

**Carmen Knoke Comment on Whiskey Dick Seasonal Road Closure**

Bob Zeigler  
SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section  
[SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov)

RE: DNS 13-082: WHISKEY DICK WILDLIFE AREA SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURE

Dear Mr. Zeigler:

The Central Washington Native Plant Society, Central Chapter submits the following comments on the DNS 13-082: WHISKEY DICK WILDLIFE AREA SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURE. Previously, WNPS Central submitted comments to the Naneum Ridge to Columbia River Recreation Plan of which the Whiskey Dick Wildlife Area is a part. In those comments, WNPS Central expressed support for maintaining the closure of the Whiskey Dick winter range to motorized access from Feb. 1 to April 30. We would like to reiterate that position in the comments submitted to this SEPA.

The proposal for changing the closure to motorized access on all roads in the winter range to opening one through road from the Quilomene Ridge Road to Gingko State Park is not justified by the accompanying SEPA Checklist. Neither is a persuasive rationale provided in the summary or Checklist why this road should be opened during the closure to motorized access now as a change from the management action of the last five years. The Checklist does, however, provide clear evidence and support based on science why motorized access on roads in the winter range should be prohibited during Feb. 1 through April 30.

We concur with the specific points made in the previously submitted letter from the Kittitas Audubon Society and are also concerned about the timing of the proposal to allow motorized traffic.

Naneum Ridge to Columbia River Recreation Plan is also addressing the winter range options and scheduled to conclude by summer 2014, it seems contrived to rush to establish a different management strategy for this season. The closure can and should be maintained as it has been for the previous five years. There may or may not be a different management strategy when the Recreation Plan concludes.

WNPS Central would like to reiterate once more our support for prohibiting motorized access to all roads in the Whiskey Dick winter range from Feb. 1 to April 30.

Sincerely,  
Washington Native Plant Society Central Chapter  
Carmen Knoke, Chair  
811 East Cliff St.  
Ellensburg, WA 98926