

Don Hoch  
Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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### STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA) DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE AND ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

**Description of current proposal:** This proposed nonproject action involves updating the existing September 9, 2009 *Mount Spokane State Park Comprehensive Trail Plan* with an emphasis on improving opportunities for mountain biking in the park while reducing the potential for user conflict issues. The process for developing this revision included:

- Setting up a team of mountain bikers and other trail users to consider how best to improve mountain biking in the park.
- Conducting an online survey of trail users to determine what kinds of mountain bike opportunities were most desired, and to learn the level and seriousness of trail conflict issues.
- Seeking public comment on a 20-year mountain biking trail proposal developed by the local mountain biking community, Evergreen East.
- Several Mount Spokane State Park Advisory Committee (MSSPAC) meetings, leading to a recommendation from the advisory committee to the Washington State Parks Director.
- Developing a staff recommendation for consideration by the Director.

**Proponent:** The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

**Location of current proposal:** Mount Spokane State Park, N. 26107 Mount Spokane Park Drive, Mead, WA 99021; approximately 30 miles NE of the City of Spokane, Spokane County.

**Title, date and description of document(s) being adopted:**

- (1) August 4, 2010 Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mount Spokane State Park Facilities Master Plan (can be viewed at <http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/mtspokane/>). An EIS prepared for the Mount Spokane Master Facilities Plan that reviewed potential impacts related to future park projects including trail construction.
- (2) October 5, 2012 Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, *Mount Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* (can be viewed at <http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/mtspokane2/>). An EIS prepared for the proposed expansion of the Mount Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park that reviewed potential impacts related to the implementation of seven new ski runs and one new ski lift.

**If the document being adopted has been challenged (WAC 197-11-630), please describe:** The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is not aware of any challenges to these specific documents.

**The document is available to be read at (place/time):** The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission headquarters office located at 1111 Israel Road SW Olympia, WA between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has identified and adopted these documents as being appropriate for this proposal after independent review. The document meets agency environmental needs for the proposal and will accompany the proposal to the decision maker.

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2) (c). This decision was made after review of an environmental checklist and information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

There is no comment period for this DNS.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. **Comments must be submitted by July 19, 2013.**

Name of agency adopting document: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission  
Responsible Official: Randy Kline, Environmental Program Manager  
Phone/Email: (360) 902-8632/randy.kline@parks.wa.gov  
Address: 1111 Israel Road SW  
Tumwater, WA 98501

Date: June 26, 2013

Signature: 

"All Washington State Parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all persons regardless of age, sex, creed, ethnic origin, or physical limitations."

There is no agency SEPA appeal; however all comments are welcome and will be thoroughly considered.

## **WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.**

### ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

#### *Purpose of checklist:*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

#### *Instructions for applicants:*

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

#### *Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

Note that pursuant to WAC 197-11-315(e) PART B of the checklist has not been used for review of this nonproject proposal.

## **A. BACKGROUND**

### **1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:**

Mount Spokane State Park - Update to the September 9, 2009 *Mount Spokane State Park Comprehensive Trail Plan* with an emphasis on improving opportunities for mountain biking.

**2. Name of applicant:**

Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

**3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:**

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Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission  
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(360) 902-8658  
FAX: (360) 586-0207  
TDD: (360) 664-3133  
E-Mail: [nikki.fields@parks.wa.gov](mailto:nikki.fields@parks.wa.gov)

**4. Date checklist prepared:**

June 2013

**5. Agency requesting checklist:**

Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

**6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):**

This checklist contains nonproject SEPA analysis which includes recommendations for trail use at Mount Spokane State Park (see attached Item 1). This is the first phase of environmental analysis on the proposed plan changes. Subsequent phases will include environmental analysis for specific project actions (i.e. construction) at such time trails or other facilities are proposed.

**7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.**

Yes. Future stages will involve implementation of the *Mount Spokane State Park Comprehensive Trail Plan* (see attached Item 1).

Any future project actions (i.e. trail construction) are dependent upon securing adequate funding and regulatory approvals. Additional SEPA documentation will be prepared for any specific project actions at such time developments are proposed.

**8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.**

In addition to information provided in the Environmental Checklist, the following documents will be used to inform this SEPA Determination. Copies of these documents can be found on the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission website at <http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/mtspokane/> and <http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/mtspokane2/>.

The following documents are incorporated by reference:

Morrison, P.H., H.M. Smith IV, G.F. Wooten and S.D. Snetsinger. 2007. *Forest Health Assessment and Plan for the 2006-2007 project area of Mount Spokane State Park*. Pacific Biodiversity Institute. Winthrop, Washington. 370 p.

Morrison, P.H., H.M. Smith IV, G. Wooten. 2010. *Biological Surveys Conducted in the SEIS Analysis Area at Mt. Spokane State Park During 2010*. Pacific Biodiversity Institute.

Winthrop, Washington. 151 p.

Romain-Bondi, K., et al. July 2009. *Habitat Elements and Life Stage Matrix for Wildlife Species of Interest in Mount Spokane State Park*. Pacific Biodiversity Institute, Winthrop, Washington. 183 p.

Smith IV, H.S., 2009. *Vegetation Resources and Wildlife Habitat Assessment of the Proposed Parking Lot developments and Development of a New Park Maintenance and Ranger Office Facility in Mt. Spokane State Park*. Pacific Biodiversity Institute, Winthrop, Washington. 42 p.

Snetsinger, S.D. and K. White. 2009. *Recreation and Trail Impacts on Wildlife Species of Interest in Mount Spokane State Park*. Pacific Biodiversity Institute, Winthrop, Washington. 60 p.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. September 1992. *Mount Spokane State Park Alpine Ski Area Study*. Sno.engineering. Bellevue, Washington. 150 p.

