Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Outdoor Access and Responsible Recreation (OARR) Plan Interested Parties Kick-off Workshop

July 18, 2023 | 8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Final Summary v. 8/24/23

1. Welcome and Introductions

The workshop facilitator introduced the DNR Recreation and Conservation Division staff and the Triangle Associates facilitation team (Triangle). Then, Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands provided recorded opening remarks. The facilitator asked participants to enter their introductions into the chat.

The facilitator reviewed the agenda for the meeting, which included a presentation and two breakout sessions, and explained that the objectives of the workshop were to:

- Review the rationale for the OARR Draft Plan, DNR's authorities and responsibilities in recreation and outdoor access management, including the preservation of tribal rights.
- Receive an overview of the proposed OARR engagement process with the Tribes, interested parties, and DNR staff.
- Learn about and provide input on the upcoming work group process and big picture context for recreation and outdoor access on DNR-managed lands.
- Gather input from attendees on work group planning and OARR Plan outcomes.

The full workshop materials packet is linked here.

2. OARR Draft Planning Approach Presentation, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), and Questions & Answers (Q&A)

Andrea Martin introduced herself as DNR's Statewide Recreation Manager. Brody Coval introduced himself as DNR's Recreation Policy Manager.

Brody gave an overview of the four types of lands DNR manages and the outdoor access and recreation opportunities on DNR-managed lands. Then, he reviewed trends in state and nationwide outdoor recreation. He noted that since 2019, DNR has seen the largest increase of visitor use compared to other state agencies.

Andrea reviewed DNR's operating framework as well as the laws and Trust Mandate that inform the agency's relationship with the Tribes. She explained increased outdoor access and recreation can impact the Tribes' ability to exercise their sovereign and inherent rights through the harming or destruction of natural and cultural resources. She noted that it will be important for the recommendations of the OARR Plan to exist within the framework of tribal rights.

Andrea reviewed how DNR's Recreation program is funded. She noted there is a patchwork of funding sources and many of the sources are highly uncertain through the legislature and grants processes. At current levels, DNR does not receive enough funds to maintain existing infrastructure. Andrea reviewed DNR's current recreation planning hierarchy and how the OARR Plan is intended to fill the need for a statewide strategic plan. Then, she reviewed the OARR Plan's goals.

Andrea gave an overview of the OARR Plan draft planning process. The first phase was a small group that developed five key topic areas for the Plan to focus on. Phase one concluded in 2021. The second phase is DNR's current engagement process with the Tribes, interested parties, and the public (see draft engagement timeline). The final phase will include writing the OARR Plan, a tribal review period, a public review period, and publishing the final Plan with updates incorporated from tribal and public feedback.

Questions and Discussions:

- Tribal engagement: In response to a question about DNR's process for tribal engagement, DNR explained they launched OARR engagement in July at DNR's Tribal Summit. DNR engages with the Tribes as sovereign nations through government-to-government relationships, which means Tribes should be involved as early as possible in the Plan development process. DNR will work in close partnership with the Tribes on the OARR Plan's development since their engagement is necessary for the agency to develop a plan that upholds tribal rights. To gather input, DNR will meet with the Tribes through regional forums and one-on-one meetings as requested. Additionally, the agency hired additional staff to improve their communication and engagement capacity with the Tribes.
- Rule changes: DNR clarified there will be no rule changes in the OARR Plan, but DNR is supportive
 of future rule changes as needed. DNR plans on working with the work groups to brainstorm,
 strategize, and develop initiatives that could be advanced to the legislature. If rule changes are
 suggested as part of the initiatives, that could be seen as a successful outcome of the OARR Plan
 by DNR.
- Work group formation: In response to a question, DNR explained they are using attendees' input from an initial poll to make invites for work groups. DNR strives to match people with their interest area while ensuring each work group is made of a diverse range of organizations. DNR field staff will also be engaged in work groups to answer questions and provide members with more information on recreation in Washington.
- County government engagement: DNR clarified engagement with counties will follow a different model than government-to-government engagement with the Tribes. County staff can be invited to participate in the work groups and Plan development. Additionally, once the Plan is drafted, DNR will seek feedback from counties through review and public comment periods.
- Other agency recreation strategies: In response to a question about how the OARR process intersects with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) 10-year Recreation Strategy and federal land management plans, DNR explained they are informing and working with other state and federal agencies throughout this process. By slowing down the engagement process, DNR has additional opportunities to engage with other agencies as well as researching and learning about other planning efforts so that the OARR Plan aligns with them.
- Interagency Working Group on Recreation Impacts: DNR clarified their OARR Plan process is running parallel to the Interagency Working Group on Ecological Integrity and Recreation Impacts. However, the interagency process is progressing slower because it requires coordination of 29 Treaty Tribes and three state agencies. DNR aims to make the OARR Plan iterative so that it can incorporate the interagency group's work.
- Participant directory: There was a recommendation to provide a "Participant Directory" to promote communication and encourage dialogue between work groups and/or partner organizations not engaged in the work group process.

