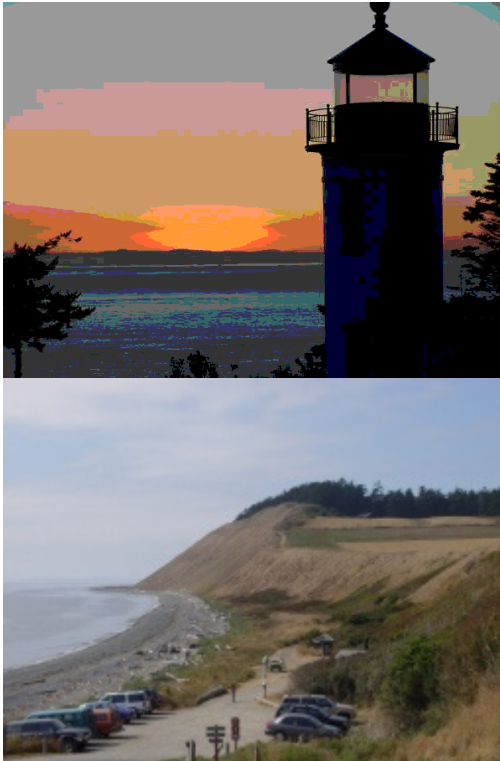


CENTRAL WHIDBEY STATE PARKS

LAND CLASSES, RESOURCE ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

(Fort Casey State Park, Ebey's Landing State Park, Fort Ebey State Park,
Joseph Whidbey State Park)



Washington State Parks Mission

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission acquires, operates, enhances, and protects a diverse system of recreational, cultural, and natural sites. The Commission fosters outdoor recreation and education statewide to provide enjoyment and enrichment for all and a valued legacy to future generations.



WASHINGTON STATE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



CAMP
Washington State Parks
Classification and Management Planning Project

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CONTACTS

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission gratefully acknowledges the many stakeholders and the staff of the Central Whidbey area state parks who participated in public meetings, reviewed voluminous materials, and made this a better plan because of if.

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**CENTRAL WHIDBEY STATE PARKS LAND CLASSES, RESOURCE ISSUES AND
MANAGEMENT APPROACHES**

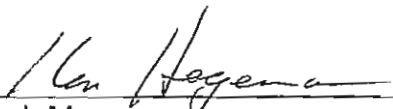
CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

The signatures below certify the adoption of this document by Washington State Parks
for the continued management of (insert) State Park.



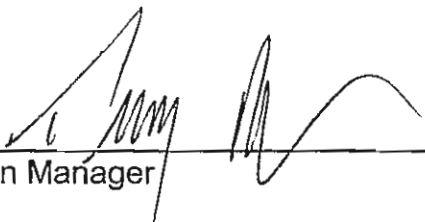
Park Manager

2-26-08
Date



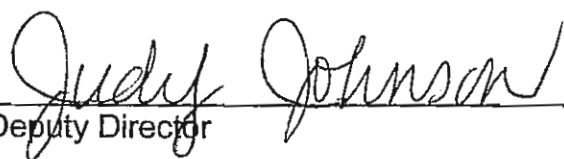
Park Manager

2-26-08
Date



Region Manager

2/29/08
Date



Deputy Director

3/10/08
Date

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PREFACE

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) manages a diverse array of 120 parks located throughout the state.

The Commission adopted the Centennial 2013 Plan in October, 2003, thereby creating a focus intended to energize and bring together the agency, state leadership and the public, to work toward a parks system all can celebrate as it turns 100 years old and prepares for a second century of service. The Centennial 2013 Plan blends public and private funding, engages more partnerships and creates greater public ownership of the system. An important goal for the Centennial 2013 Plan reads, "All 120 parks have land-use plans supported by the public and Commission (which includes the direction of care of historic buildings and sites and natural resources)."

These land-use plans follow a process that has been used by the Commission since 1996, called the CAMP Project. CAMP is an acronym for Classification and Management Plan. New modifications allow for a simplified and efficient process that can be used by a wider number of staff to complete all 120 plans by 2013.

The important elements of the CAMP project are retained. One of the most important elements is the classification of lands. In 1995, the Commission adopted a land classification system. Application of the system creates zones, or land classifications, within a park (see Appendix A.) Six distinct classifications determine what recreational uses and types of developments are appropriate in different areas of a park. In general, sensitive areas are classified restrictively and allow only low-intensity uses and development of minor facilities. Less sensitive areas are classified to allow higher-intensity uses and more extensive facilities development.

A CAMP brings together the customers, nearby community, stakeholders and State Parks staff in a public process that forges a common vision of what the state park should become (see Appendix B: CAMP Project Planning Principles.) Through a public process that we believe to be as open as any, staff and public participants identify resource management issues and look at alternative approaches for addressing them. The outcome is a plan that will help focus all our efforts to balance resource protection with recreational opportunities in a park. For State Parks' staff, this document represents policy approval and a means to create a state park that meets the Centennial 2013 Vision:

In 2013, Washington's state parks will be premier destinations of uncommon quality, including state and regionally significant natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources that are outstanding for the experience, health, enjoyment and learning of all people.

SUMMARY

The Central Whidbey area contains four distinct State Parks and one independently recognized sub-area. The four distinct areas are Fort Casey State Park, Ebey's Landing State Park, Fort Ebey State Park, and Joseph Whidbey State Park. The independently recognized sub-area is Keystone Spit which is part of Fort Casey State Park.

These areas provide a wide-range of outdoor recreational pursuits, while preserving world class cultural resources and a wide variety of natural resources. The CAMP process began in September of 2002 with staff meetings and formation of the Agency planning team. This team consisted of the Region Planner, Region Steward, Park Managers from both park areas, a staff member from the Historic Preservation Program, a staff member from the Stewardship Program and an Environmental Specialist. The planning team looked at staff generated issues and assembled existing park resource information.

A public meeting was held in December of 2002 to collect stakeholder, neighbor, and visitor issues. This information and resource information collected subsequently was used to develop three land classification and long-term boundary options for Fort Casey State Park, and Fort Ebey State Park. Ebey's Landing State Park and Joseph Whidbey State Park had one and two options produced, respectively. These options were then taken to the public in July of 2005. The results of this meeting were presented to the Commission on Aug. 4, 2005 in the form of a report to the Commission. The final staff recommended land class and long-term boundary options were developed in April 2006 and posted on the Agency website on September 7, 2006. Land Classification was approved by the Commission at their October 19, 2006 meeting in Friday Harbor, WA.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to: 1) orient readers to the parks and the agency's park management planning system, 2) identify park natural, cultural, and recreation/facility management issues, and 3) provide initial direction to park staff (suggested management approaches) to address these issues. The ultimate purpose of this document is to describe how the agency intends to balance recreational use with measures to protect natural and cultural resources.

- Section 1: Provides a brief overview of the park including its geography, historical background, major attributes, and public use.
- Section 2: Describes both the agency's system-wide park management planning program and its specific application to this park.
- Section 3: Outlines management objectives established for the park.

Section 4: Describes the park's land classifications (management zoning) and long-term park boundary.

Section 5: Lists natural, cultural, and recreational/facility resource issues identified through the public planning and outlines general approaches toward addressing them.

Section 6: Lists other plans pertinent to this park.

Appendices contain additional supporting documentation pertinent to this plan.

Figure 1:



SECTION 1: PARK DESCRIPTION

FORT CASEY STATE PARK

Location: Fort Casey State Park is located 3.8 miles south of Coupeville on the southwest shore of Whidbey Island, in Island County, Washington. The park is within the boundaries of the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve.

Acreage: 422 acres

Acquired: The majority of property at Fort Casey was acquired in two parcels, the first from the General Service Administration in 1955 and the second from the National Park Service in 1988. Acquisition of several small in-holdings has occurred since the last large acquisition and the total cost to date is \$1,105,720.26.

Historical background: Little record remains of prehistoric use of the site due to subsequent post contact activities destroying the underlying archaeological record. The uplands of Admiralty Head were homesteaded in the mid 1800s. The land was later acquired by the Department of the Army and construction of Fort Casey was initiated in 1897. The fort was one of three guarding the entrance to Puget Sound. The fort was an active military installation off and on for the next 58 years and was finally closed and turned over to State Parks in 1955. Since that time State Parks has installed infrastructure to support recreation and public enjoyment of the facility.

Site Description: Admiralty Head, where much of the park is located, is glacial in origin and rises about 100 feet above the surrounding shorelands. In its original condition it was most likely a forested upland covered with Douglas-fir and grand fir with some large areas of Whidbey Island prairie. Other areas of the park are derived from accretion of littoral drift materials (Keystone Spit) and the subsequent impounding of surface water run-off (Crockett Lake).

Facilities: 35 standard campsites, 3 primitive campsites, 80 picnic sites, 4 comfort stations, 1 vault toilet, two lane boat launch, boat handling floats, 2 residences, shop, tractor shop, mower shop, interpretive center/lighthouse, extensive concrete structures associated with old fortifications, 1.8 miles of trail, 4.8 miles of road, 2 sewage lift stations, approximately 375 parking spaces and an underwater park area.

Activities: Camping, picnicking, boating, fishing, scuba diving, hiking, driftwood collecting, interpretation, bird watching

Attendance:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Utility</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Day Use</u>	<u>Total</u>
2001		15,317	744,132	759,449
2002		17,075	724,444	741,519
2003		16,981	727,054	744,035
2004		17,742	706,907	724,649
2005		16,970	676,134	693,104

Interpretation: Campfire programs in the summer, interpretive panels dealing with marine life, gun emplacements, boater safety and registration. The lighthouse has interpretive displays on both lighthouse history and the military history of Fort Casey. Volunteers provide interpretation on various subjects to school groups each spring.

Staffing:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Staff Months</u>
Ranger 4	12
Ranger 3	12
Ranger 2	12
Park Aide (3)	10.7
Sr. Park Aide	9.0
C&M	12.0

PARK DESCRIPTION

EBEY’S LANDING STATE PARK

Location: Three miles west of Coupeville on Whidbey Island.

Acreage: 45.75

Acquired: Acquired in two parcels, the first in 1978 and the last in 1981, for a total of \$747,500

Historical background: A satellite to Fort Casey State Park, Ebey’s landing is also located within Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve. In 1987 the National Park Service provided funding for renovation of a ten car parking area, trail improvements, trail head facilities, and interpretive signing

Site Description: The site has a fairly extensive back beach area with good native vegetation and a very active gravel and sand fore beach. The uplands provide excellent views of the Straits of Juan de Fuca and Admiralty Inlet. Part of the uplands is maintained through an agricultural lease.

Facilities: Ten car parking lot, CXT vault toilet, interpretive display, stairs to the top of the bluff from the beach, and one and one-half miles of hiking trails.

Activities: Hiking, surf fishing, beachcombing, radio controlled glider flying, bird watching

Attendance:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Utility</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Day Use</u>	<u>Total</u>
2001			44,883	44,883
2002			88,847	88,847
2003			84,143	84,143
2004			86,991	86,991
2005			72,109	72,109

Interpretation: Three panel display interpreting local history and two flat panel displays interpreting shipping on the Straits of Juan de Fuca.

Staffing: Satellite to Fort Casey State Park – see Fort Casey Staffing information

PARK DESCRIPTION

FORT EBAY STATE PARK

Location: Six miles northwest of Coupeville, Whidbey Island, Island County, Washington.

Acreage: 645 acres

Acquired: The park was initially acquired from the Federal Government in 1965 through the purchase of 204 acres. Two additional acquisitions from the Federal government added 23.8 acres between 1968 and 1974. In 1990 416 acres were acquired from the Department of Natural Resources. Land exchanges with Mary M. Halsen in 1997 completed the acquisition to date. Total cost to date is \$3,666,568.

Historical background: Fort Ebey was one of the more recent links in the coastal defense system of Puget Sound. The fort was constructed in 1942 and named after the pioneer commander of the 1855 Militia stationed on an island in Ebey Slough. Colonel Ebey was later slain by Northern Indians in revenge for the death of their chief. The park is the site of a World War II gun battery which had two six inch guns at the time of

the war. The guns were removed after the war and cut up for scrap. The fort also had observation stations, storage rooms, residences and other facilities to support the fort.

Site Description: The park is perched atop 200 foot tall bluffs that face the Straits of Juan de Fuca. The geology is glacial in origin with numerous kettles formed by ice left behind as the glacier receded. The park is heavily forested in a mix of Douglas-fir and grand fir with a variable understory – primarily salal.

Facilities: 46 standard campsites, 4 electric hook-up sites, 3 primitive campsites, and 1 water Trails campsite, large group camp with shelter, campground comfort station, day-use comfort station, beach access, numerous picnic sites, concrete bunker structure, three miles of trail, one residence and one shop building.

Activities: Camping, hiking, picnicking, interpretation, beachcombing, paragliding, surfing

Attendance:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Utility</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Day Use</u>	<u>Total</u>
2001	2232	14,314	279,846	296,392
2002	2405	16,586	286,743	305,734
2003	2680	15,907	331,771	350,365
2004	4,405	15,825	390,608	410,838
2005	5274	14,754	306,309	326,337

Interpretation: Weekly interpretive programs on local and military history are provided during the summer

Staffing:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Staff Months</u>
Ranger 3	12
Ranger 2	12
Park Aide (3)	11.3
C&M	12

PARK DESCRIPTION

JOSEPH WHIDBEY

Location: The park is approximately 3 miles northwest of Oak Harbor, on the west side of Whidbey Island, in Island County, Washington.

Acreage: 112 acres with 3,100 feet of saltwater shoreline at the confluence of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Rosario Strait.

Acquired: The park was originally part of the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, the property was acquire in 2 parcels in 1974 and 1975 at no cost, from the Federal Government.

Historical background: The park as well as the island and other features, takes its name from the Vancouver expedition of 1792, Joseph Whidbey circumnavigated the island and Captain George Vancouver named the island in his honor.

Site Description: The park has 3100 feet of saltwater shoreline with the majority of the shoreline plant community in good condition. There is an extensive wetland area, also in very good condition. The uplands are a mix of forested patches and open meadows.

Facilities: Cascadia Marine Trail campsite, 2 vault toilets, picnic shelter, 20 picnic sites, parking for 30 vehicles, potable water is available.

Activities: Hiking, beachcombing, and bird watching.

Attendance:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Utility</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Day Use</u>	<u>Total</u>
2001			169,347	169,347
2002			162,550	162,550
2003			92,293	92,293
2004			94,706	94,706
2005			83,583	83,583

Interpretation: none

Staffing: staffing reported as part of Fort Ebey State Park

SECTION 2: PARK PLANNING PROCESS

The CAMP planning processes for State Parks located in the central Whidbey Island area began in September 2002 with the assembly of key agency staff to act as a core planning team. This team consisted of the park managers, region planner, headquarters Planning Program representatives, Resource Stewardship representatives, and a Historic Preservation specialist. The planning team also consulted other agency technical specialists as needed.

In December of 2002, the planning team held an initial public workshop to gain some insight as to what issues currently face the park, and, in very general terms, what features are important to park stakeholders. Drawing on public input, the team then crafted a set of options that emphasized natural resource protection, cultural resource protection or recreational development. In July 2005 the staff planning team held a public workshop in Coupeville to present and receive specific input on the alternative recommendations. Results of this meeting were then shared with the Parks Commission on Aug 4, 2005 at a regularly scheduled Commission meeting in Coupeville. This information was then used to craft the Preliminary Alternatives for land classification and long-term boundary for the 4 management areas. These recommendations were then posted on the Agency website and participants of the process notified by mail to solicit final comments.

