Larrabee State Park Classification and Management Planning (CAMP) Project



Stage 2 – Exploring Alternative Approaches

April 15, 2014





Preface

This document, along with supporting maps, explores alternative approaches for the management of Larrabee State Park as part of State Parks' Classification and Management Planning (CAMP) Project. During the first stage of planning, beginning with a public meeting held on January 16, 2014, public and staff participants identified a host of issues facing this park.

Now, for the second stage, the agency planning team has developed two alternative approaches that respond to identified issues. This work is posted on the project webpage: http://www.parks.wa.gov/864/Larrabee-State-Park-Planning.

The team will also present alternative approaches for public input at a planning workshop scheduled for April 15, 2014, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, at the Fairhaven Public Library in Bellingham. Written follow-up comments are encouraged and should be sent to Randy Kline, Project Lead, at larrabee.planning@parks.wa.gov or mailed to: Washington State Parks, Attn: Randy Kline, PO Box 42650 Olympia, WA 98504-2650.

Your input will help us select the best ideas from each alternative and incorporate them into a single preliminary plan for further public review. It is difficult to communicate entirely in writing and misunderstandings happen. If you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Introduction

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) manages a diverse system of over 100 parks located throughout the state. Dramatic growth in population and the popularity of outdoor recreation has increased pressure on the agency to provide more recreational opportunities while continuing to preserve the unique natural and cultural resources under its management.

In October of 2003, the Commission adopted the Centennial 2013 Plan to focus the agency, state leadership, and the public on improving Washington's state park system as it turns 100 years old and prepares for another century of service.

The first priority of the Centennial 2013 Plan was to fix up the state park system you enjoy today, while looking to the future and determining what the system should become. To help achieve this, the agency set an ambitious goal to prepare land-use plans for each of its 117 parks. Planning for our parks continues as part of the agency's 2012 *Transformation Strategy* which can be accessed on the State Park's website at http://www.parks.wa.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/304.

State Parks prepares land use plans through an agency-wide planning system called Classification and Management Planning or CAMP. CAMP is a multi-staged, public participation-based planning process for individual parks that culminates with adoption of park land classifications, a long-term park boundary, and a park management plan.

For each planning project, the agency assembles a planning team. The team includes planners, resource stewards, and park staff. As necessary, the planning team also calls upon the expertise of resource and facility specialists – both from within and outside the agency.

The State Parks' Planning webpage includes information on active planning projects throughout the state at: http://www.parks.wa.gov/268/Planning-Public-Input. Hard copies of documents are also available upon request.

Planning Process

The CAMP planning process involves four sequential stages. Each stage usually includes a public workshop and an opportunity to provide follow-up comments in writing by mail or e-mail. The process does not conclude until the Commission; the agency's seven-member governing board; formally adopts land classifications and long-term park boundaries and the Director approves a finalized park management plan. Standard planning stages include:

Stage One - Identify issues and concerns

The purpose of this stage is to understand what is important to the park community and identifies issues to address through the planning process. The "Issues" public meeting was held on January 16, 2014 at the Fairhaven Public Library in Bellingham.

Stage Two – Exploring alternative approaches

At this stage, the planning team suggests potential alternative approaches to address the various issues and concerns raised by people in stage one. No preferred alternative is established; rather this is an opportunity to examine and understand the range of possibilities. We are currently at this stage in the planning process.

Stage Three – Preparing preliminary recommendations

The best ideas from the alternative approaches developed in stage two are combined into a preliminary plan in this stage. The preliminary plan includes recommendations for use and development of park lands, changes to property boundaries, and ways to address issues identified during the planning process.

Stage Four – Preparing final recommendations

At stage four, final adjustments are made to recommendations and submitted to the seven-member Parks and Recreation Commission for approval. The public is encouraged to attend the Commission meeting and provide testimony or to provide written comment.

The planning process incorporates requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) for identifying the potential environmental effects of agency actions.

Information gathered during the planning process will be included in a checklist describing the environmental effects of enacting the plan. The agency will then make a formal determination regarding potential environmental impacts and determine whether additional environmental analysis and documentation is necessary. The SEPA environmental checklist and threshold determination are typically prepared during Stage 3 of the process.

Planning Products

The CAMP planning process produces three main products for each park: land classifications, long-term boundary, and a park management plan. The combination of these deliverables constitutes a land use plan.

Land Classification

A central part of CAMP involves zoning, or classification, of park lands. State Parks has developed a system of six land classifications: *Recreation Areas, Resource Recreation Areas, Natural Areas, Heritage Areas, Natural Forest Areas* and *Natural Area Preserves*. When assigned to a specific area within a park, each classification sets an appropriate intensity for recreational activity and development of facilities. Classifications align along a spectrum, ranging from low to high-intensity land uses. By classifying park lands, the agency is able to consciously achieve a balance between protecting park resources and providing a variety of recreational opportunities for park visitors.

