
OUTDOOR ACCESS AND RESPONSIBLE RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN

BNR UPDATE

JANUARY 3, 2024

Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn

Andrea Martin





TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- OARR Background
- Summary of OARR Plan Outreach with Tribes
- Updated Purpose and Goals
- Upcoming Outreach in 2024

RECREATION ON LANDS MANAGED BY DNR



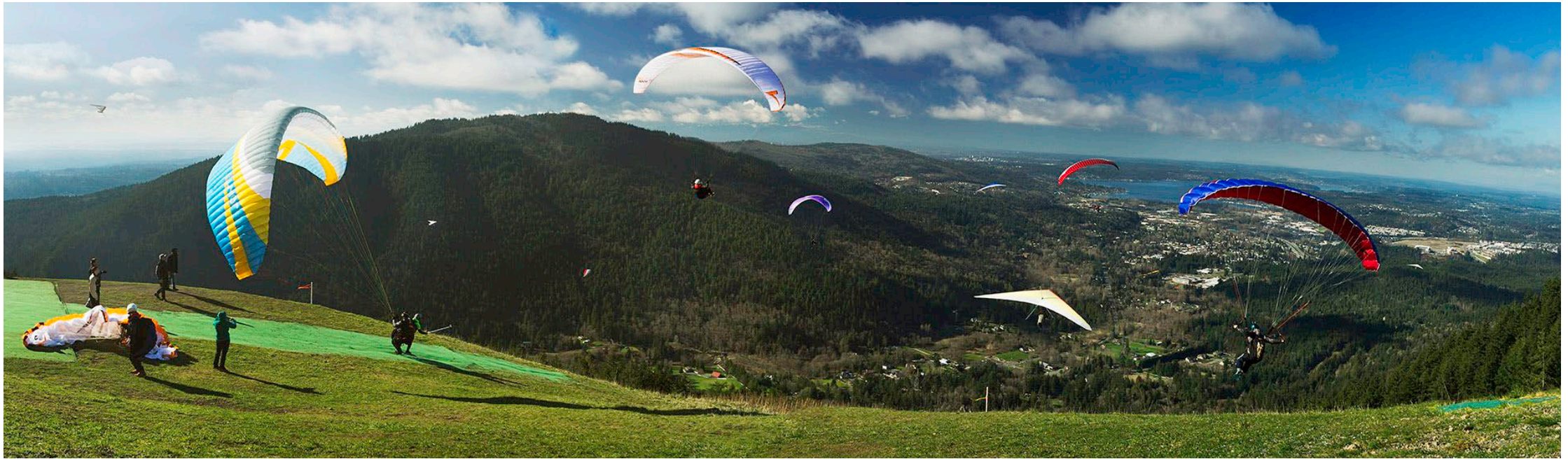
DNR Manages **5.6 million acres** of state-owned upland and aquatic lands to achieve multiple outcomes.

Trust Lands: *3 million acres* of uplands (including forest, agriculture, grazing, and urban lands).

Aquatic Lands: *2.6 million acres* of state-owned aquatic lands (SOAL).

Natural Resource Conservation Areas: protect native ecosystems, habitat, and scenic landscapes. Nearly *126,000 acres* are conserved in 39 sites.

Natural Area Preserves: *41,000 acres* are preserved across 58 sites statewide.



DNR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Camping
- Geocaching
- Rock Climbing
- Backpacking
- Kayaking
- Foraging
- Boating
- Rockhounding
- Nature Viewing
- Target Shooting
- Horseback Riding
- Motorized vehicle riding
- Snowshoeing
- Hunting
- Hang gliding
- Paddleboarding
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Paragliding
- Mountain Biking

TRIBAL RIGHTS AND INTERESTS

- The US Federal and Washington State Governments recognize tribes as sovereign nations, having specific rights.
- Outdoor recreation impacts on ecosystems in areas covered by historic treaties can limit tribes' ability to exercise their sovereign and inherent rights through the harming or destruction of natural and cultural resources¹.
- As outdoor recreation participation increases, so can the potential to further impact Tribal rights.

