

Rex Derr  
Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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### DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE

**Description of proposal:** At its regularly scheduled June 12, 2008 meeting, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) is being asked to adopt the staff recommended Winter Recreation Strategic Plan. The strategic plan includes vision and mission statements, guiding principles, an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and presents 12 goals, associated strategies, targets and measurements. Also, the plan includes budgetary and implementation suggestions. The implementation of this plan will continue after Commission decision over the next five years. Review of the strategic plan and implementation measures will be phased. "Phased review" means the coverage of general matters in broader analysis followed by detailed coverage of specific items in later analysis. This is the first phase of environmental analysis for the Commission's Winter Recreation Strategic Plan. Subsequent phases will include environmental analysis for specific project actions that will follow and further the intent of this plan.

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

**Location of proposal, including street address, if any:** Statewide Implementation on lands managed by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and others by permission determined on a case by case basis.

**Lead agency:** Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

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 a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

X There is no comment period for this DNS.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO FORMAL COMMENT PERIOD FOR THIS PROPOSAL, ALL COMMENTS ARE WELCOME AND WILL BE THOROUGHLY CONSIDERED. PLEASE INTERESTED PARTIES MAY ALSO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL AT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED COMMISSION MEETING AT THE OKANOGAN COUNTY FAIR-ANNEX IN OKANOGAN, WA ON JUNE 12, 2008. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMISSION MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT JAMES HORAN AT (360) 586-6600. OR, TO COMMENT ON THIS DNS, PLEASE DIRECT YOUR COMMENTS TO JAMES HORAN AT THE LETTERHEAD ADDRESS SO THEY ARE RECEIVED BY JUNE 6, 2008.**



Responsible Official: Chris Regan  
Position/Title Environmental Program Manager  
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Address 7150 Cleanwater Drive SW  
PO Box 42650  
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

Date May 23, 2008 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

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST - Continued

**A. Background**

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

Consideration of the proposed Winter Recreation Strategic Plan.

**2. Name of applicant:**

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

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

James Horan, Cross State Programs Manager  
7150 Cleanwater Drive, P.O. Box 42650, Olympia, WA 98504-2668  
Phone: (360) 586-6600; E-mail: james.horan@parks.wa.gov

**4. Date checklist prepared:**

March - May, 2008

**5. Agency requesting checklist:**

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

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

This checklist contains non-project SEPA analysis for the Winter Recreation Strategic Plan, which is scheduled for Commission consideration at the Commission's regularly scheduled June 12, 2008 Commission meeting in Okanogan, WA. Future project actions will include project specific SEPA analysis as appropriate.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission staff held seven public workshops during the planning process for this proposal:

- April 21, 7 to 9 p.m., in the north conference room at the REI Flagship Store, 222 Yale Avenue, Seattle
- April 23, 7 to 9 p.m., in the Commons Area at Fairhaven Middle School, 110 Park Ridge Road, Bellingham

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST - Continued

- April 24, 7 to 9 p.m., Vancouver Service Center, Clark Public Utilities – Electric Center, 1200 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver
- April 29, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Downtown Yakima Library, 102 North Third Street, Yakima
- April 30, 7 to 9 p.m., in the Ice Age Conference Room, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Eastern Region Office, 270 Ninth Street N.E. Suite 200, East Wenatchee
- May 1, 7 to 9 p.m., Moran Prairie Branch, Spokane County Library District, 6004 South Regal Street, Spokane
- May 5, 7 to 9 p.m., Dayton Memorial Library, Delany Room, 109 S 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Dayton

Comments received during these meetings were considered and integrated, as appropriate, into the plan.

Implementation of the proposed plan will continue over the next five years, or until superseded. State Parks will request additional funding for suggested program and service improvements through capital and operational budget development, and will accomplish plan elements according to budget availability and local support. Impacts derived from future actions of the proposed plan will be described on a case by case basis as they occur. This action does not substantively change current management practices. Instead, the action publicizes and qualifies actions to be taken concerning responsibilities, priorities, and practices of managing snow-based public recreation activities on lands managed by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and other lands accessed for winter recreation with permission of other public and private land managing authorities.

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

As described above, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is being asked to adopt the proposed Winter Recreation Strategic Plan, which will set policy to guide management of snow-based winter recreational services until superseded. Specific management implementation would occur immediately through budget development and the development of any specific local area plans. The plan calls for implementation to occur with the input of advisory committee and park staff, other public agencies participating in the program, and with input from the public.

