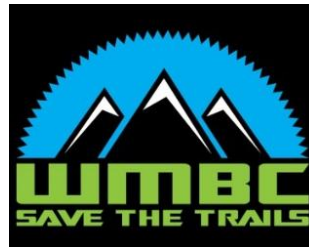


Building and Maintaining Trails in Whatcom County

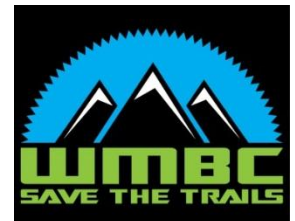
Presented by:

Eric Brown - Executive Director
Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition



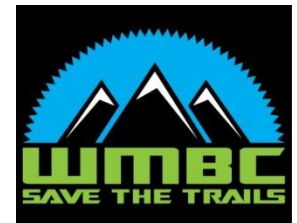
Our Mission:

To preserve and enhance non-motorized trail access in Whatcom County through stewardship, education, and advocacy.



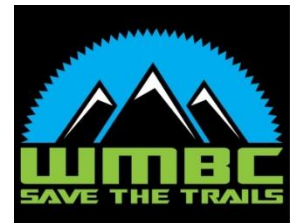
About the WMBC

- Started in 1986 as the WHIMPYS
- 1,200 Annual Members and 200 Business Supporters.
- Official stewards of Galbraith Mountain for 20 years.
- Waterfront Bike Park, Civic Dirt Jumps, Whatcom Falls Pump Track, Raptor Ridge, Double Down, Brown Pow, Chanterelle, Cougar Ridge, Backside
- Upcoming: Everson Bike Park, Birchwood Park
- 2019 – 8,000 hours, plus thousands more hours of ad hoc maintenance
- 3 full-time FTE's, 3 Part Time Employees



About Galbraith Mountain

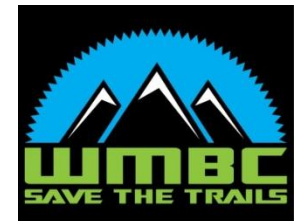
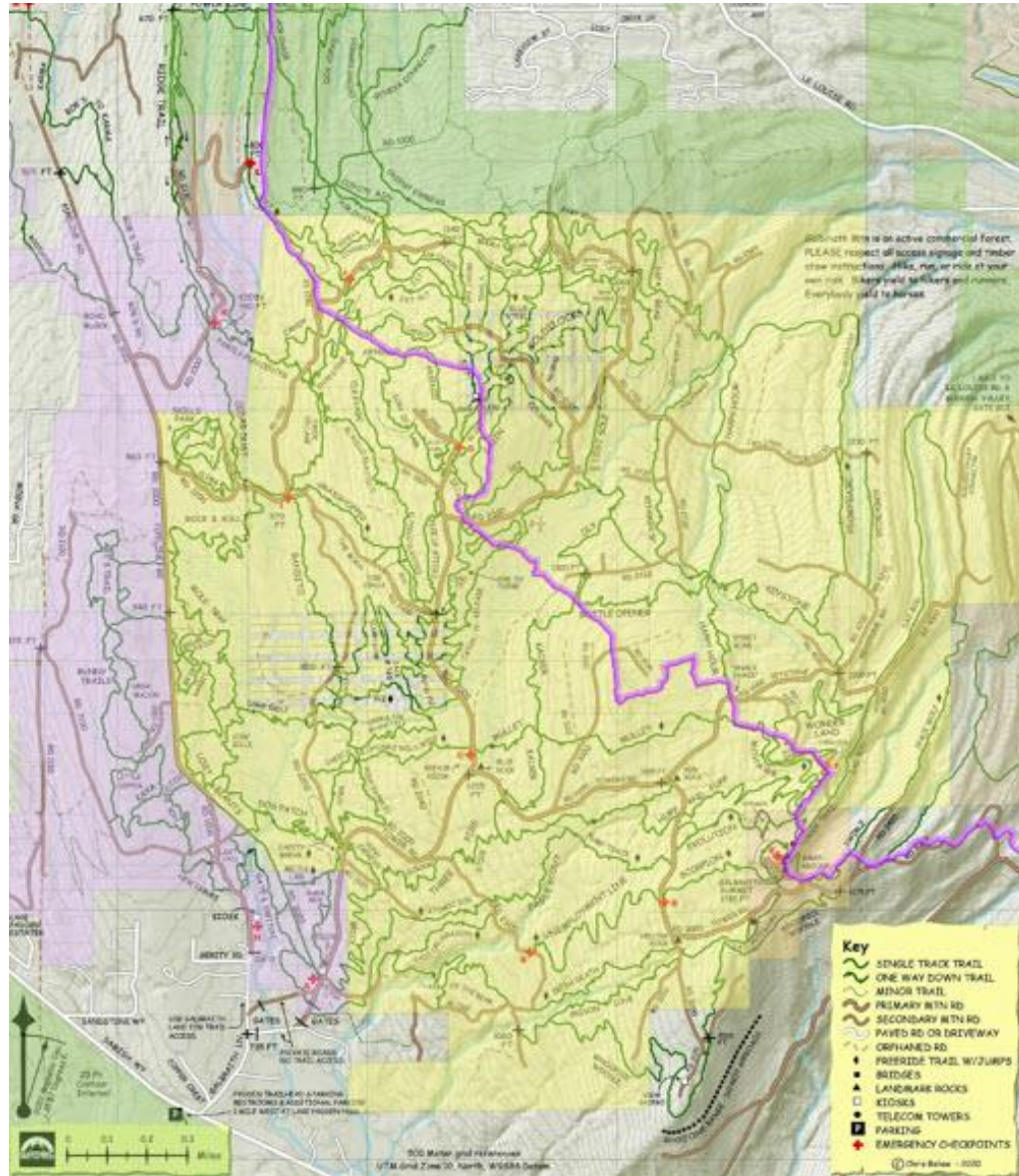
- 2,800 Acres
- Privately Owned Commercial Working Forest (2 owners)
- Adjoins City, County and other private lands.
- Residential Areas on 3 sides of the mountain.
- 70 miles of non-motorized trail total (current)