Table 1: Key Public Workshops and Information Release Dates

Title/Purpose	Date	Location
Initial Public Meeting	December 2002	Camp Casey
Land Classification and Long-term Boundary Alternatives	July, 7, 2005	Coupeville Elementary School
Report to the Parks and Recreation Commission	Aug. 4, 2005	Coupeville Elementary School
Land Classification and Long-term Boundary Preliminary Alternatives	Sept. 7, 2006	Agency Website
Land Classification and Long-term Boundary Commission Agenda Item	October 19, 2006	Friday Harbor, WA

SECTION 3: PARK OBJECTIVES

During initial stages of planning, staff worked to craft a series of objectives to guide future management of the park. Management objectives are outlined in table 3, below.

Table 2: Park Objectives

Fort Casey State Park

<p>Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Protect and participate in the recovery of golden paintbrush, <i>Castilleja levisecta</i>. ◆ Protect native plant communities, manage vegetative succession and remove weeds through IPM (integrated pest management)
<p>Cultural resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Stop deterioration and foster restoration of historic structures ◆ Improve public access to, and understanding of, historic structures
<p>Recreational Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improve and expand camping opportunities ◆ Look for appropriate opportunities to expand other recreational activities (i.e. boat moorage)
<p>Interpretation and Environmental Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Develop an interpretive plan for the facility (completed) ◆ Expand interpretive functions and opportunities
<p>Administrative Facilities and Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Plan for and support development of facilities to support the park administrative needs and the increasing space needs of partners.
<p>Concessions and Park Enterprise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Support the initiation of appropriate concession opportunities within the park
<p>Long-Term Boundary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Expand and consolidate park ownership on Keystone Spit ◆ Expand and consolidate park ownership around Crockett Lake

Ebey's Landing State Park

<p>Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Control noxious weeds through IPM and maintain healthy native plant communities
<p>Cultural resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Evaluate recreational opportunities for appropriateness within the context of the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve
<p>Recreational Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improve sanitary facilities (completed – new CXT vault toilet installed)
<p>Interpretation and Environmental Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Maintain and update interpretive materials

Fort Ebey State Park

<p>Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Manage seaweed harvest to protect the resource (Completed: WAC changed to reflect higher degree of resource protection) ◆ Control noxious weeds through IPM and protect sensitive/unique plant communities
<p>Cultural resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Adequately interpret the history and facilities at Fort Ebey
<p>Recreational Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improve and expand / diversify camping opportunities where appropriate ◆ Improve and expand day-use opportunities where appropriate ◆ Develop a trail plan for the facility and in conjunction with Island County
<p>Interpretation and Environmental Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Expand / improve interpretation
<p>Long-Term Boundary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Add properties and develop easements consistent with the effort to connect Ebey's Landing State Park to Fort Ebey State Park ◆ Consolidate ownership along highway 20 frontage for view-shed protection

Joseph Whidbey State Park

<p>Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Protect shoreline plant communities and wetlands for habitat and native plant community values. Control noxious weeds through IPM
<p>Cultural resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Protect the existing archaeological site
<p>Recreational Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Expand recreational opportunities and support infrastructure
<p>Long-Term Boundary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Position park to be able to accept land from NAS Whidbey should their status change

SECTION 4: PARK LAND CLASSIFICATIONS AND LONG-TERM BOUNDARY

Land Classification

An important part of the planning for the Central Whidbey Island area parks involves the zoning or classification of park lands. State Parks has developed a system of six land classifications. When assigned to a specific area within a park, each classification sets an appropriate intensity for recreational activity and development of facilities.

Classifications are aligned along a spectrum ranging from low to high-intensity recreational uses and developments. By classifying park lands, the agency is able to consciously strike a balance between protecting park resources and providing an appropriate variety of recreational opportunities to park visitors.

The agency's land classification system includes the following six classifications: Natural Area Preserves, Natural/Natural forest Areas, Resource Recreation Areas, Recreation Areas, and Heritage Areas. Detailed definitions of each land classification are available from the agency on request. Information on the philosophy behind each classification and an allowable activity matrix are found in Appendix A. Through critical analysis of natural and cultural resource inventories and evaluation of future recreational facilities needs and in response to public input staff recommends that park lands be classified as shown in Figures 2 through 5.

Long-Term Boundary

Delineation of long-term park boundaries is a relatively new and often misunderstood aspect of park planning. In short, the purpose of a long-term boundary is to take a big picture look at what lands, independent of ownership, might advance the conservation and recreation mission of the park. This process not only considers whether an adjoining property would make a suitable addition, but also considers whether agency-owned property should be retained or might appropriately be considered surplus to park needs. Including a privately owned property in a long-term boundary does not necessarily mean the agency wants to purchase it. It simply means that it would be in the park's best interest if the property were managed/maintained in a condition that complements development and operation of the park. Any of the following possibilities could apply:

The agency might:

- 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.

- Figures 2 through 5 also delineate the parks' long-term boundary where darker shaded colors indicate properties already in agency ownership and lighter shaded colors indicate properties not in agency ownership but desirable for long-term boundary inclusion. The lighter and darker shaded areas together represent the long-term park boundary.

Figure 2: Fort Casey State Park Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary Map.

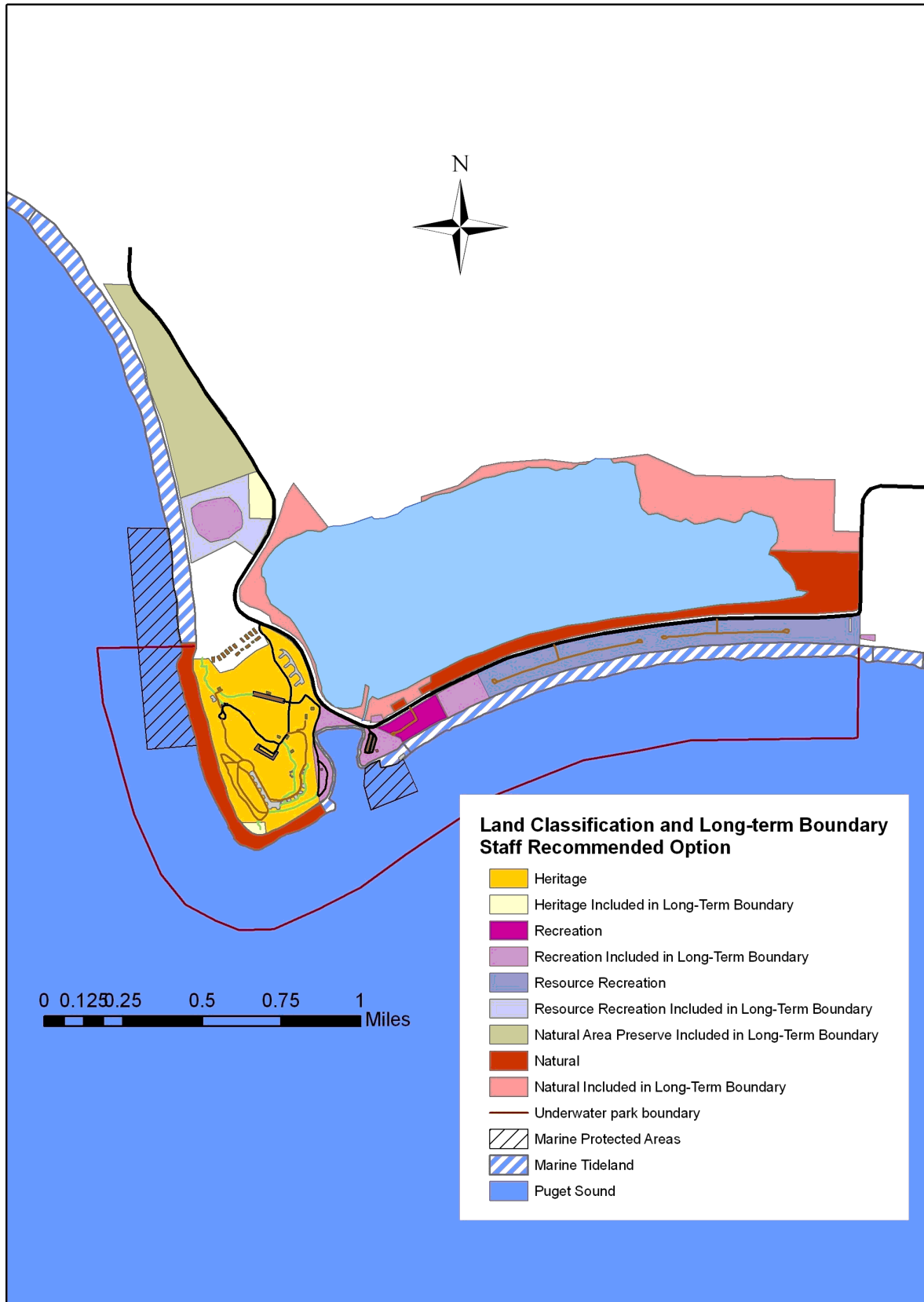


Figure 3: Ebey's Landing State Park Land Classification and Long-term Boundary Map