**8. *List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or***

*will be prepared, directly related to this proposal:*

- Washington Department of Natural Resources. 2007. State of Washington Natural Heritage Program, data system search.
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2007 Priority Habitats and Species Program. <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversty/soc/soc.htm>.
- Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. 1998. Cultural Resources Management Policy. September 18.

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.*

The plan concerns State Parks' management of the Winter Recreation Program, which includes properties owned by others, but managed under agreements by State Parks. There is a possibility other agencies may be undertaking their own planning efforts, including the USFS Forest Recreation plans, and plans by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission must approve the strategic plan. Specific implementation may require further SEPA review; NEPA review; archaeological and historic preservation review; shoreline management act review; floodplain management review; Critical Areas review; Hydraulic Project Approval; design review for wildlife passage; zoning consideration through GMA; Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area review; and/or Building Code evaluation.

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.)*

At its regularly scheduled June 12, 2008 meeting, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is being asked to adopt the staff recommended Winter

Recreation Strategic Plan (available upon request or on the internet at <http://www.parks.wa.gov/winter/strategy.asp>). The plan includes vision and mission statements, guiding principles, an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and presents 12 goals, associated strategies, targets and measurements. Also, the plan includes budgetary and implementation suggestions. Implementation of the plan and development of any ensuing local area plans will begin after Commission decision. Review of the strategic plan and implementation measures will be phased. "Phased review" means the coverage of general matters in broader analysis followed by detailed coverage of specific items in later analysis. This is the first phase of environmental analysis for the Commission's Winter Recreation Strategic Plan. Subsequent phases will include environmental analysis for specific project actions that will follow and further the intent of this plan.

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.***

This decision may impact State Parks' managed lands statewide and lands owned by others by permission, which include 120 Sno-Parks located throughout the state, and the trail systems to which the Sno-Parks provide access.

**B. *Environmental Elements***

**1. *Earth***

- a. *General description of the site (underline one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:***

Areas addressed by the plan typically receive sufficient snow accumulation to attract winter recreation activities, including cross country skiing, snowmobiling, snow shoeing, dog sledding, ski joring (skier towed by dog), or snow play. Accordingly, areas affected are generally in mountainous areas above 2500 feet in elevation. The type and level of activity varies by site.

- b. *What is the steepest slope in the site (approximate percent slope)?***

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST - Continued

Sno-Park parking areas are usually level. Trails served by these Sno-Parks vary in slope, but are shallow enough to accommodate skiing, snow shoeing, or snowmobiling. Most trails are on commercial logging and landowner owned administrative access roads impassable for motor vehicles when sufficient snow accumulates for the recreational activities described above.

- c. *What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farm land.*

Soils vary by location.

- d. *Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.*

N/A.

- e. *Describe the purpose, type and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.*

Filling and/or grading activities are not specifically addressed by the strategic plan. However, the strategic plan calls for the consideration of 10 additional sno-park trailheads by 2018, 5 additional SnowPlay areas by 2013, 5 designated trails where dogs are allowed by 2010, and overnight lodging available in the backcountry on three trail systems by 2013. Development of parking facilities and/or trails generally access existing cleared areas. However, some may require additional clearing, filling, and/or grading. Any filling and/or grading activities will be addressed in project reviews that result from local area plans and future State Parks' budgetary decisions.

- f. *Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.*

The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments.

- g. *About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?*

The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions

regarding the location or extent of any future developments.

***h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:***

Although the strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments, and therefore it's difficult to identify specific proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, Upper Level Objective 1, Goal 2 of the plan is to institute a program with viable planning functions, which includes a process to assess and address environmental implications of specific project actions. The planning functions of the program will work with land managers, regulating agencies, and will include proposed measures to reduce or control erosion.

***2. Air***

***a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.***

Further development of parking areas for motor vehicles to provide access to trails, and use of trails by snowmobiles would increase emissions from internal combustion engines. However, the strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

***b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.***

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

***c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emission or other impacts to air, if any:***

None. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

3. *Water*

a. *Surface*

- 1) *Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.*

Varies by site. Some existing SnoPark and trail systems are in the vicinity of surface water bodies including lakes, rivers and smaller streams.

- 2) *Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.*

The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

- 3) *Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.*

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

- 4) *Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose and approximate quantities if known.*

Generally no. The Winter Recreation Strategic Plan identifies the types of new facilities that may be built in support of winter recreation. Typically, winter recreation facilities are pack-in/pack-out with no access to potable water. If an opportunity for lodging avails itself with access to potable water State Parks may pursue it, but such an opportunity would be unique within the SnoPark system.