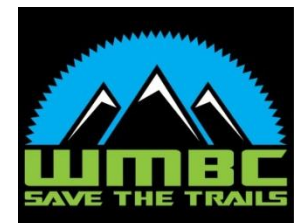
Galbraith Mountain



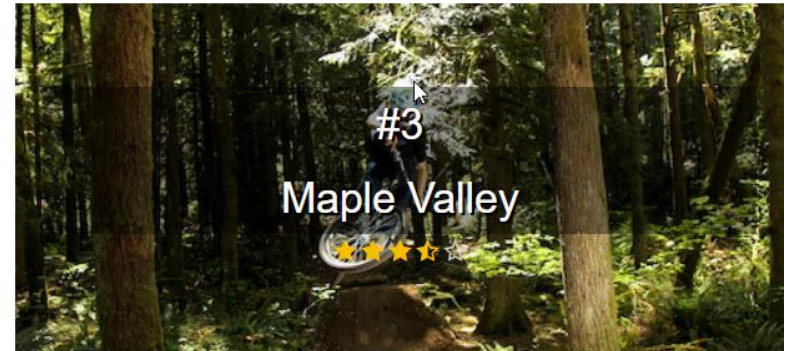
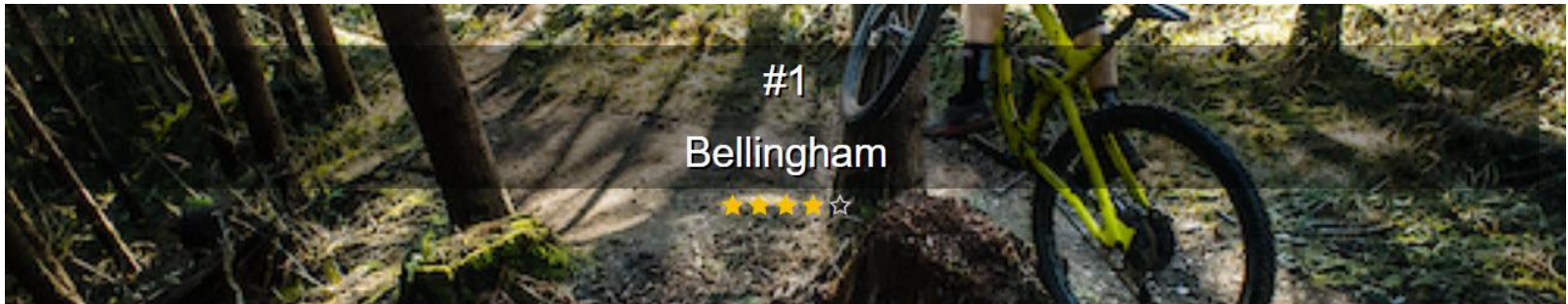
Galbraith Trail Network



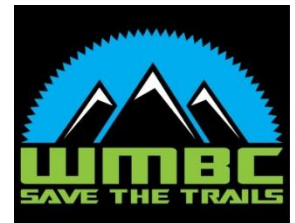
Nationally Recognized Trail Network



Top Ranked Area in WA State



Who recreates on Galbraith Mountain?



