



## **Funding To Maintain Walker Valley ORV Area Will Run Out This Year. Do You Support Continued Funding For Walker Valley?**

**May 15, 2009**

### **What's Up?**

DNR is in emergency mode and your input is more important than ever! The NOVA grant funding for maintaining and operating the Walker Valley ORV Area will run out at the end of this year (2009). The NOVA funding will not be available to support recreation activities such as Walker Valley for the next two years due to State legislative action. Any future funding will need to come from other funding sources yet to be determined. As one option for Walker Valley, DNR is now applying for a Federal grant called the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). This grant process is very competitive with no guarantee that DNR will win the grant. Much will depend on how important maintaining Walker Valley ORV Area is to you, the ORV riding public, in meeting your needs. That means DNR needs to hear from you! **Fill out the User Survey on the back page and send it to DNR. The survey information is used as evidence for user support of the grant.**

### **Why is it important to keep Walker Valley maintained and operating?**

The Walker Valley ORV Area is used by over 40,000 riders a year. It is one of the few designated ORV areas open year-round to Motorcycles, ATVs and 4x4s in the state – and the only ORV area on state land north of Everett. Walker Valley also has a large number of natural resources to protect, such as streams and wetlands. The trails are maintained in large part through competitive grant funding and volunteer efforts. This funding makes it possible to have a year-round ORV riding area available to riders from all over the state (and British Columbia). The grant funding goes toward taking care of everything you see at Walker Valley from keeping the trails open and useable, to keeping the toilet facilities clean and garbage picked up, to repairing damaged facilities, and to working with volunteers on trail maintenance projects.

### **What is DNR Doing About It?**

DNR is applying for a Federal RTP (Recreational Trails Program) grant that would fund maintenance and operations through 2010. As part of the grant application process, DNR is seeking comments and letters of support from ORV users about the need to continue to fund maintenance and operations at Walker Valley.

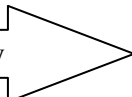
### **What Can I Do About it?**

Now is the time for you to let DNR know what your ORV needs are and whether you support continued funding to maintain and operate the Walker Valley ORV Area for the next two years.

**Send DNR your comments and letters of support by June 1st, 2009.**

**Fill out the User Survey on the back page and send it to DNR.**

Or send an email to [jim.cahill@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:jim.cahill@dnr.wa.gov)

Walker Valley User Survey 

# Walker Valley ORV Maintenance and Operations User Survey

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) needs to hear from you by June 1st, 2009. Pass the word on to clubs and organizations you belong to so they can comment as well. One way is to fill out this user survey and send it in to DNR. You can mail it to the address below, attach it to an email, or give it to a DNR field person you see. You don't have to use the survey form, but we still would like to know how and whether Walker Valley is meeting your needs as an ORV rider.

## Description of the Walker Valley ORV Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Program:

The Walker Valley M&O program employs one Trail Manager/Worker dedicated to ORV maintenance and operations at Walker Valley. This person, who many of you know – Elyse Fleenor, works closely with the Walker Valley Advisory Group (which are ORV volunteers) to prioritize work projects year-round. The new grant proposal includes: 2000 hours of volunteer hard labor as grant match, paid seasonal labor (usually off-season forest firefighters), and a Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crew of young adults assigned to our region will be providing three weeks of labor as donated match to the grant. The total cost of this program for one year of maintenance is approximately \$125,000, of which over 40% is covered by volunteer hours and DNR labor and equipment, with the remaining amount coming from the grant provider.

Trail maintenance activities include keeping the trail surfaces in useable shape by hand and as well as with mechanized equipment, hardening small sections of trail by applying crushed rock and/or concrete grid blocks, installing and maintaining culverts, drain-dips, water bars, and ditch-outs, inspecting and maintaining bridges, and brushing trail. Also included are trailhead maintenance, garbage pickup, upkeep for two vault toilets, and maintaining picnic facilities, bulletin and information boards, as well as a system of ORV trail signs.

1. Does having access and use of the Walker Valley ORV Area fill a critical need for ORV riders? (For example: does it provide for a range of opportunities for different types of ORVs and skill levels? Does it provide opportunities for the whole family? Is it important to you to have year-round access?)
2. How many times do you ride at Walker Valley every year? How many miles of trail do you ride in a day?
3. How many miles do you have to travel from home to ride at Walker Valley?
4. Has your riding and use experiences at Walker Valley benefited from maintenance work (such as trees blocking trails removed, toilets cleaned, garbage picked up, and trails fixed and kept useable)?
5. Do you support continued operation and maintenance of Walker Valley ORV Area?
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](mailto:jim.cahill@dnr.wa.gov)

**Thank you and hope to hear from you!**

Your contact Info (optional): Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
email \_\_\_\_\_

Group or club affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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