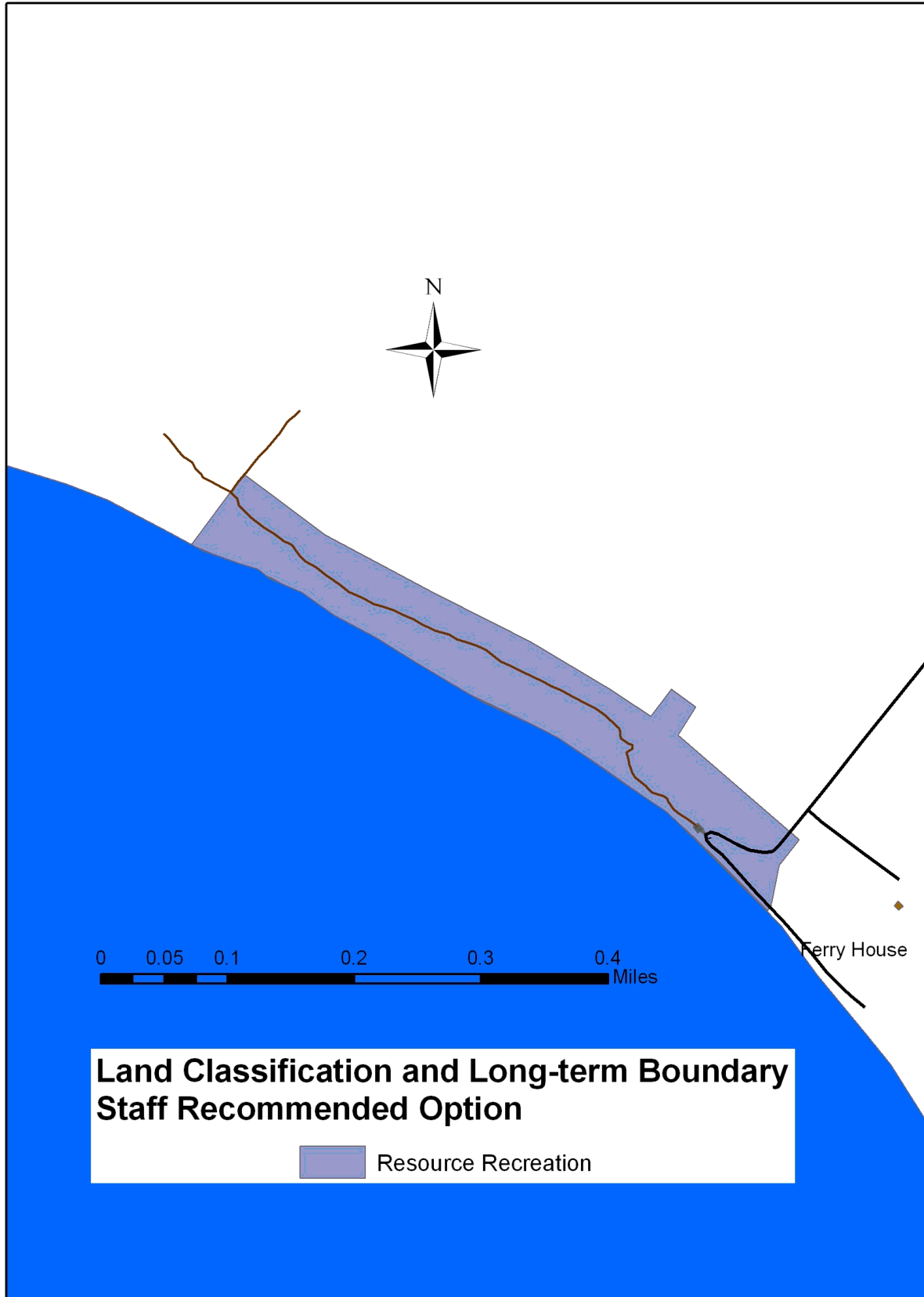


Figure 4: Fort Ebey State Park Land Classification and Long-term Boundary

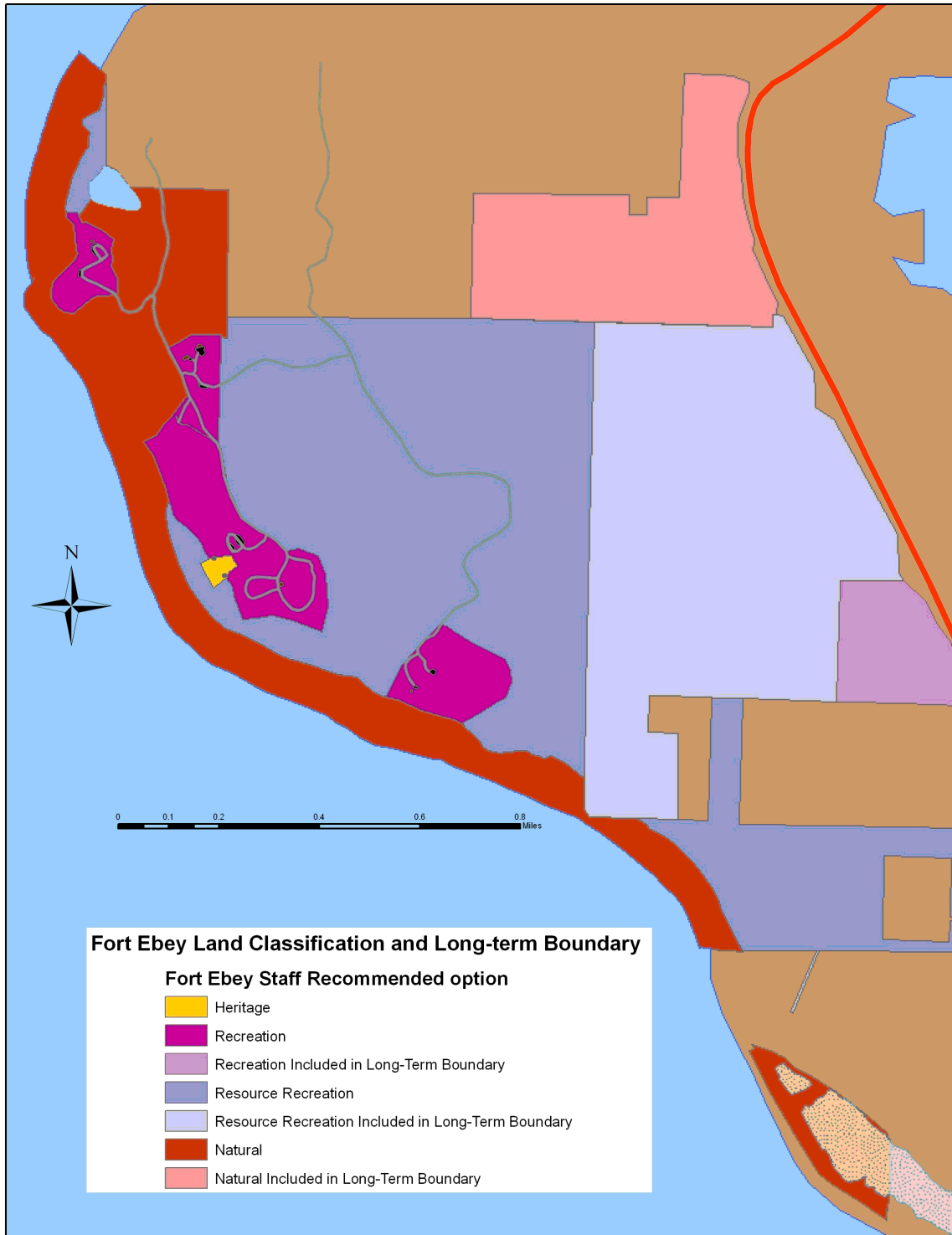
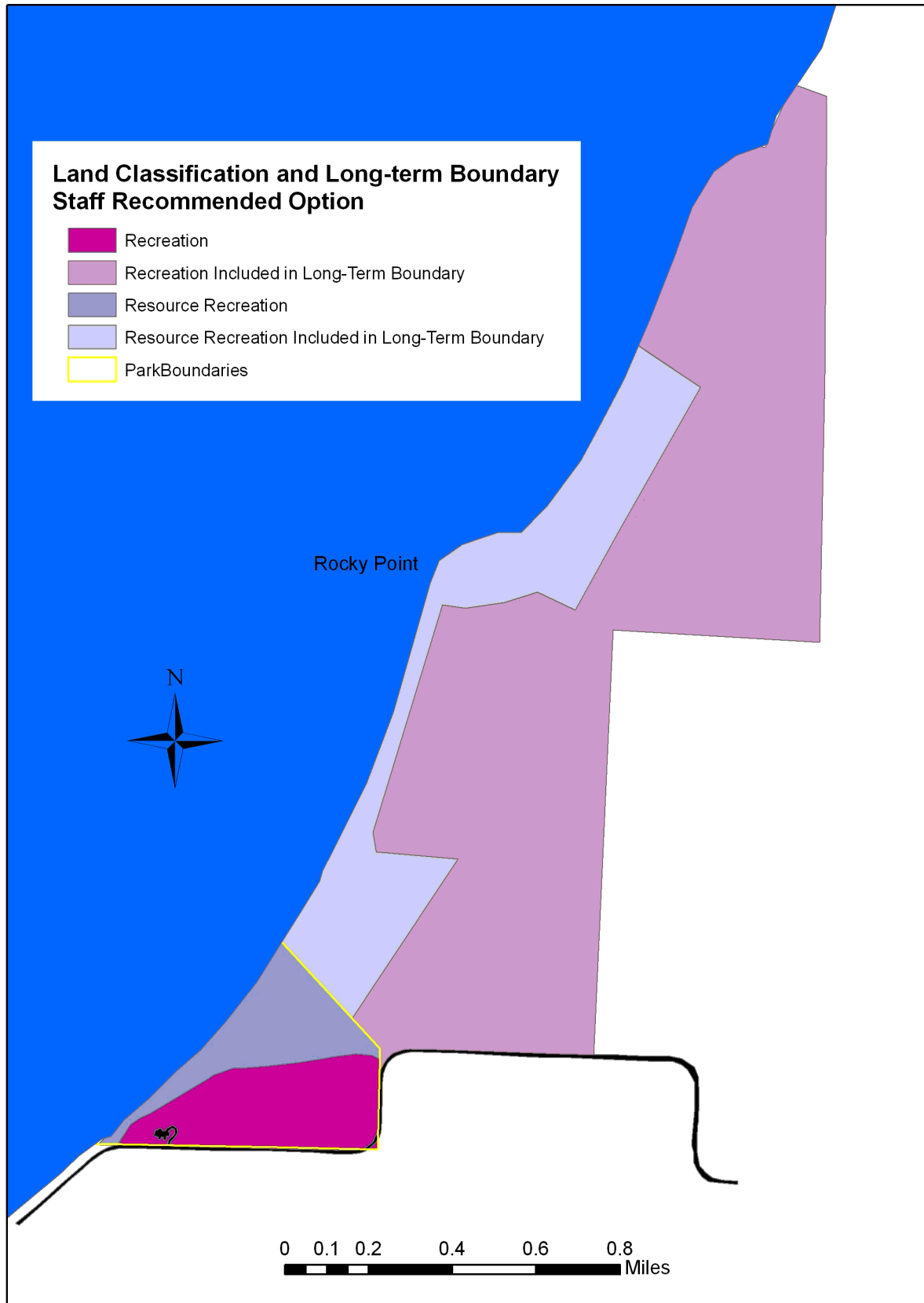


Figure 5: Joseph Whidbey State Park Land Classification and Long-term Boundary



SECTION 5: PARK ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

This section of the document outlines the principle natural, cultural, and recreation / facility resource issues identified by the public and staff during the CAMP planning processes, and suggested management approaches to address them (see Tables 3 & 4). As in any real world situation, some issues do not neatly fit into any one of these three categories, while others may span more than one. Some license has been taken for the sake of consistent presentation. Addressing these issues will in almost all cases involve park staff working with Regional Stewardship, Environmental, and Planning staff. Additional stakeholder involvement is also anticipated, and may include (but not be limited to): HQ service centers, sister natural resources agencies (including the Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Ecology, Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation), local government institutions (weed control boards, permitting), non-profit organizations (Washington Native Plant Society, The Nature Conservancy, Audubon), the tribes, institutions of higher education, and adjacent land-owners and interested citizens. All management actions will be consistent with the laws and policies¹ governing the agency, in addition to all federal, state, and local regulations. As the issues and their management approaches are addressed in the future, associated materials (e.g., inventories, plans, monitoring records) will be added as appendices to this document.

Readers should note that the issues presented below represent a significant staff workload and may also create very high expectations among agency staff and park stakeholders. Clearly, completing or even beginning all the suggested management approaches in the short-term is not realistic. The issues should be seen as a "to do" list where items will be prioritized as staff and financial resources permit.

¹ Specifically, for natural resources: Protecting Washington State Parks' Natural Resources – A Comprehensive Natural Resource Management Policy (Commission Agenda Item F-11, December 2004); and for cultural resources: Cultural Resources Management Policy (Commission Agenda Item E-1, October 1998 + three amendments).

Table 3. Summary of Central Whidbey Area State Park Issues.

Fort Casey State Park	
Natural Resource Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of native plant and animal communities. • Protection of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species • Protection of Crockett Lake and Keystone Spit
Cultural Resource Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation and protection of historic structures • Interpretation of cultural resources • Protection Admiralty Head Lighthouse
Recreational Resource/Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational facilities development – general • Trail use, development • Expansion of interpretive programs and facilities • Park capacity and use • Fees and access • Long-term park boundary
Ebey’s Landing State Park	
Natural Resource Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of native plant and animal communities • Preservation of beach ecology • Weed control
Cultural Resource Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect cultural landscape • Interpretation of local history and historic structures
Recreational Resource/Facility Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragliding, compatibility with neighbors and visitors • Public use • Trail use, development • Recreation facilities development – general • Interpretation • Administration and enforcement
Fort Ebey State Park	
Natural Resource Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of native plant and animal communities • Protection of Lake Pondilla
Cultural Resource Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of existing cultural resources • Interpretation of cultural resources

<p>Recreational Resource/Facility Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail use and development • Boundary and trespass • Maintain existing recreational opportunities • Recreational development – general • Expansion of camping opportunity
<p>Joseph Whidbey State Park</p>	
<p>Natural Resource Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of native plant and animal communities
<p>Recreational Resource/Facility Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational development • Boundary • Trail use and development • Administration and enforcement
<p>All Park Areas</p>	
<p>General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term park boundary • Control visitor impact on natural resources • Recreational facilities development – general • Expansion of interpretive programs and facilities

Table 4 Management Approaches to Issues

FORT CASEY STATE PARK – Natural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Protection of natural plant and animal communities	Undeveloped areas of the park will be classified as natural or resource recreation to minimize development and set the goal of resource protection priority. Additional protection measures will include development of vegetation management plans that will include IPM weed control as well as restoration / recovery plans for native plant communities.
Protection of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species	Areas where golden paintbrush occurs will be classified as heritage affording a high degree of protection. Additionally, trail plans, vegetation management plans, and a paintbrush recovery plan will be drafted to direct protection and recovery. The Naas Natural Area Preserve is included in long-term boundary, (as an NAP), to assure continued preservation of this important site.
Protection of Crockett Lake and Keystone Spit	Existing park property bordering Crockett Lake will be classified natural. The proposed long-term boundary includes acquiring the remaining shoreline of Crockett Lake and classifying it as natural. Keystone Spit will be classified as resource recreation in order to maintain some existing infrastructure while affording significant protection of the native plant community. It is anticipated that the amount of primitive roadway on Keystone Spit will be reduced to enhance native plant communities.

FORT CASEY – Cultural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Preservation and protection of historic structures	Much of the historic footprint of the fort will be classified as heritage signifying an emphasis on maintaining the cultural landscape and preserving the historic structures. Future capital budgets will

	contain elements to restore Battery Worth and reconstruct the Fire Control Station and the Mule Barn.
Interpretation of cultural resources	An interpretive plan for the fort has been developed. Elements of this plan will be submitted for inclusion in the capital budget as well as being funded through other sources. A park wide interpretive plan has been developed and will be used to augment and support the Coastal Defense Interpretive Plan
Protection of Admiralty Head Lighthouse	The lighthouse is within the area classified as heritage thereby affording it significant protection. Park staff will work with the friends group and Lighthouse Environmental to develop a lighthouse interpretive plan. Future capital budgets will contain elements to preserve and restore the lighthouse. Collaboration with friends groups and interested volunteers will continue to leverage enthusiasm and support for lighthouse related issues.

FORT CASEY – Recreational Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Natural / Cultural resource interpretation / environmental education. Expansion of programs and facilities.	Interpretive plans are in place and staff will begin implementing as time and funding permit. Facilities will be identified to accommodate future interpretive displays. Fort and lighthouse interpretive efforts will be separated to take advantage of opportunities associated with each theme.
Recreational facility development – general	Areas around the existing campground, Keystone Harbor, and the area east of the developed boat launch are proposed to be recreation land class or recreation land class within the long-term boundary. This will cluster future recreation development and allow for the potential of camping expansion or the introduction of alternative camping facilities and/or concession facilities.
Radio controlled model glider flying	This previously approved activity would be allowed to continue. A management plan for this activity will be developed to assure protection of Golden Paintbrush which

	occurs in the same vicinity as the glider flying.
Trail use and development	All land classes support pedestrian trail use except NAP. A trail plan will be developed to evaluate potential new routes and to dictate maintenance standards and construction and design criteria. Staff will work with Island County, local property owners, Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, and other partners to explore trail connection opportunities.
Park Capacity and Use	Future expansions of recreation opportunities and support facilities will sensitively evaluate proposed new uses/structures for appropriateness, scale, and compatibility to the site.
Fees and Access	This issue dealt primarily with the day parking fee that was instituted during the planning process. Issue was resolved with the legislative rescinding of the fee.
Long-term Boundary	<p>Inclusion of the majority of the privately held Crockett Lake properties supports the publicly expressed desire to protect that area. Inclusion of the Keystone Harbor property (held by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) supports future recreation development as well as protection of Crockett Lake.</p> <p>Inclusion of Keystone Spit in-holdings assures property continuity, continuity of public access along the spit, and additional property suitable for limited recreation related development.</p> <p>Inclusion of the Camp Casey properties assures protection for historic structures (old officers quarters from the period of significance of the fort) and an opportunity to expand camping and provide a buffer to the Naas NAP.</p> <p>Inclusion of the Naas NAP (Whidbey Camano Land Trust / DNR property) assures future conservation ownership of this important property.</p>

EBEY'S LANDING – Natural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Protection of natural plant and animal communities	Classifying as resource recreation places the emphasis on protecting natural resources while allowing a restricted suit of recreational opportunity and a very limited development opportunity. A site management plan will be developed to address ways to manage human impacts to sensitive areas like bluff faces and to direct appropriate educational signing.
Preservation of beach ecology	The site management plan will address impacts to tidelands and shorelands and identify opportunities to educate the public about site stewardship.
Weed control	As part of the site management plan, an integrated pest management plan will be developed to address noxious weed control. Existing partnerships with the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy of Washington will continue with the goal of eradication of noxious weeds from the site

EBEY'S LANDING – Cultural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Protect cultural landscape	Resource recreation land classification affords a high degree of protection by restricting development that would be not in keeping with the larger (Ebey's Prairie) cultural landscape. Additionally, many recreation activities, that some may deem incompatible with the

	cultural landscape, will be screened via a public process and Agency evaluation prior to being permitted.
Interpretation of local history and historic structures	Staff will work with the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve Trust Board and the National Park Service to identify opportunities to collaborate and develop site specific and area interpretive opportunities

EBEY'S LANDING – Recreational Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Paragliding, compatibility with neighbors and visitors: Significant concerns over the use of Ebey's Landing as a paragliding site have been raised including impacts to natural resources, visitor experience, and compatibility with the cultural landscape of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve	Approval of paragliding as a recreational activity is controlled by WAC 352-32-130. Should the paragliding community wish to re-establish this activity at Ebey's landing staff will conduct a public process, to include all interested stakeholders in the evaluation of the applicability of this activity and review the request under SEPA. Should paragliding be approved a management plan would be developed to cover this activity and would include any restrictions dictated by the stakeholders as developed in the public process.
Radio controlled model glider flying	This previously approved activity would be allowed to continue. Ebey's landing will be included in the management plan for R/C glider flying developed for Fort Casey State Park.
Public use	Certain public uses normally allowed within Resource Recreation land class will not be considered for inclusion at this site. These uses deemed not compatible with the site are: all forms of camping, equestrian and mountain bike on and off trail use, and wood debris collection. Future development will be mindful of the public support of limited facilities at Ebey's Landing. Staff will work with Island County Public Works to try and find a solution to the roadside parking issues.
Trail use and development	Strong support exists for trails connecting Ebey's Landing to both Fort Casey and Fort Ebey. Staff will work with Island County, The Nature Conservancy of

	Washington, NPS, and the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve Trust Board to explore trail network opportunities in the area. As mentioned above, equestrian and mountain bike use will not be considered at Ebey's Landing because of the site constraints.

FORT EBHEY STATE PARK – Natural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Protection of natural plant and animal communities	Emphasize management of the park to protect natural resource values while accommodating public recreation. To do this we will classify high quality forest stands as natural. In order to protect critical areas we will classify bluffs and beaches as natural, including the top edge of the bluff to help reduce erosion producing activities. To support recreation while still protecting natural resources classify most undeveloped land as resource recreation.
Protection of Lake Pondilla	Land around Lake Pondilla is classified primarily as natural with a small portion of resource recreation to accommodate an existing recreational facility. Existing campsites at Lake Pondilla will be removed.