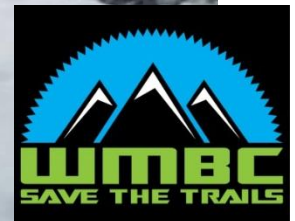
Mountain Bikers



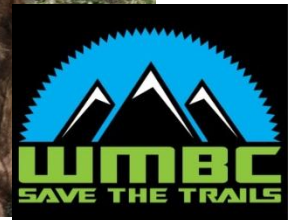
Trail Runners



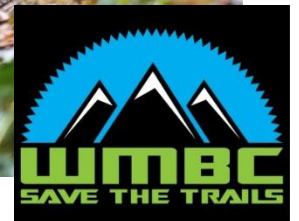
Trail Runners



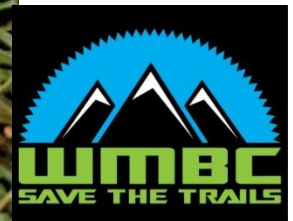
Equestrians



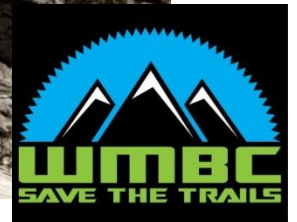
Families



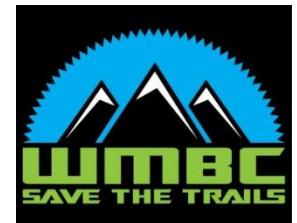
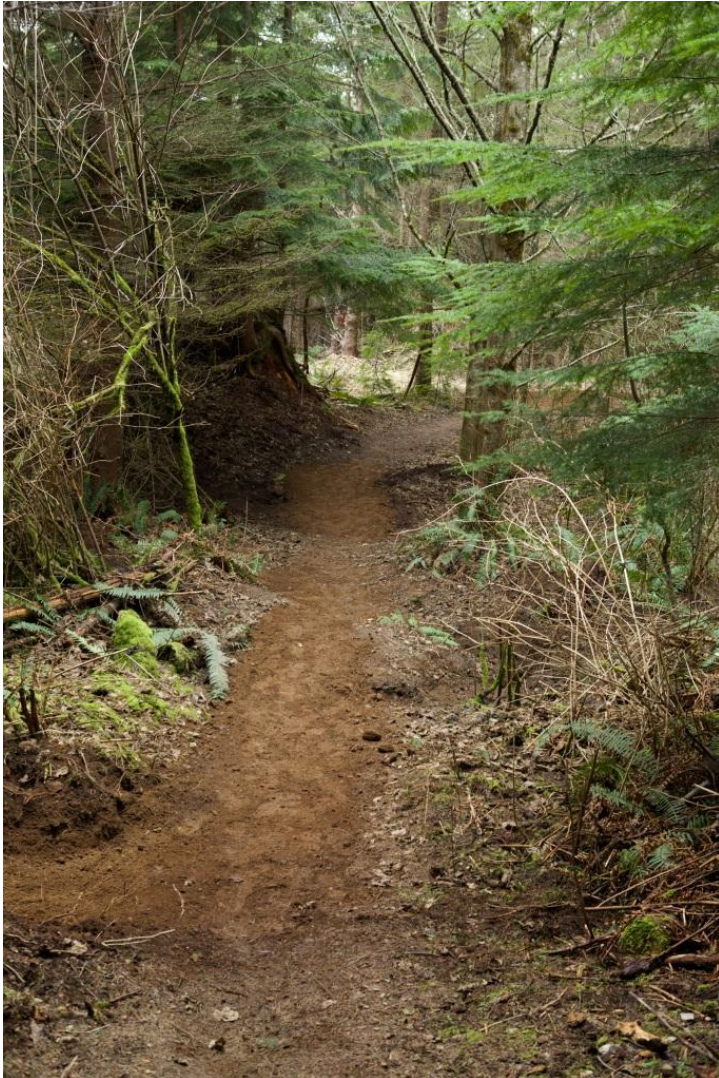
Families



Families

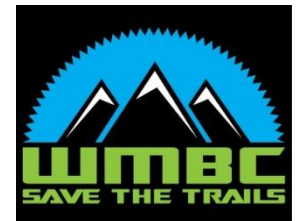


WMBC's Stewardship



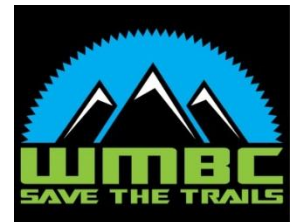
Stewards of Galbraith Mountain

- Recreational Easement with COB, GTF and WLT.
- Maintenance of 70 miles of trail across different land owners' property
- Majority of trails are multi-use and utilized by bikers, runners, hikers, equestrians and dog walkers
- Weekly coordination with Janicki Logging during timber harvests
- \$4 million liability insurance policy
- Trail Adoption Program (TAP) - 61 Adopters!



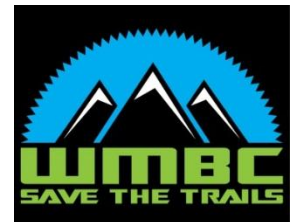
Trail Construction

- Volunteer trail builders and staff with decades of experience.
- Build to the IMBA guidelines and Whistler Standards.
- Single-use directional trails for varying abilities that help avoid user-conflicts
- We utilize cedar blowdown and remnant harvest material for bridge materials.
- Adjust and re-route – as needed (adaptive management)



Trail Maintenance

- Redesign trails to meet modern and sustainable standards
- Removing fallen trees (blowdown) and widowmakers for safety
- Inspections and maintenance of bridgework and trail features annually
- Sustainable trail tread
 - Eliminating low spots
 - Armoring with rock
 - Crowning trail to sheet water
 - Grade Reversals



Trail Adoption Program (TAP)


FAMILYFUNCENTER

ADOPTED BY

wecu
Whatcom Educational Credit Union

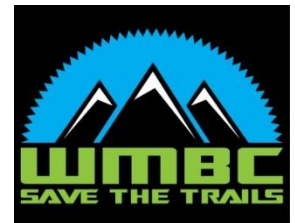
WECU.COM

WMBL
SAVE THE TRAILS



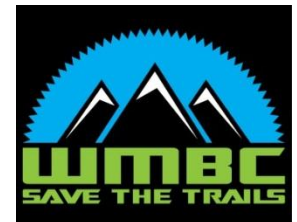
WMBC's Youth Programs

- After School Mountain Bike Clubs
- Bike Rodeos
- Youth Trail Corps
- Middle and High School Service Learning
- Vamos Outdoors Project partnership
- Eagle Scout Projects



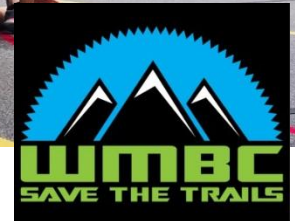
After School Mountain Bike Clubs

- 22 school programs with elementary and middle school. 450 kids participate annually.



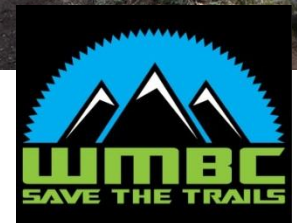
Elementary School Bike Rodeos

- Partner with Smart Trips on essential bike safety and riding skills.
- 20 elementary schools in Whatcom County.

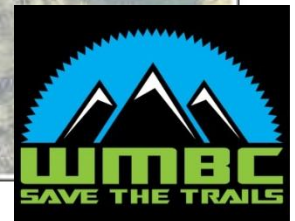


Middle School Youth Trail Corps

- Empowering our Youth through trail stewardship.

