



# *Issaquah Alps* **TRAILS CLUB**

— EST. 1979 —

Dedicated to engaging the public to preserve, protect, and promote the land, wildlife, and trails of the Issaquah Alps, for future and present generations.

## *Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club*

# THE ALPINER

October 2022

**News – Events – Hikes**

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### *2022 Annual Campaign*

From Save Coal Creek and land conservation, to trails and hikes, to forest health and land restoration. The generosity of our supporters makes this possible.

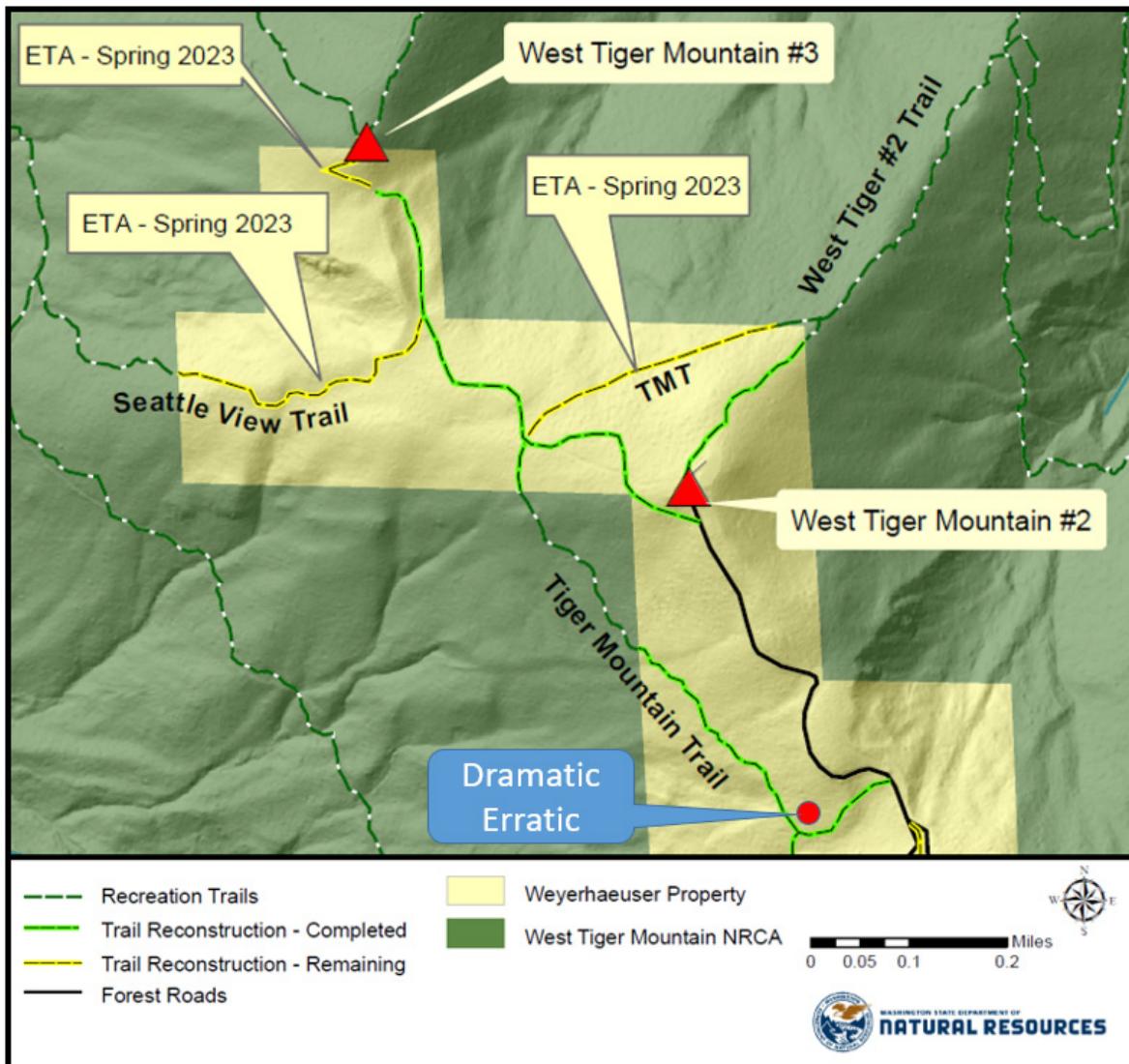
*Please make a generous donation for all we do for our beloved Issaquah Alps.*