State Parks' land classifications are defined in Chapter 352-16 in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), which reads in part:

State park areas are of state-wide natural, cultural, and/or recreational significance and/or outstanding scenic beauty. They provide varied facilities serving low-intensity, medium intensity, and high intensity outdoor recreation activities, areas reserved for preservation, scientific research, education, public assembly, and/or environmental interpretation, and support facilities.

They may be classified in whole or part as follows:

- (1) Recreational areas are suited and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use, conference, cultural and/or educational centers, or other uses serving large numbers of people.
- (2) Resource recreation areas are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use.
- (3) Natural areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological value while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses.
- (4) Heritage areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features, and traditional cultural properties, which are of state-wide or national significance.
- (5) Natural forest areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses, and which contain:

- (a) Old-growth forest communities that have developed for one hundred fifty years or longer and have the following structural characteristics: Large old-growth trees, large snags, large logs on land, and large logs in streams; or
- (b) Mature forest communities that have developed for ninety years or longer; or
- (c) Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.
- (6) Natural area preserves are designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are registered and committed as a natural area preserve through a cooperative agreement with an appropriate natural resource agency pursuant to chapter 79.70 RCW and chapter 332-60 WAC.

For each land classification, the agency Director has developed detailed management guidelines. These guidelines set specific activities and facilities permitted in each designation. The complete land classification system and management guidelines are included in Appendix A and should be used in conjunction with the two alternative maps provided below.

Long-Term Park Boundary

A second product of CAMP is adoption of a long-term park boundary. This is a frequently misunderstood aspect of park planning. One of the purposes of delineating a long-term boundary is to take a big picture look at lands surrounding the park that, independent of ownership, may advance the conservation and recreation mission of a park. Additionally, the long-term park boundary is used to identify surrounding lands with which State Parks would like to advance shared management goals. The long-term park boundary also considers whether agency-owned property should be retained or be considered surplus to park needs.

Including privately owned property in a long-term boundary gives Commission direction to staff to work with nearby landowners on cooperative management or potential land transactions. Transactions may range from simple agreements, to recreation and conservation easements, and sometimes even to agency purchase of property. If a landowner is not interested in participating, State Parks is unlikely to pursue the matter further. If your property has been included in the long-term boundary and you have questions please contact Randy Kline, project lead, at 360.902.8632 or randy.kline@parks.wa.gov.

Since land frequently changes hands, the agency uses delineation of a long-term boundary to set its long-term property planning goals. Including private land within a long-term boundary can sometimes alarm property owners. The planning team makes every effort to contact affected landowners and explain implications of this process. Property owners should be assured that long-term boundary and land classification decisions are for Commission policy direction only and should not affect private property values, be used as an indication of their willingness to sell, or be used as a basis for making state or local government regulatory, permitting, or zoning decisions.

Property owners should also consider that working with State Parks to voluntarily protect natural resources contiguous with those on park lands may achieve the desired conservation effect and avoid the need for acquisition of these properties by the agency. In all but the rarest circumstances, State Parks acquires land on a willing seller basis.

For properties included within a long-term boundary, any of a number of possibilities may apply. State Parks may:

 Seek to formalize an agreement with an adjacent property owner to advance a shared property management goal

- Solicit a conservation easement from an adjacent property owner to protect certain natural or cultural features
- Readily accept a donation of all or part of a private property
- Consider exchanging agency-owned property for a private property
- · Consider purchase of a private property in fee

Park Management Plan

The third product of CAMP is preparation of a park management plan. Park management plans are relatively simple documents that describe a park's principal features, set park-wide management objectives, and outline specific approaches and prescriptions in response to issues identified through the planning process. These plans also document the planning process and serve as a clearinghouse for supporting information.

Larrabee State Park Draft Management Objectives

Management objectives serve to define the vision and purpose of each state Park. They must be consistent with laws, policy, and the mission statement of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission cares for Washington's most treasured lands, waters and historic places. State parks connect all Washingtonians to their diverse natural and cultural heritage and provide memorable recreational and educational experiences that enhance their lives.

Likewise, the March 2013 *Transformation Strategy* gives guidance to what state parks should be as the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission begins its second century of service.

Washington's state parks will be cherished destinations with natural, cultural, recreational, artistic and interpretive experiences that all Washingtonians enjoy, appreciate and proudly support.

The following draft management objectives have been developed to provide direction for Larrabee State Park:

Natural Resources:

- Encourage park activities that protect and promote improved marine water quality.
- In coordination with local, state, federal, and tribal governments and interested groups, identify, monitor, protect, and interpret native plant and animal communities and the ecological functions they perform.
- Model responsible stewardship in the management of natural resources.

Cultural Resources:

- Identify, monitor, and protect Native American archaeological sites and traditional cultural practice areas.
- Identify, monitor, and protect historic properties and landscapes.
- Model responsible stewardship in the management of historical and cultural resources.