Spokane County. *Critical Areas Ordinance*. 2007. Spokane, Washington.

Washington Administrative Code. 1995. *Chapter 352-16, Naming of State Park Areas and the Land Classification System*.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2013. Priority Habitats and Species Program Database.

Washington Department of Natural Resources. 1993. Natural Heritage Program. *Washington State Parks Natural Forest Inventory: Mt. Spokane*. Report to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. September 5, 2003. *Mount Spokane State Park Management Plan*.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. June 2010. *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Mount Spokane State Park Master Facilities Plan*.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. October 2012. *Mount Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement*.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. August 2010. *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Mount Spokane State Park Master Facilities Plan*.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. August 2010. *Mount Spokane State Park Master Facilities Plan*.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. July 2009. *Cultural Resources Management Plan for Mount Spokane State Park*.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. October 2009. *Mount Spokane State Park Interpretive Plan*.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. October 2009. *Mount Spokane State Parks Building Design Guidelines*.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. August 2004. *Cultural Resources Management Policy*.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. August 2010. *Protecting Washington State Parks' Natural Resources, A Comprehensive Natural Resource Management Policy*.

Wooten, G., H.S. Smith. IV and P.H. Morrison. August 2009. *Vegetative Impacts Assessment of Proposed Trail Additions in Mount Spokane State Park*. Pacific Biodiversity Institute, Winthrop, Washington. 66 p.

**9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.**

Yes. Mount Spokane State Park includes a concessionaire-operated ski area that proposes to expand in the future (for additional background please see

<http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/mtspokane2/>)

**10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.**

No additional government approvals are required for this non-project action.

**11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)**

This proposed nonproject action involves updating the existing September 9, 2009 *Mount Spokane State Park Comprehensive Trail Plan* (see attached Item 1) with an emphasis on improving opportunities for mountain biking in the park, while reducing the potential for user conflict issues. The process for developing this revision included:

- Setting up a team of mountain bikers and other trail users to consider how best to improve mountain biking in the park.
- Conducting an online survey of trail users to determine what kinds of mountain bike opportunities were most desired, and to learn the level and seriousness of trail conflict issues.
- Seeking public comment on a 20-year mountain biking trail proposal developed by the local mountain biking community, Evergreen East.
- Several Mount Spokane State Park Advisory Committee (MSSPAC) meetings, leading to a recommendation from the advisory committee to the Washington State Parks Director.
- Developing the attached staff recommendation for consideration by the Director.

**12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by**

**the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.**

Mount Spokane State Park, N. 26107 Mount Spokane Park Drive, Mead, WA 99021; approximately 30 miles NE of the City of Spokane, Spokane County.

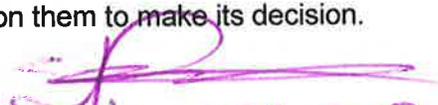
**B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS -** Note that pursuant to WAC 197-11-315(e) PART B of the checklist has not been used for review of this nonproject proposal. Please proceed to Part C and Part D.

**C. SIGNATURE**

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

**Signature:**

**Date Submitted:** .....

  
June 26, 2013

**D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS**

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment. When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

**1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?**

The proposed changes to the *Mount Spokane State Park Comprehensive Trail Plan* are not likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise.

**Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases include compliance with all local, state and federal permit requirements; use of specific trail standards; and compliance with State Park agency policies related to trail development.

**2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?**

The proposed changes to the *Mount Spokane State Park Comprehensive Trail Plan* are not likely to substantially affect plants, animals, or fish. For a detailed discussion of likely impacts to plants and animals due to recreational trail use please see:

Snetsinger, S.D. and K. White. 2009. *Recreation and Trail Impacts on Wildlife Species of Interest in Mount Spokane State Park*. Pacific Biodiversity Institute, Winthrop, Washington. 60 p.

Wooten, G., H.S. Smith. IV and P.H. Morrison. August 2009. *Vegetative Impacts*

*Assessment of Proposed Trail Additions in Mount Spokane State Park.* Pacific Biodiversity Institute, Winthrop, Washington. 66 p.

This document can be found on the State Parks website at <http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/mtspokane/> at File # Stage 3- 16B.

**Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:**

Proposed measures to protect and conserve plants, animals and fish include compliance with local, state and federal regulations; use of specific trail standards; and deliberate design of the park trail system to avoid habitat related impacts.

**3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?**

The proposed changes to the *Mount Spokane State Park Comprehensive Trail Plan* are not likely to deplete energy or natural resources.

**Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources include compliance with local, state and federal regulations and compliance with agency policies related to natural resource use.

**4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?**

The proposed trail plan will likely increase human activity through increased trail-based access in appropriate areas of the park.

**Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:**

Proposed measures to protect such resources include the deliberate planning that occurred as part of this plan update process which included consideration of the resources referenced above. Additional measures to protect such resources include compliance with existing agency policy related to natural resources and compliance with local, state, and federal environmental permitting requirements.

**5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?**

The proposed changes to the *Mount Spokane State Park Comprehensive Trail Plan* are not likely to substantially affect land and shoreline use within the park or encourage land or shoreline uses that are incompatible with existing plans.

**Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:**

State Parks will work closely with federal, state and local government agencies to assure compatible management objectives at Mount Spokane State Park.

**6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?**

The proposed changes to the *Mount Spokane State Park Comprehensive Trail Plan* are not likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities.

**Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:**

Park rangers will continue to patrol the park on a routine basis and provide emergency response and law enforcement when in the area.

**7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.**

The proposal does not appear to be in conflict with any known local, state or federal laws or requirements for protection of the environment. Future developments will be in compliance with local, state, and federal environmental laws and requirements.