

Developing a Vision for Outdoor Access and Responsible Recreation on DNR-Managed Lands *Part Two*

Presentation to Board of Natural Resources

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July 5, 2023



Agenda Overview

 **June Meeting Recap**

 **Recreation Program Funding**

 **Benefits of the Recreation Program**

 **Recreation Challenges and Opportunities**

 **OARR Plan**

 **Next Steps**



Recreation Program Funding, Planning and Implementation



DNR Recreation Funding Adjustments

PRIMARY FUNDING SOURCES	21-23 Biennium	23-25 Biennium
ORV and Non-Highway Vehicle (Gas tax refund)	\$ 4,884,000	\$ 4,884,000*
Grants (All RCO Programs)	\$ 4,800,000	\$ 4,856,724
Discover Pass (PLTRA)	\$ 3,542,000	\$ 3,542,000*
General Fund-State Maintenance	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 7,900,000*
State Capital Appropriation	\$ 3,100,000	\$ 2,900,000
NOVA (Direct DNR Appropriation)**	\$ 629,000	\$ 0
RMCA, FDA, and Ag-Trust (Trust Lands Management Accounts combined)	\$ 253,000	\$ 253,000*
Protect Public Lands and Tribal Rights	N/A	\$ 1,100,000
TOTAL ALLOCATION:	\$20,708,000	\$25,079,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED NEED:	\$32,000,000	\$34,200,000

*Projected amounts





Legislative Budget Allocations

Recreation Maintenance (\$7.9 Million – GFS)



Additional law enforcement (\$2.8 Million – GFS)



Outdoor Access and Responsible Recreation (OARR) Plan (\$200K)



Interagency – Tribal coordination (\$687K)



Safe and Sustainable Recreation (\$2.9 Million)



Conservation Corps (\$3.0 Million)



Estimated: Grant Funding 23-25

Grant Type and Amount*					
	Development	Maintenance	Education & Enforcement	Total	
Grant Program	Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)	\$485,000	\$2,040,000	\$703,000	\$3,228,000
	Recreational Trails Program (RTP)		\$41,000		\$41,000
	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) State Lands Development	\$1,267,000	N/A	N/A	\$1,267,000
		\$1,752,000	\$ 2,081,000	\$703,000	\$4,536,000

* These amounts are estimates and will be decided by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board at their June 2023 meeting.