FORT EBHEY STATE PARK – Cultural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Protection of existing cultural resources	Area immediately around the WWII gun emplacement are classified as heritage
Interpretation of cultural resources	An interpretive plan is currently in place. Staff will expand this interpretive plan and institute actions to improve cultural resource interpretation at the park

FORT EBHEY STATE PARK – Recreational Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Natural resource interpretation	The existing interpretive plan will be reviewed and revised and actions initiated to improve interpretation at the site.
Boundary and trespass	Staff will attempt to secure funding for

	boundary surveys and marking. A sign plan will be developed to advise visitors of property ownership and warn against trespass.
Recreational development - general	Areas already developed are classified recreation. There is additional property classified as recreation to accommodate future expansion of camping opportunity. These expansion areas are primarily second growth forest stands in areas previously cleared by the military for the fort.
Expansion of camping opportunity	Recreation designation is provided to allow limited expansion of camping opportunity. Camping development is intended to occur back from the bluff in order to provide protection to this sensitive and potentially geologically active area.
Trail use, development	Much of the park is classified as resource recreation to accommodate the large existing trail network. A corridor of resource recreation long-term boundary classification is identified as desirable to facilitate an upland connection between Fort Ebey State Park and the bluff trail from Ebey's Landing. A public process will be initiated to develop a trail plan. This plan should result in accurate maps, identification of any future opportunities, designated uses, trail construction and maintenance standards, and full coordination with the Island County Trail Plan i.e. connectivity to the Island County Kettles property. All user types will be considered during plan development.
Maintain existing recreational opportunities	Land classification for Fort Ebey does not change current recreational opportunity with the exception of the removal of camp sites from the shores of Lake Pondilla.

FORT EBEY STATE PARK – Long-term Boundary	
Issue	Management Approach
Long-term boundary	Two areas of high quality forest are identified as desirable within the long-term boundary. These are located on the northeast corner of the park and provide

	<p>high quality forest for ecosystem function preservation, viewshed preservation for highway 20 (state scenic highway corridor), and an opportunity for trail connectivity.</p> <p>The Island County property known as “The Kettles” and the Island County property used as a gravel storage area are included to protect recreational opportunities should Island County decide to divest themselves of this property.</p> <p>A trail corridor designated as resource recreation is indicated to facilitate trail connection between Fort Ebey State Park and Ebey’s Landing State Park.</p>
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JOSEPH WHIDBEY STATE PARK – Natural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Protection of natural plant and animal communities	Sensitive areas are classified as resource recreation. Existing shoreline/wetland protection laws afford additional layers of protection. Any new trails should be directed around sensitive areas.

JOSEPH WHIDBEY STATE PARK – Recreational Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Recreational development	Upland area is classified recreation in order to afford opportunity for limited expansion of recreational opportunities. Park staff will develop a management plan for this park.
Boundary	A sign plan will be included in the management plan for the site to direct staff to sign park boundaries.
Trail use and development	As part of the Fort Ebey trail planning process a sub-plan will be developed for Joseph Whidbey.
Administration and enforcement	The site management plan will provide direction to staff to address enforcement issues and frequency of site visitation. Future consideration will be given to locating a ranger residence at Joseph Whidbey.

JOSEPH WHIDBEY STATE PARK – Long-term Boundary	
Issue	Management Approach
Long-term Boundary	Long-term boundary land classification positions Joseph Whidbey to be able to take advantage of land disposals that may occur as part of administrative changes at Naval Air Station Whidbey.

Other Issues and Initiatives	
Issue	Management Approach
Protection and Recovery of Golden Paintbrush	State Parks is part of a cooperative agreement between, TNC (The Nature Conservancy of Washington), and the National Park Service. These parties are working to restore Golden Paintbrush at Fort Casey State Park and several other sites. Parks has significantly increased the population at Fort Casey over the past several years and will work to achieve full recovery of the species at this site. A site specific recovery plan for Fort Casey will be developed by June of 2007.
Environmental Clean-up - Creosote	Staff have been working with DNR to remove creosote and pressure treated wood debris from the beaches of Central Whidbey. As of 6/1/06 treated materials have been removed from the east end of Keystone Spit all the way to Peregos Lagoon (6 miles appx). Plans are being finalized (as of 9/06) to do the stretch from Peregos to the north Boundary of Fort Ebey State Park.
Noxious Weed Control	State Parks has entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service and Island County to work on eradication of Poison Hemlock from Ebey's Landing
2 nd Century Planning Team	Fort Casey State Park has been designated as a Model Stewardship Park for State Parks. A planning team has been engaged to assist this park in becoming a standard bearer for management of natural, cultural and recreational resources. Efforts are underway to recreate several historic

	structures within the fort and to develop state of the art interpretive opportunities that tell the story of the coastal fortifications. The park will act as an incubator for ideas supporting stewardship and sustainability within the agency. This is a collaborative effort engaging a wide range of partners.
Keystone Ferry	State Parks is working with the Department of Transportation to be sure that any changes to the Keystone Harbor or relocation of the ferry terminal to other sites on Keystone Spit are adequately reviewed for impacts to recreation and resources at Fort Casey State Park and an appropriate mitigation plan is established.
Issues for Future Consideration	
Cost saving ideas like reducing mowing	Traffic circulation
Funding strategies for the lighthouse	Historic building reconstruction
Trail design and maintenance	

SECTION 6: OTHER PARK PLANS

Previously prepared plans provide additional guidance for the management of specific resources or activities in a park. Examples of these types of plans include threatened or endangered species management plans, cultural resource management plans, and trail use and development plans. Park master plans are generally oriented toward capital facilities development, but also commonly provide policy direction. The relationship between this plan, other existing plans, and recommended future plans should be seen as iterative. As new information is derived from more detailed resource-specific planning, existing plans should be reviewed and modified to reflect changed circumstances. No single plan should be vested with ultimate authority, but rather, the ongoing process of creating new plans and revising existing plans should be seen as forming an increasingly comprehensive base of policy direction. The role of this document is to serve as an 'umbrella' under which all park-related plans are referenced. A listing and location of existing plans prepared for Central Whidbey area State Parks is included in Appendix E: List of plans for Central Whidbey area State Parks. The Glossary in Appendix F provides expanded definitions of terms used throughout this document.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A: WASHINGTON STATE PARKS LAND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Washington Administrative Code Establishing 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	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>

**Land Classification Management Guidelines
Resource Recreation Areas**

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
<p>Washington State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium- and low-intensity recreational use.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>

**Land Classification Management Guidelines
Natural Areas**

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Natural Areas	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area</u> 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.</p>

**Land Classification Management Guidelines
Heritage Areas**

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Heritage Areas	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Area</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Area</u> 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.</p>

Land Classification Management Guidelines

Natural Forest Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
<p>Washington State Parks Natural Forest Areas</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> 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 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 □ Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> 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.</p>

**Land Classification Management Guidelines
Natural Area Preserves**

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Natural Area Preserves	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> development shall be limited to access facilities for permitted activities and structures to inhibit general public access. No other facilities or structures are permitted.</p>

Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Facilities

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Amphitheater	P	C	C	N	N
Archery/Target Range	C	C	N	N	N
Camping - Std and Util	P	N	N	N	N
Camping – Primitive	P	P	C	N	N
Camping - Adirondack	P	C	N	N	N
Camping - Horse-oriented	C	C	N	N	N
Camping - Water Trail	P	P	C	N	N
Children's Play Area	P	C	C	N	N
Day Use Picnic – Tables	P	P	C	N	N
Day Use Picnic - Group Shelter	P	N	C	N	N
Day Use Lodges/Centers	P	N	C	N	N
Environmental Learning Centers	C	N	C	N	N
Equestrian Facilities	C	C	C	N	N
Fields - Informal Play/Mowed	P	C	C	N	N
Indoor Accommodations	P	N	C	N	N
Interpretive - Centers	P	N	P	N	N
Interpretive – Kiosks	P	P	P	C	N
Interpretive Trail	P	P	P	P	C
Interpretive – Signs	P	P	P	P	C
Parking – Vehicles	P	P	C	N	N
Roads	P	P	C	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	P	N	C	N	N
Sanitary: Composting/Vault	P	P	C	C	N
Sports Fields	C	N	N	N	N
Skiing - Alpine Facilities	C	C	N	N	N
Swimming Facilities	P	N	C	N	N
Trails – Hiking	P	P	P	P	C
Trails - Mountain Biking	P	C	C	N**	N
Trails – Equestrian	C	C	C	N**	N
Trails - Nordic Track Skiing	P	P	C	N**	N
Trails - C-C skiing	P	P	P	P	C
Trails – Snowmobile	P	C	C	N**	N
Trails - Paved non-motor	P	C	C	C	N
Water: Docks/Piers ≥ 10 boats	P	N	C	N	N
Water: Docks/Piers - < 10 boats	P	P	C	C	N
Water: Launch Ramps	P	C	N	N	N
Water: Hand Launch Areas	P	P	C	C	N
Water: Mooring Buoys	P	P	C	C	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

* The Park and Recreation Commission as part of a management plan must specifically approve all uses in a Natural Area Preserve.

**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	C	C	C	N	N
Filming/Special Events	P	P	P	C	N
Grazing	C	C	C	N	N
Harvesting - Edible Fruiting Bodies	P	P	P	P	N
Harvesting - Mushrooms	P	P	P	P	N
Harvesting – Shellfish	P	P	P	P	N
Harvesting – Fish	P	P	P	P	N
Harvesting - Algae, etc.	P	P	P	P	N
Haying	P	P	P	N	N
Metal Detecting	P	P	C	N	N
Orienteering	P	P	C	N	N
Ocean Beach Driving	P	C	N	N	N
Off-Trail: Equestrian	C	C	C	N	N
Off-Trail: Hiking	P	P	P	P	N
Off-trail biking	C	C	C	N	N
Paragliding	P	P	C	N	N
Technical Rock Climbing	P	P	C	C	N

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

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

* The Park and Recreation Commission as part of a management plan must specifically approve all uses in a Natural Area Preserve.

****Relocation of existing trails into a natural or natural forest area is permitted**

APPENDIX B: CAMP PROJECT PLANNING PRINCIPALS

The seven basic principles used in the CAMP Project to ensure the long-term value of the end product to both the agency and the public stakeholders:

- 1) **Park management plans use a statewide format:** For efficiency and consistency among park management plans, State Parks has standardized management plans to include information that is applicable throughout the agency and a standard format for presenting park-specific information.
- 2) **Members of the public participate in development of park management plans.** Directly involving park stakeholders in producing and revising plans fosters better understanding of how their particular interests fit into the larger resource management context, while also giving them a stake in the plan's success. Public constituencies should be encouraged to participate in management planning both during the initial CAMP planning process and thereafter during annual open house meetings at the park.
- 3) **Park managers and park staff play an integral role in producing and revising park management plans.** Participation by park staff in planning is an essential part of ensuring that staff responsible for implementing this plan has a vested interest in making it succeed.
- 4) **Park management plans are the primary documents for communicating park resource management information.** Plans should be written to communicate clearly and concisely stewardship-related issues -- and the steps the agency should take to resolve them -- to the rest of the agency and to the public.
- 5) **Key administrative functions are incorporated into the park management planning process.** To ensure that park management plans are kept up to date, a process for proposing and justifying park capital and operating program requests has been incorporated into the management planning process.
- 6) **The Director approves park management plans.** Park management planning is an on-going process and plans should never be considered finished. Plans should however be considered "mature", ready to be published, and acted upon when they have been reviewed by the agency and approved by the Director or his/her designee.
- 7) **The review and approval process for future plan revisions will remain flexible.** After initial park management plans have been approved subsequent environmental, social, and political changes will necessitate that plans be revised. To ensure that revisions don't become mired in lengthy full agency review, a variable level approval process should be used. Staff at each level of

the agency – park, region, division, and directorate -- must make a critical judgement as to whether a proposed plan revision requires review and approval at the next higher level.

**APPENDIX C: LISTING OF CENTRAL WHIDBEY AREA PARKS RESOURCE INVENTORIES
AND OTHER DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION**



Under Construction! Listing of resource inventories and other descriptive documents will be expanded as information is gathered.

Title	Author	Date	Location
Ebey's Landing Plant List	WNPS (Washington Native Plant Society)	2000	Park Office Region Office
A Rare Plant Survey of Fort Casey, Fort Ebey, Horsethief Lake, Dalles Mountain Ranch State Park	Beck and Arnett	2003	Olympia – Stewardship Region Office
Special Plants, Plant Communities, and Native Wetlands Fort Casey and Ebey's Landing	Natural Heritage Program	1994	Park Office Region Office
Fort Ebey State Park Site Conservation Assessment	Chris Chappell (DNR-NHP)	2002	Park Office Region Office
Washington State Parks Natural Forest Inventory	Chris Chappell (DNR-NHP)	1993	Park Office Region Office
Fort Casey State Park Site Conservation Assessment	Chris Chappell (DNR-NHP)	2002	Park Office Region Office
Held in Trust	Lauren McCroskey (DAHP)	2000	Region Office

Coast Defense Component WSP Historic Properties Condition Assessment Vol.2	Grulich, Larsen, and Hansen	1997	Park Office Region Office Olympia – Hist. Pres.
Biotic Inventory and Recommendations for Long- term Monitoring at Perego’s Lagoon, Whidbey Island	Megan N. Dethier (UW Friday Harbor Labs)	2003	Region Office
Historic Facilities Assessments	Grulich Architecture	1999	Park Office Region Office
Historic Structures Report: Admiralty Head Lighthouse	David Hansen	2006	Park Office Region Office

APPENDIX D: DETAILED PARK POLICY DIRECTION AND LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Introduction

Park managers make day-to-day management decisions within a complex and multi-layered context of existing rules and regulations. In some cases the context is restrictive and identifies what a manager must or must not do. In other cases the context is permissive and identifies a range of possibilities that the manager may explore or consider. In both situations, knowledge of the context is essential to sound and legal park management.

This section explains a park's legal and policy context within two broad categories.

- 1) **Governmental Requirements and Policies:** federal, state and local jurisdictional rules, regulations, and policies guiding park management and operation.
- 2) **Land Ownership and Management Obligations:** an inventory of park properties as well as licenses, easements, permits, and other rights granted by or to State Parks that affect operation of the park or the legal status of ownership.

Governmental Requirements and Policies

A Washington State park operates within a framework of laws, rules, regulations, and policies that govern jurisdictional behavior. Interpretation of, and compliance with, government rules and policies requires sound and thoughtful judgment. A brief description is provided below of the different levels and types of legal and administrative direction with which a park manager should be familiar before taking action.

The Federal Level

The United States Constitution: This document is the fundamental law of the nation. All actions must be consistent with this document. Its evolving interpretation continues to have a substantial impact on all other law and governmental action. Federal constitutional provisions clearly affecting park management include provisions guaranteeing equal protection through non-discrimination in employment practices and provisions for the right of public assembly.

Federal Statutes (U.S. Code): These are federal laws passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by the President (or by congressional override). Many federal statutes involve the performance of federal government agencies, but some involve laws that directly affect all organizations and individuals. Examples of federal statutes affecting State Parks include the Federal Minimum Wage Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Historic Preservation Act

Federal Administrative Rules (Code of Federal Regulations): These are rules developed by the executive arm of the federal government, principally federal agencies, to implement laws passed by Congress. When passing statutes, Congress often directs federal agencies to develop and enforce rules and procedures to ensure legal goals are accomplished. For example, the United States Department of Labor enforces the minimum wage law; the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (and other agencies) oversee the Endangered Species Act; and the National Park Service implements the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as Amended).