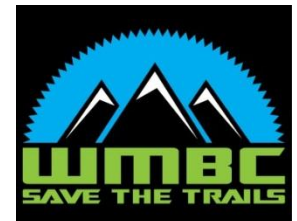


Samish Way Parking Lot



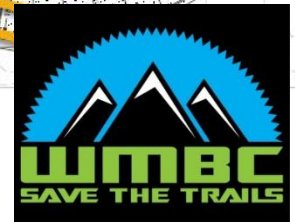
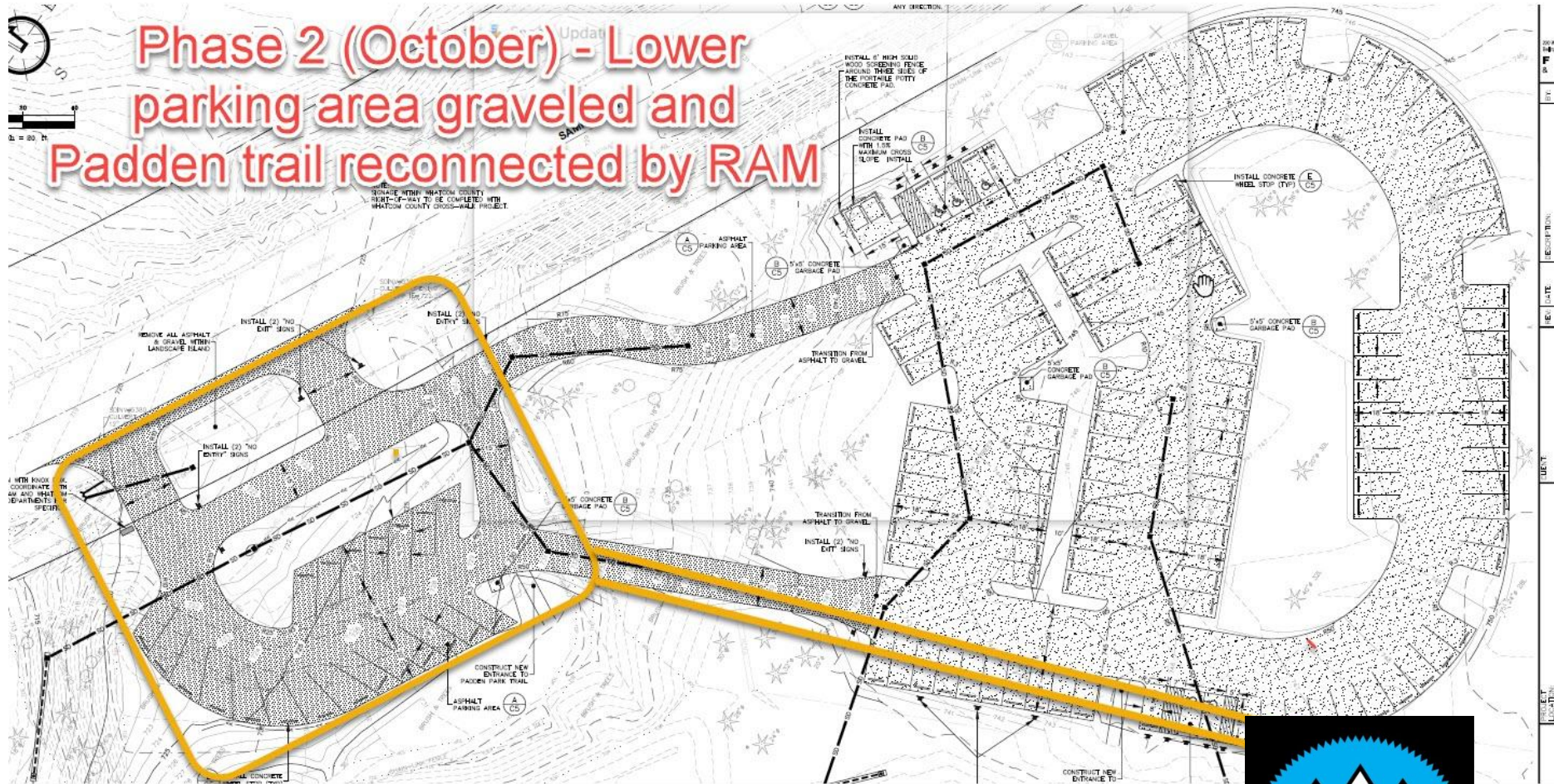
Samish Way Parking Lot

- Construction of a new parking lot along Samish Way is currently underway.
- 879 WMBC Donors have raised \$540,000
 - 140+ stalls
 - Phase 1 (Clearing) is done.
 - Phase 2 completed by end of November.
 - Phase 3 to be completed Spring of 2022.
 - County Public Works is installing a crosswalk across Samish Way to Galbraith Lane in 2022.
 - Learn more at:
www.wmbcmtb.org/galbraithparking



Samish Way Parking Lot

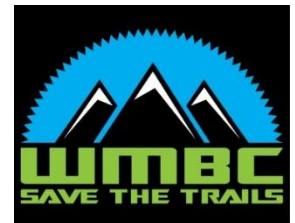
Phase 2 (October) - Lower parking area graveled and Padden trail reconnected by RAM



Good Trails Improve Quality of Life

In the WMBC's 2021 Trail Survey, participants from within Whatcom County replied:

- 78% - trails play an important or very important role for them staying in Whatcom County.
- 58% of transplants - trails played an important or very important role in moving to Whatcom County.
- Easy access to trails is an important tool for local businesses to attract and retain employees in a competitive job markets like healthcare, tech, etc.
- People are moving to where they recreate.

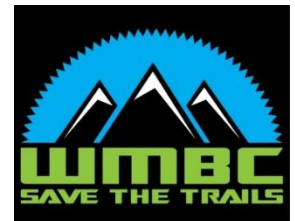


Good Trails = Economic Development

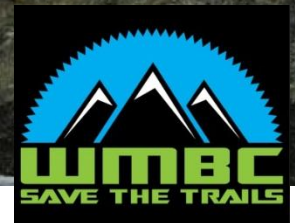
In the WMBC's 2021 Trail Survey, participants from outside Whatcom County replied:

- 65% have a household income of \$100k+
- 93% visited a local business
- 78% visited a local bike shop
- 78% visited a local restaurant
- 75% visited a local brewery
- 54% spend \$40 or more per visit
- 44% have stayed overnight (min 1 night)

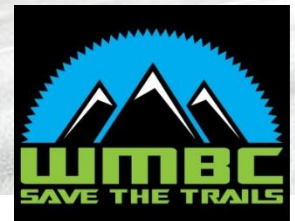
- 3 Bike Manufacturers (90 employees)
- 16 Bike shops / 2 mobile shops



