

Karen Raymond Comment**From:** Karen Raymond [<mailto:kraymond@elltel.net>]**Sent:** Monday, December 30, 2013 4:22 PM**To:** Director (DFW); Commission (DFW); Schirato, Greg (DFW); Clausing, Ted A (DFW)**Subject:** Whiskey Dick Wildlife Area

I am writing in response to the Determination of Nonsignificance for the road closure through the Whiskey Dick Wildlife Area. Restricting motorized vehicles from February through April to preserve winter elk range is supported by the research and in keeping with the mission of the WDFW. However, why allow the road through Gingko State Park up to Quilomene Ridge to be open? The road is currently gated at Recreation Road and should remain closed for the following reasons: 1) State parks does not have staff to patrol the road and prevent damage during this wet period (the park is not even open to the public during the winter). 2) The road is used heavily by Ellensburg residents for hiking in the late winter-early spring time period, and having the road open to motorized vehicles would curtail this activity. 3) No reasons were stated as to why motorized use of this road would not impact winter elk habitat.

-Karen Raymond

7500 Manastash Road

Ellensburg, WA 98926