Rex Derr
Director

STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
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November 19, 2010

Item E-8: Klickitat Trail Classification and Management Planning (CAMP) Project and Naming - Requested Action

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This item asks the Commission to adopt a long-term boundary, land classification plan and formally name the property now known as the Klickitat Trail. This item complies with our Centennial 2013 Plan element, "Our Commitment – Stewardship" and with our core values.

SIGNIFICANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In December 1995, the Commission adopted a revised land classification system (found in WAC Chapter 352-16). At about the same time, staff sought to fulfill an agency Strategic Plan objective to prepare management plans for each park in the system. The agency's Classification and Management Planning Project (CAMP) derived from dual goals: to develop long-term boundaries/classify lands and prepare park management plans.

The Klickitat Trail CAMP project
The Klickitat Trail CAMP project is a unique process as a joint effort by State Parks and the U.S. Forest Service to develop a Classification and Management Planning (CAMP) project for the entire thirty one mile Klickitat Trail, including the eighteen miles managed by State Parks and the thirteen miles managed by the Forest Service. State Parks acquired the property in 1994 from the Rails to Trails Conservancy with the intention that the Forest Service would ultimately manage the entire 31 mile corridor.

The first planning process for the Klickitat Trail began when the Forest Service held a series of public scoping meetings (from July 1994 to April 1996) to determine public interest in trail development and to discuss trail-related issues. State Parks held public meetings in Lyle and Olympia in November and December 2002. In January 2003, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) decided to retain the trail property. In August 2003, after additional public outreach, the Forest Service released the draft environmental assessment with the decision finalized in December 2003. In 2005, State Parks adopted the Forest Service Environmental Assessment as the document used for the Determination of Non-significance to satisfy the State Environmental Policy Act. The Environmental Assessment (EA) has also been used by both agencies as a de-facto management plan.

In June 2007, State Parks' CAMP planning process for the entire thirty one mile trail began with the selection of a core planning team comprised of the Goldendale Area Manager, Columbia Hills State Park Ranger, Eastern Region staff, and the U.S. Forest Service Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) Recreation Manager, with State Parks Headquarters planning staff mentoring and assisting. The process continued with a staff scoping meeting to gather initial planning information and identify new management issues raised since publication of the

Environmental Assessment in 2003. In this first meeting, the planning team decided that the most useful end product of this process would be a joint document, crafted and approved by State Parks and the Forest Service that would combine the 2003 Environment Assessment and the main elements of the standard CAMP plan: land classification, long-term boundary, and management plan. This document will be used by both agencies as an overall management plan for the Klickitat Trail.

Since such an extensive public planning process has already been conducted by both State Parks and the U.S. Forest Service, the planning team decided that the first two steps of the "standard" four stage CAMP process:

1. *Stage 1: Identify hopes and concerns of the community and park customers,*
2. *Stage 2: Explore alternative approaches to address community and customer issues)* had already been addressed,
3. *Stage 3: Prepare preliminary recommendations to address issues.* The planning team developed preliminary staff recommendations considering the management approaches already adopted in the Environmental Assessment, adding additional issues where appropriate, and addressing new issues that were raised. Public participation and input was also encouraged by holding another public meeting on November 28, 2007 at Lyle, making personal visits, and sending emails to park neighbors, local businesses, organizations and interested parties, and by posting documents and comments on the park planning webpage (with follow-up e-mails sent each time a new document was posted).

At the September 2008 Commission meeting staff presented a requested action item regarding Land Classification and Long term Boundary for the Klickitat Trail. Testimony at that meeting led the Commission to direct staff to do more outreach with stakeholders. One outcome of that direction has been a formalization of agency practice regarding notification of tribes during the CAMP process.

The Yakama Indian Nation has expressed concerns regarding fisheries management issues. To cooperatively address issues that impact fisheries, with a goal to work towards projects that will enhance fish habitat and maintain trail function, a cooperative management group including The Yakama Indian Nation, Washington State Parks, United States Forest Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and The Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group has been established. State Parks will work towards finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding for the work of this cooperative management group.

Long-Term Park Boundary

Staff recommends establishment of a long-term park boundary for the trail (Appendix 1) with the following changes from existing (currently the rail banked properties plus the Vernier and Russell properties) park ownership or management:

Klickitat County/Forest Service properties:

Support a management agreement between the Forest Service, Klickitat County, and the Klickitat Trail Conservancy to improve and operate the County and Forest Service properties located 0.9 miles upriver from Lyle within the Forest Service management area (parcel #03123523000600 and #03123400000300).