Transition Outpost



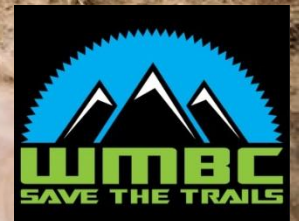
Evil Bikes



Hannah's Red Bull Hangtime

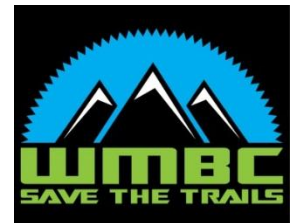


Hannah's Red Bull Hangtime



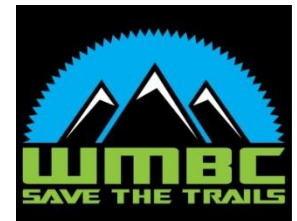
How does recreation on a working forest flourish?

- WA Recreation Immunity Statute (RCW 4.24.210)
- Partner with good trail organizations.
- Trail building best practices to mitigate unnecessary risk (e.g. mountain biking is inherently dangerous)
- Good signage is key.
- Communication between trail organization & logging operators during timber operations.



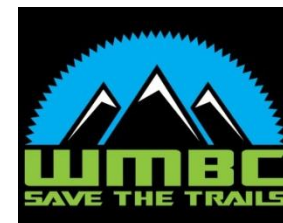
Pre-Harvest Coordination

- JLC and WMBC have each others' contact info.
- Long-term timber harvest and trail plans are shared openly.
- Changes to timber plan are communicated quickly.
- Updated Trail Maps are given to Janicki and key personnel have large printed versions.
- Onsite visits to discuss minimizing impacts.
- Walk the trails together (if necessary).
- WMBC flags trails in harvest zones.

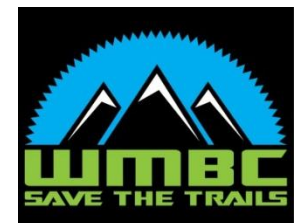
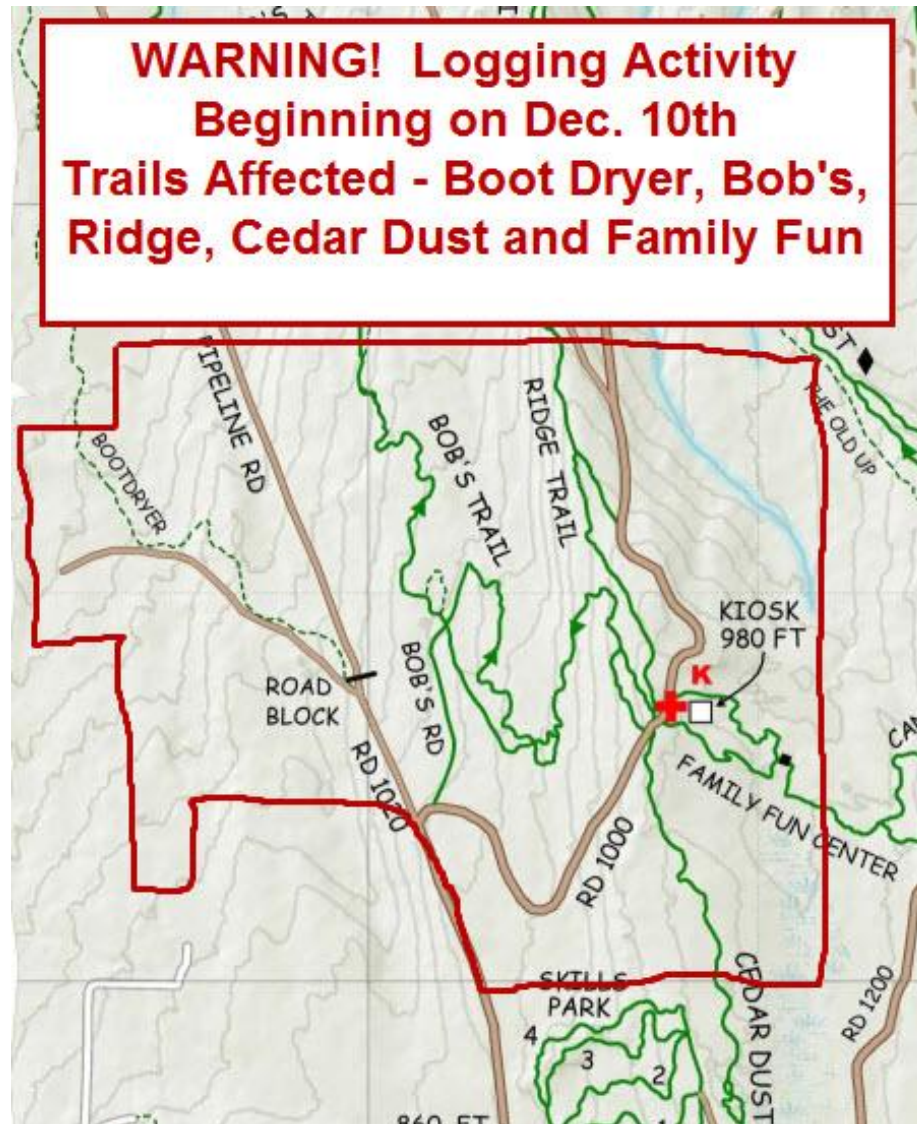


Timber Harvest Activity

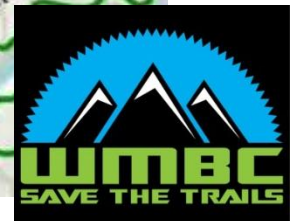
- Fall - Spring: Janicki harvests timber
- Trail access is shut down and can impact an entire area (i.e. North or Southside access).
- As soon as the loggers are done, our staff and volunteers go in immediately to reopen trails.
- Thinning can be less intrusive with trail crossings doing the most damage.
- Clearcuts usually require full trail rebuilds.
 - Clearcut areas are replanted by May.
 - WMBC is required by landowner to rebuild trails before planting takes place.



