



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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



Hello Fellow Trail Users!


It's impressive the impact that one employee and an army of dedicated volunteers can have on our community. In 2015, we continued to elevate our stewardship of Galbraith Mountain (again ranked #1 in Washington by Singletracks.com), the Civic Dirt Jumps and new trail construction on Chuckanut Mountain. Galbraith now has a network of beginner level trails in the Lost Giants zone and Larrabee State park has its first continuous top to bottom trail that bikers can shuttle.

With our great relationships with our local land managers, combined with our volunteer muscle and expertise, we continue to take leading roles in trail expansion in Whatcom County. One of the highlights has been our pivotal role in support of the future 8,800 acre Lake Whatcom and Lookout Mountain Trail Networks – all within riding distance from town!

Our education programs have been expanding as we continue to provide professional training to parents and teachers to become bike guides, instructors and volunteers for our six afterschool programs (there's more to come next year!) We also partnered with Chris Mellick from RRAD (Ride Run and Dig) to bring Bike Rodeos to all 14 elementary schools and provide middle school and high school service learning projects out on the trails.

These exciting projects are just a fraction of what the WMBC has been working on and, with your support; we'll continue to lead the way in creating world-class recreation in Whatcom County. Read below to learn why 2015 was a great year, but mountain biking in Whatcom County has never looked brighter.

Thanks for your support and I'll see you on the trails!



Barbara Karabin, President



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Barbara Karabin / Vice President and Director of Events – Val Thompson
Director of Education – Hale Hanaway / Treasurer and Director of Marketing – Kevin Menard
Director of Advocacy – Blake Treadway / At Large (DNR) – Thad Quinn
Secretary and At Large – Jeff Jaap

STEWARDSHIP

“Over 6,500 volunteer hours building and maintaining trail in Whatcom County.”

Galbraith Mountain

- Rebuilt the trail network around Lost Giants where our crew spent 28 days with a mini excavator (plus many more days hand digging). The focus of the rebuild was to provide better trails for beginners and kids.
- Rebuilt the iconic “Stinger” feature on Evolution.
- Worked with Public Works to decrease the speed limit to 35mph on Samish Way for the safety of trail users and the Galbraith Lane neighbors.
- Rebuilt many of the bridges around the mountain including Banditos, Oly, Lost Giants, Lone Wolf, etc.
- Extended “Old Issues” (renamed “New Issues”) so it now connects directly into Kaya Trail.
- Continued the overhaul of the advanced Grasshopper jump trail.
- Rebuilt the bottom 1/3 of Unemployment Line.
- Re-opened “Flying Squirrel” trail (now renamed “Irish Death”)
- Worked with 24 Trail Adoption Program (TAP) sponsors to maintain trails.



Custom Galbraith Trail Signs by volunteer Mark Belles

Bellingham City Parks

- Civic Field Dirt Jump Park - Monthly Maintenance
- Miranda Trail – Rebuilt several sections and continued maintenance of this critical Northside trail.
- Site visits with Parks staff and City council to evaluate pumptrack locations.

Larrabee State Park

- Re-routed several sections of Double Black Diamond trail to lengthen the trail and greatly improve sustainability.
- Built the NEW “Double Down” trail which connects the Double Black Diamond Trail to the bottom of the mountain.



New Double Down trail in Larrabee State Park. Photo: Eric Ashley

Whatcom County Parks

- Primary stakeholder in Lake Whatcom Reconveyance Planning including scouting with Park staff.
- Raptor Ridge and Lower Salal Trail maintenance.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

- Co-Hosted National Trails Day on Blanchard Mountain to maintain the Larry Reed Trail.
- Planning Alternate Incline Trail re-routes.
- Eric Brown was one of 17 members of a statewide committee to establish Trail Policies for the DNR.

United States Forest Service (USFS)

- Scouted and proposed several re-routes and additions to Canyon Ridge Trail to maximize the trail and greatly improve sustainability and provide mt. bikers with an approved downhill from the ridge to Canyon Creek Road.

EDUCATION

- Partnered with RRAD (Ride Run and Dig) to provide Service learning projects with Fairhaven Middle School, Whatcom Middle School, Windward High School, Lynden Christian High School.
- In Collaboration with Everybody Bikes and RRAD, we promote bike safety at all of the 14 elementary schools in the Bellingham School District.