- 5) *Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.*

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

- 6) *Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.*

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

**b. Ground**

- 1) *Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose and approximate quantities if known.*

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

- 2) *Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: domestic sewage, industrial, containing the following chemicals . . . ; agricultural, etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable) or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.*

None. Although the strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments, the plan targets the development of three remote, overnight, lodging facilities. Such lodging would require access to toilet facilities that would more than likely be closed (vault toilets) systems and not designed to discharge waste. As before, any such developments would be subject to further review.

**c. Water Runoff (including storm water)**

- 1) *Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters?*

*If so, describe.*

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review. Currently, existing parking facilities are designed with berms and bioswales to address runoff concerns and impacts. This practice would continue with all future developments. Furthermore, local plans will likely address such impacts directly.

**2) *Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.***

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

**d. *Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground and runoff water impacts, if any:***

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

**4. *Plants***

**a. *Underline or check types of vegetation found on the site:***

Varies by site. Generally, vegetation is typical of montane and eastern Washington ecosystems.

**b. *What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?***

Upper Level Objective 1, Goal 1 of the strategic plan targets the development of additional trailheads, Snow Play areas, overnight facilities and trails. Development of parking facilities and/or trails generally access existing cleared areas. However, some may require additional clearing, filling, and/or grading. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

**c. *List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.***

According to the Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Program's Database (October 2007), the following threatened or endangered species are known to be on or near State Parks managed SnoParks and trail

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systems in Washington State:

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Federal Status</b>	<b>State Status</b>
<i>Allium campanulatum</i>	Sierra Onion		T
<i>Anemone nuttalliana</i>	Pasqueflower		T
<i>Antennaria corymbosa</i>	Meadow Pussy-toes		T
<i>Botrychium hesperium</i>	Western Moonwort		T
<i>Botrychium paradoxum</i>	Two-spiked Moonwort	SC	T
<i>Carex tenuiflora</i>	Sparse-leaved Sedge		T
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	Long-bract Frog Orchid		T
<i>Cypripedium fasciculatum</i>	Clustered Lady's-slipper	SC	S
<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i>	Yellow Lady's-slipper		T
<i>Lomatium rollinsii</i>	Rollins' Desert-parsley		T
<i>Orthocarpus bracteosus</i>	Rosy Owl-clover		E
<i>Phacelia minutissima</i>	Least Phacelia	SC	E
<i>Platanthera sparsiflora</i>	Canyon Bog-orchid		T
<i>Ribes oxycanthoides ssp. irriguum</i>	Idaho Gooseberry		T
<i>Rubus acaulis</i>	Nagoonberry		T
<i>Sisyrinchium sarmentosum</i>	Pale Blue-eyed Grass	SC	T

Although the strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments, State Parks will plan future developments so that they consider the above listed plants in design and placement.

**d. *Proposed landscaping, use of native plants or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:***

Washington State Parks will continue to work with its partners to ensure that the implementation of the Winter Recreation Strategic Plan encourages responsible use and protection of natural and cultural resources. Project actions will undergo further review, which will include recommendations from Parks' stewardship staff, and the guidance of other agency's natural resource professionals.

**5. *Animals***

**a. *Underline any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:***

Varies by site. Generally, the animals one would expect to observe are typical of montane and eastern Washington ecosystems.

**b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.**

According to the Washington Department of Fish Wildlife Priority and Habitat Species Database (October, 2007), the following species are known to be on or near State Parks managed SnoParks and Trails in Washington State:

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Federal Status</b>	<b>State Status</b>
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald eagle	FCo	ST
<i>Martes pennanti</i>	Fisher	FC	SE
<i>Canis lupus</i>	Gray wolf	FE	SE
<i>Ursus arctos</i>	Grizzly bear	FT	SE
<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Lynx	FT	ST
<i>Sciurus griseus</i>	Western gray squirrel	FCo	ST

Although the strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments, State Parks will work with wildlife agencies and other land managers to minimize impacts of recreation on wildlife near the agency managed SnoParks. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

**c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.**

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

**d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:**

N/A. the strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

**6. Energy and Natural Resources**

**a. What kinds of energy (electric natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.**

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such

developments would be subject to further review.

- b. *Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.*

No.

- c. *What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any.*

None.

7. *Environmental Health*

- a. *Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.*

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

- 1) *Describe special emergency service that might be required.*

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

- 2) *Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental hazards, if any:*

The plan identifies safety and education as high priorities. The goal targets an increased coordination and presence of law enforcement in SnoPark areas, which will be emphasized within local plans. Also, there is an emphasis on increased avalanche awareness and safety training, including the use of more certified instructors. Furthermore, the plan calls for developing internal education programs, as well as programs through land managing authorities and volunteers, to provide on-the-ground safety training.

