

**Larrabee State Park
Classification and Management Planning (CAMP)
Public Comment from January 16, 2014 Public Workshop
Fairhaven Public Library, Bellingham**

Long-Term Park Boundary

- Acquire the land necessary to create a connection between the trail systems on Chuckanut Mountain and those on Blanchard Mountain.
- Acquire tri-angle shaped in-holding on north side of park.
- Transfer DNR triangle to state park; Acquire recently logged parcel south of Lost Lake
- Acquire recreation corridor between Larrabee and Blanchard Mountain.
- Acquire the Westergreen land that was clear cut in the last 3 years or so.
- Fate of private land in park.
- Add triangular area in middle of existing park; acquire the larger dark green undeveloped area north of the park to secure it for the life of the park.
- Acquire two privately owned square parcels on south end of park by DNR Lake.
- Transfer the proposed NRCA area of Blanchard Mountain from DNR to State Parks.
- Buy clear cut at southern park boundary.
- The new clear cut at the top of south Chuckanut Road should be in the park (AKA Westergreen Land).
- Transfer fisheries land to the park; purchase all park land privately held, within the boundary.
- How about a trail link to Blanchard.
- Purchase Governor's Point.
- Expand the park.
- Connecting of Larrabee and the Blanchard forest block. (*Ditto's).
- Trail connection to Blanchard Mountain.
- Transfer Raptor Ridge to county parks; Work with Tom Westergreen Property for trail access; Work with DNR and Bloedel to connect Larrabee to Blanchard.
- The balds area immediately north of the boundary (from the sharp turn on Cleator road) is an extremely interesting botanical area. It's inclusion in the park would be a wonderful improvement.
- Would like to see connections to small parcels and increase park upward to include more of Chuckanut.

Natural Resources Issues

- Protect balds in park to protect native rare vegetation.
- Protect rare plants in lakes, Lizard Lake (sun plants?).
- Find out source of high bacterial contamination and fix/resolve.
- Rough trails are being built in the park. How will you remediate them and monitor further unauthorized building?
- Removal of non-native plants like holly; protect wetlands.
- Clean up fecal coli form contamination at Wild Cat Cove.
- Evaluation of dangerous trees – those likely to fall on trails, roads or buildings.
- The balds hold many interesting plants that are unusual in Whatcom County. They should be preserved and made accessible to the extent possible.
- Protection for Herons and all other sea life, water, seaweed and critters, appreciate wildlife.
- Geological interpretive signs along new "Rock Trail" to encourage stewardship and curtail potential vandalism.

- Develop a plan to remove invasive plants from the balds.
- Restoration of some areas and selective planting of some native evergreens.
- There are numerous areas in the park that are impacted by invasive plants, such as English Ivy, Scotch Broom and Holly. These should be removed.
- Protection and promotion of the cascades to Chuckanut wildlife corridor.

