

# Outdoor Access and Responsible Recreation (OARR) Strategic Plan

Department of Natural Resources | October 28-30, 2024

## Public Review Meetings

THIS MEETING IS BEING  
RECORDED FOR  
TRANSPARENCY



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# Meeting Purpose

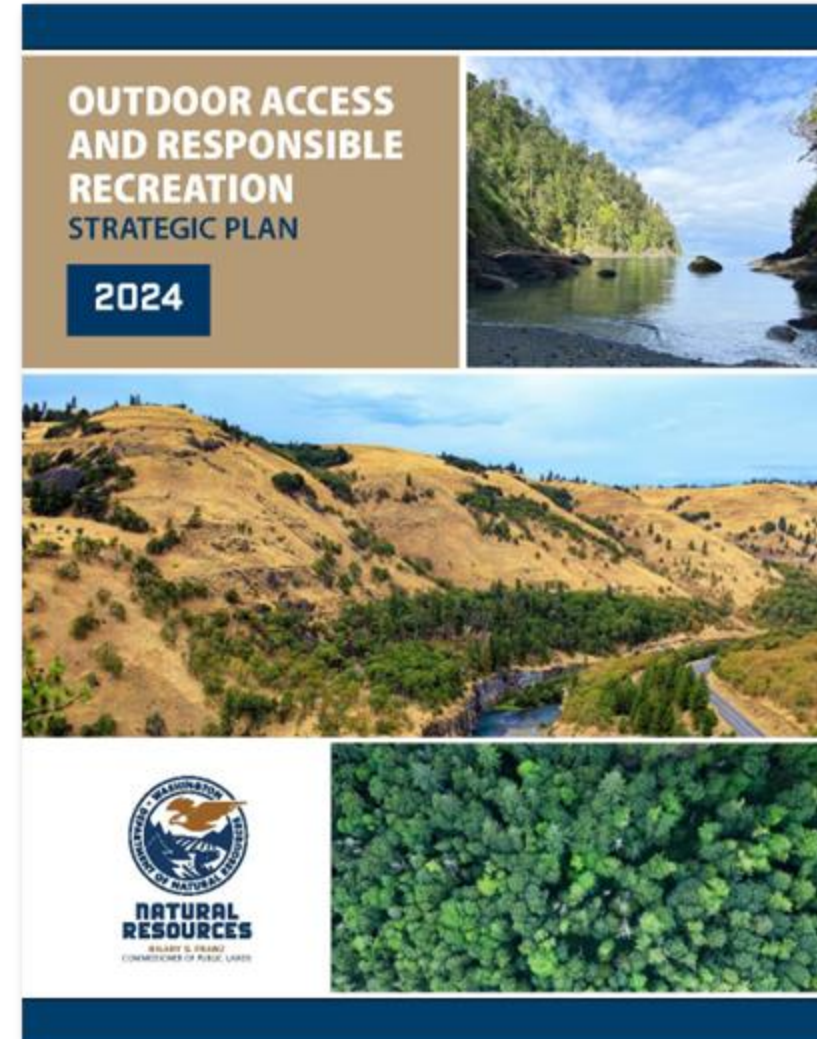
- Introduce the draft OARR Strategic Plan
- Review how DNR incorporated public input in the Strategic Plan
- Answer questions and hear public feedback

## **Review Request**

DNR invites public comment  
via online survey  
**by November 21**

# Meeting Agenda

- Background and Planning Process
  - Purpose and Need
  - Engagement Process
  - **Q&A**
- Strategies and Actions Overview
- **Questions & Public Comments**
  - **Strive for 2 minutes per person**
- Review How to Provide Comment Online



