

Rothschild House and Old Fort Townsend State Park CAMP

Stage 2 – Exploring Alternative Approaches

Environmental Implications

May 4, 2009

During Stage 2 of the CAMP planning process, participants explore alternatives for a park's future development and management. Alternatives for Rothschild House and Old Fort Townsend State Park are described in [Stage 2 – Exploring Alternative Approaches](#). To help inform input on the alternatives, you may find it helpful to consider potential environmental implications of implementing each. In this document, we look at the environmental consequences of the alternatives compared to one other, as well as a third, no-action alternative.

If you wish, you may provide any additional comments on information in this document. The process in which you are involved is designed to incorporate phased environmental review, consistent with the State Environmental Policy Act (WAC 352-11). Your comments help to identify environmental issues that State Parks and Recreation Commission needs to consider before taking an official action – in this case adopting elements of a park land use plan.

During the next stage in the planning process, agency staff will prepare an environmental checklist describing the environmental effects of adopting preliminary recommendations for the park's land use plan. The agency will then make a formal determination of the significance of any environmental impacts and whether additional environmental analysis and documentation is necessary.

Please note that we are focusing on land classification, setting of long-term park boundaries, and any proposals leading to major "ground-disturbing" activities. Please provide any comments to:

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Old Fort Townsend State Park Environmental Implications

Protecting Natural and Cultural Features Alternative	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities Alternative																																																								
<p>Land Classification Old Fort Townsend State Park is currently classified as a combination of Recreation Area and Natural Forest Area. Approximately twenty acres of tidelands and thirty acres of newly acquired uplands remain unclassified. The area of land proposed for each classification under this alternative is shown in Table 1 and Figure 1.</p> <p>Table 1</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;"></th> <th style="width: 25%;">Existing Classification (Acres)</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Proposed Classification (Acres)</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Percent of park-owned land</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Recreation</td><td style="text-align: center;">111</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">2%</td></tr> <tr><td>Resource Recreation</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">51</td><td style="text-align: center;">12%</td></tr> <tr><td>Natural</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">20</td><td style="text-align: center;">5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Natural Forest Area</td><td style="text-align: center;">256</td><td style="text-align: center;">309</td><td style="text-align: center;">74%</td></tr> <tr><td>Heritage Area</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">29</td><td style="text-align: center;">7%</td></tr> <tr><td>Unclassified</td><td style="text-align: center;">49</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Relative to the <i>No-Action</i> and <i>Enhancing Recreational Opportunity</i> alternatives, this alternative results in the least potential impacts to soils, water resources, water quality, air quality, plant and animal communities, noise levels, aesthetics, light and glare, public services and utilities.</p> <p>Recreation and Heritage Areas allow for high-intensity recreational activities and facilities including high concentrations of park visitors and development of day-use picnic areas, campgrounds, and administrative areas. This alternative will allow high-intensity land uses in about 9% of the existing park and within 5% of this alternative's proposed long-term boundary.</p> <p>Resource Recreation Areas allow for medium intensity recreational activities and facilities including hiking, cycling, and equestrian activities and development of roadways, parking, primitive camping facilities. This alternative allows for medium-intensity land uses in about 12% of the existing park and 47% within this alternative's proposed long-term boundary.</p>		Existing Classification (Acres)	Proposed Classification (Acres)	Percent of park-owned land	Recreation	111	7	2%	Resource Recreation	0	51	12%	Natural	0	20	5%	Natural Forest Area	256	309	74%	Heritage Area	0	29	7%	Unclassified	49	0	0	<p>Land Classification The area of land proposed in each classification under this alternative is shown in Table 2 and Figure 2.</p> <p>Table 2</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;"></th> <th style="width: 20%;">Existing Classification (Acres)</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Proposed Classification (Acres)</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Percent of park-owned land</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Recreation</td><td style="text-align: center;">111</td><td style="text-align: center;">21</td><td style="text-align: center;">5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Resource Recreation</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">88</td><td style="text-align: center;">21%</td></tr> <tr><td>Natural</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Natural Forest Area</td><td style="text-align: center;">256</td><td style="text-align: center;">271</td><td style="text-align: center;">65%</td></tr> <tr><td>Heritage Area</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">20</td><td style="text-align: center;">5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Unclassified</td><td style="text-align: center;">49</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Relative to the <i>Protecting Natural and Cultural Features</i> alternatives, this approach could result in more potential environmental impacts to soils, water resources, water quality, air quality, plant and animal communities, noise levels, aesthetics, light and glare, public services, and utilities. However, this alternative has far less potential to affect negatively these elements of the environment than the <i>No-Action</i> alternative.</p> <p>This alternative will allow high-intensity land uses (Recreation/Heritage Areas) in about 10% of the existing park and within 6% of this alternative's proposed long-term boundary. This is slightly more than the Protecting Natural and Cultural Features alternative, but considerably less than 27% of existing park currently classified for high-intensity use.</p> <p>This alternative will allow medium-intensity land uses (Resource Recreation) in about 21% of the existing park and 52% with this alternative's long-term boundary. Medium-intensity land uses are not distinguished from high-intensity uses in the park's current classifications (<i>No-Action</i> alternative).</p>		Existing Classification (Acres)	Proposed Classification (Acres)	Percent of park-owned land	Recreation	111	21	5%	Resource Recreation	0	88	21%	Natural	0	16	4%	Natural Forest Area	256	271	65%	Heritage Area	0	20	5%	Unclassified	49	0	0
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Protecting Natural and Cultural Features Alternative

