



State Parks will share Ice Age Floods story with visitors

As part of its Centennial 2013 Plan, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission in 2006 adopted a formal interpretive plan to share the Ice Age floods story with visitors in designated state parks.

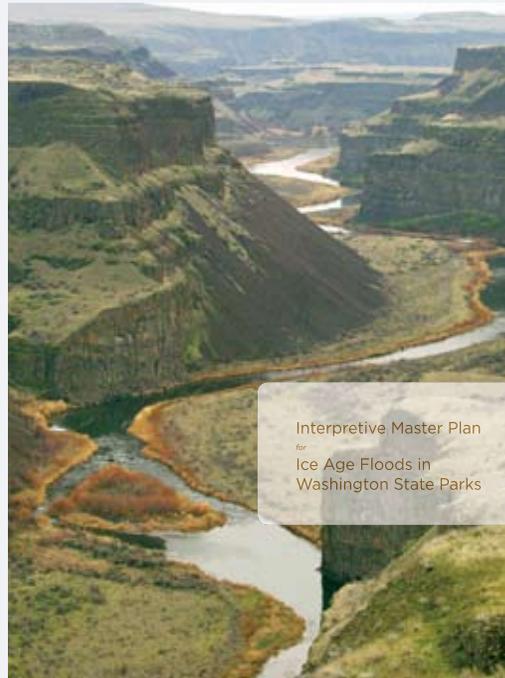
As planned, interpretive displays and staff guides for Centennial Trail, Steamboat Rock, Palouse Falls, Sun Lakes-Dry Falls, Gingko Petrified Forest, Beacon Rock and Cape Disappointment state parks will be complete by June 30.

The plan charts State Parks' approach in pro-

tecting and conserving Ice Age floods features in 24 state parks while using them to provide a network of recreational and educational experiences for the public.

More than a year in the planning, the plan was developed in cooperation with the Ice Age Floods Institute, the National Park Service and local communities and has been shared with the states of Idaho, Oregon and Montana. Washington sites are situated along a multi-state national trail being considered by Congress.

Massive flood episodes carved new landscapes across a four-state area during the last Ice Age. The Ice Age Floods are considered one of the most dramatic and significant



geologic events in the region. Besides defining the unique landscape of the state, the epic floods created unique agri-

cultural micro-environments that are used by today's viticulturists and specialty farmers. Ice Age Floods interpretation is a key component of the State Parks Centennial 2013 Plan, the Commission's blueprint for preparing the park system for a second century of excellent parks.

More about the Centennial 2013 plan is available at www.parks.wa.gov/Centennial2013/.

Outdoor enthusiasts urged to prevent mosquito-borne West Nile virus infections

Washington State Parks and the state Department of Health this summer are telling campers, picnickers and other outdoor enthusiasts about ways they can prevent mosquito bites to help avoid infection with West Nile virus.

Last year, the state's Department of Health received the first reports of people with West Nile virus in Washington. The virus is spread to people and horses by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected after feeding on birds that carry the virus. As summer approaches, mosquito control experts

continue monitoring West Nile virus in the Pacific Northwest region.

Washington's Department of Health (DOH) offers these tips for avoiding mosquito-borne disease:



Prevent bites. Female mosquitoes, the ones who bite, are drawn to carbon dioxide, heat, and moisture—breath, skin temperature, and perspiration.

• **Wear a long sleeve shirt, long pants, and a hat** when going into mosquito-infested areas, such as wetlands or woods.

• **Stay indoors at dawn and dusk**, if possible, when mosquitoes are the most active.

• **Use mosquito repellent** when necessary, and carefully follow directions on the label, especially with children. Repellents with DEET are very effective and widely used to reduce risk of mosquito bites. Visit: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/RepellentUpdates.htm

Reduce mosquito habitat. About 44 mosquito species have been counted in Washington state—they all need standing water to breed and grow.

• **Empty or recycle anything that holds standing water**--or

freshen water at least twice a week.

• **Make sure roof gutters are cleaned** in spring and fall and drain properly.

• **Fix leaky outdoor faucets and sprinklers.**

• **Make sure windows and doors are "bug tight."** Repair or replace screens.

Though the risk of getting West Nile virus is low, according to the Washington State Department of Health, it can cause serious illness, particularly in those over the age of 50.

For more information, call: 1-866-78-VIRUS (1-866-788-47) or visit: www.doh.wa.gov.

Governor signs final budget package to improve State Parks

“Fix what we have,” the first priority of the State Parks Centennial 2013 Plan, was supported recently by the Governor and Legislature, through approval of the State Parks 2007-09 capital budget.

The appropriation for the 2007-09 biennium is approximately \$50 million in new funds from the state building account, as compared with \$33 million in state building ac-

count money allocated in 2005-07 -- an increase of about 50 percent. The increase in funding helps State Parks make progress on its Centennial 2013 goals to make improvements and renovations at parks across the state.

Some highlights of the capital budget follow:

- \$1 million of historic preservation funds to be used at St. Edward in Kenmore for historic and condition assessments of the

seminary building and beginning of preservation.