**b. Noise**

**1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?**

None.

**2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.**

The Winter Recreation Strategic Plan includes goals that may change the specific use of particular areas by snowmobilers (by allowing or restricting snowmobile access in an area to provide more access or solve user conflict). Future decisions on specific use of an area by snowmobilers will change the level and type of noise created within the SnoPark system. Generally, noise associated with snowmobile use is temporary, intermittent, and dependent on level of use of an area by the recreating public.

**3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:**

The Winter Recreation Strategic Plan describes how the agency will be responsive to user needs and how to minimize conflicts. As will be addressed in local plans, specific actions may reduce or increase noise in specific areas by the introduction or removal of snowmobiling in particular areas. Such actions will only occur after the environmental implications of new activities are understood and any/all appropriate conditions are met.

**8. Land and Shoreline Use**

**a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?**

All properties covered by this proposal are managed by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and are used for recreational activities. Some areas may be co-managed or managed by State Parks under a cooperative agreement with another governmental or private entity.

**b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe:**

It is not likely that any of the sites identified as key components of the Winter Recreation Strategic Plan have been used for agriculture in the past.

**c. Describe any structures on the site.**

Varies by site. For more specific information see [www.parks.wa.gov/winter/](http://www.parks.wa.gov/winter/)

**d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?**

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

**e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?**

Varies by site.

**f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?**

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

**g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**

Varies by site. Most areas covered by the plan would be too distant from shorelines of the state to have shoreline master program designations.

**h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.**

Varies by site. Many trails access lands with steep slopes, and/or use existing bridges to cross mountain streams, many of which could be considered critical areas by local governments.

**i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?**

None.

**j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?**

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST - Continued

*k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:*

N/A.

*l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:*

The strategic plan identifies the development of local plans as a key component to implementing the Commission's direction. Integrating the policy with a local perspective will ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans. Also, project actions resulting from the implementation of the Winter Recreation Strategic Plan will undergo further local government regulatory review.

**9. Housing**

*a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle or low income housing.*

None.

*b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle or low income housing.*

None.

*c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:*

None.

**10. Aesthetics**

*a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?*

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

*b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?*

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions

regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

**c. *Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:***

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

**11. *Light and Glare***

**a. *What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?***

None.

**b. *Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?***

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

**c. *What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?***

None.

**d. *Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:***

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

**12. *Recreation***

**a. *What designated and informal recreation opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?***

Statewide system with diverse recreational opportunities. For more information see [www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov).

- b. *Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.***

The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

- c. *Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:***

Any site specific plans that result from adoption of the strategic plan will be reviewed by State Parks' staff, agency partners and the public to assure that any activity does not adversely and/or inappropriately impact recreation. If possible, such impacts will be avoided or mitigated prior to implementation.

### **13. *Historic and Cultural Preservation***

- a. *Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.***

Yes. State Parks manages a diverse array of historic and cultural resources, some of which are listed on, or proposed for, national, state or local preservation registers. However, the specific resources vary by site.

- b. *Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.***

The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

- c. *Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:***

Although the strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments, any future developments to implement the plan would be subject to further review by appropriate agency staff from Parks, the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, and Native American Tribes.

**14. Transportation**

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any:**

All of the Sno-Parks in State Parks Winter Recreation system are accessible either by interstate highway, state highway, county roads, or forest roads on lands owned by the US Forest Service, DNR, WDFW, and other private land owners in diverse locations throughout the state of Washington.

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

N/A.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?**

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Construction of any further parking areas or spaces resulting from implementation of the plan would be subject to further review.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).**

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. If any new roads are required as a result of implementation of the plan in the future, such projects would be subject to further review.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review. It is unlikely that any projects that ultimately result from implementation of the strategic plan would use or occur in the immediate vicinity of water, rail or air transportation.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.*

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

- g. Proposed measure to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:*

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

#### **15. Public Services**

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? if so, generally describe.*

One of the recommendations of the proposed strategic plan is to improve law enforcement and safety at Sno-Park areas and on trails. To accomplish this goal, additional law enforcement presence will be required (including State Park rangers, county sheriff's deputies, State Patrol officers, State Fish & Wildlife agents, and U.S. Forest Service rangers.)

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.*

State Parks Winter Recreation program is largely self-supporting, so enhancement of law enforcement services will be accomplished through additional user fees. In addition, the strategic plan recommends that State Parks provide supplemental budget support for law enforcement services. Through these methods, impacts to public services at other locations will be mitigated.