Recreational Resources:

- Provide for a wide range of diverse outdoor trail and recreational experiences and land uses that
 preserve the natural character of the park and are compatible with cultural and historical resource
 management objectives.
- Provide an array of quality day-use and overnight facilities and services that are compatible with natural and cultural resource management objectives.

- Provide opportunities for a variety of trail based uses that are compatible with natural and cultural resource management objectives.
- Identify trail standards and maintain safe conditions for all users.
- Develop and maintain effective orientation information through trail signage, rules and conditions.
- Provide a full range of ADA accessible park experiences and opportunities.

Park Boundary

 Identify a long-term boundary and property management plan that establishes priorities for land acquisition, surplus, easements and a variety of cooperative management approaches with nearby park neighbors.

Community Partnerships:

- Engage community participation, and partner with stakeholder groups to implement park management objectives.
- Work with local and state governments, tribal groups, and non-profit organizations to support regional open space and regional trail connections.

Interpretation and Environmental Education:

- Use interpretation as a tool to enhance visitor experience, understanding, and stewardship of natural, historical, and cultural resources.
- Provide year-round interpretive and outdoor learning programming and opportunities.

Park Enterprise and Optimization:

• Provide visitor services through public/private partnerships and other entrepreneurial programs that are compatible with other park management objectives.

We ask that you study the draft management objectives and then let us know what you think. We are also interested in hearing new ideas we have not yet considered.

Exploring Alternative Approaches

During the first stage of planning, public and staff participants identified a host of issues facing Larrabee State Park. Now, for the second stage, the agency planning team has developed alternative approaches that are intended to respond to these issues.

Alternatives are organized thematically, sometimes taking provisions to logical extremes, to emphasize a major aspect of State Parks' mission. The two thematic alternatives developed for Larrabee State Park include:

- Protecting natural and cultural features
- Enhancing recreational opportunities

By addressing management and development issues through the lens of a particular aspect of the agency's mission, new possibilities emerge as to the park's ultimate potential. Then, assuming no single aspect is universally desirable throughout the park, the next step is to determine which ideas in each alternative are most appropriate. This allows us to emphasize resource protection to address some issues, recreational opportunity for others, and so on. Ultimately, the right mix should emerge.

We ask that you study the alternative land classification and long-term boundary maps and written management approaches below - not to choose one alternative - but to find individual elements in each that appeal to you. Then let us know what you think. We are also interested in hearing new ideas we have not yet considered.

<u>Larrabee Land Classifications and Long-Term Boundary Alternatives</u>

Figures 1 and 2 - on pages 9 and 10 below - show schematically the alternative land classifications and long-term boundaries under consideration. A narrative description is provided below.

Protecting Natural and Cultural Features Alternative

Land Classification

In general, this alternative classifies areas with significant natural plant and animal communities as Natural Areas or Natural Forest Areas. Areas shown for Natural Area classification include rocky balds, wetlands, marine and freshwater shoreline, intertidal areas, and bedlands important for the protection of forage fish spawning.

The existing developed campground is shown as Recreation Area. Intact portions of the Larrabee cultural landscape and the historic structures at the day use area are included as separate Heritage Areas.

The balance of the upland portion of the park located east of Chuckanut Drive is designated primarily as Resource Recreation allowing for trail based recreation opportunities while protecting existing environmental features.

Long-Term Park Boundary

In this alternative, long-term boundary properties are included with the intent of focusing on conservation and stewardship goals and the land classifications proposed are consistent with this intent.

Enhancing Recreational Opportunities Alternative

Land Classification

In general, this alternative classifies areas with significant recreational value as appropriate for trail and facility based recreation use. Areas classified as Resource Recreation have the potential to allow for expanded multiuse trail activities.

Recreation Areas shown in this alternative provide space for operation of the park's campground and existing facilities.

In this alternative the Larrabee cultural landscape and the historic structures at the day use area would be classified as Recreation to allow for expanded recreational use.

The Recreation Opportunity Alternative includes the same properties in the parks' long-term boundary but would classify them differently to allow for enhanced recreation opportunities. This alternative classifies shorelines and the balance of the conservation easement area the same as in the natural and cultural resource protection alternative.

