

# Beyond 2013 – A Transformation Strategy

## Strategic Analysis of Your Favorite Park

Using the document “State Parks Strategic Alternatives Analysis” as a guide, comments below tell us your thoughts about what can and should be done at your favorite park. E-mail your comments to the Washington State Parks planning team at [Strategic.Planning@parks.wa.gov](mailto:Strategic.Planning@parks.wa.gov).

Name of Park: Saltwater and Dash Point state parks - 24 people attended the June 5 <sup>th</sup> public meeting in Renton, WA						
	<b>Theme 1: Parks as an Enterprise</b>		<b>Theme 2: Parks as a Community Non-Profit</b>		<b>Theme 3: Parks as a Public Asset</b>	
Key Question	<i>Why would people and private companies choose state parks?</i>		<i>Why would non-profit organizations and other governments partner with state parks?</i>		<i>Why would state government invest in state parks?</i>	
	Program	Financing	Program	Financing	Program	Financing
General Description	<p>The public was asked what are they afraid of about the three themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The enterprise concept becomes unaffordable by some.</li> <li>2. There will be loss of habitat.</li> <li>3. This concept leaves an atmosphere of “in it only for the money.” Consume as opposed to being sustainable.</li> <li>4. Vendor may leave the park system – leaving state parks left to fix what is broken.</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Only interested in certain area of the park rather than the entire park system.</li> <li>2. Non-profit may financially be unable to maintain the park system.</li> <li>3. Non-profit – not enough predictability and/or stable approach state parks would want to have.</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. May not get the taxes to support the system.</li> </ol>	
Camping						
Indoor Accommodations						
General Day Use Activities (e.g., picnicking, hiking, biking, informal field games)						

Beach Activities/ Swimming						
Marine Recreation/ Boating						
Interpretation/ Education						
	<b>Theme 1: Parks as an Enterprise</b>		<b>Theme 2: Parks as a Community Non-Profit</b>		<b>Theme 3: Parks as a Public Asset</b>	
Natural Systems Stewardship						
Historic Preservation						
Pre-Historic Archeological Protection						
Winter Recreation						
Special Events						
Park Commerce						

Visitor Safety and Law Enforcement						
Other (within three themes)						
Other (outside of Theme Approach)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does Steptoe Butte State Park funding go back directly into park? (Staff- funding goes in to the statewide Parks Renewal Stewardship Account (PRSA). This is an internal policy that can be changed by the Commission).</li> <li>2. Why did the legislature want to go down to zero funding? (Staff - Across the country, not all states, local federal and state levels are being asked “what does it take for state parks to become more independent. We are asked to provide the legislature a legislative agenda that will help remove some of the restrictions to run more like a business).</li> <li>3. The legislature is controlling who pays for what. Camping is not a self-sufficient revenue source. There needs to be a mix of these fees and allow the campers to pay some portion of the Discover Pass fee.</li> <li>4. Budget – what is the gap that State Parks need to make up? You said legislature appropriated \$17M and there’s a \$17M Discover Pass shortfall; is it \$34M gap? (Staff - No. it is not that easy to determine. We know the existing level is not sustainable; we have cut staff and other expenditures to maintain keeping state parks open. The precise question, we do not have the answer for you at this time because we don’t know camping expenditures, shower meters, etc., but we do know the revenue by source. We are working on this issue.</li> <li>5. Other states charge more for the entry fee into their state parks. I think we need to advertise more about the Discover Pass and state parks. If it is advertised more, that appeals to the public and not count on the word of mouth to do it. (Staff – We thank all who have purchased a Discover Pass. Last week we hired a marketing coordinator who is going to lead State Parks marketing efforts.)</li> <li>6. CAMIS – Can’t any company in our state or country handle running the reservation system? (Staff – We are required to go out for bid. We could not limit it to geographic area. CAMIS won the bid based on meeting our service standards at the least price. We believe they are doing a good job. )</li> <li>7. What do you mean by “value added enterprise? (Staff – Private non-profit, like Mt. Spokane ski area.....there is a value added that people are willing to pay for.)</li> <li>8. Why don’t we train some of state parks rangers to do the boating safety and keep the money to help keep rangers year round? (Staff – The Washington State Adventures in Boating Course is taught all over Washington in various ways: online, at sheriff’s offices and police departments and by US Coast guard Auxiliary and US Power Squadron volunteers. Most of the training is provided by law enforcement agencies at no cost. US Coast Guard and US Power Squadron both charge a fee but that is to cover the cost of materials. It is most likely that the effort to have park rangers train boaters would lose money. )</li> <li>9. State Parks Foundation – Are they still in existence now? (Staff – Yes. The foundation has funded park improvements and is now exploring how to possibly support operations).</li> </ol>					