 Other agency coordination: DNR explained they plan to engage other agencies throughout the OARR development process and hopes to align statewide recreation planning with other federal and state agencies so that the OARR Plan complements their recreation and land management plans.

3. Breakout Rooms Round 1: Work Group Planning

The facilitator explained the breakout room sessions where input will help inform the development of draft workplans for the work group process. The first round of breakout room sessions sought insights from attendees on how to set up the work group process. Attendees were randomly split between five breakout rooms, and feedback on the same set of questions was gathered anonymously through a Mural whiteboard. A final copy of the whiteboard is <u>linked here</u> for reference and attached at the end of this summary as *Attachment A*.

In the first round of breakout rooms, attendees discussed and responded to the questions listed below. Responses included the following high-level themes. For full details of what was shared during the breakout rooms, please see the attachments and Mural boards. *Disclaimer: The following is a documentation of suggestions offered by meeting attendees. This summary is not a commitment from DNR to include all recommendations in the Plan.*

Overall process: What does a good work group process look like?

- Clear recommendation process: The structure and engagement process should have a clear purpose. The work groups' recommendation-making process to DNR should also be clear.
- Flexible engagement: There should be flexibility in the process to improve engagement as we go.
- Clear & stated outcomes: Be specific on what the intended outcomes of this process are, what input DNR is seeking from work group participants, and how this input will be used to inform the Plan's development.
- Inclusive and accessible: The process needs to be inclusive and accessible to bring in a diversity of voices. To encourage this, there should be a variety of platforms/input opportunities and stipends provided to prioritize community groups.
- Perspectives Gained: Work groups should be managed in a way that allows for and encourages
 participants to gain an understanding of the perspectives, missions, priorities, etc. of other
 members in the group.
- **Right sized:** Work groups should be manageable and breakout rooms can be used for smaller, focused engagements.
- **Relationship building:** At least one in-person meeting should be made available to each work group, if possible, to help build and sustain relationships beyond this process.

Essential conversations: What are the essential conversations that need to occur during the work group meetings?

- **Inclusive and diverse**: Inclusivity and diversity in the voices heard and outdoor access and recreation opportunities discussed.
- Tribal rights: Outdoor access and recreation impacts on tribal rights and cultural practices.
- Equitable access: Methods for improving equitable access.
- Responsible recreation education: Education around recreation impacts and responsible use.

- **Iterative and enduring:** Create a plan that is iterative, enduring, and will be implemented (not put on a shelf).
- **Cross-agency coordination:** Create and implement the Plan with cross-agency coordination (i.e., with other agencies).
- **Authorities and responsibilities:** Gain a better understanding of DNR's authorities and responsibilities.
- **Safety and enforcement:** Ensure that the Plan addresses how responsible recreation will be enforced.
- **Plan components connection:** Make sure that the goals and strategies in the Plan connect to onthe-ground actions.

Information needs: What do you need to know about DNR or DNR recreation ahead of time to be successful in the work group?

- **Existing agency relationships:** DNR's relationship with other state and federal agencies, especially around land and resource management.
- **Internal agency structure:** DNR's internal organizational structure and capacity, especially for how departments within DNR interact and work together.
- **Tribal rights and trust responsibilities:** A common understanding of tribal rights on DNR lands for all work group participants and DNR's trust responsibilities.
- Goals and metrics: Clarity around DNR's goals and metrics for recreation use
- **Revenue:** DNR's revenue generation and use.
- **Success:** A better understanding of current barriers to success and metrics for success in this process.