# Shared Group Agreements

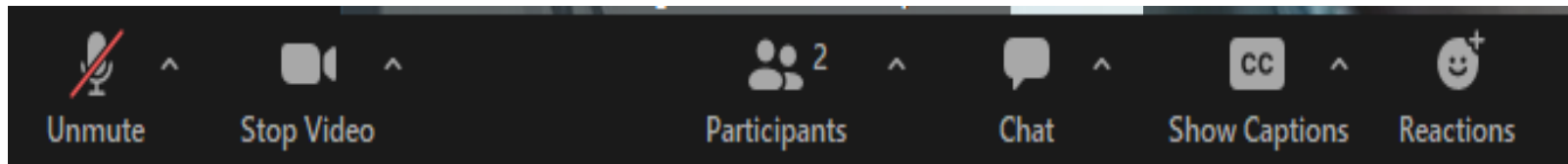
- Speak up and provide constructive input
- Hold space for others and share the time
- Speak to your own experience and use "I" statements
- Respect others' point of view and experiences
- Stay on topic
- **All are asked to agree to these ground rules**



**The facilitators' job is to ensure all can participate and all follow the ground rules**

# Zoom Orientation

Please **keep yourself on mute** unless you are speaking.



If you want to **ask a question verbally**, click the 'Reaction' and select the option '**Raise Hand**' and we will call on you

If you have **technical problems or want to type a question**, use the chat box or contact Alex Sweetser ([asweetser@triangleassociates.com](mailto:asweetser@triangleassociates.com))

**Closed Captions** are enabled

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# WARM UP: THREE WORDS DESCRIBING WHY OUTDOOR ACCESS IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

See link in chat, QR code, or open web browser

- Go to: [www.Menti.com](https://www.Menti.com)
- Enter Code: **6156215**

Select “join” and answer the question



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# Department of Natural Resources

- Led by Commissioner of Public Lands (elected)
- Manages 5.6 million acres of state lands
- 3 million acres of trust lands for revenue generation
- Provides for recreation and other multiple-uses on state lands



## DNR is a Trust Manager



Managing ~3 million acres of Trust Land

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# State Trust Lands

As manager of state trust lands, DNR has legal fiduciary responsibilities to:

- Generate revenue and other benefits for each trust, in perpetuity
- Preserve the corpus of the trust
- Exercise reasonable care and skill
- Act prudently to reduce the risk of loss for the trusts
- Maintain undivided loyalty to beneficiaries
- Act impartially with respect to current and future beneficiaries



# MULTIPLE USE CONCEPT

## RCW 79.10.100-120

**“Multiple uses compatible with financial obligations of trust management”**

Recreation areas	Vehicular trails	Fishing	Sports
Trails development	Trails maintenance	Pollinator habitat	Non-consumptive wildlife activities
Non-vehicular trails	Educational studies	Scenic areas	Historical sites
Scientific studies	Experimental programs	Public watersheds	Greenbelts
Special events	Hunting	Public rights-of-way	Other uses by public agencies

# What is the OARR Strategic Plan ?



DNR's first statewide strategy for proactively managing access to and recreation on DNR lands



Identifies how DNR will engage the public and partner groups in recreation planning going forward