Trail Closures During Harvest



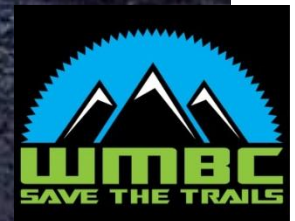
Trail Closures During Harvest



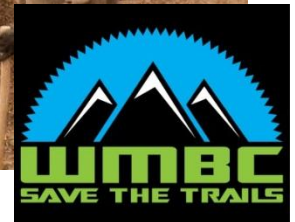
Logging Forwarder



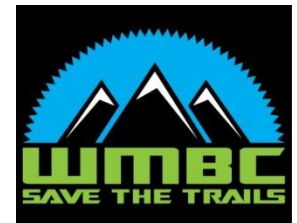
Logs stacked for hauling



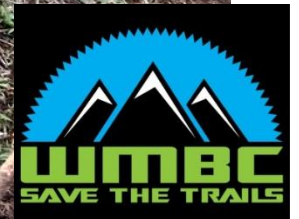
Clearcut clean up



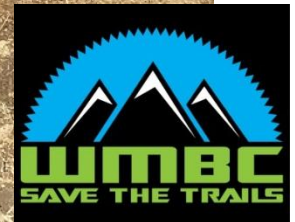
Ridge Trail Post Harvest



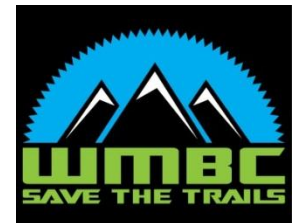
Ridge Trail Clean Up



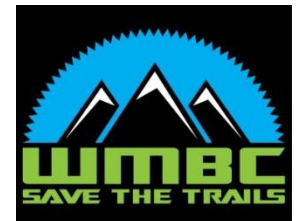
Clearcut Trail Damage



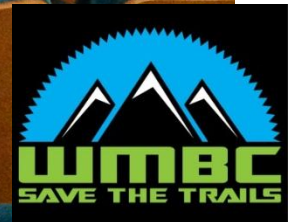
Thinning Trail Damage



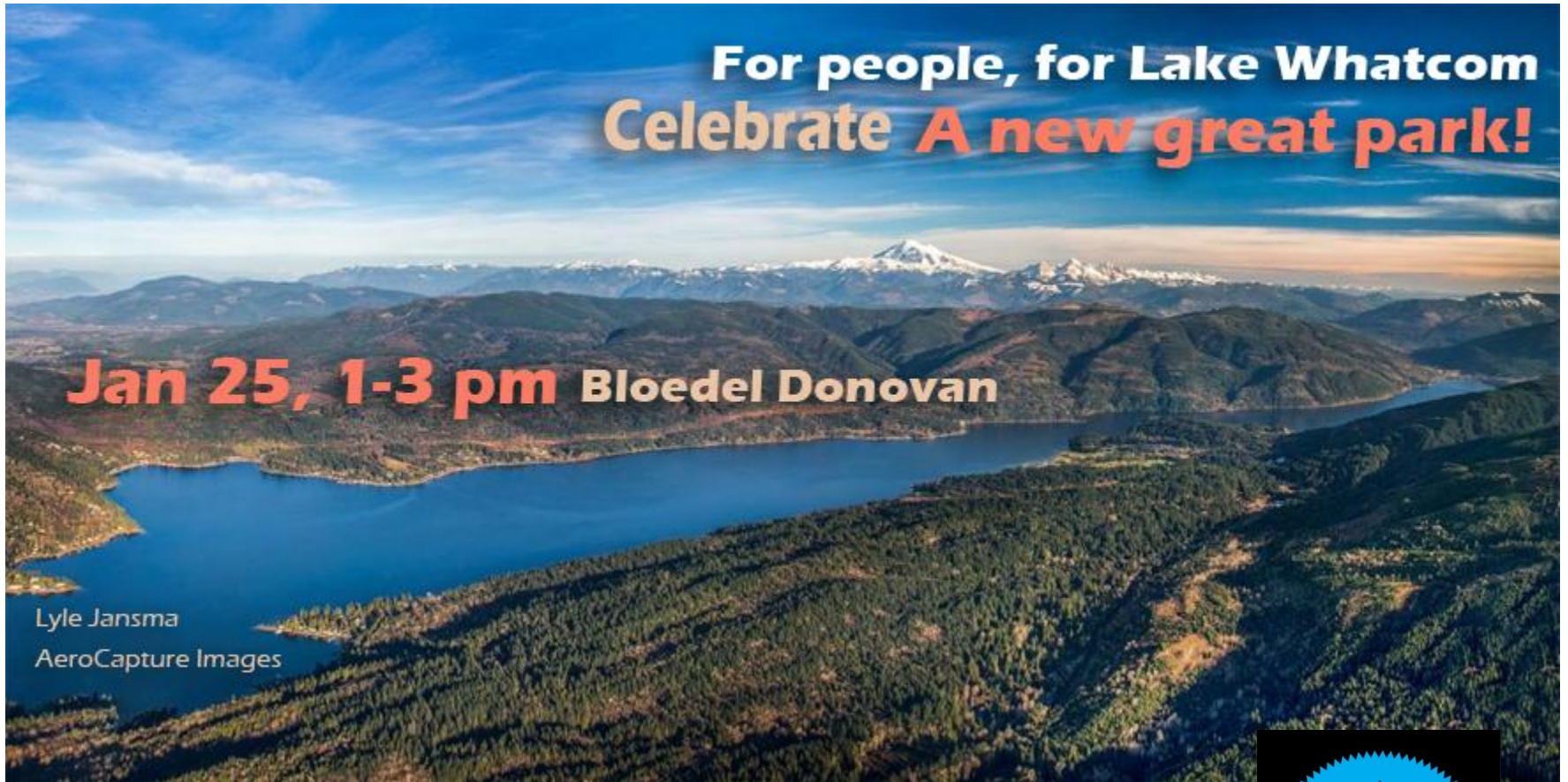
Thinning Trail Damage



Advocating for our Watersheds



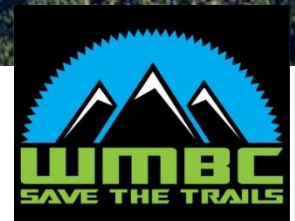
Advocating for our Watersheds



For people, for Lake Whatcom
Celebrate **A new great park!**