*Thank you!*

# Trail News: A Tiger Mountain Trail Rebuild Update

Tom Anderson - October 28, 2022

If you have hiked trails near the summits of West Tiger Mountain, you've noticed the impacts from last year's timber harvest. You have probably also noticed the restoration operations underway - trees have been planted and rebuilding of the trails has begun. In this article we will focus on the status of the Tiger Mountain Trail (TMT) as it crosses over the saddle between West Tiger #2 and #3.



West Tiger Mountain rebuild of the TMT. Courtesy Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

At this point, the TMT south of the saddle has been rebuilt, and the new route is about 100 feet upslope from the old trail, so that it passes right by the glacial erratic now known as the "Dramatic Erratic." Readers of Bill Longwell's "Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain" will know this feature as "Rick's Rock," so dubbed by Longwell in honor of Rick Alspach, a Hazen High School student who toiled diligently on the initial construction of the trail in 1977. It was easy to miss this feature on the old trail with the rock set back and amidst the trees. It's a nice touch to have it next to the trail, and there is even a stump to sit on while enjoying the ambiance of the rock.



*Anne Newcomb enjoys an undramatic moment beside the Dramatic Erratic. Photo by Gaurav Sharma.*

And to help you get your bearings, here is a view of West Tiger #2 showing the erratic and the TMT. The TMT traverse that goes along the flank of West Tiger #2 was dubbed "Manning's Reach" by Longwell in honor of Harvey Manning, without whom, Longwell claims, "the Issaquah Alps long ago would have eroded into Puget Sound." An English teacher is allowed to use hyperbole now and then, I guess.



*West Tiger Mountain #2 Summit Area and the TMT. Photo by Tom Anderson.*

The stretch of the TMT on the NE side of the #2/#3 saddle is not yet ready for your feet. The temporary route is to go to the summit of West Tiger #2 and descend the ridgeline trail NW towards West Tiger #3 until it intersects the branch roughly at the saddle. A side benefit of this route is you can enjoy the beautiful new bench installed near the summit, courtesy of Weyerhaeuser who commissioned the work. Here is a weary band of hikers taking a rest at the bench. Well, not just any random group of hikers, but some IATC board members and Executive Director Paul Winterstein being led by Ben Mayberry, WA DNR Snoqualmie Recreation Operations Manager, on a tour of the West Tiger restoration work. Thanks, Ben, for engaging the club on this exciting project.



*Standing, L to R: Paul Winterstein, David Kappler, Gaurav Sharma and Ben Mayberry.*