Long Term Boundary

The functional size of the park (land within the long-term park boundary (LTB)) would grow from about 414 acres to about 823 acres of uplands and tidelands. Table 3 shows classifications for additional lands to include in this alternative’s proposed LTB.

Table 3

	Un-owned land in LTB (acres)	Percent of un-owned land in LTB	Percent of all land in LTB
Recreation	2	<1%	1%
Resource Recreation	332	82%	47%
Natural	43	11%	8%
Natural Forest Area	26	6%	40%
Heritage Area	4	1%	4%

This alternative classifies lands outside of current park ownership primarily for medium and low-intensity land uses (Resource Recreation and Natural Forest Area). This limits activities and facilities on these lands primarily to shared and pedestrian trail uses and development of modest roadways, parking areas, primitive camping, and primitive sanitary facilities (vault/composting toilets).

Compared with the *Enhancing Recreational Opportunity alternative*, this alternative has considerably less potential for adverse affects on soils, water resources, water quality, air quality, plant and animal communities, noise levels, aesthetics, light and glare, public services and utilities.

Compared to *No-Action*, this alternative would considerably reduce adverse effects on these elements of the environment.

Enhancing Recreational Opportunities Alternative

Long Term Boundary

The functional size of the park (land within the LTB) would grow from about 414 acres to about 857 acres of uplands and tidelands. Table 4 shows classifications for additional lands to include in this alternative’s proposed LTB.

Table 4

	Un-owned land in LTB (acres)	Percent of un-owned land in LTB	Percent of all land in LTB
Recreation	32	7%	6%
Resource Recreation	362	82%	52%
Natural	43	10%	7%
Natural Forest Area	0	0%	32%
Heritage Area	4	1%	3%

This alternative classifies lands outside current park ownership primarily for medium and high-intensity land uses (Resource Recreation and Recreation Areas). Recreation Areas, principally in the Port Townsend Paper fly ash distribution site, will permit high concentration of park visitors and development of campgrounds with cabins, sanitary facilities with shower, and other extensive recreational amenities. As in the Protecting Natural and Cultural Features alternative, Resource Recreation Areas within the long-term boundary will permit shared trail uses and development of modest roadways, parking areas, primitive camping, and primitive sanitary facilities (vault/composting toilets).

Compared to *No-Action*, this alternative would likely reduce adverse effects on soils, water resources, water quality, air quality, plant and animal communities, noise levels, and aesthetics. Depending on the type of recreational facilities ultimately constructed, light and glare may increase, and the need for public services and utilities would increase.