Figure 1: Larrabee Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary

– Protecting Natural and Cultural Features Alternative



Figure 2: Larrabee Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary - Enhancing Recreational Opportunities Alternative



<u>Larrabee Issues and Alternative Management Approaches</u>

Natural Resource Iss	sues				
Issue	Protecting Natural and Cultural Features Enhancing Recreational Opportunities				
Protection of natural plant and animal communities	 Classify sensitive areas such as rocky balds as Natural Forest Area to provide increased protection Classify sensitive areas such as rocky bald as Natural Forest Area to provide increased protection 				
Fungi harvesting	Consistent with agency-established harvest limits, work with local fungi experts to develop a plan and mechanism for monitoring fungi populations and establish prescriptions to ensure sustainability of fungi harvest				
Commercial salal harvesting	 Continue to prohibit commercial salal harvest activities unless part of a specific plan to accomplish some resource conservation or stewardship purpose Coordinate with park neighbors to report salal harvest to park staff 				
Protection of Eagle Nests	 Parks staff will work with the Stewardship Program to implement current United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) management standards for known nest locations Consistent with this implementation limit administrative activities (trail maintenance, etc.) in nearby areas during critical eagle nesting periods 				
Protection of rare plant species	 Continue to work with park stewards and local plant experts to develop a rare plant protection plan to identify, monitor, and establish protective prescriptions for rare plants in the park 				
Invasive plant species (e.g., holly, ivy, Roberts geranium)	Continue to work with Whatcom County Noxious Weed Board, park stewards, the local native plant society, and volunteers to develop and implement an integrated pest management plan and continue to draw on local experts to monitor progress				
Protection of Eelgrass beds and forage fish spawning habitat	 Work to remove any existing shore armoring and restore natural shoreline Consider removal of any existing mooring buoys Retain existing landing and shore armoring as an abutment for small kayak launch/dinghy dock to focus public use in this disturbed area Replace existing concrete buoy anchors with helical-type anchor system Improve boat launch 				
Protection of wetland area at Lost Lake	Provide increased protection of the wetland area surrounding Lost Lake				
Wildfire prevention	 As necessary, coordinate with agency forestry specialists to develop a forest health plan that considers removal of ladder fuels where appropriate to protect neighboring properties and otherwise reduce the risk of wildfires 				
Recreational shellfish harvest	 Continue to allow recreational shellfish harvest on park beaches consistent with WDFW harvest regulations Work to facilitate the opening of Wildcat Cove for shellfish harvest 				

Cultural Resource Is:	sues	
Issue	Protecting Natural and Cultural Features	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities
Protection of Larrabee cultural landscape	 With the exception of contemporary campgrounds, classify developed footprint in day use area as a Heritage Area Limit contemporary development to existing structures and facilities Potentially classify intact areas as Heritage Area Prepare a cultural resources management plan to determine appropriate treatments for all historic features 	Prepare a cultural landscape report for the park to identify contributing, character defining features and avoid activities that significantly compromise the site's historical integrity
Protection of archaeological resources	Undertake a concerted effort to survey and excavate archaeological sites in partnership with higher education institutions	Continue to conduct archaeological surveys as part of capital development projects
Listing on National Register of Historic Places	Explore potential to nominate Larrabee cultural landscape for listing on the National Register	Explore potential to nominate Larrabee cultural landscape for listing on the National Register

Recreational Resour	Recreational Resource Issues							
Issue	Protecting Natural and Cultural Features	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities						
Camping	 Limit camping to its present configuration Consider long-term removal of camping from within forest and restore natural forest structure and function Improve drainage on sites #10-15 to prevent wetness in spring 	 Expand camping to maximize the number of sites consistent with protection of the cultural landscape (provide utilities to all new sites) Intersperse rustic cabins into campground expansion area Create backcountry/primitive campsite at Lost Lake 						

Recreational Resource	ce Issues (Continued)	
Issue	Protecting Natural and Cultural Features	Enhancing Recreational Opportunities
Trail use and development	 Focus on maintenance of existing trail system rather than expansion Restrict trail use in environmentally sensitive areas to pedestrian use 	 Continue to permit pedestrian trail and overland uses throughout park Continue to permit mountain bike and equestrian opportunities Seek to link with regional trail (Inter-Urban Trail) Adopt formal trail standards using either the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) or Forest Service trail standards
Cleator Road Issues	Allow road to continue on normal course of decline with potential for future closure to vehicle use	Keep Cleator Road maintained and operational for access to Cyrus Gates Overlook for access to viewpoints to facilitate trail based recreational opportunities
Development of Interpretive Opportunities	Focus interpretation on environmental education opportunities in coordination with the interested local partners	Focus interpretive opportunities on active trail and facility based recreational use
Water access facilities	 Remove shore armoring and restore natural shoreline Improve existing boat launch to make more environmentally friendly 	 Retain shore armoring and develop small kayak launch/dinghy dock at existing boat landing Construct water trails campsite
ADA Issues	 Work to ensure that existing and new 	
Pedestrian Crossing at Lost Lake Trailhead	Work to secure funding for a pedestri Trailhead	an crossing accessed from the Lost Lake
WSDOT pullouts and parking on Chuckanut Drive	address parking and pullout issues ald Pass enforcement	artment of Transportation (WSDOT) to ong Chuckanut Drive including Discover
Promotion of special events (e.g., festivals and weddings)	using the park as an environmental e	park amphitheater on the reservation atural and cultural resource programming, ducation field opportunity
Playground facilities	Continue to maintain playground facilities	Continue to maintain playground facilities

