs to be classes for hiking and mountain bikers.
- Theler Nature Center offers nature classes.
- High School students need to be drawn out to the forest.
- Families need a draw: show them a beaver pond and make access easy.
- On the Peninsula there is no where other than DNR land for motorized to go.
- In the region, non-motorized users have a lot of options.
- It will create more problems if DNR tells people to go hike in TSF, no space.
- Other places in the state are closed (private land has closed in the area) for motorized riders.

- Main impact from ORV who buy gas, groceries in Belfair.
- Draws people to Green Mountain (view point is an attraction).
- Roads get little use – there are lots of Mtn biking opportunities.
- Lake Tahuya – people come from other places to visit.
- Like to see Green Mountain get more use; there use to be a lookout on the top.
- People aren't aware of Green Mountain's vista.
- Now Green Mountain is the county's greatest treasure.
- Green Mountain has views and challenging rides.
- With the price of gas, I go to Green Mountain and not to the Olympics.
- Green Mountain is very under utilized, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the time when I ride, there is no one else there.
- Mountain bikers go to Sattlemeyer and Banner because they don't like the elevation at Green Mountain.
- I have used Tahuya for 40 years. We used to go to the gravel pit and shoot, now there is no place that DNR can tell me to go shoot. We have to drive to the West Block.
- Motorized has taken over Tahuya.
- Shooters and hunters are individuals by definition and don't like to join a group.
- Horse riders come to Tahuya during the week.
- Multiple use area needs to be communicated to people, so passive users (hikers) that go to Tahuya are not surprised.
- Most of the non-motorized users have been driven to Green Mountain.
- I read in the paper that Green Mountain was becoming a state park.
- Most local people don't camp here; locals use TSE/GM during the week.
- The multiple use component of the area does work.
- No one group has claim to it; that's what is working well.
- 75% of the motorized users only go a couple miles out on the trail from the staging area.

Appendix I

Certificate of Adoption



Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests 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 Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests, West Tahuya block, Sherwood block, Anderson block, and the scattered parcels north of Green Mountain State Forest, collectively called the Green Mountain and Tahuya State Forests Recreation Planning Area.

Kyle Blum, Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands

Date