Trail and Road Circulation Issues

- Maintain the ability to access all areas on horseback.
- Control at Cove Road boat launch traffic during crab and commercial fishing season. Consider both volume of traffic and speed.
- Clayton Beach access trail across tracks – please resolve this issue.
- I am in a walking club of senior citizens and we are concerned about the incompatibility of sharing the trail with aggressive mountain bike riders.
- Safety for seniors on walking trails.
- More education about trail rules – Hikers and Bikers to Horse riders, etc.
- Keep Hannegan Pass road open.
- Restore Clayton Beach trail access (BNSF restriction)
- Clear some trees at Cyrus Gates Overlook to open the view.
- Published trail standards for new constructed trails.
- Proper representation of users, ie: trail counters.
- Clayton Beach and Pedestrian Access; since the train bisects the park and “blocks” access to the public beach – can’t we get BNSF to contribute some money for a pedestrian overpass? “No Trespassing” signs don’t belong in a state park.
- Reckless mountain bikers run hikers off trails.
- Park needs to adopt an established standard for trail building and maintenance.
- Clayton Beach access be bike accessible; make sure to make trails user friendly for multi use groups, ie: horse and bike maybe not on same trails.
- Multi-use trails – lots of existing hiking trails, request more trails allowed for mountain biking (construct more trails specific towards mountain bikes). Existing road system adequate, needs trails to supplement roads so hikers/bikers and the like can stay off road. Safety concern, ex: Cleator Road.
- Educate other users regarding sharing with horses.
- Multi user developed and maintained to minimize user conflict.
- Make trails more multi use friendly for hikers, bikers, horses, etc.
- Does Parks have objective data on actual trail impacts from various users? Traditional uses should not automatically have priority especially if data shows higher impact.
Also, better trail design and maintenance can virtually eliminate erosion, mud, etc. MTB trails on Galbraith after a week of rain are basically dry, well drained, and useable without any damage to the environment.
- Really? Off trail winter snowmobile use is outright permitted in residential recreational zones but mountain biking is conditional?
- Move bike friendly trails/multi use; Connect Chuckanut to Blanchard; Improve Middle Ridge Trail more readable; Bike trail from Double Black to Lost Lake Trail.
- Improve trail connectivity – eliminate the need to use road sections/double track sections; Connect Raptor Ridge to the Salal Trail – eliminate Hemlock double track; Re-route the Middle Ridge Trail to be bike-able; Create a connection to Blanchard.
- Place core park trail system as general use for non-specialized user groups; Place specialized user groups (bikers, horses) at fringes of park to reduce conflicts, but to ensure those trails are designated special use only.
- Would like to see more trails.
- Future roads in park – north end.

- More trails that are appropriate for mountain bikes and multi-use; Trails that get people off the roads; Trail below Double Black to get riders off Fragrance Lake Trail; Trails should have an element of ruggedness.
- Trails need to be senior citizen and family friendly.
- Consider shared-use issues, horses, bikes, hikers - make trails accessible and safe for all.
- Better trail signage.
- Hitch rails and all lakes and trail destinations.
- I'd like to see the expansion of mountain biking trails in Larrabee, especially in the area between Blanchard and Chuckanut.
- Expand, build, and rebuild mountain bike trails to meet the rising demand of user groups. Mountain biker's numbers are expanding and we need to focus our energy on positive improvement.
- Rename Rock Trail to Lost Antler Trail (used by trail makers), too many trails have the name Rock Trail.
- Need more trailhead maps and signs. Need to route markers on trails.
- Better removal of leaves and debris on Interurban Trail.
- Trail from Double Black to Clayton Beach lot.
- Single trail for climbing to get trail users off of Cleator Road; Continuation of "Double Black" to the bottom to eliminate the poaching of the Fragrance Lake Hiking Trail; Additional trails in the currently unused southern part of the park.
- Enforcing and adopting standards for trail build to ensure longevity.
- Make some trails "Klunkers Only."
- Increase number of trails that allow bikes.
- Future trails Raptor Ridge area.
- Improvements on Middle Ridge trail; Addition of a bike trail leading to the east side of the ridge (Lost Lake); Reroute of the Overland trail; A new trail below Double Black to keep me out of Fragrance Lake Trail.
- Clear view at Cyrus Gates Overlook.
- Signs for owners to pick up after their dogs and horses.
- Cove road railroad crossing in light of increased train traffic. In overpass would be helpful.
- Weekend public transportation to trail heads and park; Route should stop at all the trail heads along Chuckanut Drive; Leaves and returns to railroad street and bus depot.
- Most of the shore is inaccessible. Access to Cleator Beach should be restored, perhaps with a footbridge over the railroad.
- Develop trails to keep users off roads.
- Rather than segment user groups on trails, have clear rules/guidelines and so some enforcement.
- Clayton Beach ownership? Legal access.
- Trails should provide a unique experience for less outdoor experienced people. The hard cores can find their extreme recreation elsewhere. "Mom and Pop" need a place to take their kids that close.
- Concerned about access across railroad and ways to improve parking and road crossing.
- Hoping for more mountain bike trails.
- Cleator Road is greatly in need of improved maintenance.
- Build trail between Chuckanut Mountain and Blanchard Mountain.
- Would like to see more trails build for mountain biking, hiking, and horse riding. Mostly mountain biking.
- More horse friendly items, i.e.: parking for horse truck and trailers, hitching rails and key areas, make all trails horse friendly.
- Clayton Beach access across railroad property – especially with the potential of more frequent long trains.
- More hiking trails, multi-use trails are boring to hike and avoid interesting terrain.
- Please expand mountain bike specific trails. (+1)