Availability and Commitment: What is the availability and level of commitment you or your colleagues have to see the work group process through? DNR understands it is a big ask and acknowledges it requires a large dedication of resources.

- **Commitment level:** There was a recognition that engagement in this process is a large commitment for participants.
- **Meeting platforms:** Use multiple engagement tools such as virtual, in-person, and hybrid options to increase accessibility.
- **Schedule and plan in advance:** Release the engagement schedule in advance and provide agendas and materials ahead of time so participants can prepare.
- **Frequency and length:** Use targeted engagement sessions that are shorter, more frequent, and focused. These should not be more than half-day, bi-weekly meetings.
- Willingness: Participants want to engage in the OARR Plan process.
- **Compensation:** Make compensation available for underserved communities, community-based organizations (CBOs), or Black, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) led organizations to engage.

4. Breakout Rooms Round 2: Big Picture Context & Input

The facilitator explained the intent of the second breakout room would be to gather input on the OARR Plan's proposed goal, what issues the Plan should address, and what success looks like for recreation in Washington state. Attendees were randomly split between five new breakout rooms, and feedback on

the same set of questions was gathered anonymously through a Mural whiteboard. A final copy of the whiteboard is <u>linked here</u> for reference and attached at the end of this summary as *Attachment B*.

In the second round of breakout rooms, attendees discussed and responded to the questions listed below. Responses included the following high-level themes. For full details of what was shared during the breakout rooms, please see the attachments and Mural boards. *Disclaimer: The following is a documentation of suggestions offered by meeting attendees. This summary is not a commitment from DNR to include all recommendations in the Plan.*

Plan Goal: In response to the Commissioner of Public Land's overall Plan goal (see Mural), (1) What do you see is missing from the goal? (2) What is exciting about the goal?

- Connect the goals and actions: Overall, it was observed that there is a disconnect between the goal statement and actions, and that the goal may be a bit broad and ambitious.
- Items to add: Suggestions for things this goal should reference are tribal rights, education, an enduring and holistic strategy, management across landscapes (DNR and non-DNR lands such as private, public, other agency managed lands if/where feasible), and resource values (recreation and other forest values).
- **Definitions**: It was suggested that several terms in the goal be defined.

Current state: What is currently working and what is not working for recreation in Washington State?

- What is working?
 - There are several different types of recreation opportunities and high public user satisfaction.
 - DNR engages well with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and volunteers.
 - There is good funding for capital investments.
- What is not working? There is no comprehensive strategy or coordination for the following:
 - Education and enforcement capacity.
 - Equitable access.
 - Lack of clarity around permitting processes for group and commercial activities.
 - Respecting and addressing impacts to tribal rights.
 - Responsible use.
 - Sustainable funding, especially for funding of maintenance of existing infrastructure.
 - Coordination across state and federal agencies and landscapes.

Success: What does success look like for recreation in Washington State?

- **Define sustainable recreation**. i.e., fulfilling current needs without compromising future needs and balancing growth, interests, and well-being.
- Balance interests between access and recreation.
- Improve diversity and equity for recreation access.
- **Secure ongoing funding** for DNR and recreation management.
- Well-maintained facilities.
- Improve education and enforcement.
- Build and enhance partner relationships and community building.
- Coordination across agencies and with other management plans.

5. Full Group Report Out and Discussion

The facilitation team provided a report out from their individual breakout rooms by summarizing the themes their groups provided. Then, DNR staff briefly reflected on the themes attendees provided. Attendees were invited to provide additional questions or comments for DNR to respond to, which are summarized below.

- Landscape plans: In response to a question about how the OARR Plan differs from other landscape
 plans, DNR explained existing landscape plans are localized and are not linked through a statewide
 strategy. Additionally, landscape plans have similar barriers to implementation and the statewide
 plan is intended to address systematic, long-term issues across landscape plans. Lastly, in addition
 to recreation, this statewide Plan aims to better incorporate and address outdoor access.
- Previous and current engagement: In response to a question about DNR's OARR engagement
 over the last two years, DNR clarified the first phase of engagement with a small group was
 completed without dedicated funding. The second and third phases of OARR engagement and
 plan writing are funded partially with support from the legislature.