Jan 25, 1-3 pm Bloedel Donovan

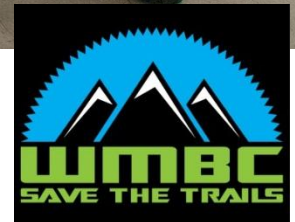
Lyle Jansma
AeroCapture Images



Advocating for our Watersheds

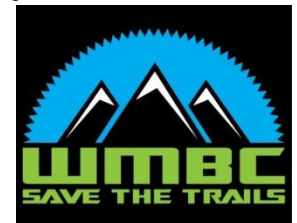


© Paul K. Anderson



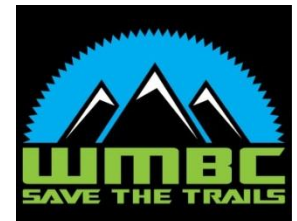
Current Watershed Restrictions

- Designed to mitigate stormwater disturbance via development in our watersheds.
- June 1 - September 30th - Dirt disturbance is allowed
- 10/1 - 5/30: 500 SF. maximum dirt disturbance
- No Phasing Allowed.
- Existing code does not allow staff to consider trail construction in the forest differently than a lakeshore subdivision or a road.
- It could impair our ability to repair trails.
- It currently impairs trail construction.

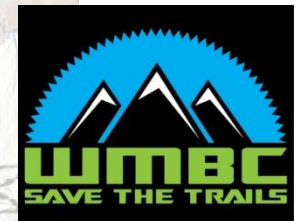
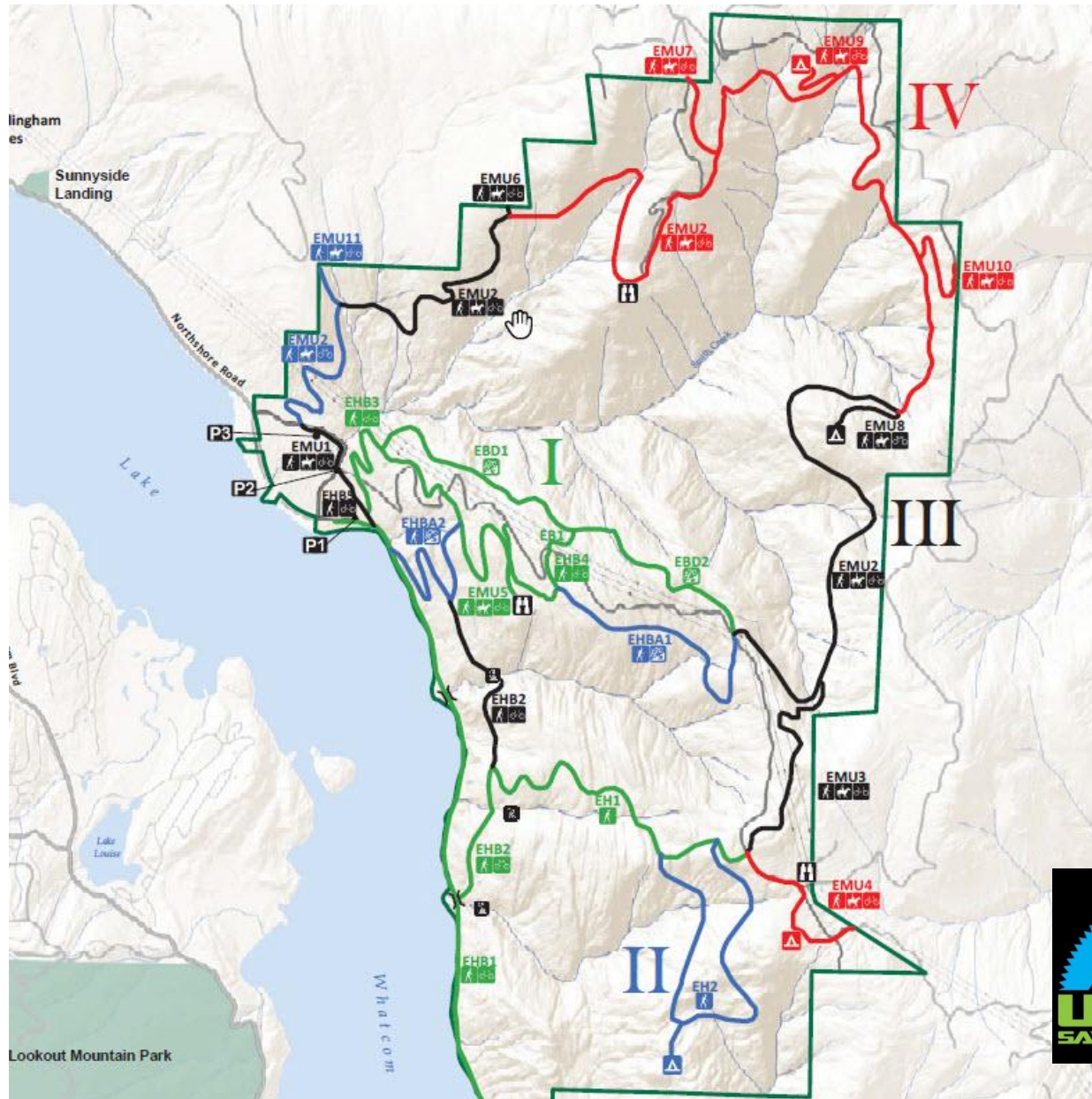


What can be done to help?