- ¹ The “Recreation Boom” on Public Lands in Western Washington: Impacts to Wildlife and Implications for Treaty Tribes: A Summary of Current Literature (2021).



VISITOR DAYS TO STATE RECREATION LANDS

2019-2020

Agency	Visitor Days 2019	Visitor Days 2020	Percent Change
WDFW	27,230,000	29,069,000	7%
DNR	16,572,000	20,080,000	21%
Parks	34,239,000	37,991,000	11%
All State Managed Lands	78,041,000	87,139,000	12%

DNR TRIBAL SUMMIT 2023

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources holds an annual Tribal Summit, inviting tribal leaders and staff to meet with the Commissioner of Public Lands and DNR staff.

In 2023, DNR, together with the Suquamish Tribe, co-hosted Tribal Summit at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino and Resort.

The agenda included topics related to: Recreation, Resources, Restoration and Resiliency



2023 Natural Resources Tribal Summit



OARR REGIONAL TRIBAL FORUMS

Eastern WA
Northern Quest
Resort & Casino

9/12/23

Lower Puget
Great Wolf Lodge

10/10/23

Upper Puget
Skagit Resort
& Casino

10/17/23

Coast
Quinault Beach
Resort & Casino

10/24/23

RECREATION IMPACTS PROGRAM

Vision

Tribes and state agencies work together to co-develop recreation management tools and an adaptive management framework that effectively coordinates cooperative stewardship of natural and cultural resources and preserves protected tribal rights on state lands.



FEEDBACK FROM TRIBAL FORUMS

Expected Outcomes of the OARR Plan

- Wildlife and Habitat Protections
- Exercising Tribal Rights on State Lands



STRATEGY SUGGESTIONS FROM TRIBES



Recommendations fit within five themes:

- Enforcement
- Tracking Impacts and Information Gathering
- Statewide Coordination
- Education
- Addressing Intersecting and Conflicting Mandates

OARR DRAFT PURPOSE STATEMENT

Develop a shared vision for outdoor access to and responsible recreation on all DNR-managed lands, that protects natural and cultural resources, so that tribes may exercise their rights, including tribal cultural and spiritual practices, while also providing sustainable, diverse, and high-quality recreational opportunities that fosters engagement from all communities, promotes a strong sense of environmental stewardship, and enriches the quality of life in Washington, consistent with the Multiple Use Act and DNR's legal and management framework.

DRAFT GOALS

1. Conserve and Enhance the Natural Environment and Cultural Resources
2. Cultivate a Stewardship and Responsibility Ethic Through User Education and Engagement
3. Improve Equitable Access
4. Respect All Rights and Involve All User Groups in Future Planning
5. Secure Financial Stability for Management, Operations, Infrastructure, and Stewardship
6. Mitigate Climate Impacts and Build Resilience





DNR OARR Draft Plan Engagement Timeline - Plan A

Draft Document
Subject to Change
(v.11.27.23)

Year 1: 2023

Summer

Fall

Winter

Board of Natural Resources Meeting

Board of Natural Resources Meeting

Tribal Summit

Partner Kick-off Workshop

Tribal Regional Forums

1-on-1 Engagement

Public and Partner Communicaitons

All Tribes invited to attend annual DNR Tribal Summit to learn about OARR Strategic Plan (Plan).

Recreation partners with statewide recreation management experience to provide input on process and goals

Four Tribal Forums around the state on Tribal priorities to reflect in the Plan.

Optional 1-on-1 engagement offered to Tribes by DNR as needed.