6. Wrap-Up and Next Steps

The facilitator closed the meeting by thanking attendees for the input they provided. They noted DNR will need time to review the Murals and reflect on what was shared. Following the meeting, DNR will distribute a full meeting packet, with DNR's slides, and a post-meeting survey. The workshop summary (this document) will be provided to attendees with a two-week review period for attendees to confirm its accuracy.

Andrea Martin thanked attendees for their time and the input they provided to DNR. She noted any questions or follow-up input can be sent to the following email address: OARRPlan@dnr.wa.gov.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. PST.

Additional Notes:

- Workshop Stipends: DNR provided compensation to some participants to support their involvement in the workshop. Stipends were prioritized for participants representing communitybased organizations (CBOs), Black, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) led organizations, and/or other small volunteer-led organizations.
- Attachments: Attachments A and B are included below.

Meeting Attendees (listed in alphabetical order):

DNR Staff

Andrea Martin Ben Cooksey Laura Cooper **Brody Coval** Ben Mayberry Natalie Waid Allison Lu **Brittany Poirson** Pete Allen Ash Fansler **Curt Pavola** Sharon Steriti Sam Hensold Doug Kennedy **Stacey Fuchs**

Kyle Pomrankey Jayana Marshall

Triangle Facilitation Team

Alex Sweetser Anna Shepherd Joy Juelson Anna Hamilton Annie Kilburg Smith Lucila Gambino

Meeting Attendees

Amanda Schukle Jeff Kish Mike Moe

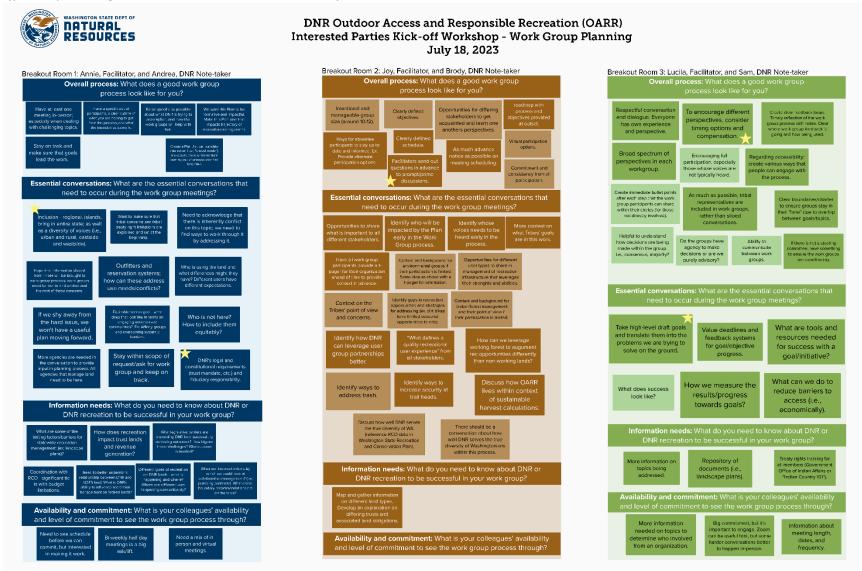
Andree Hurley Jennifer Nicole Assumpcao

Andres Guerrero-Guzman Joe Rocchio Norris Boyd Angela Cline Joel Sisolak Peter Herzog Betsy Robblee Kathy Young Peter Sherrill Bryan Pelach Keith Michel Rebecca Bear Caroline Villanova **Kelly Jiang** Sarah Lange Kristin Stoddard Christine Mahler **Stacey Fuchs** Dan Nordstrom Larry Leveen Ted Jackson Linda Driscoll Heath Heikkila Tim Stapleton Heide Andersen Mackenzie Dolstad Tom Bugert

