

Questions from Native Plant Society

From: Becky Chaney <becky@chaney.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2014 5:09 PM
To: SEPADesk (DFW)
Subject: DNS 13-082 Whiskey Dick Wildlife Area Seasonal Road Closure

Hello Mr. Zeigler,

In response to member concern, I have been reviewing documents regarding the Whiskey Dick Wildlife Area Seasonal Road Closure including the DNS and the E Checklist for the Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS).

Before preparing comments for WNPS, I would like to confirm that my understanding of this proposal is correct and to clarify some questions that come to mind.

- I understand that the proposal restricts the winter access of motor vehicles within the Whiskey Dick Wildlife Area however the proposed restriction is less than that implemented from 2008-2013, It would not restrict access to an “open road”, previously closed, that traverses the Whiskey Dick Wildlife Area from its north-central border to the south-eastern border.
 - Is this correct?
 - If this is correct, what is the reasoning for the decreased restriction (“open road”) for 2014?
 - Has there been a request for the decreased restriction and if so can you say what user groups are requesting it and why?
- The Environmental Checklist only reflect the impacts of the proposed road closures compared no road closures and does not reflect the addition of an “open road” in comparison to the closure of all roads. Although this may be technically correct, it seems misleading as it is my understanding that the norm for the last 5 years has not included the “open road”.
 - Is there a reason that information on the impacts of re-opening the road should not be added to the checklist?
 - Since these impacts are not included in the checklist or accounted for in the DNS, could they be sent in a separate communication to our organization?
- Lastly, are you tracking the number and health of the elk population in comparison to historical levels for the area?
 - Could you provide studies available on the interaction between the elk and native plant habitat within the Whiskey Dick Wildlife Area if any are available?

Thank you so much for the opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposal and for your time in considering our questions. WNPS appreciates the care and thought that goes into managing our public lands.

Regards,
-Becky Chaney

*Rebecca Chaney
Conservation Chair*

*Washington Native Plant Society and
Central Puget Sound Chapter
(425) 880-4220
becky@chaney.org*