- Coordinate and consistent signage among all Chuckanut park districts and agencies, ex: City of Bellingham, County Parks, and WA State Parks.
- Downhill specific user trails, while creating user specific “other” trails (+1)
- Hitching rails at Lost Lake (Horse and Mule).
- Signage related to boat ramp – please improve. Particularly at split between park enhance and road to residence on cove; Potential Governors Point development traffic impact.
- Signal crossing; New trail below (west of tracks) using existing under-pass; Overland trail restoration and bypass of ‘private’ area to restore Lost Lake Loop.
- Trails that connect Blanchard trails to Chuckanut Trails; More connections – climbing trail to top of Double Black, Lost Lake to Ridge Trail; Pemberton Climbing trails should be a model for our climbing trails.
- Mountain bike specific trails; WMBC partnership.
- More trails for mountain biking. Specifically a trail down from the exit of Double Black back down to Chuckanut; Better signage for hiking/biking trails.
- Would like to see more bike trails, but the natural ruggedness preserved. Roots, rocks and hikers and bikers left intact to avoid “shuttling” by out of town riders.
- Lost Lake Trail.
- More trail construction that utilizes the geography. In other words, it’s not about getting from point A to point B (Lost Lake, Fragrance Lake) it’s about the journey between the two points (Hush-Hush, Rock Trail).
- Mountain bike skills course like Duthie in Issaquah.
- More single track trails – easy ones near Clayton parking lot; one that explores or highlights the wetlands above Lost Lake; one that highlights the cliffs west of Burnout. Please take out culverts and ditches left from logging road days, they have caused landslides. Reroute Clayton Beach Trail.
- Address horn blowing by trains at night, make a quiet zone.
- Re-open Clayton Beach Trail down to the bay.
- Trails that connect Blanchard Trails to Chuckanut Trails; Better loop options/connectivity; Double Black to road connector.
- Mountain biking trails are the most important to generating tourism income to Whatcom County; More opportunities for trail work parties. Volunteers can do a lot.
- More trail options to connect Chuckanut to Blanchard; Continue Double Black down to keep faster bikes on a dedicated trail to the bottom/road; Reroute the middle section of the ridge to make it similar to the upper/lower sections; Climbing route off the road from Clayton lot to Overlander/Lost Lake.
- Improve connections to beach and saltwater.
- Mountain bikers cutting switchbacks and corners is a major problem.
- Make railroad crossing near park a quiet zone.
- Too many posts focus on mountain bikes, there are other users and mountain bikes are the most hazardous to others. Consider all users on an equal footing.
- Reopen Clayton Beach for use.
- A trail to connect Blanchard trails to Chuckanut trails would be the best thing ever; Make the middle Chuckanut ridge a bit more user friendly but not too user friendly.
- How will the increase or expected increase in use on Cleator Road be addressed and what monies will be provided for improvements and ongoing maintenance; Increase in traffic as trails are improved and mountain bike traffic increases will be a big impact.
- I don’t like how much traffic there is on Cleator Road, and how poorly it is being maintained.
- Improve trail condition of the Middle Ridge Trail – make it more biker/runner friendly; Create a trail that descends down to Lost Lake (like Rock Trail) that is bike friendly; Reroute the Overlander Trail; Add a trail below Double Black Diamond to connect to Clayton Beach parking lot; Need a bike climbing trail from \$2 trail to top of ridge.