Klickitat trailhead:
Work with Klickitat County, the Klickitat School District, and the local fire district to develop a shared-use trailhead adjacent to the town of Klickitat.

Haul Road:
Seek to obtain use or lease the "Haul Road" as a temporary trail detour until the "Suburbia" bridge and the section of washed out trail north of the bridge can be replaced. At the present time, the owner, the Columbia Land Trust, is not interested in pursuing such an agreement.

Stanley Crocker property:
The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) purchased the property formerly owned by Stanley Crocker, located on the Centerville Highway, west of Harms Road. Staff proposes to enter into a management agreement to use part of the property for a trailhead.

Land Classification Plan
Classification (Appendix 1) is proposed as a mixture of Recreation and Resource Recreation.

The Lyle and Klickitat trailheads are classified as Recreation Areas to accommodate the possibility of comfort stations with flush toilets in the future. Resource Recreation Areas include the other trailheads and the trail corridor.

Park Management
During initial stages of planning, staff worked with stakeholders to craft a series of objectives to guide future management of the area. Later, staff developed a draft Park Management Plan.

Management plan recommendations include:

- The Forest Service and State Parks agree that the trail corridor can most advantageously be managed with coordinated development, operation, maintenance, and law enforcement responsibilities.
- The trail surface will be a six feet wide compacted surface, except for a twelve foot wide hardened surface from Lyle to Fisher Hill and adjacent to the town of Klickitat.
- Trailheads will be established at Lyle (mile 0.0), Pitt (mile 10.0), Klickitat (mile 13.0), Wahkiacus (mile 16.0), and Harms Road (mile 28.5- temporary- pending development of trailhead off of Centerville Highway).
- Replace the Suburbia bridge and restore the original trail corridor between Klickitat and Wahkiacus.
- Private vehicles (with prior written approval of Washington State Parks per State Parks Policy 55-01-1) may be allowed to cross the trail. Property owners wanting to use the trail or right-of-way as an access route to their private property will have to seek an easement from State Parks.
- The management plan also recommends that additional plans be drafted to address the following issues: maintenance, emergency response, law enforcement, wildfire management, signage, cultural resources, and erosion control.

For each programmatic concept a full review including permitting will required before becoming a project.

Park Name

After seeking input from various stakeholders staff considered a series of names for the state park: Klickitat River Trail, Klickitat River Canyon Trail, Klickitat River Canyon Rail Trail, Klickitat Trail and Goldendale Branch Line Trail.

Klickitat River Trail State Park emphasizes the connection to the main nearby feature – the river. However, the majority of the state park managed trail lies on Swale Creek, a Klickitat River tributary.

Klickitat River Canyon Trail State Park emphasizes the connection to the canyon and the river features, though not addressing the Swale Canyon trail segment.

Klickitat River Canyon Rail Trail State Park adds the work 'rail' to recognize the prior use of the property as a rail line. This is inconsistent with other linear corridors, none of which reference the historic use for a rail purposes.

Goldendale Branch Line Trail State Park incorporates the historic name of the rail line segment connecting Goldendale to Lyle. This is the name for the corridor used by the railroad company.

Klickitat Trail State Park reflects the name associated with the property since its acquisition from the railroad in the mid-1990's. On the Gifford Pinchot National Forest an existing trail carries the same name. An on-line search found the trail along the Klickitat River referenced far more frequently than the trail on the Gifford Pinchot land.

AUTHORITY: RCW 79A.050.030(1); WAC 352-16-010(4); WAC 352-16-020; WAC 352-32-075(3)(a); WAC 352-32-070(2); and WAC 352-04-020. Commission policies 50-62-1, 72-99-1, and 65-04-2.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

Appendix 1: Klickitat Trail Proposed Long-Term Boundary and Land Classification

REQUESTED ACTION OF COMMISSION:

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

1. Receive staff's findings that the "Determination of Non-Significance" originally issued on January 11, 2008 sufficiently addressed the environmental impacts associated with this request, and resulted in a finding that the proposed action is minor and the environmental effects are not significant;
2. Consider the data, views, and arguments submitted by any person on the proposed long-term boundary and land classification for the Klickitat Trail property;
3. Adopt the long-term boundary and land classification as recommended in Appendix 1;
4. Approve the conditional use of non-motorized bicycles, horses, and pack animals on the Klickitat Trail property;
5. Approve the name "Klickitat Trail" for the entire trail corridor and the name "Klickitat Trail State Park" for the 18 mile portion of the trail managed by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission;
6. Affirm that long-term boundary and land classification decisions are for Commission policy direction only and should not affect private property values, or be used as an indication of a property owner's willingness to sell, or as a basis for regulatory, permitting, or zoning decisions on private land holdings, and;

7. Direct that staff work with owners of properties within the trail's long-term boundary to voluntarily protect natural resources contiguous to park property to achieve the desired conservation effect and avoid the need for fee acquisition of these properties. If feasible in the future, acquisition of these properties should be on a willing seller basis.

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Reviewer(s):
SEPA Review: Pursuant to WAC 197-11-704, staff prepared a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist and issued a "Determination of Non-Significance" on January 11, 2008 for the staff recommendation finding that the action proposed by Commission staff was minor and the environmental effects not significant.
Fiscal Impact Review: The Klickitat Trail CAMP agenda item has no fiscal impact; however, actions taken to approve the CAMP can and will have a fiscal impact in the future. At this time, the only action that the Commission is asked to take is approval of a long-term boundary, land classification scheme. Actual implementation of these actions will come in subsequent agenda items to the Commission that may have impact on both the capital and operation budgets if funding becomes available. Taking action on this CAMP plan does not imply that the Commission approves future funding for subsequent agenda items with potential fiscal impacts that are unknown at this time.
AAG review: 10/08/2010
Larry Fairleigh, Parks Development Director
Judy Johnson, Deputy Director: _____
Approved for Transmittal to Commission:

_____
Rex Derr, Director

APPENDIX 1
Klickitat Trail Proposed Long-Term Boundary and Land Classification

Klickitat Trail

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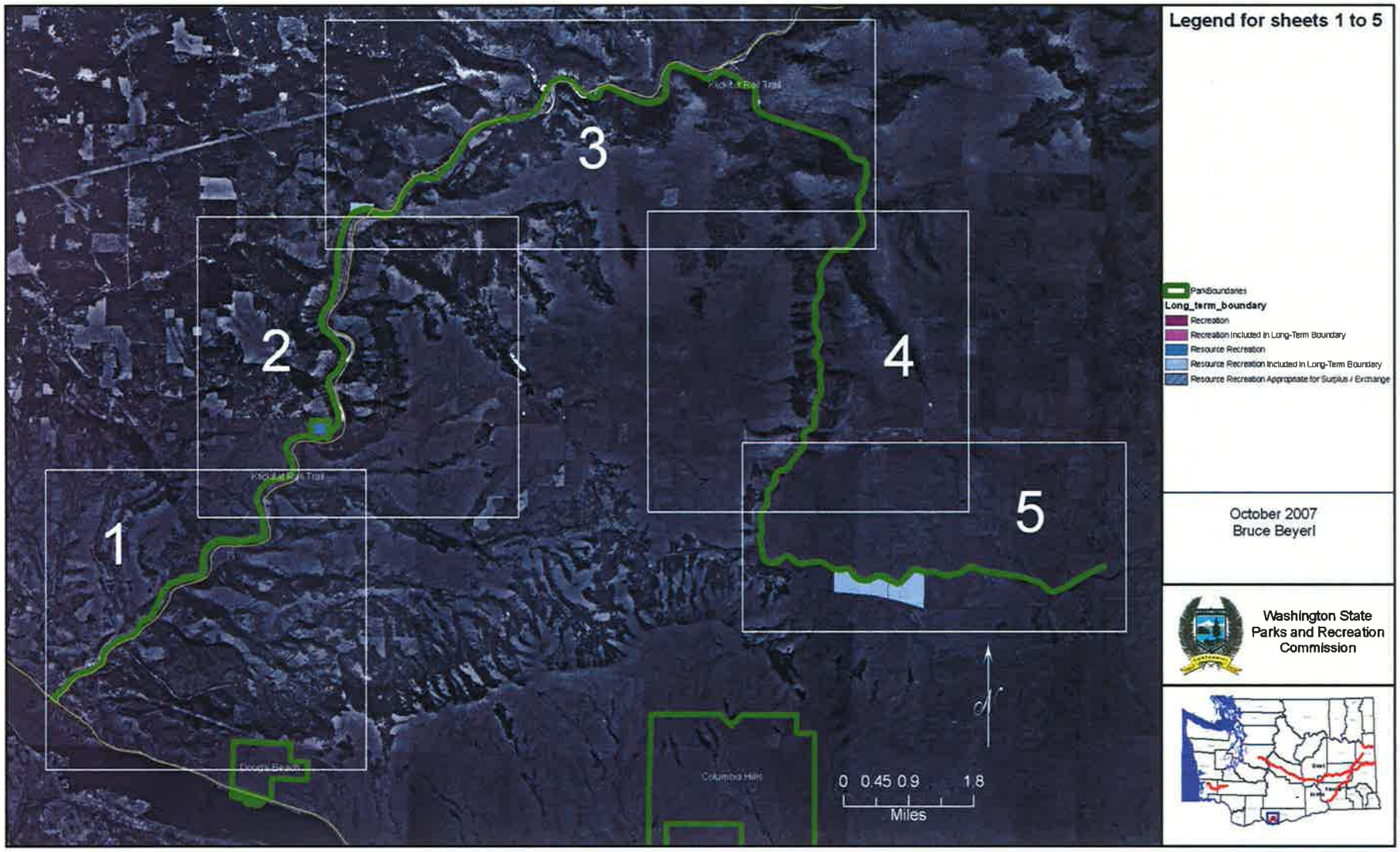