Formalizes DNR's commitment to the State-Tribal Recreation Impacts Initiative



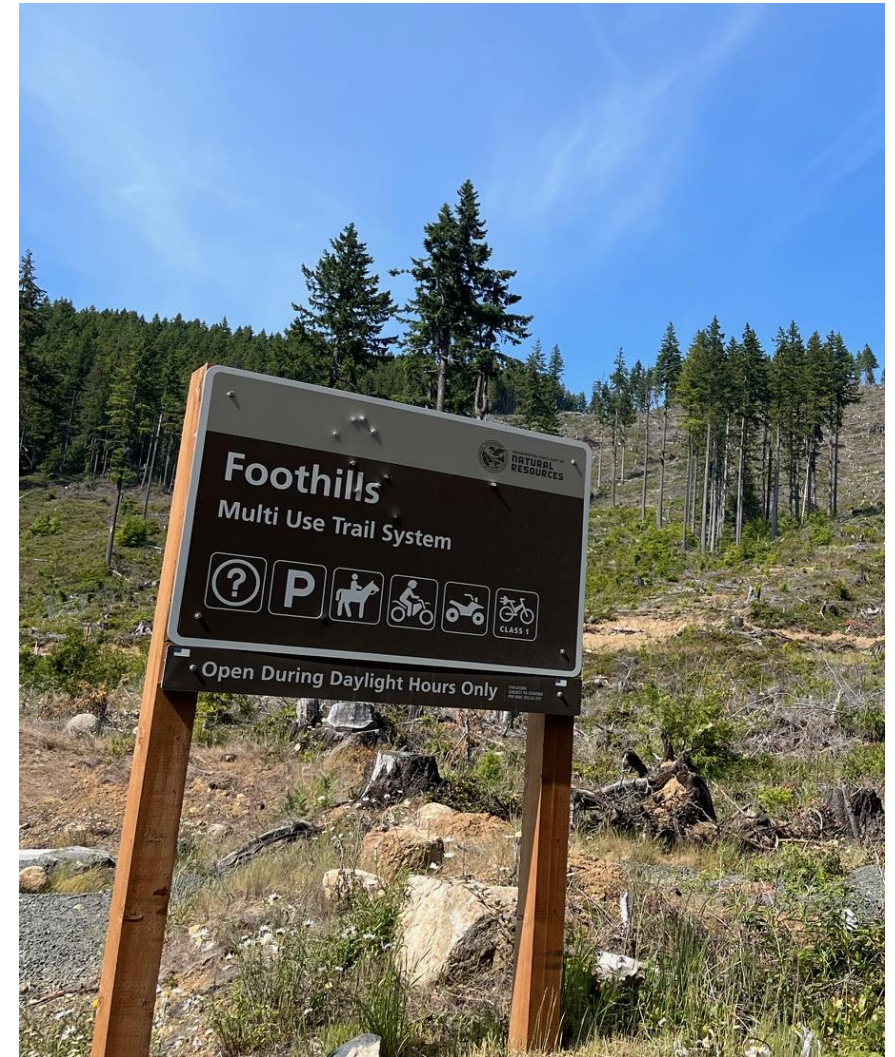
A tool to support funding and capacity requests

# What is not in the Strategic Plan?

- NO actions dictating access changes, investments, or restrictions at specific locations
  - The Strategic Plan guides how access decisions are made at a regional or local scales moving forward
- Is NOT a plan relating to trust-revenue generation, timber sales, or legacy forests

# Why is the Plan Needed?

- Managing growing demand
- Increasing irresponsible use, public abuse, & resulting impacts
- Increasing tribal concerns about impacts
- Need to improve equitable access
- Complex regulatory environment
- Insufficient funding

