



CHELAN COUNTY

Summary of Horan Natural Area Surveys & Letters
Chelan Public Utility District
November, 2019

Top uses for Horan Natural Area (in order of preference):

1. Walking/Running
2. Birding/observing wildlife
3. Walking dogs
4. Paddleboarding/Kayaking
5. Photography
6. Botany
7. Snowshoe/cross-country skiing

Top things valued about Horan Natural Area (in order of preference):

1. The wildlife (79)
2. The natural beauty (74)
3. Solitude/peacefulness/quiet (62)
4. Proximity to town/easy access (35)
5. Wetland habitat/critical ecosystem (31)
6. Recreational opportunities (19)
7. Non-motorized/no bikes allowed (17)
8. Undeveloped (15)
9. Access to river (13)
10. Educational opportunities (8)

Recommendations

Short-term/maintenance improvements:

- Cut back brush to open up views of the river
- Remove chain-link fence along trail
- Reduce car noise – more berms and trees
- Find solutions to vandalism to interpretive signs:
 - Create digital access to information
 - Install security cameras near signs
- Create more access points for river use

- More regular maintenance of bathrooms
- Routine mowing of edges of trail
- Improve safety along trail
 - Several emergency buttons located along trail in case of distress
- More benches in prime birding locations
 - Replace existing benches
- More foot trails
- Install no-wake zone signs in river near area
- Allow bikes in area
- Snow/ice removal to allow for more winter use
- “Rocking” the parts of the trail that get muddy
- Add a drinking fountain
- Remove degrading interpretive signs

Long-term/structural improvements:

- Reconsider impact of Confluence Parkway/reconsider entire project
 - Find new location for new “Parkway” bridge in between pedestrian bridge and traffic bridge
- Build tribal cultural center and/or cultural history site
- Relocate radio towers
- Purchase and incorporate remaining tracts of land immediately adjacent to property
 - Specifically, acquire McQuaig Property
- Establish environmental educational center
- Create pedestrian bridge over the train tracks from HNA to LaQuinta area

New Programs or educational opportunities:

- More educational signs
 - Historical/cultural use of the area
 - Native peoples use of the area/honoring of Native Americans
 - Bi-lingual signs
 - Plant/bird/wildlife identification
 - Climate change information
- Allow Wenatchi tribe to be part-owners/stakeholders of land
- Horan Natural Area website (or social media page) with current information on species nesting/breeding in the area

Environmental strategies/adaptations:

- Improve water flow to ponds and marsh areas
- An “aquatic trail” to encourage canoeing up the river
- Vegetation management plan
 - Promote native species
 - Increase weeding/removal of invasive species
 - Remove exotic grasses

- Make more space for Milkweed
- Protect and enhance cottonwood groves
- Ban motorized boat use up Wenatchee River

Other comments:

1. Find more ways to enforce on-leash dog policy
2. Remove feral cats
3. Improve wheel chair accessibility