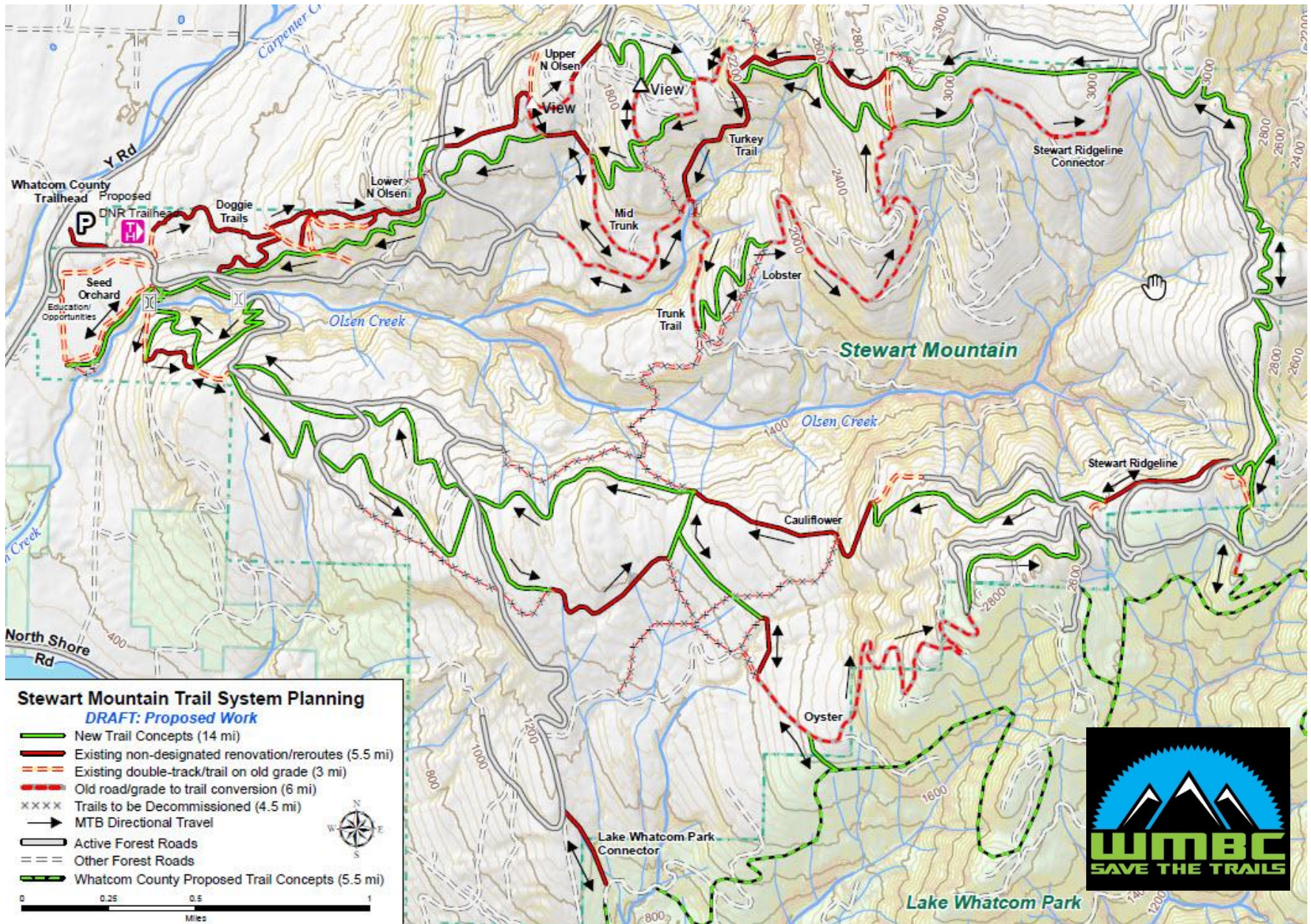
- Provide County staff the ability / tools to look at how trail construction is regulated in and out of the watersheds.
- Reconsider how trail building in a forested area is different than a lakeshore development.
- Exemptions for trail construction (away from critical areas) outside of the watershed window.
- Exemptions for repairing trails damaged by harvest activity, weather events, etc.



Stewart Conceptual Trail Plan



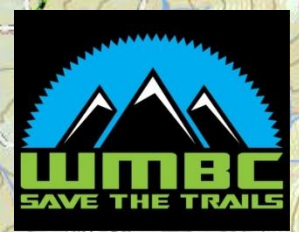
Olsen Creek Trail Plan (Draft)



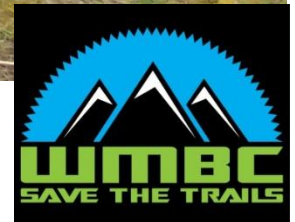
Stewart Mountain Trail System Planning
DRAFT: Proposed Work

- New Trail Concepts (14 mi)
- Existing non-designated renovation/reroutes (5.5 mi)
- - - Existing double-track/trail on old grade (3 mi)
- - - Old road/grade to trail conversion (6 mi)
- Trails to be Decommissioned (4.5 mi)
- MTB Directional Travel
- Active Forest Roads
- - - Other Forest Roads
- - - Whatcom County Proposed Trail Concepts (5.5 mi)

0 0.25 0.5 1
Miles



What it's all about.



Thank you!

Eric Brown - eric@wmbcmtb.org

Web: www.wmbcmtb.org

Instagram: [@wmbcmtb.org](https://www.instagram.com/wmbcmtb.org)

FB: www.facebook.com/wmbcmtb