Appendix A

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Land Classification System

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Establishing the Land Classification System WAC 352-16-020 Land classification system. State park areas are of statewide natural, cultural, and/or recreational significance and/or outstanding scenic beauty. They provide varied facilities serving low-intensity, medium intensity, and high intensity outdoor recreation activities, areas reserved for preservation, scientific research, education, public assembly, and/or environmental interpretation, and support facilities. They may be classified in whole or part as follows:

- (1) Recreational areas are suited and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use, conference, cultural and/or educational centers, or other uses serving large numbers of people.
- (2) Resource recreation areas are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use.
- (3) Natural areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological value while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses.
- (4) Heritage areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features, and traditional cultural properties, which are of statewide or national significance.
- (5) Natural forest areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses, and which contain:
 - (a) Old-growth forest communities that have developed for one hundred fifty years or longer and have the following structural characteristics: Large old-growth trees, large snags, large logs on land, and large logs in streams; or
 - (b) Mature forest communities that have developed for ninety years or longer; or
 - (c) Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.
- (6) Natural area preserves are designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are registered and committed as a natural area preserve through a cooperative agreement with an appropriate natural resource agency pursuant to chapter 79.70 RCW and chapter 332-60 WAC.

WAC 352-16-030 Management within land classifications. (1) The director shall develop management guidelines for each land classification listed in WAC 352-16-020. The guidelines shall provide specific direction for each classification, outlining the philosophy of each classification, its appropriate physical features, location, allowed and prohibited activities, and allowed and prohibited developments. (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow uses that are otherwise prohibited, nor prohibit uses that are otherwise expressly allowed, by the commission, this code, or by statute.

Land Classification Management Guidelines Recreation Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Recreation Areas	State Parks Recreation Areas are suited and/or developed for high- intensity outdoor recreational use, conference, cultural and/or educational centers, or other uses serving large numbers of people.	State Parks Recreation Areas are to respond to the human needs for readily available areas for outdoor recreation and facilities to congregate for education, artistic expression and other ennobling pursuits. They are to provide a variety of outdoor recreational, educational, artistic, and cultural opportunities to large numbers of participants. Primary emphasis is on the provision of quality recreational services and facilities with secondary recognition given to protection of the areas natural qualities.	State Parks Recreation Areas physiographic features such as topography, soil type, drainage, etc., shall be adaptable to varied types of intensive uses and development. An attractive natural setting is desirable, however, human- made settings are acceptable. There are no specific size criteria.	State Parks Recreation Areas generally are made, not found. They shall be located throughout the state with primary emphasis to service major centers of urban populations and/or outstanding recreational tourist attractions. Scenic and inspirational values shall be considered but are secondary to the site adaptability and population criteria. When part of a large diverse park, recreation areas should be sited in proximity to public roads and utilities.	State Parks Recreation Areas may allow and provide for a wide variety of indoor and outdoor day, weekend and vacation activities. Provision may be made for high intensity participation in camping, picnicking, trail use, water sports, winter sports, group field games, and other activities for many people Off-trail equestrian and/or bicycle use may be appropriate in selected areas if approved by the commission. Activities requiring high levels of social interaction are encouraged.	State Parks Recreation Areas shall provide appropriate facilities and services for the participation and enjoyment of high concentrations of outdoor recreationists and/or participants in indoor educational, cultural and artistic activities. A high degree of development is anticipated. Facilities may include road and parking networks, swimming beaches, full service marinas, trails, bathhouses, artificial lakes and pools, play fields, large sanitary and eating facilities; standard and utility campgrounds, stores, picnic grounds, group shelters, conference centers, environmental learning centers, hostels, and administrative support facilities.

Land Classification Management Guidelines Resource Recreation Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Resource Recreation Areas	State Parks Resource Recreation Areas are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium- and low-intensity recreational use.	State Parks Resource Recreation Areas are sites where the high quality of a particular natural or cultural resource or set of such resources is the lure for human recreation. Thus, the rationale for recreation is based on the value of attractive natural or cultural resources. Management of these areas must stress the centrality of preserving the quality of the natural and cultural resources while allowing appropriate and sustainable levels of human use and enjoyment.	State Parks Resource Recreation Areas have a variety of physiographic features. While they may contain areas of environmental sensitivity, most portions of each area will be able to withstand low- to medium-intensity recreation use without significant environmental degradation.	State Parks Resource Recreation Areas may be located anywhere in the state where natural or cultural factors produce land and water sites particularly suited for recreation in a natural setting. Access to these sites should be reasonably proximate to major urban centers, but some access restriction may be necessary to avoid overuse of resources. Within large diverse parks, these areas should be located at least a moderate distance from public roads and high use intensity areas, while still maintaining reasonable public access for their intended use.	State Parks Resource Recreation Areas provide opportunities for low- and medium-intensity recreational experiences including, but not limited to, picnicking, primitive camping, a variety of recreational trail experiences, interpretive facilities, historic/cultural exhibits, nature observation, photography, orienteering, kayaking, canoeing, floating, and fishing. Off-trail equestrian and/or bicycle use may be appropriate in selected areas if approved by the commission. Basketball, tennis, organized group sporting activities requiring formal sports fields, commercial-sized piers and docks, standard and utility camping, indoor accommodations and centers, developed swimming areas, and other similarly intense uses are not appropriate. Scientific research is permitted.	State Parks Resource Recreation Areas development shall be permitted to the extent necessary to serve allowed activities. Parking, sanitary facilities, and other ancillary developments and support facilities should be constructed in a manner that is consistent with the site's ability to manage environmental change.