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Klickitat Trail

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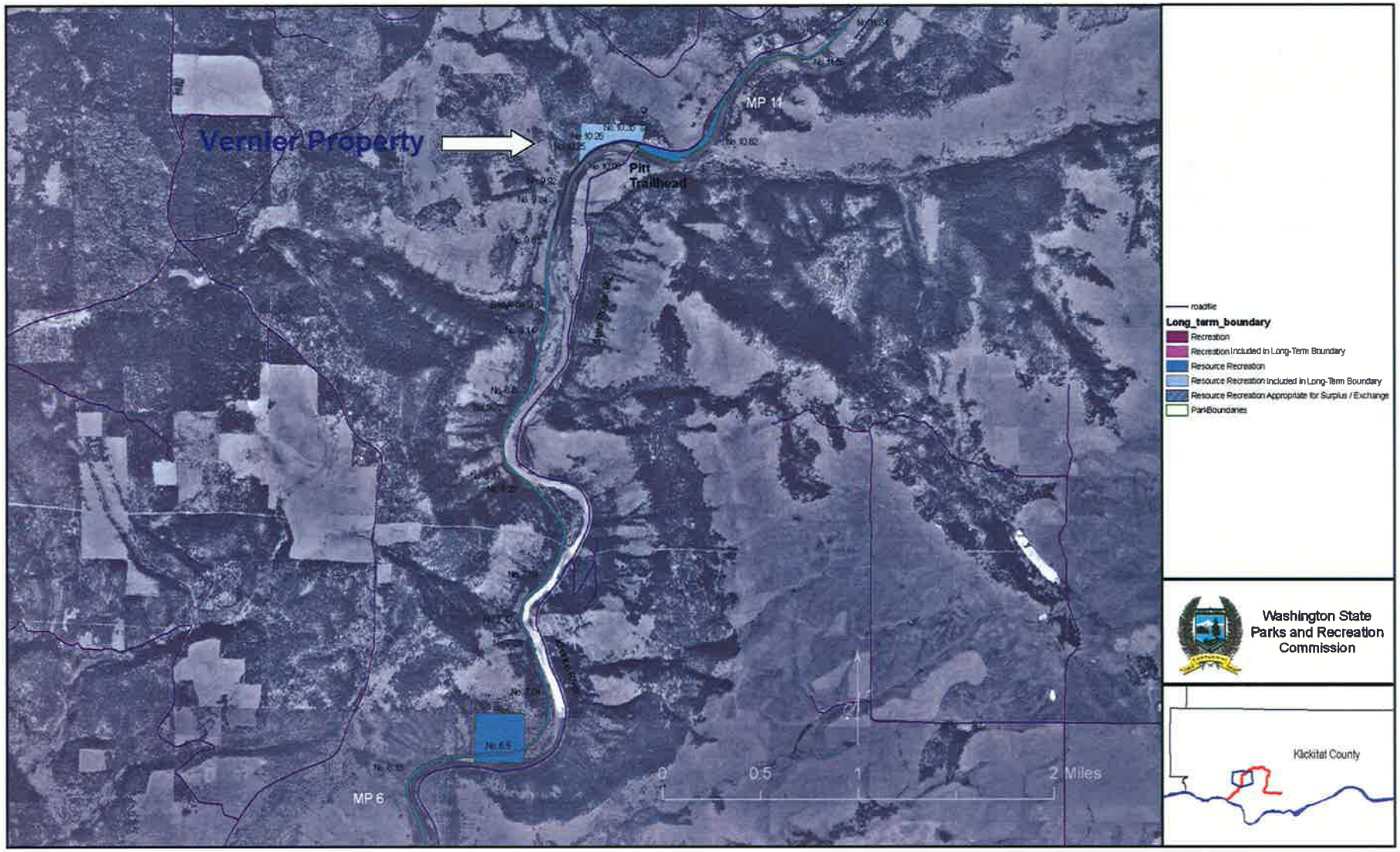