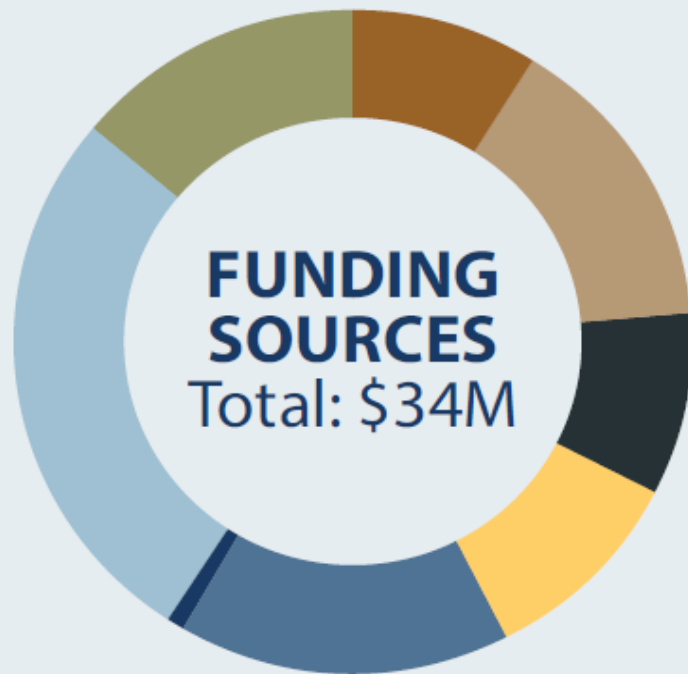


# Visitor days to state recreation Lands 2019-2020

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%

# Funding Does Not Meet Need

**Figure 3: DNR Recreation Program Funding Sources (2023-2025 Biennium)**



- Target Shooting** | \$2.9M | 9%\*
- Conservation Corps** | \$5M | 15%\*
- Capital Budget** | \$2.9M | 9%\*
- Discover Pass** | \$3.5M | 10%
- Grants** | \$5.4M | 16%\*
- Trust Lands Management Accounts** | \$253K | 1%
- State General Fund** | \$9M | 27%
- Gas Tax Refund** | \$4.9M | 14%

\* **Variable Funding Sources**

# DNR's Engagement: 2023 - 2024

- 2023 Launch with Tribes & Partners
- 2023 Tribal Forums
- 2024 Public Engagement
  - Trust Beneficiaries Workshop
  - 5 Public Meetings
  - Partners' 2-Day Workshop
  - Direct Outreach to Rec Groups & CBOs
- Sept 2024 Review with Tribal Governments



Washington State Department of Natural Resources

**Public Meetings for DNR's  
Outdoor Access and  
Responsible Recreation Plan**

DNR is developing its first statewide outdoor recreation strategic plan. Join us this winter to share **your ideas** for recreation and public access on DNR-managed lands across Washington state.

**RSVP to attend a Public Meeting:**

**In-Person:**  
**Thursday, January 18, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**  
Ellensburg, WA  
**OR**  
**Tuesday, January 23, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**  
Lacey, WA

**Virtual:**  
**Thursday, February 1, from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.**  
Online via Zoom  
**OR**  
**Tuesday, February 6, from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**  
Online via Zoom

**RSVP here!**

For more information, or to RSVP, please visit:  
[www.dnr.wa.gov/StateRecPlan](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/StateRecPlan)

Please RSVP for more details and information



# DNR OARR Draft Plan Engagement Timeline

Draft Document  
Subject to Change  
(v.10.15.24)

## 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 Communications**

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)-Convened State-Tribal Recreation Impacts Initiative

DNR participating in the GOIA process and creating a 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)-Convened State-Tribal Recreation Impacts Initiative



# State-Tribes Recreation Impacts Initiative (STRII)

- 31 federally recognized tribes with treaty rights or other protected tribal rights in Washington
- State Parks and Recreation Commission
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Natural Resources
- Governor's Office of Indian Affairs
- Recreation and Conservation Office



Washington Department of  
**FISH & WILDLIFE**



WASHINGTON STATE  
Recreation and  
Conservation Office



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**



Governor's Office of  
**INDIAN AFFAIRS**

# Q&A

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# Six Goals for DNR

## **1. Conserve and Enhance the Natural Environment and Cultural Resources**

Actively address outdoor access and recreation activities that impact natural and cultural resources on DNR-managed lands, including the health of fish, wildlife, and habitat

## **2. Cultivate a Stewardship and Responsibility Ethic through User Education and Engagement**

Improve user awareness of recreation's impacts on natural and cultural resources and their understanding of appropriate etiquette in different landscapes, rights and interests of all groups, and how to safely engage in activities.

# Six Goals for DNR

## **3. Improve Equitable Access**

Reduce barriers that disproportionately impact overburdened and vulnerable communities' ability to access DNR-managed lands in an ecologically sustainable manner.

## **4. Respect Reserved Rights and Improve Collaboration in Recreation Planning**

Engage Tribes, trust beneficiaries, partners, and stakeholders proactively on planning activities, and ensure DNR staff have the tools, resources, and expertise to foster meaningful participation.