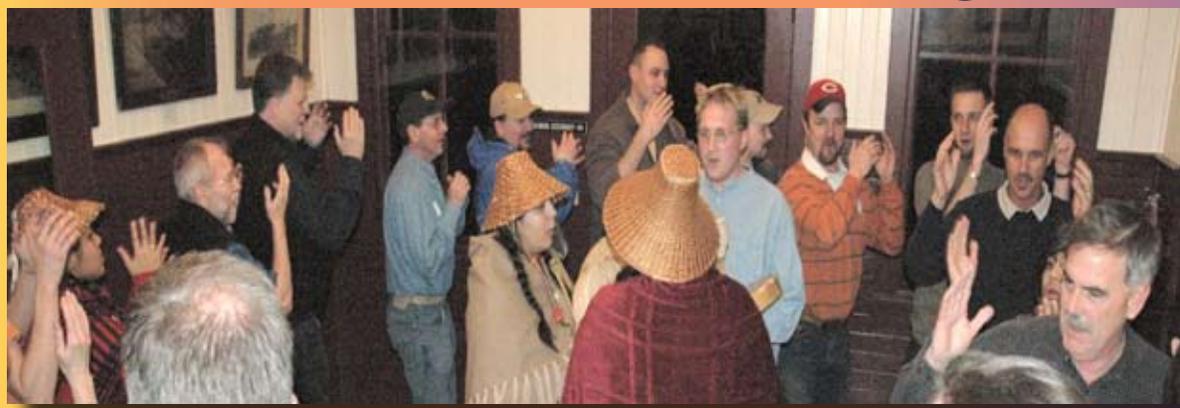
- \$500,000 of trail funds for Cape Disappointment trail
- \$350,000 of trail funds for Squak Mountain State Park trail
- \$3 million of new funds and \$2 million of re-appropriated funds for Ice Age Interpretive Center Project at Hanford Reach
- \$3.6 million for connecting Iron Horse Trail to Lake Sammamish State Park, for use by the

Mountain to Sounds Greenway Trust

- \$1 million for Lake Sammamish park upgrades
- \$1.367 million for Pearrygin Lake upgrades, visible park improvements, deferred maintenance and historic stewardship
- \$3.8 million for a retreat lodge at Cama Beach.

Also approved was planning money for Nisqually Mashel and Fort Worden.

First cultural events training held



State Parks staff members dance with the Snoqualmie Tribal Youth Dance & Drum group at the first Cultural Events Training Workshop for rangers and interpretive specialists at the historic South Cle Elum Depot on March 14 and 15. The session was presented by State Parks Folk and Traditional Arts Program, with assistance from Northwest Folklife.

State Parks rangers and interpretive specialists from parks all over the state recently attended the Folk and Traditional Arts in the Parks Program's first Cultural Events Training Workshop at the historic South Cle Elum Depot.

The Folk and Traditional Arts in the Parks Program, which is run in cooperation with the Washington State Arts Commission, highlights Washington's rich cultural heritage through events designed to welcome new audiences to state parks. The March workshop focused on enhanc-

ing staff skills in organizing and presenting park programs and featured presentations by Debbie Fant and Amy Mills, Northwest Folklife. Steve Sneed of the Seattle Center was on hand to present a segment on cross-cultural communication. Performances included music by Bob Antone of North Bend and drumming and dancing by the Snoqualmie Tribe Youth Dance and Drum group.

Jon Schmidt, an interpretive specialist at Cape Disappointment, said, “The existence of this training reassured me that special and cultural events are important to the agency.”

Ranger Kay Keck from Spencer Spit wrote on her evaluation: “Well done. I heard lots of great discussion and was able to get great ideas for events at my park.”

Traditional Arts in the Parks events scheduled for this season include Hispanic fiestas, American roots music series and Native American basket weaving, to name a few. Events showcase some of the best local and regional folk artists, performers and traditional foods. Events are free unless otherwise noted. For more information on this season's events, visit <http://www.parks.wa.gov/events/>.

Comments on redesigns sought

In response to Governor Gregoire's 2006 declaration that state parks should be places that model “Sound-friendly” development, State Parks developed plans to fully redesign three parks with low-impact development principles.

Fort Casey (on Whidbey Island), Saltwater (south King County) and Twanoh (Hood Canal) state parks were chosen as the first sites to demonstrate how parks can be designed to lessen impacts on Puget Sound.

Following public review, State Parks will consider costs and benefits of suggested changes and incorporate suggestions received into final “green vision” plans, according to Chris Regan, environmental program manager State Parks. These plans will guide future development at each park.

Plans for each park are available for review and comment online at www.parks.wa.gov/pugetsoundparks.

Recent accomplishments and activities in your state parks

Beacon Rock boasts new day-use area

Approximately 70 people gathered under brilliant blue skies on May 16, to celebrate the opening of a new day-use area at Beacon Rock State Park near Stevenson on the Columbia River.

It was an important celebration for many, because the project took several years to sort out a complex set of problems, including the need for a new road configuration on State Route 14 and a new bridge into the area. Citizen groups,



State Parks staff and partners celebrate Beacon Rock park upgrades on May 16.

working with State Parks development staff, had adopted a motto, “Subservient to the view,” to guide the park's creation at the beautiful location, marked by acres of waving green grass and the river lined with old cottonwood trees.

The day-use area was constructed with \$1.45 million in grants from the Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP) and the U.S. Forest Service. Bridge and road construction cost \$3.9 million from state building construction account and motor vehicle fuel tax, with grants from the Pierce Trust and the WWRP.

Yakima Sportsman hosts second grade students

Rangers Mike Thomas and Kevin Lease hosted 120 second graders on May 7 from Granger Elementary School. Students learned about fire tools, hiking and ski-

ing. The visit also included recreation gear demonstrations and a walk along the park's new interpretive trail.



Second graders from Granger Elementary School visited Yakima Sportsman State Park on May 7. Students enjoyed a wetlands interpretive walk, along with demonstrations on fire tools, hiking and skiing gear.