Compared to the Protecting Natural and Cultural Features alternative, adverse effects of this alternative on soils, water resources, water quality, air quality, plant and animal communities, noise levels, aesthetics, light and glare would likely be greater.

Protecting Natural and Cultural Features Alternative	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities Alternative
<p>Overnight camping facilities</p> <p>This alternative does not propose expansion of camping opportunities. In contrast to the Enhancing Recreational Opportunity alternative, forested camping areas will be evaluated for health of trees and potential risk to people and property from falling branches and other tree failure. As indicated through such an evaluation, under this alternative camping may ultimately be removed from within forested areas in favor of extensive pruning and tree removal activities.</p> <p>Compared with No-Action, this alternative may ultimately reduce the footprint of campgrounds and consequently lessening adverse effects on soils, water quality, air quality, plant and animal communities, noise levels, aesthetics, light, and glare and reduce need for public services and utilities. Compared with the <i>Enhancing Recreational Opportunity</i> alternative, potential adverse effects on these elements of the environment is considerably less.</p>	<p>Overnight camping facilities</p> <p>This alternative proposes significant expansion to camping as well as development of rustic cabins. New campsites with interspersed rustic cabins would be constructed in the open upper terrace and upper half of the mid-terrace adjacent to the existing RV campsites. This alternative also proposes construction of a water trail campsite (group camp area and vault/composting toilet) near the shoreline landing. Extensive new camping and rustic cabin opportunities would also be developed in the adjacent Port Townsend Paper fly ash distribution area, if ever acquired.</p> <p>Compared to the <i>Protecting Natural and Cultural Features</i> and <i>No-Action</i> alternatives, expansion of the existing campground would have greater impact on the integrity of the Fort Townsend cultural landscape. Development of a water trail site would also require greater tree/vegetation clearing and grading of slopes.</p> <p>Compared to the <i>Protecting Natural and Cultural Features</i> alternative development of extensive camping, rustic cabin opportunities, and associated roadways, utilities, and other support facilities in this alternative would have considerably greater adverse effects on soils, water quality, air quality, plant and animal communities, noise levels, aesthetics, light, and glare and increase need for public services and utilities.</p> <p>Compared to No-Action, this alternative would likely reduce adverse effects on soils, water resources, water quality, air quality, plant and animal communities, noise levels, and aesthetics. Depending on the extent and type of overnight facilities ultimately constructed, light and glare may increase and the need for public services and utilities would increase.</p>

Protecting Natural and Cultural Features Alternative	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities Alternative
<p>Shoreline Armoring and Water Access Facilities</p> <p>This alternative proposes removing all armoring, restoration of the natural shoreline, and replacement of concrete buoy anchors with helical anchors. Compared to <i>No-Action</i>, this alternative would positively effect soils; water quality; shoreline, intertidal, and near-shore plant, animal, and fish communities; and aesthetics. This alternative has considerably less adverse environmental effects compared to the <i>Enhancing Recreational Opportunity</i> alternative, under which construction of a new kayak/dinghy dock is proposed.</p>	<p>Shoreline Armoring and Water Access Facilities</p> <p>This alternative proposes retention of shoreline armoring, construction of a kayak/dinghy dock, and replacement of concrete buoy anchors with helical anchors. Compared to <i>No-Action</i>, construction of a dock may increase adverse effects on soils; water quality; shoreline, intertidal, and near-shore plant, animal, and fish communities; and aesthetics. Some positive effects on near-shore plant, animal, and fish communities would result from replacing buoy anchors with helical anchors.</p> <p>Compared to the <i>Protecting Natural and Cultural Features</i> alternative, positive effects on soils; water quality; shoreline, intertidal, and near-shore plant, animal, and fish communities as a result of removing armoring and restoring the shoreline would not be realized. Construction of a dock may also have increased relative adverse effects on soils; water quality; shoreline, intertidal, and near-shore plant, animal, and fish communities; and aesthetics.</p>
<p>Development of Interpretive Opportunities</p> <p>Compared to the <i>Enhancing Recreational Opportunity</i> alternative, this alternative proposes only modest additions to interpretive facilities, focusing instead on programming. This would have minimal adverse effect on soils, water quality, air quality, plant and animal communities, noise levels, aesthetics, light, and glare and would not increase the need for public services or utilities. Compared to <i>No-Action</i>, modestly expanding interpretive programming would not significantly increase adverse effects on these elements of the environment.</p>	<p>Development of Interpretive Opportunities</p> <p>This alternative proposes development of extensive new interpretive opportunities including reconstruction of the historic Fort Townsend guardhouse, rehabilitation of the World War II era torpedo structure as a forest canopy access, and construction of a nature center with indoor classroom space at the existing group camp. Compared with the <i>Protecting Natural and Cultural Features</i> and <i>No-Action</i> alternatives, development of these facilities would have a greater adverse effect on soils, water quality, air quality, plant and animal communities, noise levels, aesthetics, light, and glare and increase the need for public services and utilities.</p>