Recreation Issues

- Move mountain bike trails.
- Lost Lake access through wetland; Monitoring of “camp area” to include enhancement of designated campsites and increase patrol by park personnel.
- Establish a back-country camp site at Lost Lake.
- Enhance boat landing – kayak specific; Reopen Clayton Beach.
- Kayak boat launch, avoid boat launch heavy traffic area for small boats.
- What is the percentage breakdown of use in the parks natural areas: hikers, runners, bikers and horseback riders?
- Consider horses and hikers and hikers on same trails, make it safe for all.
- Consider bike and horse conflicts; make trails safe for both groups. (+1)
- Facilitate meetings that improve communication and coordination between different user groups.
- What level of intensity is mountain biking considered? Is “free ride” and “downhill” mountain biking classified differently than basic trail riding?
- Creating trails for specific users – hikers, mountain bikers, road cycling, dog walking, and general site seeing. User specific trails completely eliminate all user conflicts. (+1)
- User specific trails – one way downhill for mountain bikes. (+1)
- Switchback shortcuts and ad hoc trails creating erosion and plant destruction.
- Creating user specific trails to eliminate user conflicts; Creating more designated mountain bike trails to draw more tourism to our beautiful area. (+1)
- Provide a kayak/human powered boat launch separate from power boat launch.
- Talk of back country camping spots at Lost Lake and current illegal back country camping needs to be addressed. How will current staff levels be addressed to deal with these issues?
- Clarify swimming regulations and safety.
- Mountain bike specific trails. (+1)
- Have patience for all fun loving groups, but remember bikes do 25 mph, horses do 3 mph and people do 3 mph.
- Better and more detailed recreation maps are needed so that users can assess all recreation opportunities before arriving at the park, or at a park trailhead – good maps online as well as at the trail heads. We need to know beforehand what our recreational, educational, options are.
- Can't we all just get along?
- Need more horse trails – all the land should be accessible.

Programs and Events

- More mountain bike enduro races; Educational/trail work with schools.
- Bike rentals, kayak rentals - guiding services for both activities.
- Would be useful to have full even calendar on the website.
- Educational programs for campers and visitors; Similarly offer venue space for national resource education classes.
- Make events more widely known – put it in the NW entertainment book.
- Don't let too many even interfere with public use of the park too often.
- Present more park programs – natural history, cultural history, native; More announcements about them.
- More events like Chuckanut Enduro mountain bike race.
- Allow mountain bike races in the park.
- More public events hosted at the park – community outreach.
- Larrabee needs to be a better community neighbor and be much more forthcoming about what (any?) programs, events, meetings are taking place. What sort of

outreach/communication is happening? Engage and reach out to the nearby communities.

- Bicycle festivals and races that showcase our recreation.
- Would you like a band concert in the band shell? (full size concert band)
- Thank you for allowing the Enduro mountain bike race, it was a great event and brought a lot of people to Bellingham. Hope it can happen again.
- More events with better publicity for current even schedule.
- Like to see more races and events.
- How will trail closures for events be handled? What trails, times, dates? How many per year?

Parks Built Features

- Camping is good! Kids love it. Too many trains would be bad especially at night and high tourism season.
- I love the water fountain @ the headquarters. Can you make it work year-round? And usable to pets + horses, Can you install more? Free drinking water is good.
- A park store that sells Larrabee souvenirs and camping amenities. Could also have kayak rentals.
- Get funding to build already designed foot path over RxR tracks to Clayton Beach
- Real parking and sign @ Two Dollar trail.
- Please consider horse trailer parking at trailheads, consider hitching posts on more places.
- Build a pedestrian overpass over the RR tracks to Clayton Beach!
- All parking adequate for horse trailers. Hitching rails at Lost Lake.
- Improve restrooms at Wildcat Cove.
- Horse trailer parking @ Lost lake parking area is only good for 3 rigs – you can't do an organized ride @ Larrabee.
- Please consider horse trailer parking at trailheads. Consider hitching rails away from but near look-outs & lakes.
- More primitive camping opportunities/areas.
- Maintain the picnic shelters to a high level or tear them down. Same is true with all park Structures.
- What is a parks built feature?
- Adequate parking on multi use trails for horse trailers + bikes.
- Back country camp site near Lost Lake.