Federal Executive Orders and Declarations (Presidential Orders): The President of the United States may issue directives to staff and/or federal agencies under the implicit authority of the presidential office or delegated congressional authority. A presidential declaration of national disaster is one example of such a decision.

The State Level

Washington State Constitution: This is the fundamental law of the state. All state and local law must be consistent with this document. In addition to formulating the structure for state and local government, it contains several important provisions that affect operations of many state parks. For example, its “police power” provision expressly allows for development and enforcement of state laws, including authority for rangers to enforce state laws in parks.

State Laws (Revised Code of Washington - RCW): These are laws generally adopted by the Washington State Legislature and signed by the Governor (or by legislative override). However, laws may also be adopted through the initiative or referendum processes. They enable and govern formation and operation of state agencies and define the authority of county, city and special purpose local governments. An example of state law is Chapter 79A.05 RCW, which forms the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and specifies the composition, powers, and duties of the agency.

State Administrative Rules (Washington Administrative Code - WAC): These are rules and regulations developed by state agencies at the direction of the legislature, governing administration of programs for which the legislature has appropriated funds. Most WACs approved by the State Parks and Recreation Commission are contained in Title 352 WAC. For example, Chapter 352-16 WAC governs the naming of state parks and establishes the agency’s land classification system.

State Executive Authority (Executive Order): These are rules issued directly by the governor that must be followed by all state agencies. The Office of the Governor has limited constitutional authority to direct the work of state agencies not under gubernatorial control, including the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. However, the legislature has delegated specific authority to the governor

to issue certain executive orders. An example of such an order is a state declaration of emergency.

State Parks and Recreation Commission Policies (Commission Policy): These are decisions by the Commission that expand on and clarify WACs. Commission policies convey directions to the agency but don't require as complex a codification process as WACs. Such policies may involve one park, a collection of parks, or the whole system. Examples of commission policies include the agency's Non-motorized Trails Policy and Cultural Resource Management Policy.

Agency Policies and Procedures: These are specific policies subject to approval by the Director and Deputy Director. An example is Policy 15-9, which establishes a policy for receiving citizen input in the decision-making process of State Parks.

Agency Directives: These clarify and direct ongoing operational activity of the agency. Items that direct the activities of all agency employees (e.g., purchasing manual, travel manual) are to be released in the form of an agency directive. All agency directives are subject to approval by the Deputy Director.

To convey policy considerations which involve more than one organizational division, assistant directors use *Memoranda of Understanding*.

To bridge the gap between agency policies and actions carried out by agency staff, an *Agency Procedure Manual* has been developed. The *Agency Procedure Manual* translates the *what* should be done to the *how* to do it and *who* will do it.

The Local Governmental Level

Local governments are political subdivisions of state government. State government allows for creation of local governments to promote democratic access to public decision making and to accomplish certain cost efficiencies. The organization and authority of local governments varies widely. General Purpose Local Governments include counties, cities, and towns. These governments have wide powers to regulate land and shoreline use and development, provide police and fire protection, and build and maintain roads. Special Purpose Local Governments provide services such as public utilities, ports, libraries, hospitals, fire suppression, and emergency services.

General Purpose Local Government Ordinances: These are laws that generally involve the regulation of construction and land use. Examples include zoning, development, health, building and fire codes.

General Purpose Local Government Policies: These are usually found in documents that commonly form the policy basis for regulation of construction and land use. Examples include comprehensive plans and shoreline master programs (policy portion).

Special Purpose Local Government Regulations: These include rules and fees relating to the provision of certain services. For example, if a state park is within the boundaries of a public sewer district, that district may require certain standards for designing new hook up locations, or charge certain fees.

The Park Level

Park Master Plan: While there are usually no laws enacted for specific parks, there are often park-level policies that provide direction for day-to-day management and operation. The primary collection of park-specific policies and management objectives is contained in the park master plan. The purpose of master planning is to involve park stakeholders in a process to determine long-range development, stewardship, and other general management objectives. If completed, the park master plan is the companion document to the park's management plan and serves as the primary information source for developing capital budget proposals.

Park Land Classifications: If a master plan has not been completed for the park, Commission policy direction is primarily determined by park land classifications and corresponding management guidelines outlined in the agency's land classification system (WAC Chapter 352-16 Naming of Parks and Land Classification System). A map of park land classifications can be found in the park's management plan. A detailed description of the agency's land classification system is included in Appendix B: Washington State Parks Land Classification System.

Park Policies: In parks where master plans have not yet been developed or where specific issues have not been adequately addressed by a developed master plan or the land classification system, park policies may still be developed. These policies are only developed where clear management discretion is granted or otherwise indicated by law or other policy conveyances or where management issues are not adequately addressed by law or policy. Park policies are generally developed by the park manager and approved by the region manager.

Land Ownership and Management Obligations

In addition to specific regulations and policies developed by State Parks to apply to itself and those developed by other governments that may apply to specific state park areas, other legal obligations and agreements have been formalized into legally binding documents.

Property Deeds: Park properties are acquired in many different ways, including donations from private individuals, as surplus from other government agencies, in trade with other public and private organizations, or purchased outright. Many donations and government surplus acquisitions include restrictions or retained property rights that may limit what State Parks may do with a particular property. Restrictions often limit the use of acquired properties to "state park purposes" or "public park purposes." Retained rights vary widely. Sellers may choose to retain the right to access water sources or

extract minerals or timber sometime in the future. In some cases, property ownership may even revert back to the seller if certain obligations are not met. Descriptions of restrictions and retained rights from individual property transfers can be referenced in the property deeds and other transfer instruments on file at State Parks Headquarters.

Leases, Easements, Licenses, Permits, Contracts and Agreements: State Parks often enters into agreements with other public and private organizations and individuals on behalf of a park. These agreements generally help the park to fulfill its recreational or stewardship objectives while providing a service or benefit to the other party. Agreements of this type are legally binding, and, as a result, form a critical element of a park's legal and policy context.

APPENDIX E: LIST OF PLANS FOR CENTRAL WHIDBEY AREA



Under Construction! List of all known plans for the Central Whidbey State Park Area to be inserted here.

Title	Date	Approved by	Location
Coast Defense Resources Management Plan	1989	Director	Park and Region Offices
Coast Defense Parks Interpretive Plan	2003	Historic Preservation Officer, Interpretive Manager	Park and Region Offices; N drive
Management Plan for Golden Paintbrush	2007	Olympia Stewardship, Regional Steward	Park and Region Offices
Park Interpretive Plan	2003		Park and Region Offices
Park Law Enforcement Plan	2003	Region Manager Chief of Visitor Protection and Law Enforcement	Park and Region Offices Olympia

APPENDIX F: GLOSSARY

Agency Policy/Procedure - One-time statement of administrative rules or procedures that apply to more than one park, e.g., Commission Policy, Administrative Policy/Procedure, Directive, Memorandum of Understanding, etc. (adopted by various levels of the agency).

Agency Program - Response to an issue identified in all or most parks that requires on-going cooperation of various agency staff, other agencies, and/or members of the public that is coordinated and implemented at the headquarters level. Examples include the following agency-level programs: Resource Stewardship, Lands, Environmental, Planning, Engineering, Contracts/Concessions, Interpretation, Law Enforcement, ELC, WCC, Volunteer, Boating, Winter Recreation, Central Reservations, Park Fees, Public Affairs, etc.

Capital Agency Staff Project - Proposal for a large-scale capital project (more than approximately \$20,000) in response to an issue. Examples include request for preparation of a park master plan, major facility renovation, and acquisition of in-holdings/additional property (may include additional staff as an “operating impact”).

Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) - Response to an issue that requires on-going monitoring and adaptive management of a specific natural, cultural, or recreational resource. The LAC system monitors specific resource attributes that are indicative of the overall condition of a resource at issue and sets standards beyond which the condition of a resource is no longer acceptable. Should the condition of a resource exceed a pre-determined standard, specific management actions are prescribed in an effort to improve the condition to within the acceptable range.

Other Park Plans - Subordinate plans developed to express, in greater detail, management of specific park resources, administration, or facility development (e.g., Bald Eagle management plans, business plans, and site plans).

Park Land Classification - Zoning that sets the desired intensity and extent of recreational uses and facilities for specific areas within a park (adopted by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission).

Park Master Plan - Plan that sets policy base and guides long-term capital development of a park (adopted by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission).

Park Policy - One-time statement of a rule in response to an issue that either regulates public activities or guides future management activities.

Park Program - Response to an issue that requires on-going cooperation of various agency staff, other agencies, and/or members of the public that is coordinated and implemented at the park level. Examples include wildfire prevention/suppression,

watershed management, marine resource management, cultural resource management, visitor safety/law enforcement, volunteers, court probation workers, etc.

Park Staffing Plan - Response to an issue that requires changes to the allocation of staff time or areas of staff responsibility. Additional staff allocation is *usually* requested as part of “operating impacts” associated with capital projects, property acquisition, or in response to legal mandates.

Planned Maintenance Project - Proposal for a maintenance project (less than approximately \$20,000) or an agency staff project in response to an issue. Examples include small renovation projects, regularly scheduled facilities maintenance, requests for hazard tree removal, and requests for assistance in preparation of park-level plans.

RCW (Revised Code of Washington) - Laws generally adopted by the Washington State Legislature and signed by the Governor (or by legislative override). However, laws may also be adopted through the initiative or referendum processes. They enable and govern formation and operation of state agencies and define the authority of county, city and special purpose local governments.

Regional Program - Response to an issue identified in several parks that requires on-going cooperation of various agency staff, other agencies, and/or members of the public that is coordinated and implemented at the region level (e.g., Eastern Region Noxious Weed Control Program).

WAC (Washington Administrative Code) - Rules and regulations developed by state agencies at the direction of the legislature, governing administration of programs for which the legislature has appropriated funds. Most WACs approved by the State Parks and Recreation Commission are codified in Title 352 WAC.

Appendix G CAMP Comments

Fort Casey CAMP Comments by Category Includes Keystone Spit

Recreation Issues:

- Preserve R/C model slope soaring site at both Ft. Casey and Ebey's Landing and available all year long. Winter months can offer some of the best winds
- Build new hiking/biking trail around Crockett Lake
- Continue to allow kite flying
- Build Hiking/biking trail to connect Ebey Landing SP to Fort Casey SP
- Connect Fort Casey & Ebey's landing with trail past "Trees of Mystery ancient douglas firs. Do not develop northern 30 acres of Camp Casey ! existing trail is priceless
- Buy land surrounding Crockett Lake and protect as a natural area for wildlife. Build bird viewing areas
- Save \$ by reducing mowing a lot. (none on batteries on left side entry road)
- Day use parking fees must be zero for lighthouse visitors
- Consider modest use fees
- No fee park access to Admiralty Head Lighthouse
- Reconstruct Admiralty Head Lighthouse Mule Barn for Interpretive learning center (Whidbey Island)
- Reconstruct Mule Barn and fire Control
- Unlimited car access (no fee) to Admiralty Head Lighthouse
- Redo the displays in Admiralty lighthouse
- Issue - Crockett Lake This should be a wildlife refuge to keep hunting out N*
- Keystone Spit: pull out most of the roads. No Camping. Designate as Natural or Heritage. Tell DOT to !!!! off & fix the existing ferry landing. Aquire(sic) inholdings
- Make a trail from Fort Ebey to Fort Casey
- Issue - walking trail around Crockett Lake

Keystone:

- Buy out home owners and remove all structures manage as wild area
- Are the existing homes playing any part in your process
- Keep uses primitive, non-motorized. Place to fish walk & picnic. Limit all development to minimum
- Build 500 unit campground
- Keystone spit must be left as a natural area. NO campgrounds. NO Development. Close half the roads. Passive recreation only
- Buy a beach trail in front of houses at Keystone Spit
- Aquire(sic) properties on Keystone Spit as they become available -- built a interpretive center- plant diversity birds of Crockett Lake

- **Cultural Resource Issues:**

- Refurbishing all fire control buildings & bringing batteries to original historic condition. Battery Turman
- Preserve the cultural heritage as the highest priority. That is what makes Casey special
- Don't add more camping sites 800,000 visitors/year is already taking its toll on the natural resources
- Save \$ by reducing mowing a lot. (none on batteries on left side entry road)
- Keep access to admiralty head lighthouse free --- reroute road to bypass LH's
- Consider modest use fees
- Fund to the refurbishing of Admiralty Head Lighthouse display
- Historic structures need to be preserved and well maintained
- No fee park access to Admiralty Head Lighthouse
- Reconstruct Admiralty Head Lighthouse Mule Barn for Interpretive learning center (Whidbey Island)
- Reconstruct Mule Barn and fire Control
- Unlimited car access (no fee) to Admiralty Head Lighthouse
- Redo the displays in Admiralty lighthouse

- Keystone:

- Keystone Spit: pull out most of the roads. No Camping. Designate as Natural or Heritage. Tell DOT to !!!! off & fix the existing ferry landing. Acquire(sic) inholdings
- Issue- spending money on a super ferry for Keystone- Ferry loads are so light during the winter this seems unnecessary. I think transportation \$s could be better spent elsewhere. Will number of ferry runs be cut with a larger ferry?

- Natural Resource Issues:

- Expand boundary to include all of Crockett Lake -- add area being surplussed by SPU, including Bocker Reserve - make natural area preserve
- Preserve R/C model slope soaring site at both Ft. Casey and Ebey's Landing and available all year long. Winter months can offer some of the best winds
- Build new hiking/biking trail around Crockett Lake
- Connect Fort Casey & Ebey's landing with trail past "Trees of Mystery ancient Douglas firs. Do not develop northern 30 acres of Camp Casey ! existing trail is priceless
- Buy land surrounding Crockett Lake and protect as a natural area for wildlife. Build bird viewing areas

- Be sure the natural health of the park takes higher priority than recreation
- Preserve the cultural heritage as the highest priority. That is what makes Casey special Don't add more camping sites 800,000 visitors/year is already taking its toll on the natural resources
- Planning needs to occur to avoid pedestrian impacts to castilleja levisecta -- the driving motive for areas outside of the batteries should be conservation of castilleja levisecta, this requires restoration and expansion of the currently reduced population. Designation of these areas should be as natural or Heritage. --- see comment Fort Ebey SP ; re no expansion of developed area footprint
- Preserve, protect, enhance golden paintbrush population
- Fort Casey State Park need to focus more on protecting Castilleja levisecta. Some good work is being done but the site is too accessible to the public

Keystone:

- Issue - Crockett Lake This should be a wildlife refuge to keep hunting out
- Keystone Spit: pull out most of the roads. No Camping. Designate as Natural or Heritage. Tell DOT to !!!! off & fix the existing ferry landing. Acquire(sic) inholdings
- Keystone spit must be left as a natural area. NO campgrounds. NO Development. Close half the roads. Passive recreation on
- Acquire(sic) properties on Keystone Spit as they become available -- built a interpretive center- plant diversity birds of Crockett Lake
- Buy out home owners and remove all structures manage as wild area

Ebey's Landing Camp Comments by Category

Recreation:

- Remove steps in trail & re-grade as necessary (old railroad ties)
- Information regarding historical structures
- Pet waste bags or signs encouraging pet owners to be responsible
- Create a rest/shelter area in the trees on the bluff over Peregus Lake Dangerous parking along Hill Rd. Enforce Law (sunny summer Sundays beside it is visually offensive -- move parking to top of bluff -- mark boundaries of park so people know where they are
- Limit recreational uses at Ebey's landing to those compatible with historic scene (e.g. no hot air balloons, no parasails, no hang gliders, no radio - airplanes no catapults)
- Hang-gliding is NOT appropriate use on our fragile coastal bluffs. Please end the allowance of Hang-gliding
- Trail corridor between Fort Ebey and Ebey's Landing should be completed
- Monitoring of park lands on an ongoing basis is needed