#### **16. Utilities**

- a. Underline utilities currently available at the site:*

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST - Continued

- b. *Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.*

N/A. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

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*

*James E. Horan*  
*May 23, 2008*

**D. Supplemental Sheet For Non-project Actions**

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

Adoption of the proposed strategic plan by the Commission will not in itself have any direct impacts. Any developments that result from implementation of the strategic plan could: 1) increase water discharge from new parking areas and trails; 2) increase emissions to the air through increased motor vehicle traffic on roads, in parking areas and from snowmobiles on trails and at parking areas; and 3) increase noise in the area of any new parking areas or trail systems. However, the strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to local winter recreation planning efforts and further review by State Parks and other agencies' regulatory staff.

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

The strategic plan identifies strategies to increase the amount of planning, public outreach, and local focus in the implementation of the plan. The local focus will include the input and review by regulatory agencies to ensure the proposed developments have minimal effect on the environment. As currently practiced, efforts to minimize damage from runoff in SnoPark trailheads will continue to be a standard. Furthermore, in the event new developments result from implementation of the plan, measures to avoid or reduce such increases would include proper parking lot and trail design, avoidance of environmentally sensitive areas, and other measures considered on a case by case basis.

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

Although the strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments, State Parks has worked with its land management partners (e.g., US Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife) to assess and minimize impact of winter recreation on plants, animals and fish life. State Parks will continue to consider the stewardship of park resources when planning for new winter recreation opportunities and any future developments will be subject to internal and external review. In the event that new roads, parking areas or trail systems are developed as a result of implementation of the strategic plan, there may be potential impacts to plants, fish and/or other animals. The physical disturbance of habitat associated with clearing, grubbing, and placement of fill and gravel, or other site preparation work, may disturb localized areas; microhabitats may be impacted. Any construction near a stream, river or lake may increase sediment load in the water and

potentially impact aquatic life, including fish. Construction and use of new roads, parking areas and trails may have the potential of impacting migration routes of terrestrial mammals.

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

The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. In the event any projects are proposed as part of the implementation of the strategic plan, State Parks' staff would review proposals for potential environmental impacts. All projects undertaken by State Parks are reviewed for SEPA compliance. During initial SEPA review, projects are also assessed for other regulatory compliance/sensitive resource issues. State Parks evaluates fauna and flora information from WDFW - Priority Habitats and Species program, and DNR - Natural Heritage Program. If projects are proposed in potentially sensitive areas, Parks' staff performs higher level evaluations to insure potential impacts are mitigated. State Parks also works closely with wildlife managers, including tribes, DNR, WDFW, US Forest Service, and private landowners to insure projects are wildlife friendly and/or do not adversely impact migration routes. Likewise, State Parks will work with land managers to insure site construction does not adversely impact sensitive and/or traditional plants.

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

The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review.

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

None proposed.

**4. *How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated, 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 farmlands?***

The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review. Any construction that results from implementation of the strategic plan may potentially impact all areas listed above. Sensitive areas will be avoided in the construction of any roads, parking areas or trails. Physical construction will impact localized areas only.

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

The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location

or extent of any future developments. Any developments that might result from implementation of the strategic plan would be subject to further review. Impacts will be identified during review by State Parks' Environmental Program on a case by case basis. Parks' staff will work with WDFW, DNR, private land owners, and the U.S. Forest Service, to insure project impacts to flora and fauna are avoided and/or mitigated. Environmental Program will provide archaeology and historic integrity review and will work with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and affected tribes to avoid and/or mitigate impacts to historic or cultural sites. Environmental Program will review proposals for compliance with policies set forth in RCW 79.72.050, Scenic Rivers System, as they relate to visual corridors. Staff will also work with local jurisdictions with regulatory authority over critical areas, floodplains and farmlands to insure impacts from projects are avoided and/or mitigated.

**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 strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review. Any proposed project resulting from implementation of the strategic plan will not allow or encourage shoreline uses currently identified as incompatible under any existing plans.

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

The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review. State Parks will work with neighbors, local governments and other public and private land managers to insure shoreline and land use impacts are minimized for any project that might result from implementation of the proposed strategic plan.

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

The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review. Implementation of the strategic plan may increase public recreational access opportunities in areas of reliable snow accumulation, which could increase motor vehicle traffic on certain roads and highways.

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

None.

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

Adoption of the proposed strategic plan by the Commission will not conflict with local, state, and federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. The strategic plan makes no specific recommendations or assumptions regarding the location or extent of any future developments. Any such developments would be subject to further review. The adoption of the plan will clarify State Parks' policy to the public as well as local, state and federal government.