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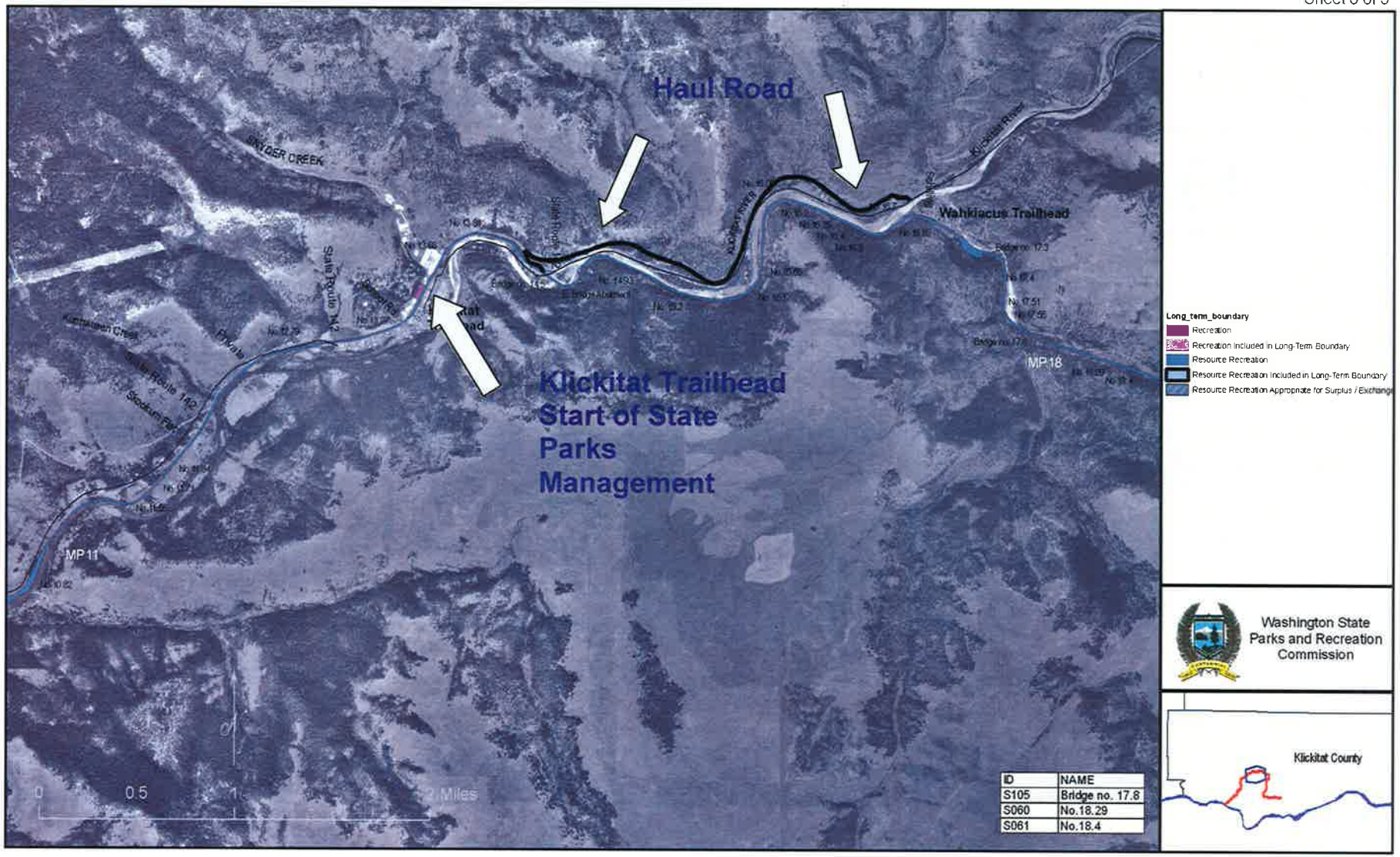