# Six Goals for DNR

## **5. Secure Financial Stability for Management, Operations, Infrastructure, and Stewardship**

Achieve a sustainable operating model that supports program goals through identifying current and future funding needs. Leverage existing investments in outdoor access and recreation to achieve sustainable program funding to meet current and future needs, protect the environment and benefit the economy.

## **6. Mitigate Climate Impacts and Build Resilience**

Prepare for extreme climate-related events, implement climate-resilient infrastructure design and maintenance, and integrate management and operations techniques that improve resilience and human safety, in alignment with DNR's Plan for Climate Resilience.

# Strategy Organization

Strategy Topics

15 Strategies

## Near-term Actions:

Concrete actions that DNR can implement by the end of the 2025-2027 biennium.

## Ongoing Actions:

Multi-year initiatives and partnerships that may take between two to ten years to implement and/or may be implemented in an ongoing capacity for the next ten years.

★ = Actions started in the plan are underway

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# Strategy Topics - Organizing Structure



Planning Tools and Processes



Resource Protection, Enforcement, and Public Safety



Equitable Access



Education & Stewardship



Funding



# Some of What DNR Heard from the Public

- Public education in coordination with partners is key
- Improve signage
- Public and partner buy-in is needed to achieve success
- Education & enforcement are needed to address resource damage
- Identify barriers to equitable access
- Partner with organizations with existing community relationships
- More funding

# Strategies: Planning Tools and Processes



1. **Fill data gaps** regarding visitation levels and recreation-use impacts to natural and cultural resources.



2. Develop and use landscape **planning tools and frameworks** to ensure natural and cultural resources are protected, and recreation use is sustainable, equitable, and safe.



3. Develop, staff, and implement a consistent and **transparent planning process** at the state and regional levels including coordination with Tribes, beneficiaries, partners, and the public.



4. Proactively **plan for climate-related impacts** to DNR-managed lands and operations.

# Select Actions: Planning Tools & Process

*Text shortened on slide – See Plan for full text*

- S1-NTA 01: Develop a **centralized trail data** set that is publicly available★
- S1-NTA 04: Define and categorize **metrics for tracking impacts** to resources★
- S1-OA 05: Develop a routine update system for **management of visitation data** from once data is improved and collected
- S2 –NTA 04: Develop and utilize an **adaptive management framework** through the State-Tribal Recreation Impacts Initiative★

★ = action underway as of fall 2024

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# Select Actions: Planning Tools & Process

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- S3-NTA 01: Increase staff support at existing **region recreation forums** and councils★
- S3-NTA 03: **Create calendar** that highlights ways for users to get involved in regional recreation management meetings
- S3-NTA 04: Create a public facing **tracking tool for new and proposed recreation projects**
- S3-NTA 05: Pilot a statewide **recreation management advisory body** to foster two-way communication between DNR and partners in coordination with the State-Tribal Rec Impacts Initiative

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★ = action underway as of fall 2024

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# Strategies: Resource Protection, Enforcement, and Public Safety



1. Work across DNR programs to advocate for an adequate **education and enforcement presence** to address resource damage, unsanctioned use, and other abuse to DNR lands and resources, whether driven by recreation or other public access activities.



2. Work across DNR programs to develop a comprehensive strategy for **managing illegal dumping** and vandalism on DNR-managed lands.



3. Increase public safety on DNR-managed lands through the development of a **safe target shooting** program.

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# Select Actions: Resource Protection, Enforcement, and Public Safety

*Text shortened on slide – See Plan for full text*

- S5-OA 02: Direct recreation wardens and coordinate with DNR law enforcement to use **education as a first level of corrective action**
- S5-OA 03: Communicate with partners and update internal policies to **discourage unsanctioned user-built trails**
- S5-OA 04: Seek **increased funding** for education and enforcement staff
- S6-OA 01: Develop a strategy across divisions to **manage illegal dumping** and vandalism
- S7-NTA 01: Hire staff and develop two new **designated target shooting sites** ★

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★ = action underway as of fall 2024

# Strategies: Equitable Access



1. **Coordinate internally** to ensure DNR's recreation program is prepared from an accessibility, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) perspective to engage with communities who are underrepresented in the outdoors.