- Need an interpretive panel explaining importance of not removing wood from beaches
- Paragliding should not be allowed at Ebey's landing
- Ebey's Landing needs supervision on site
- How do we stop RV's parking along beach @ Ebey's Landing (without posting signs every 5 feet)
- Don't "develop" Ebey's Landing - just manage & maintain
- Provide resources & personnel to protect site from abuse by visitors -- theft of drift wood, fires on beach, illegal parking & camping
- Hill Rd. should either be made 1 way from South to north or stubbed off between cathedral Dr. & Roundy's and used as walking trail
- Hill Rd. needs constraints to prevent roadside parking beyond the beach. Posts? Rocks?
- Stop fireworks--- enforce the law--- stop nighttime illegal drug and booze at landing -- solve the murder of Ronald Fry
- Make environmental Ed a prerequisite to use Ebey's landing. Show video, answer quiz - issue "Friend of Environment " pass good for limited time --- investing in 30 min. video is small cost for use of site. Charge enough to finance production/administration/ enforcement.
- Get the weddings out of the park - visibly obtrusive keep helicopters off Ebey's Landing. Keep the people near their homes by providing opportunities near them.
- Close Hill road at nights -- close Hill Rd make it a trail -- make it one way stop mowing hill road
- Develop additional parking at Ebey's Landing or develop shuttle service from Coupeville or Fort Casey
- Provide drinking water source at Ebey's Landing
- No motorized or mechanized uses or para-sports ----- limit parking area to not overload bluff trail
- Control dogs off leash ---- control poison hemlock infestation ----- improve or delete roadside parking
- The bluff at Ebey's landing should be protected from uninformed people crossing it. In other words, people need to stay on trails
- No increased parking or overflow parking areas
- No fireworks Due to the presence of rare plants & communities hang gliding should not be allowed---- designation should be as natural -----replace the toilet with a composting toilet
- Never allow paragliding
- Sanction land use for paragliding at Ebey's Landing
- No trail system interlinking parks - use the beach
- No fire pits
- No added development at Ebey's Landing Beach such as shelters or camps
- I would like paragliding to be allowed in the park. It is very hard to find sites that are suitable for this activity. Most of it would take place on off season.

- Keep trail access to bluff trail free

Natural Resources:

- Control/eliminate Canada thistles
- Hang-gliding is NOT appropriate use on our fragile coastal bluffs. Please end the allowance of Hang-gliding
- Monitoring of park lands on an ongoing basis is needed
- Need an interpretive panel explaining importance of not removing wood from beaches
- Control the poison hemlock on the bluff
- Protect the wild & rare flora
- Provide resources & personnel to protect site from abuse by visitors -- theft of drift wood, fires on beach, illegal parking & camping
- Control dogs off leash ---- control poison hemlock infestation ----- improve or delete roadside parking
- The bluff at Ebey's landing should be protected from uninformed people crossing it. In other words, people need to stay on trails
- No fireworks Due to the presence of rare plants & communities hang gliding should not be allowed---- designation should be as natural -----replace the toilet with a composting toilet
- Solve this one: Island Co. Road Dept. mows the native plants down to the roots along Hill Rd. which encourages the weeds & kills the natives

Cultural Resources:

- Information regarding historical structures

Fort Ebey Camp Comments by Category Includes Joseph Whidbey

Recreation:

- Build hike/bike trail to connect Fort Ebey SP with Ebey Landing SP
- Continue to allow paragliding
- Build a covered picnic shelter @day-use area. Install rinse shower @ beach parking lot
- Preserve R/C model slope soaring site at gun mount area cliff and keep available all your zones

- Does Fort Ebey SP currently fill all campsites during camping season? If you build more sites will they be filled? Where will these sites be? Will they destroy any forest, trees or trails?
- Does the group camp get filled regularly? What if you put in a few separate sites where the group camp is? & filled them every weekend? Would that make more economic sense?
- If you make any trails "Hiker only" then also provide "biker only" trails.
- Keep all trails at Fort Ebey SP open for multi-use. Do not exclude bicycles from any trails there.
- Stop widening trails at Fort Ebey
- Do not allow motorized or mechanized uses on large Bluff area - bikes and model planes are inappropriate as this area is heavily used for passive viewing
- All of Fort Ebey SP should be classified as Recreation. That is how it is currently used.
- Designate some trails for bikes and some no bikes (no gravel on these trails)
- Keep areas close to bluff least developed Put any new campgrounds away from bluffs, more so than existing campgrounds
-
- Support mountain bike trail systems at Fort Ebey
- Move tent camping away from lake, or hide them from trail users
- My issue is trails. I hike and help maintain/create trails. I would not like the state to stop creating new trails. My area of concern is Fort Ebey State Park
- Reduce Bicycle use on trails on the bluff and around Lake Pondilla area
- Make sure trail system that keeps growing does not reduce wildlife habitat to the point there isn't enough size/volume/area to maintain populations
- Maintain multiple use at trail systems & facilities Do not overdevelop people like to just walk around & sit quietly
- Modest expansion of camping sites - to provide added revenue
- If water supply is adequate add sites here
- Over-development is the danger at this park -- maintain multiple use & quiet enjoyment . It is rare
- Trails multi use
- I would like to see the continued use of the Fort Ebey for Paragliding & Hang Gliding even with a daily/yearly permit fee -
- Add property to park to increase trail connections outside of park and provide more wildlife habitat
- Please do not widen trails - they are beginning to look like they are designed for motorized vehicles
- Obtain easement across or purchase property to the south so can link Ft Ebey and Ebey's landing
- Campsite design is really great-- large and private. Do not give in to the RV campsite mentality of stacking them in & reducing campsite size *

- Any expansion of recreational facilities should not result in expansion of the developed area footprint --- Designation should be as Heritage

Reduce bicycle use on trails

- Park pass fee
- No new campsites
- Economic feasibility should be considered during the CAMP process. Otherwise in the long run, it won't happen
- Take great care in keeping Pondilla Lake a low impact area. Many birds & other wildlife can be viewed from this area. It is a jewel of a place
- In favor of current uses - passive walking and supervised camping
- People should be able to roam the land on foot whenever possible and wherever safe
- Bike trails go everywhere and may extend onto private property (Vogel) -- need to establish clearer boundaries with some form of signage
- Joseph Whidbey:
- Build new loop trail
- Keep this area low impact -- just a great beach to enjoy, nice trail. Keep dogs from running off leash!
- Put up signs showing park limits & beginning of navy property
- Great park; keep as is but perhaps improve drainage (area floods) minimize development
- Joseph Whidbey State Park needs to remain undeveloped. There is already too much lawn encroaching on the sandy shore vegetation and too many weeds encroaching on the native plants.
- Joe whidbey sp: designate area north of lawn [i.e. fore dune and wetland system] as natural
- Keep this area minimally developed. Freshwater wetland and salt beach provide wonderful mix of bird species. Birdwatching area

Cultural Resource Issues:

- All of Fort Ebey SP should be classified as Recreation. That is how it is currently used.
- Put up some interp signage about the military bunkers
- Find old gun and install
- Any expansion of recreational facilities should not result in expansion of the developed area footprint --- Designation should be as Heritage

Natural Resource Issues:

- Continue to allow paragliding

- Build hike/bike trail to connect Fort Ebey SP with Ebey Landing SP
- Does Fort Ebey SP currently fill all campsites during camping season? If you build more sites will they be filled? Where will these sites be? Will they destroy any forest, trees or trails?
- Does the group camp get filled regularly? What if you put in a few separate sites where the group camp is? & filled them every weekend? Would that make more economic sense?
- No more impact on Pondilla Lake & bird population
- Keep all trails at Fort Ebey SP open for multi-use. Do not exclude bicycles from any trails there.
- Stop widening trails at Fort Ebey
- Designate some trails for bikes and some no bikes (no gravel on these trails)
- Keep areas close to bluff least developed Put any new campgrounds away from bluffs, more so than existing campgrounds
- Move tent camping away from lake, or hide them from trail users
My issue is trails. I hike and help maintain/create trails. I would not like the state to stop creating new trails. My area of concern is Fort Ebey State Park
- Reduce Bicycle use on trails on the bluff and around lake Pondilla area
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- Maintain multiple use at trail systems & facilities Do not overdevelop people like to just walk around & sit quietly
- Over-development is the danger at this park -- maintain multiple use & quiet enjoyment . It is rare
- Add property to park to increase trail connections outside of park and provide more wildlife habitat
- Take great care in keeping Pondilla Lake a low impact area. Many birds & other wildlife can be viewed from this area. It is a jewel of a place
- Preservation of the natural state should be high priority

Joseph Whidbey:

- Joseph Whidbey State Park needs to remain undeveloped. There is already too much lawn encroaching on the sandy shore vegetation and too many weeds encroaching on the native plants.
- Joe whidbey sp: designate area north of lawn [i.e. fore dune and wetland system] as natural
- Keep this area minimally developed. Freshwater wetland and salt beach provide wonderful mix of bird species. Birdwatching area

Email Comments Received For Central Whidbey CAMP

These comments were cut and pasted directly from the original email. Addresses and phone numbers have been deleted to protect privacy. In some cases long email strings are included with staff responses intervening so the reader can follow the discussion

that took place. In order for these long strings to make sense the reader should go to the underline break between emails and read them from bottom to top.

I will not be able to attend the CAMP Planning Workshop tonight. The reason for this note is to make a few comments in regard to accessing public resources (i.e. land) for the purpose of paragliding and or hang gliding. The intention here is to not talk about safety or the minor environmental impacts, but where the terrain of the Whidbey Island coast held in public ownership or management could support these "quiet" forms of flying.

First, I would like to remind anyone reading this note that enjoying the sports paragliding and/or hang gliding is dependent on terrain, wind direction and wind speed. All three must be present for a safe and enjoyable outing. Since the weather is not something we can control, I would like to focus on terrain in that this includes what is often referred to as a take-off area and a landing zone. In some cases, the take-off area is also the landing zone. This is particularly true for coastal dynamic soaring such as that done on Whidbey (e.g. Fort Ebey).

In the case of the CAMP project and the various coastal lands with relief (i.e. bluffs or hills adjacent to the water), I would like to point out that in addition to Fort Ebey various other sites are suitable to these "quiet" forms of flying. Areas such as those around Admiralty Head could provide the soaring enthusiast the opportunity to fly when the wind direction and strength is not suitable for flying at say, Fort Ebey. An area such as Admiralty Head could be used for soaring with little or no modification to the present landscape. This just one example of where terrain access would allow for a use of public lands that has very little or no environmental impact, requires little or no expenditure of funds and supports the intention of the Shoreline Management Act.

Please place me via email *deleted* on any distribution of the Central Whidbey CAMP Project.

What is the status or the timetable of the CAMP process. Do you think we will be able to fly at Ebey's Landing State Park this year?

When will there be another public meeting?

Since Fort Ebey's State Park, Lincoln State Park and Fields Spring State Park are approved for paragliding, is there a possibility that those sites could be disallowed by the CAMP Process?

Since Ebey's Landing belongs to the National Park Service and is managed by the State Parks would the CAMP process continue going forward at Ebey's Landing State Park?

Does the Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve or the National Park Service have any power or input into decisions made by the CAMP process concerning Ebey's Landing State Park?

There is an issue about the landing zone for paragliders in the state parks. WAC 352-32-130 states the landing zone must be no smaller than 40' X 100'. At Ebey's Landing State Park the upper level is 100' X 1716' – almost 4 Acres. At beach level of the park there is an area which is 40 X 80 which could be expanded to 40 X 100 by moving several large logs and heavy brush?

Are there other state parks that have compatibility of the land use (paragliding - recreation activity) with the physiographic features that does not have hazards to flying a paraglider? Are there are other sites on Whidbey Island that are compatible with paragliding?

Our committee and our club prefer the use the designation of RESOURCE RECREATION because paragliding is medium intensity and low intensity activity as opposed to active sports and games and large numbers of people. What do you think?

We are planning to submit a proposal relative to our desire to fly at Ebey's Landing. To whom should this proposal be addressed?

I hope that paragliding and hang-gliding might continue at these two sites. I have driven all the way from Omak to fly there. The NC folks are out of line in wanting this form of low impact use eliminated from these areas.

I've flown paragliders in many regions around the world, often in the company of raptors. The birds and foot-launched pilots co-exist well. A "local" example of this is at Cape Lookout, OR, where the eagles/eaglets do fine with a sky shared by PGs.

I am a longstanding NC member, and the organization DOES NOT represent me when it opposes foot-launched flying from our very rare coastal soaring sites.

I want to thank you for the work done by you and your staff on the CAMP process for the State Parks lands within the Ebey.s Landing National Historical Reserve. I am taking this opportunity now to share my comments on the draft proposals outlined for the various land use designations.

In this, I speak for myself and, indirectly, for my many thousands of readers. I have worked in the non-pro.t and recreation .eld for nearly 20 years, and have authored eight (8) natural history and outdoor recreation guidebooks for Washington State. I am also a contributing editor to two of the widest-selling outdoor recreation magazines in North America, and am an local newspaper columnist as well.

I place a very high value on the wonderful natural resources of our state, and praise the efforts of State Parks to preserve those resources while also allowing and promoting recreational enjoyment

of them. Protection and enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities is, after all, one of the primary functions of our state parks department.

With that in mind, I would strongly encourage the adoption of a RESOURCE RECREATION designation for Ebey.s Landing State Park, and for the area atop the bluff at Fort Ebey State Park. Indeed, I endorse all the staff

recommendations as presented during the summer, 2005, public hearings. The staff obviously worked hard to ensure all the various needs of the land and the land users were addressed and developed very rationale and comprehensive plans for the different park units.

State Parks lands must be open to recreational use whenever possible, and there is no good reason these park units should not be open to all appropriate recreational uses.

Thank you for your time and for providing the opportunity to comment on this process.

Thanks for the great work on the Ebey's Landing management plan. I, as a paraglider, hiker and history buff appreciate your efforts.

In the interest of trying to curb a bunch of unnecessary calls to you from interested paraglider pilots, I have been assigned the task of being the Northwest Paragliding Club's lead person on this issue. I appreciate your time yesterday on the phone. I'd like to ask that you keep me notified of any updates on the plan and on any pending public meetings or hearings. I'll then pass on the pertinent information to the club members and work to ensure that pilots respond in a reasonable manner (no packing the meetings, etc.).

Thanks for your help and the great work on this project.

Area of concern.

Oak Harbor is reviewing a housing development plan that will impact a type 4 stream that feeds a wetland pond in JW State park. The City will drain street run off into the stream. The surrounding area is a 30% slope. A DOE approved holding pond will be used to contain and emit the water into the stream. The stream is not within the city Limits or urban growth area.

I spoke with the assigned planner of this project and the impact this may have on the wetland with in the state park. The planner made it clear that the City was not responsible for anything outside City limits.

The growth of the City is now in this direction and several other developments are in the planning, precedence will allow the City to make further use of this stream for run off.

Solution would be for the City to attach to a pumping station that is less then 1/4 mile from the proposed development.

