

# Additional Lummi DNR Information

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## Volunteers: Submit a report!

If you are a volunteer for the Lummi DNR, please download the Lummi DNR Site Report Form from the WAKE website under *About Us > Key Forms and Documents*. Your notes on the state of the site are helpful in knowing what maintenance or repairs might be needed! Please send completed reports to:

WAKE  
PO Box 1952  
Bellingham, WA 98227

## The Status of Our Island DNR Sites

Every year, the island DNR sites are on a possible chopping block due to budget shortfalls, or are “allocationally” challenged in that the money the state does have is being allocated elsewhere. These sites include the one on Lummi Island, and the two remaining on Cypress Island including Cypress Head and Pelican Beach. Cypress Head and Pelican Beach are now only open for overnight use during the summer. The Strawberry Island site was eliminated a couple years ago.

Every year there is less and less money and other resources available from the state for maintaining recreational sites. WAKE is trying to help out this situation by taking care of maintenance of the Lummi DNR campsite. We typically visit the site regularly in the camping season and less frequently in the off season. We try to ensure there is no rogue activities taking place such as unauthorized campsites or unauthorized fire rings. We make sure that any litter is picked up. It is rare that someone camps at the site and leaves a mess but we see a fair amount of plastic flotsam wash up that we deal with.

## What to do Right Now

- Call and write your representatives. Tell them how important the island sites are to you.
- Ask them what their stand on the issue is and pin them down on how they plan to vote. Remind them human powered maritime travel is an important part of the Northwest’s culture and heritage. Remind them we draw tourists from all around the world to our area to boat around the islands. Tell them how pleased we are with the local DNR staff’s efforts to network and ‘think outside the box’ to keep our sites going –Tell them we actually need increased funding as many of the sites have not been upgraded for over a decade. And tell them about our site on Lummi and the work that we have done. These stories go a long way.
- Find your representative on-line at <http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>

## History of WAKE's Involvement with the Lummi Department of Natural Resources

WAKE has had a relationship with the Lummi DNR since approximately 2004. WAKE has long cooperated with the Washington Water Trails Association [WWTA] and has offered a site steward for our local little gem for about 10 years. Dave Peebles and Lisa Johnson, were active in this early on. The Lummi DNR site is part of the Cascadia Marine Trail. The very important WWTA Cascadia Marine Trail system was created to "honor and preserve 5,000 years of marine travel". Founded in the 1980s, early paddlers were concerned about the diminishing number of pullouts for kayakers and recognized the need to preserve space for their little flotilla of kayaks. The goal was to have a pullout within human powered reach. Like hiking and backpacking, rest areas and camping sites were needed for kayakers. These early paddlers set the stage for our current and ongoing drive to preserve a water trail for non-motorized craft.

## Current Status

In the last ten years the recreation budget has been decimated. The DNR has eliminated many positions, making it hard for the agency to supervise recreation sites.

Around 2004 the Lummi Island DNR site was slated for closure, but was kept open due to the innovation of our local DNR staff, including Tom Murley, Christ Thompson, and Kathy Gunther. Lisa Johnson lived next door to Tom Murley, a Northwest Region Natural Areas Manager for the DNR. Tom and Lisa lived in an old neighborhood where folks tend to stand outside and shoot the breeze. Tom was aware that Lisa was on the board for WAKE, and thus the relationship between WAKE and the DNR was born. Tom basically recruited us to help maintain the site. After some basic training in site maintenance and blood borne pathogen training, we were a go. The rest is history.

A few early heroes in our quest to keep this site open should be identified. Red Galvin, Dave Harris, Les Rounds, Merv Davies and Andy Wallis have really been instrumental. No talk, just action. These guys have rebuilt trails, varnished tables, painted outhouses, built a storage shed, rebuilt stairs, handcrafted a new sign-in box, removed major beach timber, and just generally provided a sense of 'we can do it' for the site. Without their muscle and brains, our endeavor may not have survived. As for the numerous other volunteers, a heartfelt thank you! Your efforts are truly appreciated!!