*Seated, L to R: Tom Anderson, Anne Newcomb, and David Dunphy.*

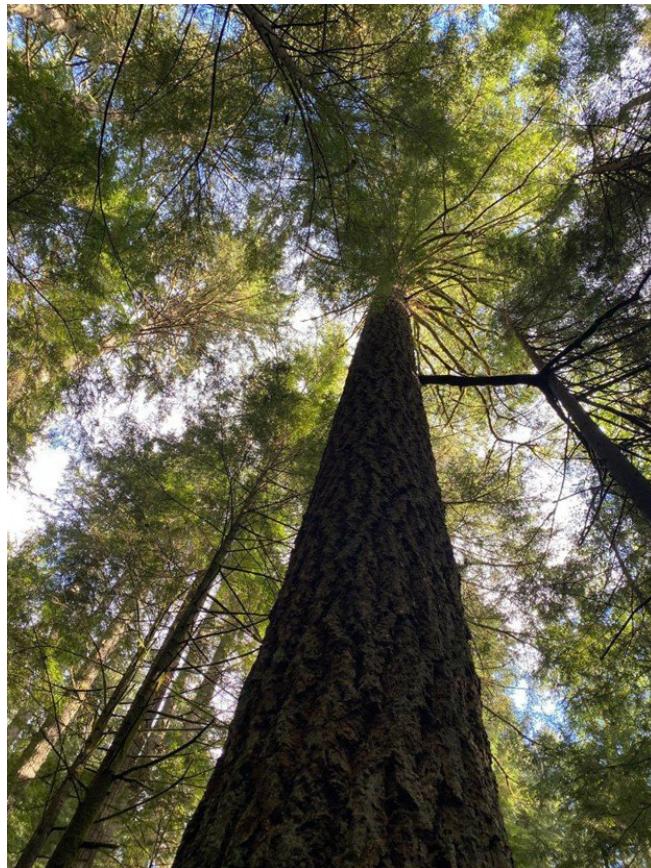
*Photo by Gaurav Sharma*

Want to help with the trail rebuilding? The Washington Trails Association (WTA) is organizing numerous work parties on Tiger and Cougar Mountains over the coming months. Use this link to [find a WTA work party](#) within the Issaquah Alps.

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# Tiger Mtn. Land Linked to New Forest Carbon Reserve

Kelly Jiang - October 31, 2022



When you set foot in the forests of the Issaquah Alps, you find yourself in a sea of carbon. Douglas firs, cedars, and hemlocks reach their branches to the sky, taking in carbon dioxide and sequestering the carbon in their wood. The forests of the Pacific Northwest are some of the most carbon-dense in the world - they store more carbon per acre than even the Amazon rainforest!

Now, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is looking to protect some of their trust lands that contain older trees by placing a commercial value on the carbon that these trees store. Earlier this year the head of the DNR, Public Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz announced the creation of a 10,000-acre "carbon reserve," where the trees will be taken out of logging rotation, and instead left standing with their locked-up carbon.

## A New Direction For the DNR

As a state agency, the DNR is required by law to generate revenue from its trust lands for so-called "junior taxing districts," which include school districts, hospital districts, library districts, and fire districts. Traditionally, this has been through logging - revenues from logging are a key part of the budget for many school districts, particularly in more rural areas of the state.

Historically, when trust land has been placed into conservation status, it has no longer been able to

generate revenue. However, with the new carbon program, these lands are conserved - the trees won't be cut down - but revenue is still able to be generated through the sale of carbon credits. The revenue generated might not be as much as could have been generated through logging, but it's a more consistent revenue stream (a smaller amount every year for a few decades), rather than a one-time lump sum when the land is logged every few decades.

## Carbon Credits

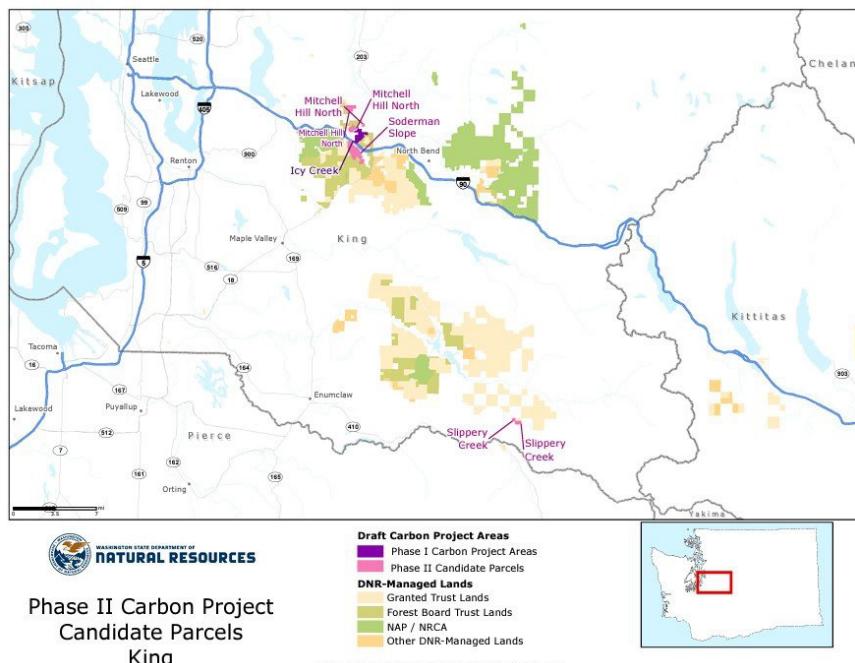
A carbon credit is equal to one metric ton of carbon dioxide. To determine the amount of carbon credits available on a given plot of land, surveyors go out, measure a statistically representative sample of trees, determine the estimated volume of wood in the trees, and then determine the amount of carbon in the trees.