2. Develop strategies to **improve the accessibility** of DNR-managed lands, including the ability to access recreation opportunities for communities underrepresented in the outdoors in a manner that is ecologically sustainable.

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# Select Actions: Equitable Access

*Text shortened on slide – See Plan for full text*

- S8-NTA 02: Review DNR Recreation Division **internal process, policies, and staffing** from a DEIB perspective to cultivate a more inclusive workforce★
- S9-OA 02: Work to remove accessibility barriers for DNR recreation opportunities identified in the assessment **with partner organizations and DEIB and disabled recreation consultants**
- S9-OA 03: Explore development of an **Emerging Leaders Program** to provide opportunities for emerging leaders from underrepresented communities



# Strategies: Education and Stewardship



1. Collaborate with Tribes, partners, and volunteers to **foster public stewardship** of DNR-managed lands.



2. Implement **public education and information campaigns** to improve visitor understanding of DNR lands.



3. Implement education focused on **climate resiliency and safety** for those who use DNR-managed lands.

# Select Actions: Education & Stewardship

*Text shortened on slide – See Plan for full text*

- S10-NTA 03: Ensure **cooperative agreements are in place** to leverage partners volunteer and professional programs ★
- S10-OA 01: **Partner with organizations** to maintain trails and help with restoration
- S10-OA 04: Reestablish **volunteer coordinator position** to support region staff

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# Select Actions: Education & Stewardship

*Text shortened on slide – See Plan for full text*

- S11-NTA 01: Consistent **education signage about trust revenue** generating working forests
- S11-NTA 03: Pursue **funding for trail ambassador program** for high-use recreation sites
- S11-OA 01: Explore opportunities to **include education programing in cooperative agreements** with partners
- S11-OA 06: Develop **interpretive signage** guiding principles

# Strategies: Funding



1. Evaluate and prioritize **internal funding mechanisms** to support DNR operational needs.



2. Evaluate and prioritize **state funding tools involving legislative action** to increase sustainable funding for recreation.



3. Evaluate and prioritize **sponsorship from private partners and funding opportunities from recreation activities**, increasing sustainable funding for recreation.

# Select Actions: Funding

*Text shortened on slide – See Plan for full text*

- S13-NTA 01: Assess **organizational structure** and whether operations dollars can go further★
- S13-0A 01 **Use cost recovery funds** for permitted recreation events★
- S14-0A 01: **Communicate legislative funding proposals** and resource and capacity needs to Tribes and partners
- S14-0A 03: Make **Discover Pass assessment recommendations** to the Legislature with WDFW and State Parks
- S14-0A 04: Prioritize DNR involvement in ongoing work for **replacement of gas tax revenue**

★ = action underway as of fall 2024

# Questions & Comments

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# Questions & Comments

- Does the Strategic Plan have sufficient background to explain the goals and strategies?
  - Are the goals for recreation and access management clearly outline? Do you know what DNR hopes to achieve?
  - Are the strategies and actions supportive of the goals?
  - Is it clear how DNR will engage Tribes, the public, and partners in recreation and access management moving forward?
  - Do you have specific recommendations for how the Strategic Plan could be improved?
-

# Review Process

Phase	Timeline/Date
Release draft plan for public review	October 21
Public meetings	October 28, 29, & 30
<b>Public survey &amp; online comment period</b>	<b>By November 21</b>
DNR update plan	December
Final plan release	End of December 2024



# Submit Comments online by November 21

## Survey Link:

<https://wadnr.commentinput.com?id=H57jYbPBT>



## Survey QR code:

DNR OARR Website:

[www.dnr.wa.gov/StateRecPlan](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/StateRecPlan)

Email Questions To:

[oarrplan@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:oarrplan@dnr.wa.gov)



# Thank You!