Work Force: Conservation Corps

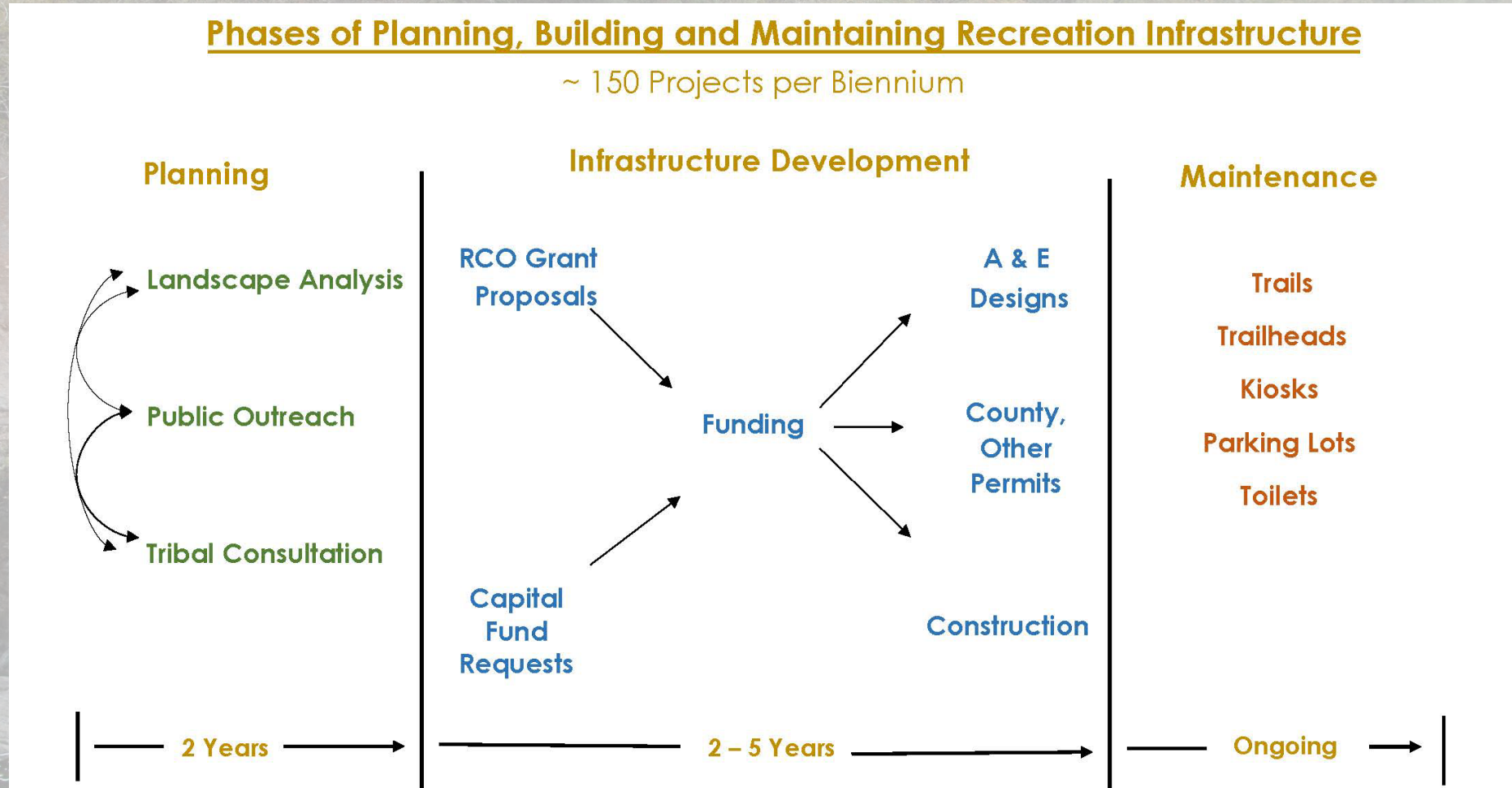




Funding and Implementation: how does it work?

Phases of Planning, Building and Maintaining Recreation Infrastructure

~ 150 Projects per Biennium





Olsen Creek Bridge





Trust compensation for recreation sites: how does it work?

When recreation sites are built on trust land, the department uses leases or restrictive covenants to ensure the trust is compensated for the land.



Delineate recreation site
State Land Survey Office



Site preparation
Direct timber sale



Lease, CPL order, or
restrictive covenant
Bare land value



What are the benefits of the Recreation Program?