Just a couple thoughts before then. Like the letter you forwarded to me, a number of the emails we've recently gotten imply or state that TNC has been lobbying State Parks to ban paragliding - which is not in fact the case. We do have substantial concerns about the activity, which are summarized in our past comment letter, attached below. I'd also note that the volunteer docents at Ebey's represent State Parks (Ken Hageman gives them training in approaching the public, including paragliders) as well as TNC and the Reserve.

November 14, 2001

Eric C. Watilo, Assistant Region Manager, Programs and Services
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Northwest Region Office, 220 Walnut Street, P.O. Box 487
Burlington, Washington 98233

Dear Mr. Watilo,

I am responding to your letter dated November 1, 2001, regarding the proposal to designate Ebey's Landing State Park as a paragliding site. We appreciate the invitation to comment on this proposal.

The Conservancy's Robert Y. Pratt Preserve, immediately adjacent to the state-owned land, is managed as a nature preserve. It contains a number of significant ecological features, including the federally endangered plant Golden Paintbrush, Perego's lagoon, rare prairie plant communities on the bluff, old-growth and mature forests, and a variety of birds, mammals, and other organisms that utilize these habitats. We strive to protect these natural resources to the best of our ability. The preserve is also open to the public. To minimize impacts to natural features, human use is limited to foot traffic along the bluff trail.

As an adjacent landowner, the Nature Conservancy is affected by activities that occur on park land. Thus, we have concerns about the designation of Ebey's Landing State Park as a paragliding site. Paraglider launching and landing are not permitted on the preserve, as we feel such use could harm the ecological features we wish to protect. The bank below the ridgeline is sandy, steep, and easily eroded. While we don't know how often this happens, Conservancy staffers have twice seen paragliders land on the bluff and climb up or down the bank, pulling their equipment behind them. Such disturbance threatens the bluff habitat and native plants, including the extremely rare Golden Paintbrush, which we're trying to restore to the face of the bluff. We are actively monitoring research study plots located on portions of the bluff face. Human disturbance of these areas could adversely affect our research.

We are not, however, opposed to paragliding in principle. We also realize that state parks has a different mandate and that recreation is a key component of that. If we were confident that paragliding could occur without hurting our preserve, we would not be opposed to it at Ebey's Landing State Park. Candidly, we're not sure how either the state or the paragliding community could make such assurances. We know that Ebey's Landing State Park has no on-site staff. But we're open to ideas, willing to participate in discussions, and would like to approach this issue in a spirit that recognizes the legitimacy of both the state park's mandate and our conservation mission. We have heard that the paragliding community, in an effort to secure places to fly, has tried to find creative solutions to potential conflicts. We would support such an effort at Ebey's Landing.

The bluff trail at Ebey's Landing is managed in partnership by State Parks, Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, and the Conservancy. Along with local residents and other users, I think we all share a desire to protect the area's natural resources and provide ways for the public to enjoy this special piece of Whidbey Island. We appreciate having State Parks as a neighbor and partner and would welcome an opportunity to discuss the designation of paragliding in more depth.

Sincerely,

Terry Cook

Please keep S Whidbey Parks as wild and natural as possible – minimum paving etc . Thanks!

Since I am not sure we will be able to attend the Parks and Rec Commission's hearing in Coupeville on August 4, please add to the record the position of Whidbey Environmental Action Network that all State Parks on Whidbey should be assigned the most protective designation available. We wish to see NO increase in developed areas in any of our State Parks - no motor home campgrounds, no marinas, no "enterprise areas," no playgrounds, no lawns. We wish our State Parks to remain as near as possible to the condition in which they were before white people settled the area. For those areas which have been degraded we wish to see active restoration, again, with the aim to return those areas to pre-settlement conditions. We suggest close cooperation with the Washington Native Plant Society and the Society for Ecological Restoration, Northwest Chapter to achieve restoration.

We understand that the Commission is responsible both for Parks and Recreation, and that this involves a delicate balancing act. We believe that many forms of recreation can be accomplished on lands which have already been developed and/or degraded, and that our natural areas are already at or below the minimum necessary for ecosystem function. Therefore, all natural areas need to be protected and restored, and recreation concentrated on developed lands. Those natural areas should only be available for dispersed low-impact recreation such as hiking, nature photography, zoological and botanical observation, etc.

In your plans for our parks, please consider that a major reason people go to them is to experience nature "in the wild." Please keep the "improvements" to a minimum and keep our parks wild and untamed.

I want to thank you for the work done by you and your staff on the CAMP process for the State Parks lands within the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. I am taking this opportunity now to share my comments on the draft proposals outlined for the various land use designations.

I place a very high value on the recreational use of wonderful natural resources of our state, and praise the efforts of State Parks to preserve those resources while also allowing and promoting recreational enjoyment of them. Protecting and enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities is, after all, one of the primary functions of our state parks department.

With that in mind, I would strongly encourage the adoption of a RESOURCE RECREATION designation for Ebey's Landing State Park, and for the area atop the bluff at Fort Ebey State Park. Indeed, I endorse all the staff recommendations as presented during the summer, 2005, public hearings. The staff obviously worked hard to ensure all the various needs of the land and the land users were addressed and developed very rationale and comprehensive plans for the different park units.

State Parks lands must be open to recreational use whenever possible, and there is no good reason these park units should not be open to all appropriate recreational uses.
Thank you for your time and for providing the opportunity to comment on this process.

I want to thank you for the work done by you and your staff on the CAMP process for the State Parks lands within the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. I am taking this opportunity now to share my comments on the draft proposals outlined for the various land use designations.

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State Parks lands must be open to recreational use whenever possible, and there is no good reason these park units should not be open to all appropriate recreational uses.

Thank you for your time and for providing the opportunity to comment on this process.

On a personal note, a major attraction to this area is exactly because of its zoning and its many reserves. It is my hope that it will remain looking the same and not be "developed." Through foresight and planning this area retains much of its "natural state" and I would hate to see that compromised.
Thanks again,

I want to thank you for the work done by you and your staff on the CAMP process for the State Parks lands within the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. I am taking this opportunity now to share my comments on the draft proposals outlined for the various land use designations.

I place a very high value on the recreational use of wonderful natural resources of our state, and praise the efforts of State Parks to preserve those resources while also allowing and promoting recreational enjoyment of them. Protecting and enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities is, after all, one of the primary functions of our state parks department.

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recommendations as presented during the summer, 2005, public hearings. The staff obviously worked hard to ensure all the various needs of the land and the land users were addressed and developed very rationale and comprehensive plans for the different park units. State Parks lands must be open to recreational use whenever possible, and there is no good reason these park units should not be open to all appropriate recreational uses. Thank you for your time and for providing the opportunity to comment on this process.

As a frequent visitor to Whidbey from Seattle, I would like to let you know that I appreciate the opportunity to experience the natural beauty of Whidbey while soaring in the air on a paraglider. I am most conscious of being a careful steward of the land to preserve the opportunity for all to enjoy the natural splendor. I want to let you know that I appreciate your help in providing balanced and fair protection for all users of WA state parks.

Thank you for your response to *deleted*(below), which he has forwarded to the PG and HG club-members (likewise, in this distribution). The flying community of the Pacific NW and Canada is becoming educated about the various entities which have input regarding the current ban on flying PG and HG at Ebey's Landing and other sites around Whidbey Island.

We have formed a small group representing the larger free-flying (non-motorized) community, expressly for the purpose of addressing these issues with such entities and with WA Parks officials. We are currently setting up a meeting or meetings with The Nature Conservancy's local representatives. Soon after that we would like to meet with you and other State officials who have the decision-making power to re-instate flying at the Landing. Would you be willing to meet with us? We are hoping to establish a long-term relationship with WA Parks, and demonstrate, as we have done at Fort Ebey, that we are responsible and understand your mission to protect the resources of the State Parks for all users.

I understand that, technically, the issues of flying on Whidbey sites are still under consideration by your office, which gives us some hope of again flying at a site that we loved and protected. Yet we, the flying community, have been unceremoniously dis-invited to utilize the Park's resources (at Ebey's Landing) while this deliberation continues, and continues.... Why, might I suggest, can we not re-institute the previously successful state of affairs there, where the occasional pilot(s) flew, generally to the delight of local park patrons, enhancing everyone's experience at the Landing? This would demonstrate to you and the other involved entities, in a tangible, concrete way, the benefits of the realized situation, instead of the imagined or feared one.

>From: Ted" <Ted.Smith@PARKS.WA.GOV>
>Subject: RE: Ft Ebey Park
>Date: Fri, 7 Feb 2003 08:39:49 -0800
>

>Thank you for your comments. I'll add them to the decision making package.
>I'd like to clarify one point. The Nature Conservancy is not the only

>stakeholder opposed to paragliding at Ebey's Landing State Park and they are not "leading" an effort to ban paragliding from Ebey's Landing. As a stakeholder in the future of that area they have expressed their preferences as have many other stakeholders - including the paragliding community. The decision on the future of paragliding at Ebey's Landing State Park will rest with Washington State Parks. That decision will not be made in a vacuum but will be made based on what is best for the long term continued use of the site by many different user groups and on what is best for the long term protection of the resources. Thanks for taking the time to comment.

>

>Edwin R Ted Smith
>Assistant Regional Manager - Resource Stewardship
>NW Region, Washington State Parks
>220 N. Walnut
>Burlington, WA. 98233
>360 755-9231

>

>

>

>-----Original Message-----

>Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2003 6:01 PM

>To: Ted.Smith@PARKS.WA.gov

>Cc:

>Subject: Ft Ebey Park

>

>

>Mr. Smith,

>

>I am very disappointed to learn that our State Parks Commission has
>disallowed Paragliding at this site. I understand that this decision
>was largely based on input from the Nature Conservancy. As a former
>supporter of that organization, I will voice my disappointment with
>them in another letter.

>

>As for the park, I once spent a marvelous afternoon there with my
>family. I have never flown there, but visited this day because I had
>heard it was a wonderful flying site. As we were hiking along the
>cliff, a bagpipe player strolled by with 50 or so picnickers in tow.
>We joined them, and enjoyed an impromptu concert on the bluff. As we
>were watching, other hikers came by. Some were unsure whether this was
>a private party, until the group invited them to join and enjoy
>themselves. Apparently this piper on the bluffs is a popular annual
>event. Later that day, we saw perhaps 50 cars parked in the field for
>the picnic.

>

>I would suggest that paragliding adds to the parks experience in the
>same way. More importantly, it is less intrusive on the nature
>experience than this sort of event. The concert made passers-by
>folks unsure if the event were private or open to the public. But it
>was a terrific addition to a day in our State Park.

>

>Paragliders often attract attention in a similar way. In terms of
>impact, we fly above the bluff, disturbing the ground less even than a
>group of hikers. As a group, we are generally quiet, unintrusive and
>respectful to the environment. I believe we add interest to a day
>spent outdoors, in much the same way as the bagpiper. And if someone
>finds us bothersome, we are easier to ignore.

>
>Please advise me as to the process by which this finding might be
>overturned.

Great info here and I really appreciate your thoughtful response. I, or one of us, will continue the dialogue with you.
lw

-----Original Message-----

From: Smith, Ted [<mailto:Ted.Smith@PARKS.WA.GOV>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2003 10:33 AM
To: Lawrence Wallman
Cc: Watilo, Eric; Fort Casey State Park
Subject: FW: Public Planning Workshop(s) and the Future of PG/HG in WA State P arks, specifically on Whidbey Island

A reply at last !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

-----Original Message-----

From: Smith, Ted
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2003 9:36 AM
To: Lawrence Wallman
Subject: FW: Public Planning Workshop(s) and the Future of PG/HG in WA State P arks, specifically on Whidbey Island

Dear Lawrence, Finally and at last I am getting back to your original letter. Thanks for your patience. I know Brice and Don have been keeping you in the loop as we've discussed much of the subject matter via e-mail. Now, as to your questions below:

1. I guess you kind of answer your own question to begin with. When we specify "gliders" at the kiosk the intent, as you figured out, was to address RC model gliders. The prohibition language that speaks to "paragliders" and erroneously to "parasailers" is intended to make it clear that we are not extrapolating the term "gliders" to all manner of items "which use air currents only for soaring". The reason that we currently permit model aircraft gliders and not paragliders is based on Washington Administrative Code. Within this body of regulations are Regulations Governing the Public Use of Washington State Parks WAC 352-32. WAC 352-32-130 speaks to the use of aircraft in State Parks. It states, in part, that aircraft of any type are not permitted to land or take off from any state park property without approval from the director. However, it also specifies that certain parks may be designated as model aircraft flying sites and/or paragliding sites.

There is a process for the agency director to designate a park as a model aircraft of paragliding site. In 1999 the process was started to designate Ebey's Landing State Park as a remote control model aircraft flying site and in July 2000 the site was approved as such.

As you know, we started the process to designate the same park as a paragliding site and followed our own process that included a well-attended public meeting. We thought that we were just about to send the proposal to

the director when an organization on Whidbey Island (not The Nature Conservancy) contacted our environmental section at our Olympia Headquarters and informed us that our process was flawed, that we in fact did not include the correct process required for the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Since this was a violation of state law, we had to halt the process. Consequently, we had to begin the process again and this time we would include the SEPA process as well. Since we were already planning on conducting our Classification and Management Planning (CAMP) for the four central Whidbey state parks, Joseph Whidbey, Fort Ebey, Ebey's Landing and Fort Casey anyway, we thought it best to include the paragliding designation as part of this process.

I would think that paragliding and RC model flying pose similar risks to the non-participatory public on the site and this risk is one of the issues that needs to be monitored should we eventually reinstate paragliding at the site. We also need to monitor RC model flying for its impact on visitors.

2. Sorry to dispel any major conspiracy theories but the plowing of the field was done at the request of the adjacent land owner and agriculture lease holder on the bluff segment of state park's property. He desired to reseed the section into alfalfa and grass to improve his crop quality. There was never any intent or even thought given to reducing potential landing areas for paragliders. If anything, he has now made the area more durable and better able to withstand additional public use.

I'm hoping that the dialog that you and your fellow paragliders have opened with The Nature Conservancy has addressed your concerns about their role in the future of paragliding at Ebey's Landing. The unfortunate part of the whole TNC/Parks/paraglider discussion is the continuing rancor that is unfairly addressed at TNC. They have spoken only to their concerns as stakeholders (neighbors if you will) in the process. They have been unfairly villified by folks who are speaking only from assumption and innuendo rather than first hand knowledge and fact. This is truly counter productive. Paragliders also need to own up to the fact that their members do not all respect the boundaries. That in fact paragliders were launching from the TNC property in disregard to the "paragliding community readily agreed not to trespass on nc property" statement you bring forth. Paragliders did indeed end up landing on the bluff face on TNC property - the thing TNC was most concerned about. What I'm getting at is that we all have room for improvement in carrying this process out. I'm really glad that the parties in this journey are starting to talk to one another. I've had a couple of good productive conversations with Brice and Don and hope that I've finally answered most of your concerns --if not be sure to get back to me. We all need to keep communication open.
Ted Smith

-----Original Message-----

From: Lawrence Wallman]

Sent: Monday, January 13, 2003 7:53 AM

To: 'ted.smith@parks.wa.gov'

Cc: NorthWestPG (E-mail)

Subject: Public Planning Workshop(s) and the Future of PG/HG in WA State
Parks, specifically on Whidbey Island

Mr. Smith:

I was not able to attend the Nov. 5th CAMP workshop. I hope that some representatives from the paragliding and hang gliding community were able to state the case for opening some new sites and re-opening closed sites on Whidbey Island and other WA state lands.