Updates regarding January - March engagement opportunities

Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) Recreation Work Group Process

DNR participating in GOIA process and creating link with OARR Planning

Year 2: 2024

Winter

Spring

Summer

Fall

Winter

Trust Beneficiaries & Public Meetings

Partners Meetings

Tribal Engagement

Release Draft

Tribal Review

Public Review

Release

Review and brainstorm how to achieve goals

To review input from public meetings & recommend strategies & actions

DNR to discuss with Tribes

DNR Team decides on elements of draft plan, in coordination with Tribes; draft plan written by consultant team

DNR releases final Plan

Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA) Recreation Work Group Process

NEAR TERM NEXT STEPS

Beneficiary Workshop

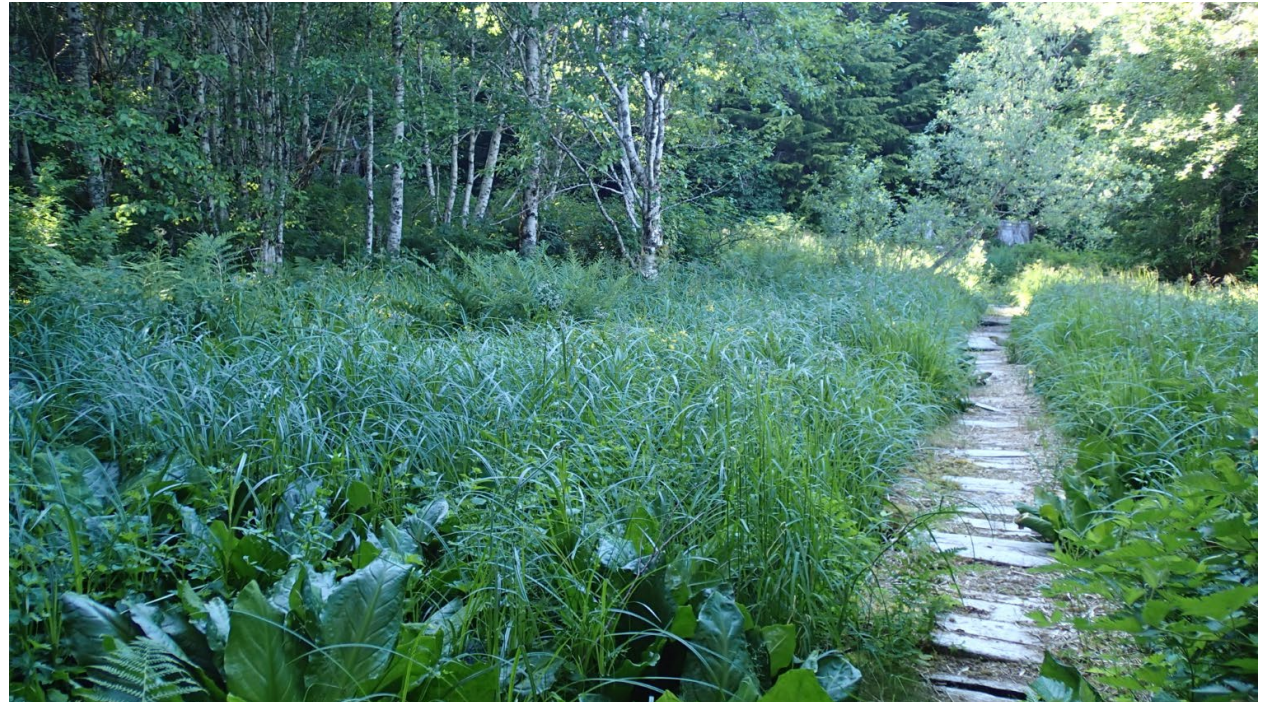
- January 11, hybrid – NRB 172 and Zoom

Public Workshops

- January 18, in-person, Ellensburg
- January 23, in-person, Lacey
- February 1, virtual via Zoom
- February 6, virtual via Zoom

Invited Partner Workshops

- March 2024 in-person



LEARN MORE

- www.dnr.wa.gov/staterecplan
- OARRPlan@dnr.wa.gov





THANK YOU