The DNR is partnering with [Finite Carbon](#) to determine the amount of carbon credits available on these lands, and to sell these carbon to organizations and businesses looking to offset their carbon emissions. One such business is Microsoft, [who has purchased over 1 million carbon credits](#) to help offset emissions from its operations.

While the revenue that carbon credits generate and the resulting conservation should be celebrated in and of themselves, it is very important to avoid "greenwashing", where the act of buying carbon credits isn't paired with actual greenhouse gas emission reductions. Businesses that purchase carbon credits should do so only as a last resort; the first step should always be to reduce their emissions wherever possible. King County is working on developing standards for the purchasers of their carbon offsets to, among other things, require that any businesses or organizations that purchase carbon credits from them have a climate action plan, and are implementing strategies to reduce their emissions. The Issaquah Alps Trails Club wants the DNR to adopt similar standards.

## Carbon Reserve Parcels

The parcels proposed for the carbon reserve are selected based on the DNR's High Conservation Value (HCV) criteria, which include the following:



1. Significant concentrations of biodiversity;
2. Significant landscape-scale ecosystems;
3. Rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems and habitats;
4. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control);
5. Areas or resources fundamental to meeting basic needs of Indigenous populations and local communities (e.g. subsistence); and
6. Areas or resources critical to Indigenous populations and local communities' traditional cultural identity.

Parcels totaling 2,500 acres have already been selected for Phase 1 of the carbon reserve program. Phase 2 will identify 7,500 acres to be added to the carbon reserve. Several parcels in the Issaquah Alps, including one on Tiger Mountain called "Soderman Slope," are being considered for inclusion in Phase 2 of the DNR's Forest Carbon Reserve program. The map shows the location of the proposed forest carbon parcels in King County.

You can check out the [maps for forest carbon parcels in other Western Washington counties](#) on DNR's website.

#### Submit Your Comments

The DNR is seeking public input on their carbon project through their [survey](#). Please let the DNR know what you think - public engagement is critical to helping them design a carbon reserve project that best serves the needs of the citizens of Washington State.

To learn more, check out this [article in the Seattle Times](#) about the forest carbon reserve project. Additionally, you can read [DNR's overview of the carbon project](#), as well as their [project and stakeholder outreach page](#).

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## Trail Work Parties on Tiger and Cougar Mtns.

Join others from the IATC community and WTA to maintain and build new trails on Tiger and Cougar Mtns. throughout November and December.





## Lake Sammamish State Park Hike

Saturday, November 5 from 9:00 AM – Noon

Get to know the current and future trails of Lake Sammamish State Park on this easy but eventful hike around the park.



## Forest Health Watch Hike & Soils Sampling

Sunday, November 13 from 10:00 AM – 12:15 PM

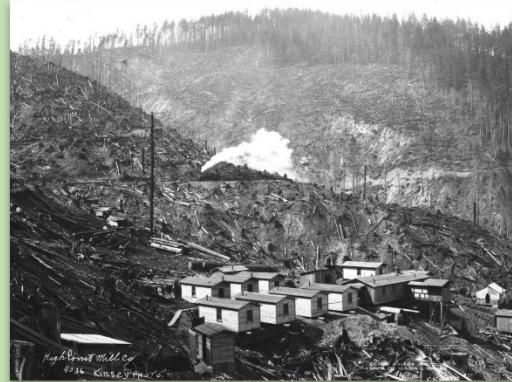
Join IATC and Forest Health Watch on this hike and field trip to get to the root of why our cedars are sick and dying and how we can help.



## High Point Logging History Hike

Tuesday, November 15 from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Join us for this popular hike to learn about the history of the High Point mill on Tiger Mtn.



## Margaret's Way Hike

Saturday, November 19, from 9:00 AM – Noon

An excellent hike all year long, Margaret's Way trail still offers a wonderful forest hike with streams and rock outcrops to enjoy even on November weekends, regardless of the weather.



## New Trail Scouting on Squak Mtn.

Sunday, November 20, from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

A unique opportunity to help determine the location of a new trail on State Park land on NE Squak Mtn.



# The Apparatus

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