Land Classification Management Guidelines Natural Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Natural Areas	State Parks Natural Areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological value while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses.	State Parks Natural Areas are to respond to the human need for readily available "conservatories" of nature and open spaces. Emphasis is directed toward nature and the conservation of native flora and fauna, special geologic or paleontologic resources, and the natural amenities of the area. Human wants for other than naturally existing educational and recreational opportunities are considered secondary to nature's requirement for the sustained maintenance of its natural balances, or the preservation of special geologic or paleontologic features.	State Parks Natural Areas have a variety of topography and features to provide a diversified natural environment with interesting but not necessarily unique flora and fauna, or geologic or paleontologic features. Where classification is based on biological considerations, sites should consist of land areas large enough to maintain natural biological processes in a nearly undeveloped state and provide users with a feeling of solitude and tranquility, and an opportunity to view nature in its "uncontrolled" form. They may be partially or wholly on land, subterranean, or part of the marine environment.	State Parks Natural Areas are not "made", but rather currently exist due to historical circumstances that have resulted in little or no human interference in the natural environment. Those areas most desirable in terms of physical features and size usually are "found" and "held" against creeping encroachments and raising land values. They often become over used and "lost" as populations spread around them. As a part of the overall system, these areas should be geographically spread throughout the state. When classifying specific park areas, consideration must be given to the ability to adequately manage the areas against undesirable human encroachment.	State Parks Natural Areas provide opportunities for outdoor recreation on designated trails. Those trails may be developed and used only to the extent that they do not significantly degrade the system of natural processes in a classified area. Hiking, non-groomed cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or other trail uses of similar impact to natural systems and providing a compatible recreational opportunity, may be permitted, after consultation with appropriate local, state, federal and tribal resource management agencies, and upon a finding by the agency that such trails are not likely to significantly degrade natural processes. Relocation of existing equestrian, bicycle, nordic track or other similar trails into a natural area may be permitted upon a finding by the director that such relocation is for the purpose of reducing overall resource impacts. All trails may be moved, redesigned, closed and/or removed upon a finding that their use is causing significant degradation to the system of natural processes. Technical rock climbing requires authorization by the commission. Off-trail use for nature observation, photography, cross-country skiing, harvesting of mushrooms and berries and similar uses are permitted to the degree that they do not significantly degrade natural processes. Scientific research is permitted.	State Parks Natural Area development shall be limited to facilities required for health, safety and protection of users and features consistent with allowed activities. Facilities to enhance public enjoyment shall be limited to primitive items such as trails, trail structures and minor interpretive exhibits. All improvements shall harmonize with, and not detract from, the natural setting. Parking and other trailhead facilities should be located outside of a classified area.

Land Classification Management Guidelines Heritage Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Heritage Areas	State Parks Heritage Areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of outstanding, unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features, and traditional cultural properties, which are of statewide or national significance.	State Parks Heritage Areas are designated to preserve and/or interpret selected areas or features for the education and enjoyment of the public, an area's intrinsic cultural value, and/or for scientific research.	State Parks Heritage Areas vary in size and physiographic makeup according to their location and reason for existence. Historic landscapes may require relatively large acreage while archaeological sites may be measured in square feet.	State Parks Heritage Areas usually are located where they are found or the feature exists. However, in some instances relocation or re-creation of artifacts, resources or facilities is possible. In these situations they may be located in appropriate settings and concentrated near major population centers and along primary travel routes.	State Parks Heritage Area activities shall generally be limited to those directly associated with the interpretation of the area or feature, and the education of the patrons. Picnicking, recreational trails, and other low- to medium-intensity recreation uses may be allowed if they do not detract from the principal purpose of the area, its setting, structures, sites and objects.	State Parks Heritage Area development shall generally be limited to that necessary for the protection and interpretation of the area or feature, and the education and safety of the patrons. Sanitary facilities, recreation trails, and picnicking facilities may be provided in a manner which does not detract from the aesthetic, educational or environmental quality of the area, its setting, structures, sites or objects, or, if applicable, its value for scientific research.

