

Education and Enforcement Trail Warden: Program Funding To Expire This Year – New Funding Needed!

What's happening to the Education and Enforcement Warden program in DNR's Northwest Region?

The funding for the DNR Northwest Region Education and Enforcement (E&E) Trail Warden program will expire at the end of this year (2009). The Department of Natural Resources is in the process of applying for new grant funding from the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for the next two years. This funding is not guaranteed! Your support and comments to our **E&E User Survey** questions are needed now as a critical part of the process to gain approval for continued grant funding from RCO. Please send us your comments.

What is the Education and Enforcement program?

The E&E program funds one full time Trail Warden (Kim Gunter) that works on-the-ground patrolling four specific areas: Walker Valley ORV Area, Les Hilde/Harry Osborn Forest (backcountry horse riding), Reiter ORV and non-motorized trails, and Blanchard Mountain (hiking, mountain bikes, horse riding, and sightseeing). The E&E Warden works to improve safe practices and service to the public, to inform and educate users on rules and regulations as well as leave no trace practices, and issues warnings and citations when appropriate. The E&E Warden is supported by DNR law enforcement (Ron Whitehall), and by local County Sheriff Departments. The total cost of this program for two years is \$222,000, of which over 40% is covered by volunteer hours and DNR labor and equipment, with about 60% coming from RCO in a grant.

How does the E&E program affect recreation on State lands?

The E&E program helps protect the public's use of and access to recreation on DNR managed state lands. The whole idea of the Education and Enforcement program is to support, encourage and promote safe and responsible recreation. It is also intended to preserve recreation opportunities by discouraging unsafe and illegal behavior. The E&E Warden is on the front line looking out for the interests of the vast majority of responsible recreationists by dealing one-on-one with "bad actors".

What can I do?

Take a couple minutes to complete the user survey that is on the backside of this letter and send it to the postal, fax or email address listed. This survey information will help show the level of recreation community support for the E&E program to the RCO grant officials. You can help by sharing this letter with others so they can respond as well. Or just send us a letter or email with your thoughts on this program.

Who can I contact for more information or send comments to?

You can call Kim Gunter, E&E Warden at 360-333-7326, email Kim at kimberly.gunter@dnr.wa.gov; or talk with her anytime out in the field; or call Jim Cahill at 360-854-2874, or email Jim at jim.cahill@dnr.wa.gov.

Thanks to all those recreation users who have invested time and effort to make the E&E program a success here in the Northwest Region. And thank you for taking the time to read this and for sending in a user survey!

User Survey On Back Page



Education and Enforcement Trail Warden User Survey

(DNR, Northwest Region)

Funding for the E&E Trail Warden will run out this year. DNR is applying for new grant funding, but we need to hear from you. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey and send it to DNR (see addresses below). Your comments will help DNR do a better job of serving the public, and also provide an indication of the level of support for future funding from the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for this E&E Program. This survey will have the greatest benefit for the new grant funding effort if it is received between April and June 2009 to coincide with the RCO grant process!

About the E&E Trail Warden Program:

The E&E program helps protect the public's use of and access to recreation on DNR managed state lands. The whole idea of the Education and Enforcement program is to support, encourage and promote safe and responsible recreation. It is also intended to preserve recreation opportunities by discouraging unsafe and illegal behavior. The E&E Trail Warden is on the front line looking out for the interests of the vast majority of responsible recreationists by dealing one-on-one with "bad actors".

1. As a recreation user on DNR managed State lands, what types of services do you need most from the E&E Trail Warden? (Some examples include user education on rules and regulations, ORV tabs and safety checks, issuing warnings and/or citations, site patrols, specific hours or days of the week on duty, attend user group meetings, etc.)
2. Are you satisfied that the E&E Trail Warden is meeting your needs and has value to you and your recreation interests?
3. Is it important to you to have access to and contact with an E&E Trail Warden in the field when you are recreating on state land? Feel free to give examples of how this has been a benefit to you or someone you know.
4. Has the E and E Trail Warden assisted or contacted you or have you seen the Trail Warden help others? Any examples?
5. Do you support continued funding of the DNR Northwest Region E&E Trail Warden through an RCO grant?
6. Any other comments you want to share?

Send this survey and your comments to:
WA. State DNR, Attn. Jim Cahill,
919 N. Township
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98294
Or email them to:
jim.cahill@dnr.wa.gov ; or kimberly.gunter@dnr.wa.gov

Thank you and hope to hear from you!

Your contact Info (optional): Name:

_____ email _____

Postal mail:

Would you like to be contacted about volunteer opportunities in the future? Yes _____ No _____