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S060	No.18.29
S061	No.18.4

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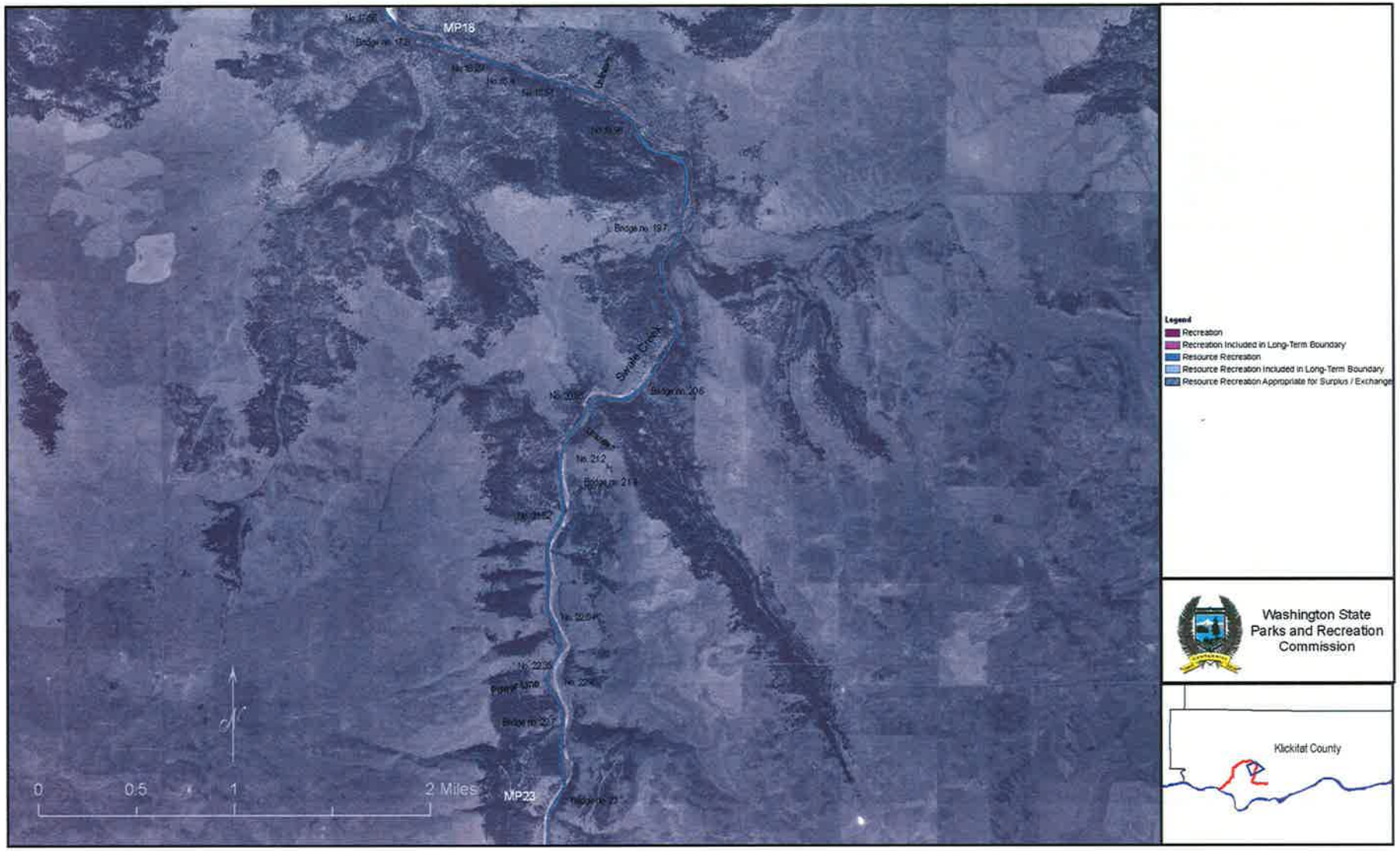

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