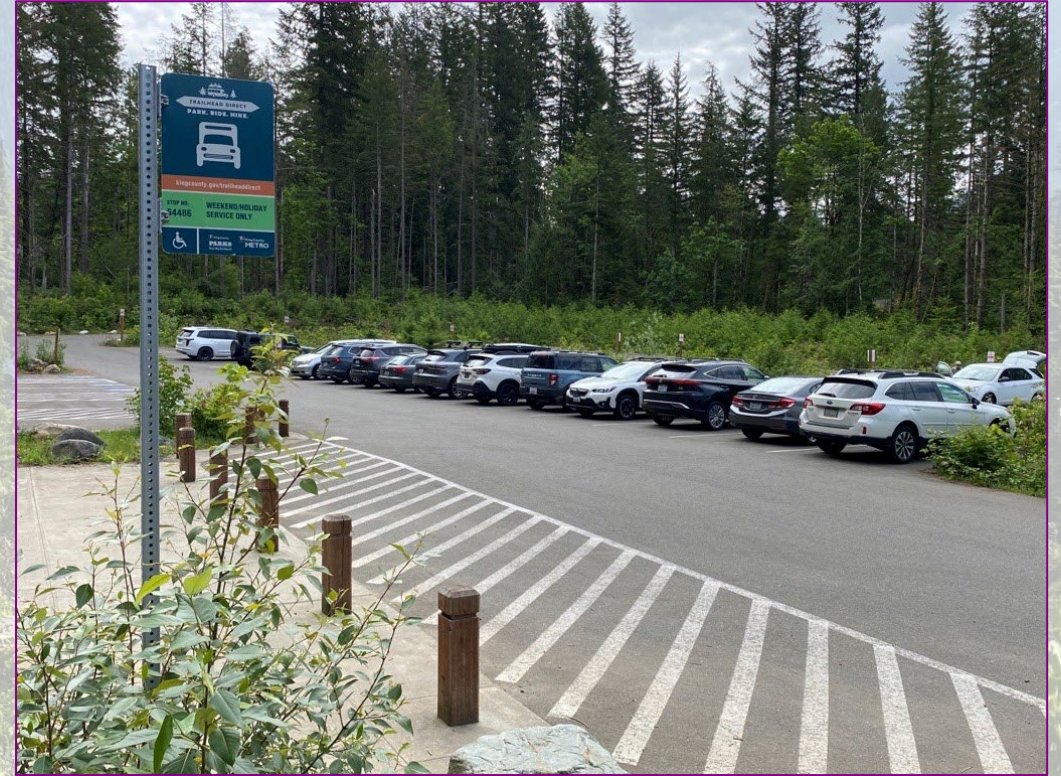




Manages Recreation Impacts



Unmanaged



Managed

vs.



Economic Contribution of Outdoor Recreation

Washington State (All Lands):

- Exceeded ~\$26.5 billion in direct spending
- Supported 264,000 jobs.

State-owned Lands (DNR, DFW, Parks):

- \$3.3 billion in direct spending
- Supported 37,000 jobs

DNR Lands:

- \$730 million in direct spending
- Supported 4,750 jobs

Mojica, J., Fletcher, A. *Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State, 2020 Update*. Earth Economics. Tacoma, WA, 2020.

Lin, A., Cousins, K., Fletcher-Muñoz, A., Mojica, J., 2022. *Outdoor Recreation on State Lands in Washington: What Mobile Device Data Reveal About Visitation*. Earth Economics. Tacoma, WA.



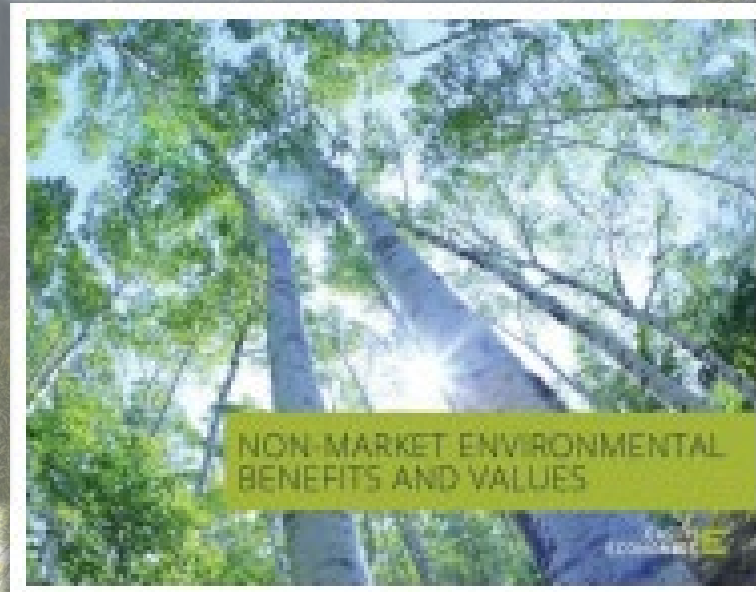
Non-Market Benefits of Providing Outdoor Recreation

Trust Lands Performance Assessment Project
Charting a Course for the Future

Legislative Report | January, 2021



Office of the Commissioner of Public Lands, Hilary Franz
Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands, Angus Brodie



State trust lands provide ~\$990 million annually in non-market outdoor recreation benefits.