Other Issues

- Safety issues British Columbia does a better job of a wire grid to make wooden slippery walkways safer.
- Do you plan to user days permits for concessions? Akin to new Discover Pass modeled after PNW Pass.
- Issue – admission fee “double dipping” on fees 1) on license tabs 2) requires \$30 pass is there any way to finance parks without daily charges?
- Park pass is limited to one specific vehicle – correct? Anything available like golden eagle – forever pass?
- Is the CAMP process subject to impact review?
- Collect user/visitor preferences + comments at local Tourist Bureau office, hotel, motel, Village Books, Yeager's etc to capture visitor's needs + park values as well as local residents.
- Fate of private land owned within Park lands.
- Improve visitor relations some park rangers approach visitors kindly, with offerings/suggestion education, and a smile.

- I am concerned that the new fee system (Discover Pass) makes use of our commonly owned land difficult or impossible for low-income individuals and families. This seems to be incompatible with the mission of the parks. We need to make day use free. I agree!
- Impact of BNSF railroad on park access and safety of park users + wildlife.
- Link up to Whatcom parks, DFW, DNR to provide a larger trail system for all users.
- Motorcycle noise on Chuckanut Dr. I realize not much can be done about the freight trains but I believe a decibel level should be set for the obnoxious motorcycles. State of Montana has a decibel level on the books for ATV's, bikes, snowmobiles. Recommend gathering statistics with use of decibel meters encouraging law enforcement issuing citations. Motorcycle groups run roughshod over eardrums.
- Fees – Having been raised dirt poor, one of the few recreational opportunities were monthly excursions to Larrabee. With the fee structure that has been imposed on the state parks, the parks have been taken away from the poor. This should not be allowed.
- Camping up near Lost Lake; Bridge over railroad tracks; Bike wash (vendor).
- Backcountry campsites.
- BNSF right of way issues. How can a private company prevent access to a public beach?
- Railroad deters park usage. What can be done? Too noisy BNSF to camp there.
- Parking along Chuckanut Drive is dangerous. Can something be done?
- Publish a gpx format trail map for the park anyone can use on their gps.
- Long term assured access to park areas currently impacted by train right of way.
- Could we influence Burlington Northern to stop blowing their loud whistles through the park?
- More programs on flora and fauna would be nice to have.
- Security: Need supervision of car parking areas. A sign that says to lock your stuff in the trunk is not enough.
- BNSF police; 2012 = 30 fatalities, 2013 18 railroad fatalities between Centralia and Canada. 2013, in Seattle, BNSI police contact well over 1,000 trespassers on BNSF property. Hopeful that the railroad and state parks will continue to make progress on finding a solution.

Volunteers

- Develop a certification program where volunteers can help/replace paid park personnel.
- Clear expectations for service projects and an available list.
- Utilize WMBC volunteers to build trails.
- Encourage partnerships with user groups and take advantage of volunteer works such as backcountry horseman of Washington.
- Maintain relationship with backcountry horseman. Capitalize on Back country horseman as a volunteer organization.
- All major user groups should provide organized volunteer trail maintenance: Horse, Runners, Mountain Bikers, and Horseman.
- Partnerships/Programs with existing user groups to advance park goals for maintenance, conservations, and monitoring.
- Work with local user groups to maintain and build trails.
- Define projects with as much detail as possible along with estimated hours to complete.
- E-coli levels in Wildcat Cave.
- Encourage coordination with volunteer groups. WMBC. (+1)
- Safety and trail standards the same for all volunteers. ie: adopt f.s. or other.
- Take advantage of trails oriented groups like backcountry horseman of WA – Skagit and Whatcom chapters.
- Could volunteers be used to control noxious weeds in park. English ivy and Scotch broom.
- Use more volunteer workers.

- Are there opportunities for park hosts?
- Cooperative mandate for all volunteer organizations regardless of recreation user represented by group.
- Volunteers administer an interpretive center to promote education and observation of coastline and flora and fauna etc. And historical significance of the Location.
- Encourage partnering with volunteer groups particularly Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition (WMBC) who will bring out volunteer trail building and maintaining groups. We have demonstrated our ability to bring out skilled volunteers.
- Formation of a Larrabee State Park "Friends Group." This group could help with a lot of projects at the park such as: a "park store" to sell souvenirs and camping amenities; Interpretive programs at the park.
- Use back country horseman to help log trails.