

## AGENDA

- I. Welcome and introduction
- II. Project Overview
- III. Discussion/Input on Outdoor Recreation Issues
- IV. Summary & Next Steps

## INPUT QUESTIONS

Individual Questions (choose three to answer individually)

1. How can our outdoor recreation areas become the best places for everyone to experience the natural beauty of Maryland?
  - Ensure that all user groups have access to Maryland's open space which include OHV users
  - Designing trails for multi user groups
  - By managing the resource for sustainability; ensuring it will be there for our children
2. How can different uses of outdoor recreation areas be managed to assure equal access and enjoyment (e.g., hiking or hunting, bird watching or off-road vehicle use?)
  - Gathering like-user groups on same trails (e.g Mountain bikes, OHVs, horses)
  - Consider a season/rotation schedule for activities which might need separation
  - Having short, near and long term plans for the trails system. For instance, once logging vehicles cut new access paths to harvest lumber, reutilize those trails as OHV trails once logging is completed.
3. How can people who don't often use our outdoor recreation areas be encouraged to take advantage of them?
  - Continue to provide a wide breadth of activities such as OHVs
  - Continue to instill tolerance in all user groups by not alienating any users including OHVs
  - DNR can start grass roots efforts within communities to synergize users with projects they can be involved in (such as hosting OHV trail work days, requesting scouts riders for new trails, etc)
4. What groups of people seem to you to be least likely to use outdoor recreation areas including state parks? Why?
  - Maryland has not only failed to quantify the OHV need, but also failed to adequately provide access. While DNR owns nearly ½ million acres, there is only a paltry 67 miles of OHV accessible trails.
  - The current OHV 67 miles trails occur in the pan handle of Maryland only, leaving most residents a 3+hr drive to access them
  - Maryland does not capitalize on lessons learned by partnering with known companies which can design sustainable OHV trails
  - Perception that the OHV trails cannot be sustainably managed, and are therefore better off closed
  - Maryland has been unable to balance the needs of all its' tax paying residents

- Maryland does not partner with the OHV community to leverage partnerships of trail maintenance
5. Think of a park or recreation area that you have especially enjoyed. What was it about that place that should be copied in other parks and outdoor recreation areas?
    - Parks which are able to provide different trail complexities to accommodate the novice to skilled OHV participant
    - Trails that have variations including elevation changes, terrain (rocks, sandy, clay footing, etc), single track, etc
    - Parks which large enough that spending a weekend in the forest never runs out of things to see, places to camp or areas for OHVs to explore
    - GreenRidge was fun (before it was closed)
  6. What do you think are the most important parts of outdoor recreation areas to preserve?
    - Access spots such as waterfalls & landmarks
  7. How can outdoor recreation areas be designed to serve specific groups such as people with disabilities, youth, seniors, and low-income families?
    - Ensure that trails can accommodate OHV traffic so that disabled persons can get to same overlooks and see the same grand features
    - Musculoskeletal problems can prevent persons from hiking, but OHVs provide open access to enjoy nature
    - The OHV community serves folks from all socio-economic classes
    - OHV is a multi-generational experience from teens to grandparents as family units
  8. How should we encourage Maryland's youth to explore the outdoors?
    - Exploring nature throughout formidable years, beginning as a passengers in OHVs
    - Continuing to providing opportunities for young adults to enjoy their chosen outdoor past-time such as riding OHVs with parents
    - By providing OHV training specifically about responsible riding and not abusing the resources
  9. What kinds of services or facilities would you be willing to pay (more) for, and what would you not pay (more) for?
    - Would be willing to buy a pass for a trail system such as Hatfield-McCoy (West Virginia), which has 500 miles of connected trails
    - Would be willing to buy a pass for a well maintained motocross track

#### Key Issues Identification

1. What are the strengths of Maryland's outdoor recreation resources? What works?
  - DNR owns 5% of the state, and continues to acquire purpose land should include the needs of the OHV enthusiast
  - DNR strives to serve all Marylanders, and that should include users such as OHVs
2. What improvements could be made to enhance outdoor recreation experiences? For youth? Underserved? Special populations?
  - OHV continues to be an underserved compared the user group size

- Additionally, OHV access is only in western MD and needs to be expanded to other MD regions (Southern, Eastern, Central)

#### In Depth Focus on Key Issue

1. Define the problem
2. Identify barriers to resolution
3. Recommend 2-4 feasible actions