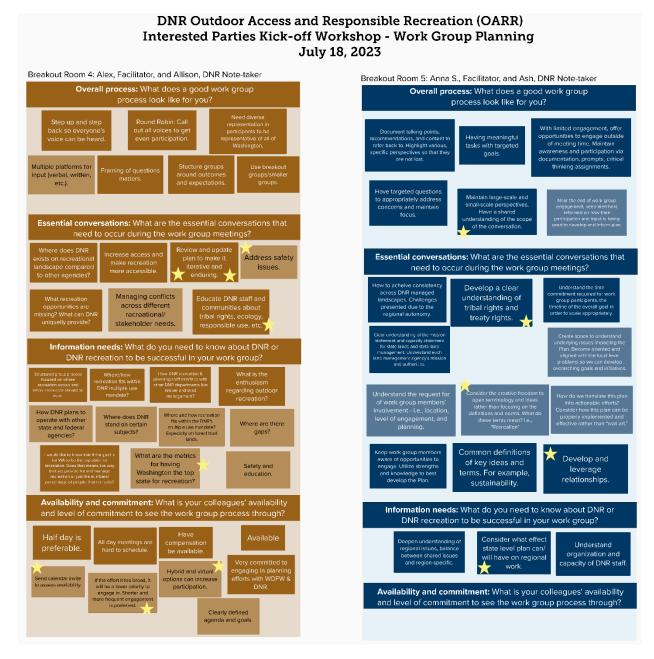
Jakob Perry Marc Toenyan Tom Vogl

Call-in User x2 James King Jr Mat Lyons

Jason Callahan Michael DeCramer **Attachment A:** Breakout Rooms Part 1 - Work Group Planning (full board <u>link here</u>). *Disclaimer: The following is a documentation of suggestions offered by meeting attendees. This is not a commitment from DNR to include all recommendations in the Plan.*



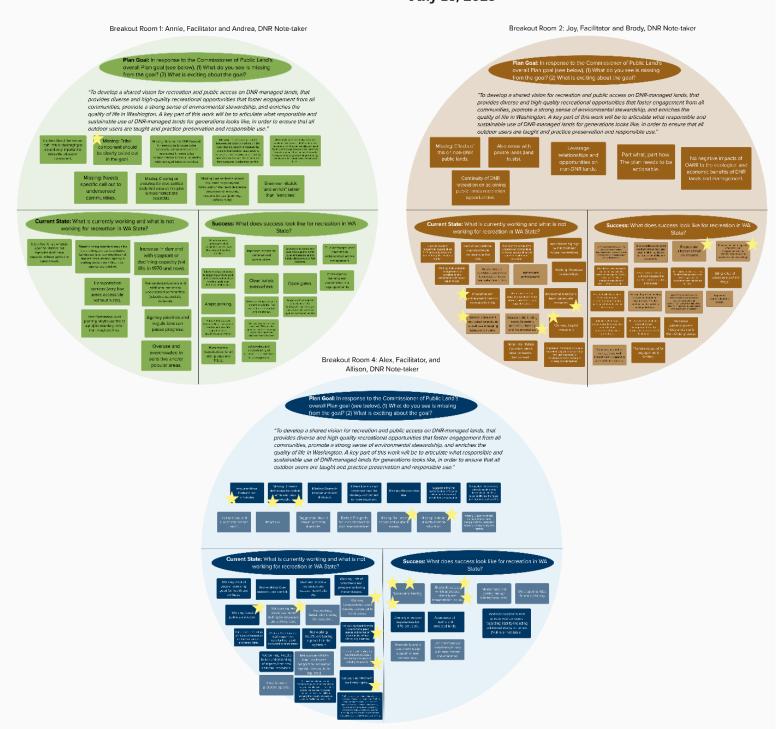
Attachment A: Continued (full board <u>link here</u>). *Disclaimer: The following is a documentation of suggestions offered by meeting attendees. This is not a commitment from DNR to include all recommendations in the Plan.*



Attachment B: Breakout Rooms Part 2 – Big Picture Context and Input (full board <u>link here</u>). *Disclaimer:* The following is a documentation of suggestions offered by meeting attendees. This is not a commitment from DNR to include all recommendations in the Plan.



DNR Outdoor Access and Responsible Recreation (OARR) Interested Parties Kick-off Workshop - Big Picture Context and Input July 18, 2023



Attachment B: Continued (full board <u>link here</u>). *Disclaimer: The following is a documentation of suggestions offered by meeting attendees. This is not a commitment from DNR to include all recommendations in the Plan.*