Land Classification Management Guidelines Natural Forest Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Natural Forest Areas	State Parks Natural Forest Areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for lowintensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses, and which contain: (a) Old-growth forest communities that have developed for 150 years or longer and have the following structural characteristics: Large old-growth trees, large snags, large logs on land, and large logs in streams; or (b) Mature forest communities that have developed for 90 years or longer; or Ucommunities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.	State Parks Natural Forest Areas are places where human access to and interpretation and enjoyment of natural forest processes are limited to those activities and facilities that do not significantly degrade natural forest processes. Public access into these areas emphasizes appreciation of nature through experiencing nature. The principal function of these areas is to assist in maintaining the state's bio-diversity while expanding human understanding and appreciation of natural values.	State Parks Natural Forest Areas have a variety of topographic and vegetative conditions. They are generally large enough (300 or more acres) to contain one or more distinct and relatively intact vegetative communities. Smaller areas may be appropriate if representative of a unique or unusual forest community. Desirably, they are part of a large system of open space, wildlife habitat, and vegetative communities that provide a good opportunity for long-term ecosystem sustainability.	State Parks Natural Forest Areas may be located anywhere in the state where natural factors produce forest vegetative cover. These areas are not "made", but rather currently exist due to historical circumstances that have resulted in little or no human interference in natural forest progression. As a part of an overall system, these areas should be geographically spread throughout the state, recognizing that maintenance of bio-diversity is one of the primary functions of their classification. When classifying specific park areas, consideration must be given to the ability to adequately manage the areas against undesirable human encroachment.	State Parks Natural Forest Areas provide opportunities for outdoor recreation on designated recreation trails. Those trails may be developed and used only to the extent that they do not significantly degrade the system of natural forest processes in a classified area. Careful design of recreation trails should match intended uses, to maintain consistency with the purpose and philosophy of the classification. Hiking, non-groomed cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or other trail uses of similar impact to natural systems and providing a compatible recreational opportunity, may be permitted, after consultation with appropriate local, state, federal and tribal resource management agencies, and upon a finding by the agency that such trails are not likely to significantly degrade natural forest processes. Relocation of existing equestrian, bicycle, nordic track or other similar trails into a natural forest area may be permitted upon a finding by the director that such relocation is for the purpose of reducing overall resource impacts. All trails may be moved, redesigned, closed and/or removed upon a finding that they are causing significant degradation to the system of natural forest processes. Technical rock climbing requires authorization by the commission. Off-trail use for nature observation, cross-country skiing, photography, harvesting of mushrooms and berries and similar uses are permitted to the degree that they do not significantly degrade natural forest processes. Scientific research is permitted.	State Parks Natural Forest Areas development shall be limited to facilities required for health, safety and protection of users and features consistent with_allowed activities. Facilities to enhance public enjoyment shall be limited to trails, trail structures, and minor interpretive exhibits. All improvements shall harmonize with, and not detract from, the natural setting. Parking and other trailhead facilities should be located outside of a classified area.

Land Classification Management Guidelines Natural Area Preserves

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Natural Area Preserves	State Parks Natural Area Preserves are designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are registered and committed as a natural area preserve through a cooperative agreement with an appropriate natural resource agency pursuant to chapter 79.70 RCW and chapter 332-60 WAC.	State Parks Natural Area Preserves are sites where human access is limited to educational and scientific purposes. The principal function of these areas is to preserve natural ecosystems or geologic features of statewide significance. Public access for recreation must be subordinate to the principal function of the classification.	State Parks Natural Area Preserves have a variety of topographic and vegetative conditions. They are generally large enough (300 or more acres) to contain one or more distinct and intact ecological communities. Smaller areas may be appropriate if representative of a unique or unusual ecological community or geologic feature. They may be partially or wholly on land, subterranean, or part of the marine environment. Desirably, they are part of a large system of open space, wildlife habitat, and vegetative communities that provide a good opportunity for long- term ecosystem sustainability.	State Parks Natural Area Preserves may be located anywhere in the state where natural ecological systems or significant geologic features exist. These areas are not "made", but rather exist due to historical circumstances that have resulted in little or no human interference in the natural system. As a part of an overall system, these areas should be geographically spread throughout the state.	State Parks Natural Area Preserves provide opportunities for scientific research and education about natural systems, geologic features, sensitive, rare, threatened or endangered species or communities. Recreational use of existing or relocated trails may be permitted, provided that it can be clearly demonstrated that such use does not degrade the system of natural processes occurring in the preserve. Otherwise, trails are limited to administrative, scientific and organized educational activities and uses. No other activities are permitted.	State Parks Natural Area Preserves development shall be limited to access facilities for permitted activities and structures to inhibit general public access. No other facilities or structures are permitted.

Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Facilities

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Amphitheater	Р	С	С	N	N
Archery/Target Range	С	С	N	N	N
Camping - Std and Util	Р	N	N	N	N
Camping - Primitive	Р	Р	С	N	N
Camping - Adirondack	Р	С	N	N	N
Camping - Horse-oriented	С	С	N	N	N
Camping - Water Trail	Р	Р	С	N	N
Children's Play Area	Р	С	С	N	N
Day Use Picnic - Tables	Р	Р	С	N	N
Day Use Picnic - Group Shelter	Р	N	С	N	N
Day Use Lodges/Centers	Р	N	С	N	N
Environmental Learning Centers	С	N	С	N	N
Equestrian Facilities	С	С	С	N	N
Fields - Informal Play/Mowed	Р	С	С	N	N
Indoor Accommodations	Р	N	С	N	N
Interpretive - Centers	Р	N	Р	N	N
Interpretive - Kiosks	Р	Р	Р	С	N
Interpretive Trail	Р	P	Р	Р	С
Interpretive - Signs	Р	P	Р	Р	С
Parking - Vehicles	Р	Р	С	N	N
Roads	Р	Р	С	N	N

Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Facilities (Continued)

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Sanitary: Comfort Stations	Р	N	С	N	N
Sanitary: Composting/Vault	Р	P	С	С	N
Sports Fields	С	N	N	N	N
Skiing - Alpine Facilities	С	С	N	N	N
Swimming Facilities	Р	N	С	N	N
Trails - Hiking	Р	P	Р	P	С
Trails - Mountain Biking	Р	С	С	N**	N
Trails - Equestrian	С	С	С	N**	N
Trails - Nordic Track Skiing	Р	Р	С	N**	N
Trails - C-C skiing	Р	Р	Р	P	С
Trails - Snowmobile	Р	С	С	N**	N
Trails - Paved non-motor	Р	С	С	С	N
Water: Docks/Piers > 10 boats	Р	N	С	N	N
Water: Docks/Piers - < 10 boats	Р	Р	С	С	N
Water: Launch Ramps	Р	С	N	N	N
Water: Hand Launch Areas	Р	Р	С	С	N
Water: Mooring Buoys	Р	Р	С	С	N

P (Permitted) - Use permitted with normal agency design review

C (Conditional) - Use may be permitted, but conditioned to assure design is compatible w/purpose of land classification and abutting classification objectives. N (Not Permitted)- Use not permitted.

NA - Not Applicable

^{*} All uses in a Natural Area Preserve must be specifically approved by the Park and Recreation Commission as part of a management plan.

^{**}Relocation of existing trails into a natural or natural forest area is permitted per WAC 352-32-070(3) and WAC 352-32-075(2)(b).

Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Activities

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Farming/Orchards	С	С	С	N	N
Filming/Special Events	Р	Р	Р	С	N
Grazing	С	С	С	N	N
Harvesting - Edible Fruiting Bodies	Р	Р	Р	Р	N
Harvesting - Mushrooms	Р	Р	Р	Р	N
Harvesting - Shellfish	Р	Р	Р	Р	N
Harvesting - Fish	Р	Р	Р	Р	N
Harvesting - Algae, etc.	Р	Р	Р	Р	N
Haying	Р	Р	Р	N	N
Metal Detecting	Р	Р	С	N	N
Orienteering	Р	Р	С	N	N
Ocean Beach Driving	P	С	N	N	N
Off-Trail: Equestrian	С	С	С	N	N
Off-Trail: Hiking	Р	Р	Р	Р	N
Off-trail biking	С	С	С	N	N
Paragliding	Р	Р	С	N	N
Technical Rock Climbing	Р	Р	С	С	N

Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Activities (Continued)

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Water: Jet Skiing	Р	С	N	N	N
Water: Kayak/Canoeing	Р	Р	Р	С	N
Water: Power Boating	Р	С	N	С	N
Water: White Water Boating	Р	Р	С	С	N
Water: Sailing	Р	Р	Р	С	N
Water: Skiing	Р	С	N	N	N
Water: Swimming	Р	Р	Р	Р	N
Water: Wind Surfing	Р	С	С	N	N
Winter: Alpine Skiing	С	С	N	N	N
Winter: C-C Skiing (off-trail)	Р	Р	Р	Р	С
Winter: Mushing/Sled Dogs	С	С	С	N	N
Winter: Snowshoeing	Р	Р	Р	Р	С
Winter: Snowmobiling (off-trail)	Р	Р	С	N	N
Wood Debris Collection	Р	Р	Р	N	N

P (Permitted) - Use permitted with normal agency design review

C (Conditional) - Use may be permitted with Commission concurrence, but conditioned to assure compatibility w/purpose of land classification and abutting classifications. N (Not Permitted)- Use not permitted.

NA - Not Applicable

^{*} All uses in a Natural Area Preserve must be specifically approved by the Park and Recreation Commission as part of a management plan.
**Relocation of existing trails into a natural or natural forest area is permitted per WAC 352-32-070(3) and WAC 352-32-075(2)(b).