Cousins, K., Mojica, J., Madsen, T., Armistead, C., Fletcher, A. Trust Land Performance Assessment: Non-Market Environmental Benefits and Values Earth Economics. Tacoma, WA, 2020.





Other Benefits:

1. Presence on landscape
2. Tax dollars spent educating users on working forests
3. Law enforcement

Your Trust Lands at Work

THIS TIMBER HARVEST SALE PROVIDES ONGOING SUPPORT TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Capitol State Forest is a sustainable working forest that supports trust beneficiaries while providing fun and safe recreation. Most of the trust revenue produced by Capitol State Forest comes from the harvest of trees. Harvests are carefully planned years in advance and are designed to support a living mosaic of forest habitat for wildlife, with protections for fish and clean water.

- Funds county services.
- Replants forestland with a mix of an average of 400 native trees per acre.
- Replaces some mature trees within the harvested area and along the trail corridor.
- Adheres to some of the nation's highest environmental standards to protect habitat for multiple species.
- Keeps forests development-free.
- Provides funds for road maintenance, supporting outdoor recreation access.

JANEWAY TIMBER SALE HARVEST AREAS

Campgrounds, triangle pit, trailheads, and trails may close for safety reasons from 10/01/20 until 5/01/21.

NATURAL RESOURCES
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For more information about this forest sale and harvest, please visit: enjoy.gov/nr

MANAGING WORKING FORESTS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

MIDGE TIMBER SALE | ACTIVE SUMMER/FALL 2022

Funds support Skagit County, the Burlington-Edison School District and statewide public services.

This timber sale helped facilitate a new access road to the Overlook that is safer and more sustainable.

Produces locally-sourced wood products and helps support nearly 2,000 living wage jobs in Whatcom and Skagit counties.*

Keeps forests development free.

Pioneered some of the nation's highest environmental standards for sustainable forestry.

Planting and forest stewardship ensure ecologically sound and economically productive forests for future generations.

DID YOU KNOW?
DNR manages this working forest in partnership with the Blanchard Forest Advisory Committee, which approved this timber sale. This committee is made up of a diverse group of stakeholders from the recreational and environmental communities and the local timber industry working collaboratively to provide input to the agency on the best practices for managing Blanchard State Forest as a working forest.

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Recreation Program Challenges and Opportunities





Shifting Needs and Usage

- Changing technology
- User conflict
 - Developed vs. Disbursed
- Unsustainable funding
- Increased demand for recreation
- Increased tribal concern regarding recreation impacts
- Public abuse
 - Recreation vs. Public access





Public Abuse and Misuse

ESTIMATED AVERAGE ANNUAL COST OF PUBLIC ABUSE (Incurred)

Source	Includes	Annual Cost
Incidental Abuse <u>Addressed</u>	Uplands, Law Enforcement, and Corrections Camps	\$ 3,640,000
Incidental Abuse <u>Unaddressed</u>	Additional annual costs to address all abuse	\$ 2,500,000
Trust Assets	Wood theft	\$ 4,050,000
	TOTAL:	\$ 10,190,000





Outdoor Access and Responsible Recreation (OARR) Plan





OARR Plan Goals

To develop a shared vision for recreation and public access on DNR-managed lands, that provides diverse and high quality recreational opportunities that foster engagement from all communities, promote a strong sense of environmental stewardship and enriches the quality of life in Washington.