Figure 1

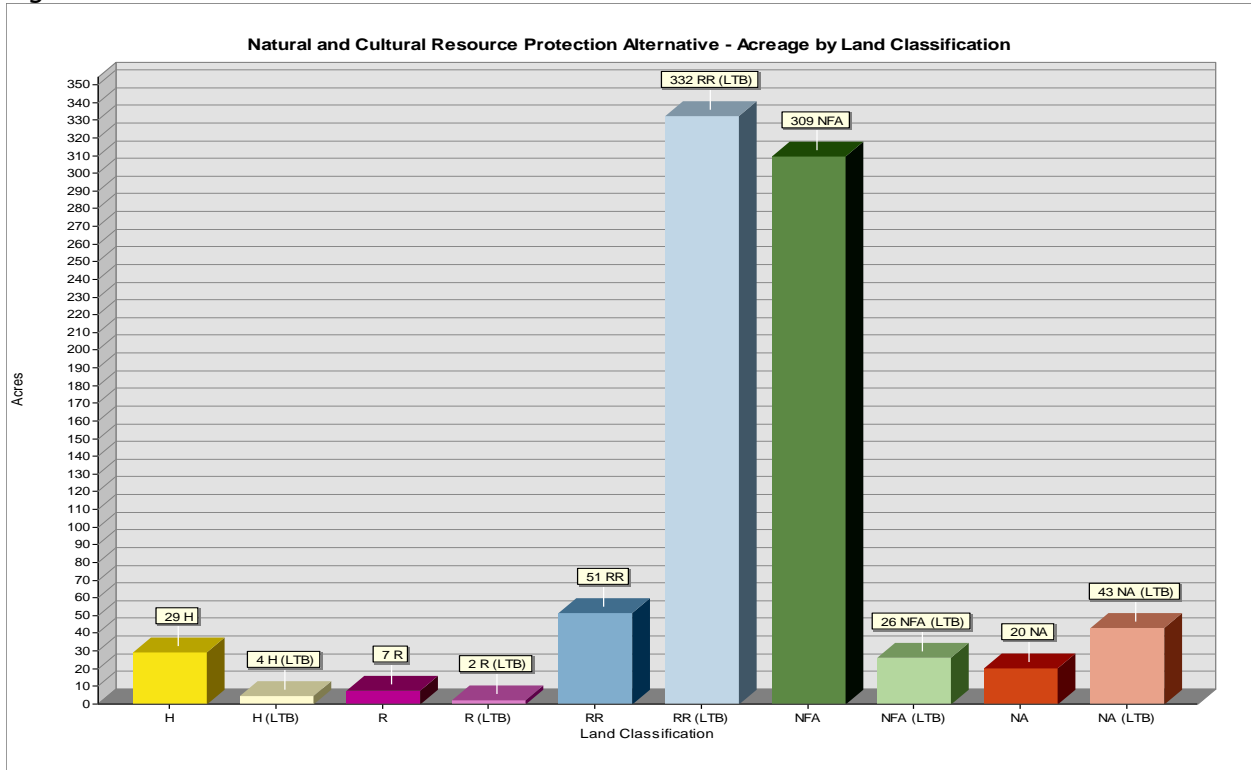
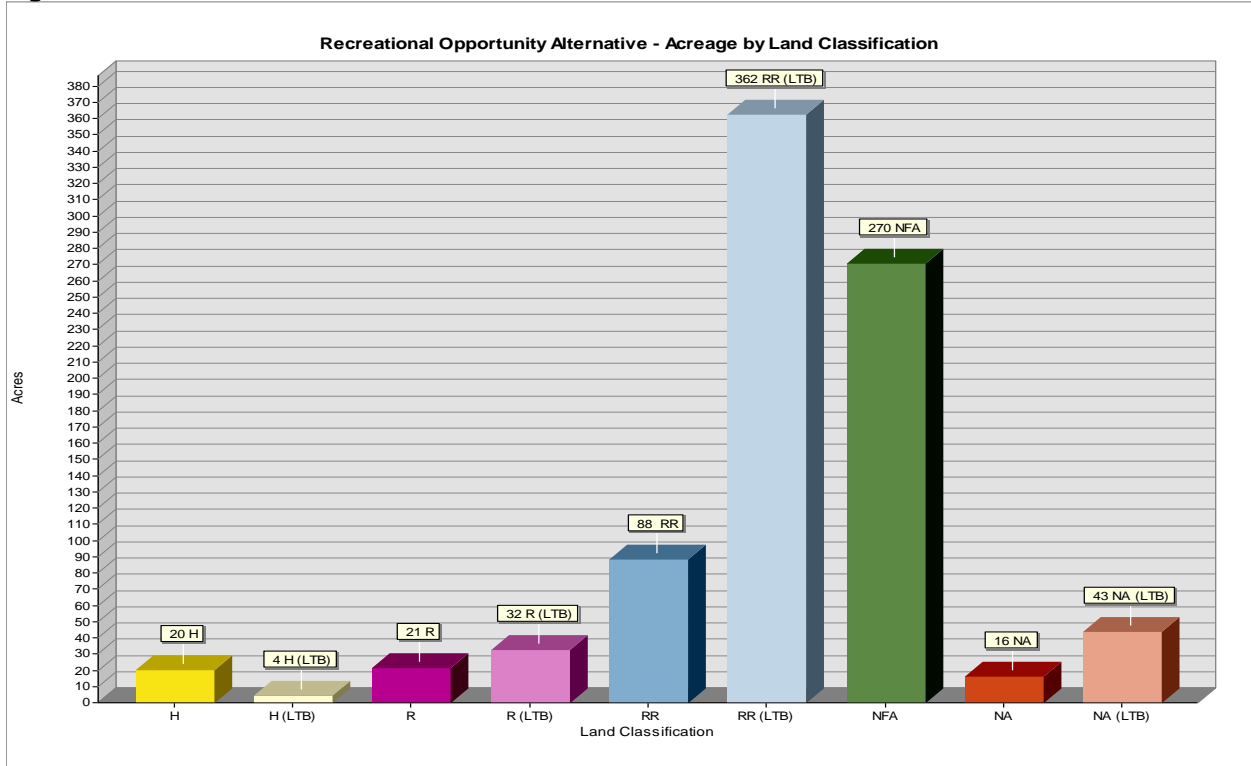


Figure 2



Rothschild House Environmental Implications

Restoration of Historic Features	Rehabilitation for Contemporary Use
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Land Classification
 Rothschild House is currently classified as a Heritage Area. Both alternatives retain this classification for all park-owned lands. This means that there is no difference in the environmental implications among any of the alternatives (including the No-Action alternative).

Heritage Areas allow for high-intensity recreational activities and facilities including high concentrations of park visitors and development of extensive facilities, provided these uses or facilities do not compromise the integrity of the historic resource (landscape, structures, and small-scale features). The existing site is intensively developed with a residence, paved driveway/parking area, landscaped yard.

Long-Term Boundary
 Under this alternative, the functional size of the park (land within the long-term park boundary (LTB)) would grow from about 0.5 acres to about 1.1 acres with acquisition of parcels east of park ownership (rest of the city block). Table 5 shows classifications for additional lands included in the park's LTB.