“Over 2,400 Kids participating in our Elementary School Bike Rodeos.”

- We support WA State High School MountainBike League.
- Developed after school bike clubs – Silver Beach Elementary, Wade King Elementary, Birchwood Elementary, Carl Cozier Elementary, Alderwood Elementary, Whatcom Middle School.
- Trained 11 local bike instructors to better guide and educate kids and beginners.
- Trained knowledgeable trail builders through our Annual Trail Building Academy.
- Collaborated with WWU students and professors



ADVOCACY

Galbraith Mountain

- Working with City, County and other organizations to preserve Galbraith access forever.
- Create skills areas, parking lot and hold events on Galbraith.
- Trail Expansion is scouted and planned.

Bellingham City Parks

- Building pumptracks and skills zones in our neighborhood parks (proposed: Roosevelt, Squalicum Creek Park, Northridge, 100 acre woods, etc.)

Larrabee State Park

- Trail planning to begin January, 2016 for Larrabee.
- 15 Miles of proposed trail already scouted by WMBC including a multi-use climbing trail from Fragrance Lake to the top of Chuckanut Mountain.

Whatcom County Parks

- Continue to lead in park planning and trail scouting in Reconveyance.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

- Trail Planning for Whatcom County to start in December.
- Advocating to have our pre-existing trails brought into authorized status where they make sense.

United States Forest Service (USFS)

- Advocating for our Canyon Ridge Trail re-routes to gain authorization.
- Eric will be on the USFS Resource Advisory Committee in 2016 for the Mt. Baker District.



Canyon Creek trail in the summer time.



Ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Lake Whatcom Reconveyance Park

EVENTS

Take A Kid Mountain Biking Day

- 143 (mostly younger) kids partook this year in TKMBD.
- 83 families
- We hosted a dozen group rides
- Provided a skills course
- Had a kids bike race

Shoot the Trails

- We sold out in advance (3rd year in a row) with more than 650 tickets sold and 700+ in attendance.
- 19 videographers and 36 photographers provided

Enduro of Subdued Excitement

- 187 racers on Chuckanut Mountain
- 82 racers were from Seattle, Bellevue, Vancouver, Olympic Peninsula and elsewhere.
- 25 Female racers
- 15 Junior racers (17 and under)
- Pinkbikewriteup: <http://www.pinkbike.com/news/enduro-of-subdued-excitement-2015.html>
- WMBC writeup <http://wmbcmtnb.org/2015/10/26/race-report-the-enduro-of-subdued-excitement/>



WMBC – By the Numbers

- 1,000 email subscribers
- 2,384 Facebook friends
- 5,132 Facebook Reach
- 228 Twitter Reach
- 870 Instagram followers
- Individual Supporters: 232
- Local Business Supporters: 70
- Trail Adoption Program (TAP) Sponsors: 23



WWW.WMBCMTB.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/WMBCMTB
INSTAGRAM.COM/WMBCMTB

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2015 WMBC Volunteer Highlights

- NEW Double Down Trail on Larrabee State Park - 1,400 Hours
- Trail Adoption Program (TAP) - 3,240 Hours
- Lost Giants Trail Network Rebuild - 500+ hours
- Civic Dirt Jump Maintenance - 240 Hours
- Evolution Stinger Rebuild - 250 hours
- Grasshopper Trail Rebuild - 620 hours
- Irish death Trail (Flying Squirrel Rebuild) - 150 hours
- Custom Trail Signs - 100 hours
- Fully rebuilt the lower third of Unemployment line. - 240 hours

Donation	Level	Examples of how your donation help the WMBC
\$25	Chain	Eight, 5-gallon buckets
\$50	Cassette	Two shovels
\$100	Drivetrain	One wheelbarrow
\$250	Aluminum	Feeds 25 volunteers at an organized trail build day
\$500	Steel	Funds one Trail Building Academy
\$1000	Titanium	Certifies two youth mountain bike instructors/ride leaders
\$5000	Carbon	Covers the cost of 14 kids attending a 5-day bike skills camp

DONATE TODAY

www.wmbcmtb.org/donate