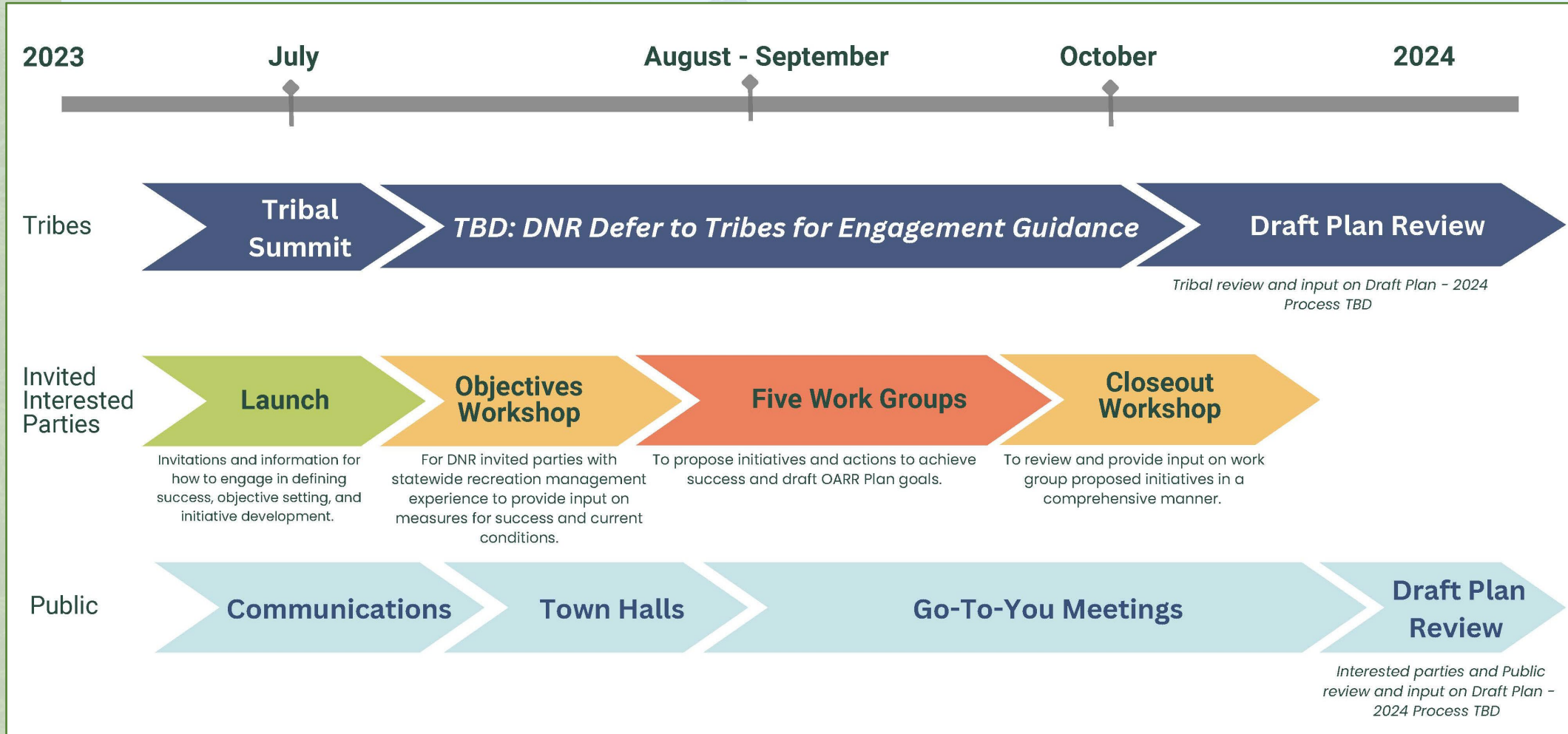
Themes of the OARR Plan



1. Preserve and protect the natural environment and cultural resources
2. Build an outdoor stewardship and responsibility ethic
3. Increase equitable access and responsible recreation development, stewardship and management
4. Secure financial stability for recreation development, stewardship and management
5. Mitigate climate impacts and build resilience



OARR Plan Engagement Timeline





Next Steps: Calendar for Upcoming Meetings

June 6 BNR Meeting – Recreation Program Overview



July 5, BNR Meeting – Challenges in Recreation and OARR Kickoff



July 10, 11 Tribal Summit



August 22, 23 BNR Retreat – NW Region





Questions?