Table 5

	Un-owned land in LTB (acres)	Percent of un-owned land in LTB	Percent of all land in LTB
Recreation	0	0	0
Resource Recreation	0.6	100%	55%
Heritage Area	0	0	0

This alternative classifies lands outside current park ownership for medium and low-intensity land uses (Resource Recreation). This would limit activities and facilities on these lands primarily to informal picnicking and development of modest parking areas and primitive camping, and primitive sanitary facilities (vault/composting toilets). Under this alternative the existing residence on

Compared with the *Rehabilitation for Contemporary Use* alternative and the No-Action alternatives, this alternative would remove the existing residence east of the park and re-establish the site as an orchard. This would positively affect soils, water resources, water quality, air quality, plant and animal communities, aesthetics, light and glare, and otherwise likely reduce the level of public services and utilities needed.

Long-Term Boundary
 Under this alternative, the same parcels would be included in park's LTB, but classified differently. The northeast quarter of the city block would be classified Recreation and the southeast quarter Resource Recreation. Table 6 shows classifications for additional lands included in this alternative's proposed LTB.

Table 6

	Un-owned land in LTB (acres)	Percent of un-owned land in LTB	Percent of all land in LTB
Recreation	0.3	50%	27%
Resource Recreation	0.3	50%	27%
Heritage Area	0	0	0

This alternative classifies lands outside current park ownership primarily for medium and high-intensity land uses (Resource Recreation and Recreation Areas). Recreation Areas, principally the existing adjacent residence will permit high concentration of park visitors and development meeting/special event space, more extensive and accessible restrooms, administrative offices and support facilities. Resource Recreation Areas within the long-term boundary will permit development of additional outdoor special event space and parking.

Compared to *No-Action*, development of additional parking on the site could potentially increase adverse effects on soils, water resources, water quality, plant and animal communities, light, glare, and aesthetics. Depending on how intensely the residence is used, the need for public services and utilities may increase.

Compared to the *Restoration of Historic Features* alternative, retention of the residence and development of parking in this alternative would continue existing adverse effects on soils, water resources, water quality, air quality, plant and animal communities, aesthetics, light, and glare. The need for public services and utilities would also be greater. The positive effects of restoration of the site to an orchard would not occur.

Restoration of Historic Features	Rehabilitation for Contemporary Use
<p>Site Development This alternative includes neighboring parcels to the east in the park's LTB, principally to remove the residence and restore the Rothschild estate's original orchard. Historically contributing structures (outbuildings) that were removed from the site would be reconstructed to provide restrooms and other administrative support facilities. Parking would be moved to city streets or some other off-site location. This alternative would also remove existing landscaping and replace with period kitchen gardens.</p> <p>Compared with No-Action and <i>Rehabilitation for Contemporary Use</i> alternatives, this alternative would have considerably reduced adverse effects on soils, water resources, water quality, air quality, plant and animal communities, aesthetics, light and glare, and otherwise likely reduce the level of public services and utilities needed. Adverse effects of parking would remain, but be relocated to city streets or some other off-site parking area.</p>	<p>Site Development This alternative would result in the greatest amount of development. Existing development on park-owned lands would be retained. Within the park's long-term boundary the adjacent residence would be reconfigured to serve as meeting/special event space, restrooms, and administrative support facilities. Additional parking would also be developed on the southern half of the adjacent property.</p> <p>Compared to No-Action, development of additional parking in this alternative would modestly increase adverse effects on the site's soils, water resources, water quality, air quality, plant and animal communities, aesthetics, light and glare. Depending on the amount of use occurring on the adjacent property, the level of public services and utilities needed would likely increase.</p> <p>Compared to the <i>Restoration of Historic Features</i> alternative, retention of the residence and development of parking in this alternative would continue existing adverse effects on soils, water resources, water quality, air quality, plant and animal communities, aesthetics, light, and glare. The need for public services and utilities would also be greater. The positive effects of restoration of the site to an orchard would not occur.</p>