Last week I was at Ebey's Landing, where "paragliding and parasailing" are now prohibited. I noticed a couple of things:

1) The kiosk sign states explicitly that "...gliders..." "...which use air currents only for soaring..." are ALLOWED, these being, as you know, RC-controlled gliders. But this definition would also include both hang gliders and paragliders. Also stated: "paragliding and parasailing" are prohibited. (Since "parasailing" is an activity where a parachute is pulled around behind a boat, and since that activity is not one that takes at Ebey's Landing, presumably the clerks who drafted this prohibitory language were thinking that this is some form of paragliding.) So, paragliders, which are certainly "gliders", and "which use air currents only", are explicitly DISALLOWED. This seems contradictory. Paragliders are not permitted based on what difference from RC-controlled gliders? Can it be acknowledged that RC-controlled gliders can be dangerous to tourists, hikers, passers-by? Some of these RC gliders are quite large, are very hard, fly very fast, and may be controlled by very inexperienced hobbyists. Are paragliders equally dangerous? They go slow and are very soft, and are "manned" by real people. If the "danger" from RC gliders is acceptable at the Landing (I believe it is), then....?

2) The farmer's planted field at Ebey's Landing is not plowed to the edge this season, as it was last season (presumably, then, at the behest of someone interested in keeping the paragliders from having a launching/landing area). The paragliding community was told that the long and successful history of paragliding at the Landing would be abruptly terminated because there was (suddenly) not a suitable landing area big enough to accommodate paragliders. Aside from the inaccuracy of that determination (paragliders, especially when piloted by skilled pilots, can literally land "on a dime"), there is clearly, by ANY standard, plenty of landing area on the top of the Landing, and on the beach.

It is clear to everyone who participated in the large meeting at Ft. Casey last year, to discuss re-opening the Landing to flying, that a very few, perhaps only one, Nature Conservancy member(s) found themselves out-voted and out-maneuvered on all points, and thereby went to the (unknown-to-us) officials, behind-the-scenes, and complained that there might be some people having fun on a property adjacent to theirs, and that they might be flying various-colored wings which would ruin their (her) nature experience. One has to admire this kind of zealotry. More amazingly, they/she were/was able to prevail in having the sentiment of the meeting, of the rangers, of the community of Coupeville, and of the community of Pacific Northwest and Canadian flyers overruled.

This is a ludicrous situation. The paragliding community readily agreed not to "trespass" on the NC land after it was purchased by them. But this did not attenuate the vigor of the one or few NC members who felt it their duty to also monitor and control the activities of land adjacent to theirs. As you know, some of the members of the PG community are also NC members, and one doubts that the NC in general is supportive of the sentiments of this very select local minority in objecting to the presence of a paraglider in the air next to their land. Paraglider and hang glider pilots in the Pacific

Northwest are renowned as good stewards of public and private land—they love the outdoors and partake of it in novel ways that other genuine outdoors-people truly respect and admire. In no way is the mission of multi-faceted usage in the Washington Park System being promoted by this one-person (my surmise) veto, intimidating a group of people that never damaged or mis-used this land, and that was on the Landing long before the NC people purchased the adjacent property.

I find it ironic that we are invited to *walk* across the land, but not fly over it (as stated, we've agreed not to launch from it)---which activity causes more actual damage to the land?

I will not try to prospectively address other alledged reasons to ban flying, which might have been raised by the NC minority member(s), but I am willing to make an effort to find information addressing any issues.

I have focused herein on paragliding as that is the activity that did exist on the Landing and is now banned, but I would also hope that hang gliding will be addressed and opened on Whidbey sites, including Ebey's Landing and Fort Ebey. The United States Hang Gliding Association (USHGA), which comprises the membership of US paraglider and hang glider pilots, is now being invited by the US National Park Service to submit proposed public sites to be opened for flying. Let's be as imaginative here in our Washington State Parks.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Wallman

Just some follow-up comments on the CAMP meeting last night.

First thanks for the opportunity to see what Parks' thinking are on the various parks. I appreciated the opportunity to comment on some of the proposals.

Here are my comments on last night's process:

The time to view the proposals and give thoughtful comments was too short. I agree with the suggestion that the maps and other materials ought to be posted on a web site and be available for download and printing out at home.

Many people commented that they did not know what to do or say. I think that the format contributed to this, along with the lack of familiarity with the various land classifications and the potential uses allowed under each. Again, having this material available to take home or posting it on the Web would help in their learning curve and help people make more informed comments.

I don't believe that the process elicited as much public input as necessary for this process. You should consider following the above suggestion (web material) and scheduling another meeting for more comments. I know you wanted to finish this up, but the CAMP process has gone on for over two years, so what's a few more months?

I also feel that draft proposed land classification developed by Parks staff after the public comment session should also get public review before going to the Commission. We were told

that the final classifications would probably be an "amalgam" of the three classification emphases. I would definitely like to see this "amalgam" before it is voted on by the Commission.

One final comment on the "long-term boundary" ideas. I liked the identification process. I think it appropriate to be thinking out into the future (e.g. Navy base closure). However, I'm not sure now is the time to establish land use classifications on these long-term acquisitions. After all, in twenty years or whenever they are acquired, the Parks staff and the public may have a very different view of what those lands need to be used for. I think they should just be identified as potential long-term acquisitions and let it go at that. No use getting into discussions for land use on parcels that may not even be acquired.

Well that's about it for now. If you choose not to post the material on the Web, I would like to get copies of the maps and other materials for review. Thanks.

It is my understanding that the Parks Department is considering action on Ebey's Landing and Ebey State Park. I am writing to support encourage the adoption of a RESOURCE RECREATION designation for Ebey's Landing State Park, and for the area atop the bluff at Fort Ebey State Park as recommended by staff.

I am not a paraglider pilot, personally, but I am a fan and do spend a fair amount of recreational time around paragliding activities. The sport is wonderful but even beyond that the flying community is pretty amazing. They are primarily self-monitored and as such, I think take greater responsibility for their actions. I don't think there is a flying site around this state that has not benefited from their efforts at one time or another. I have witnessed organized work parties to clean up garbage and litter, patch roads, pour concrete for portable toilets etc.

Unlike some sports, there is no noise generated by paragliders -- pilots maybe, but not the wings -- and spectators are fascinated by the sport. If wings are in the air there is always someone enjoying the view. Good luck in your deliberations and I hope the Parks Department will see the continued use of Ebey's Landing by paragliding pilots to be in the public's best interest -- from many perspectives.

> As a community, we are trying to engage the Nature Conservancy in a dialog
> about this issue. Can you tell us who the other parties in opposition are?
>
> Regards,
>
> Paul Murdoch

I am in receipt of your 6/28 letter addressed to my parents, *Deleted*. They are retired and are currently vacationing out of the state. They have asked me to obtain information on their behalf.

My parents purchased the parcel with the intent of building for themselves, or as investment property to sell. Option #1 of your letter may interest my parents. They have received several offers to purchase the property, however have not acted upon any up to this point.

Should they entertain a possible sale to the State, what is the process? Are offers typically based on appraised value or negotiated amount?

Again, at this point I am only gathering information to relay to my parents. I appreciate your time and energy on this matter and look forward to further discussing this issue with you.

Ted Smith, Environmental Planner
Washington State Parks and Recreational Commission
P.O. Box 487
Burlington, WA 98233

RE: Whidbey Island Parks Planning

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for the invitation to the November 13 public workshop at Casey Conference Center. I was not able to attend, but am very interested in the park planning for Fort Ebey.

My family owns over 60 acres of forest land abutting the north boundary of the park. My father was stationed at Fort Ebey during WWII and bought his land in the late 1940's. He passed away last spring and I am for the moment the personal representative of the estate. My brother, who is currently living on the property, and I will inherit the forest land. Although we would like to see the land preserved, it is likely that it will need to be sold to another private party.

We both grew up on this land, though at different times. As a child, I played at Fort Ebey long before it became developed as a park. This site and the Landing are very special places, as you may know, given the combination of natural characteristics and history. How often do Douglas firs and cactus come so close together?

As one who loves the land, I would hope that preservation of its natural state would get high priority. I would favor the type of use currently seen at the park—passive walking and supervised camping in contrast to more developed activities. As an avid walker/hiker I would also like to see people be able to roam the land on foot whenever possible and wherever safe.

Accessible places that are hidden away out of public view and monitoring can be abused. Private land owners do not always have the ability to patrol for such dangers. Being on the boundary with a park has opened up our land to access by more people than ever before. Trails go everywhere and underbrush is not very thick. Some of the existing bike routes may extend onto our property. I would like to encourage the establishment of clearer park boundaries—some visual signal to park users. It need not be a massive security wall; as little as a split rail fence and signs let people know where the line is crossed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please keep me on the mailing list for future events and reports.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Vogel

THANX FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL RESPONSE. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWERS, BUT SEEMED LIKE REASONABLE QUESTIONS THAT SOMEONE SHOULD INVESTIGATE - PERHAPS FAIRLY SOON - LIKE THIS NESTING SEASON WHICH IS UNDERWAY. I'V INDICATED A FEW COMMENTS BELOW IN LARGE CAPS. ARE THE PARASAILERS SUPPOSED TO STAY RIGHT NEAR/A CERTAIN DISTANCE ONLY FROM THEIR LAUNCH SITE...? FURTHER OBSERVATION OF EAGLE BEHAVIOR AND NESTING SUCCESS RATES (EVEN THO SO FEW NESTS AS TO PERHAPS NOT BE SIGNIFICANT EITHER WAY), ALONG WITH MONITORING OF THE ACTUAL PARASAILING BEHAVIOR - MAKING SURE THEY DO NOT OVERTLY "HARASS" THE EAGLE OR THEIR NESTS MIGHT BE THE WAY TO GO FOR NOW. POSSIBLY, EVEN A WARNING SIGN FOR THE PARASAILERS THAT EAGLE NESTS DO EXIST IN THE AREA AND ASKING THEM TO STAY XXX YARDS FROM THEM, HORIZONTALLY AND VERTICALLY, MIGHT BE A PRECAUTIONARY STEP. THANX AGAIN AND I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF FURTHER INFORMATION DEVELOPS.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Smith, Ted (PARKS)" <Ted.Smith@PARKS.WA.GOV>

To:

Cc:

Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2005 12:05 PM

Subject: Eagles and parasails

> Greetings and my apologies for taking so long to get back to you. Your inquiry was passed to a couple of different folks before it got to me. I had the best intentions to answer immediately and then got side tracked by several other issues and lost track of this. I am sorry for taking so long to respond.

>

You pose a couple of very good questions. To the best of my knowledge, no one has studied the impact of parasailing on nesting success of Bald Eagles. The Fort Ebey parasailing site has two eagle nests fairly close by. One located north of the parasailing site a half mile and the other is southeast a little more than a mile away. These are the nests we have GIS (NOT SURE WHAT THAT IS....? SOMETHING TO DO WITH GPS LOCATION OR OTHER....?) data for. You mention that the parasailers are actually sailing over nests at Fort Ebey and that would indicate to me that the pilots are moving quite a distance from the launch site at the gun battery. (OH YES, THEY HAVE BEEN OBSERVED SAILING AS FAR SOUTH AS EBHEY'S LANDING ~1-2MILES AND INLAND A SHORT DISTANCE) Is this correct or are there new nests in the vicinity of the gun battery that I am not aware of? (I, OF COURSE, DO NOT KNOW OF OTHER NESTS, BUT I THINK YOU/SOMEONE DOES A NEST FLY-OVER IN THE SPRING DON'T YOU..? IF SO, I'D BE CURIOUS IF THERE ARE OTHER NESTS IN THIS GENERAL AREA.) The distances mentioned above would seem like reasonable buffers for these

Nests but parasailing does add a height dimension that isn't factored in to normal buffer evaluation. If there are new nests in closer proximity to the old gun battery area (the legal parasailing site) then we aren't presently aware of them. If you have additional nest information I'd love to have it.

>

Parasailers I've talked with seem to think that the eagles are curious about them but don't show much avoidance behavior. (A RATHER SELECT AND LIKELY BIASED ANECDOTAL SAMPLE - THE QUESTION IS WHAT DO THE EAGLE HAVE TO SAY...?) They recount stories of sailing in thermals with eagles spiraling right along side of them. (DURING NESTING TIME?) Where the "romance of

sailing" and the reality of eagle response actually meet, I'm not sure. If you receive responses to your questions from Audubon That you feel are worth sharing I'd love to see them. My guess would be that the parasailers probably have little impact on the eagles. Bald Eagles do not have any "aerial" predators (discounting great-horned owls stealing hatchlings on rare occasions), so they probably do not have a "predator avoidance" response to these devices. The size of the parasails should discount any intraspecific territorial response but that is something we should investigate - the eagles may see the parasails as "super eagles" (THIS WAS MY QUESTION/CONCERN...SINCE THE EAGLES, ESPECIALLY NESTING ONES, ARE QUITE TERRITORIAL AND DRIVE OTHER EAGLES AWAY...IT SEEMS PLAUSIBLE THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO DRIVE THESE "SUPER EAGLES" AWAY, BUT COULD FEEL INTIMIDATED...HARD TO SAY - ESPECIALLY WITHOUT FURTHER STUDY/OBSERVATION...INCLUDING THE SUCCESS RATE OF NESTS IN THE VICINITY OF PARASAIL ACTIVITY) and thus a threat to their territories. Again, if you have any observations of eagle response you could share I'd love to see them. The difficulty for us is unless we set up specific experiments to test response we have to rely on anecdotal information. Trying to be at the park whenever parasailers are present is difficult at best so we get very little information. Any help you can offer would be appreciated.

> Ted Smith
> Assistant Regional Manager, Stewardship

From: Bill Attwater,
Chair, Island Co. Water Conservancy Board,
Member, Island Co. Water Resources Advisory Committee
President, Pondilla Community Homeowners Association

I received you notice about the July 7, 2005 meeting regarding central Whidbey State Parks. Unfortunately, due to a recent surgery, I will be unable to attend.

Ft. Ebey State Park, the Pondilla homeowners and numerous other land owners in our area draw water from an underground supply that Island County and the State Health Dept. has rated as in danger of being intruded by seawater.

My recommendation is that Ft. Ebey State Park conserve water by not watering the grassy areas where the park ranger lives, around the ranger building at the entrance to the park and the grassy area at the gun platforms. The County has just completed an extensive water resources management plan. The plan confirms what the County and the State have been saying, that the groundwater in our area is endangered by seawater intrusion. The Pondilla homeowners have voted to impose on themselves water conservation practices (no lawn watering), increased water rates and stepped water rates for those who use excessive amounts of water. My request is that the State set an example and not water its grassy areas during the summer. Let them go brown. They will come back in the fall and winter.

I am especially distressed over what is going on at the gun platform. Not only has the park cleared several acres of beautiful trees but is installing more grass. What is the park management thinking? I walk my dog to that site at least one hundred times a year. There is no need for a lawn at that site. Its virtually unused. During the last five years I have seen barely a handful of people use the picnic tables. Most of the visitors appear to walk to the gun areas from the adjacent camp sites. And I have never seen park management at the site.

I would encourage you to contact Doug Kelly, the Island Co. hydrogeologist at dougk@co.island.wa.us or Sheilagh Byler, Water Resources Planner at 360-678-7888;

sheilaghb@co.island.wa.us. The County website which contains the water resources management plan, including portions dealing with water conservation and seawater intrusion in our area is <http://www.islandcounty.net/health/envh/wrac/wrac%20main.htm>. I would be happy to discuss this matter with you at any time. My phone *deleted*

William Attwater