

Kay Forsythe Comment

**From:** Forsythe@fairpoint.net  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 11, 2014 2:19 PM  
**To:** SEPADesk2 (DFW)  
**Subject:** SEPA DNS 13-082 Whiskey Dick seasonal closure

Bob Zeigler  
SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section  
[SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov)

Hello Mr. Zeigler,

I'm writing to comment on the Whiskey Dick Wildlife Area Seasonal Road Closure. For the last 5 years that area has been closed from Feb 1 through April. I support maintaining that closure. My husband, my friends and I have hiked in that area. Your own science supports leaving it as is, with this 3 month closure.

This is a substandard road, already affecting the land adversely. Increased usage in the months of weather with spring melt and freezing nights is asking for more problems with mudding, dirtying the streams, destroying fish habitat, and harming native plant populations.

Elk, according to your study, are at their most fragile state Feb-April; their increased movement due to motorized use is hard on them. The closure has provided them a calm environment in the wild, a refuge away from the ranchers who understandably don't want them.

In 2008 a public survey by WDFW showed that most hunters really do support road closures to maintain a herd of healthy elk. Foot traffic, hiking or horsing, is still allowed.

Ginkgo State Park is included in this proposal to the tune of 3 miles. That's lots of land for them to be monitoring. Their funding and staff is currently stretched to do their job; they would hardly be able to protect the resources on this land - be they elk, archaeological or petrified wood – much less maintain the road.

Your own science contradicts this winter road opening. The SEPA checklist gives the facts that support your Feb 1 through April closure ( as it has been for the last 5 years). Who knows what will happen when the whole big overall plan is decided on? In the meantime, you guys should be ashamed to put out this SEPA during the Christmas holiday break!! Many who care will not have had the opportunity to see it.

Many folks are aging - I'm over 65. As we do so, we need to graciously admit that we can no longer visit certain places because we're physically unable to do so. We cannot

road the world and continue to develop areas in order to give people access. The natural world needs space and time to be natural.

*Of what avail are 40 freedoms without a blank spot on the map? (Aldo Leopold)*

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Kay S Forsythe*

C: Phil Anderson, Director WDFW, [director@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:director@dfw.wa.gov)

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