

Rex Derr
Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS

Description of proposal:

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) is preparing a Master Facilities Plan, and, together with its concessionaire Mt. Spokane 2000 (MS2000), a Master Concession Plan, for Mount Spokane State Park. The proposed "*Mount Spokane State Park Master Facilities Plan and Master Concession Plan*" will provide long-term (20+ years) management direction for the operation and improvement of the park and the alpine skiing concession area in a manner that optimizes recreational opportunities for park visitors and long-term stewardship of park natural and cultural resources. Specific *Master Facilities Plan and Master Concession Plan* objectives include:

- Enhance recreation opportunities and experiences within the park including evaluating the potential expansion of alpine skiing and snowboarding on north and west facing slopes within MS2000's existing concession area. Please see Attachment A for a detailed description of MS2000's Preliminary Proposed Action and associated maps;
- Minimize impacts of existing and new facility developments and improvements on areas of high natural and/or cultural resource value;
- Develop a long-term program for facilities, including potential expansion, renovation and development;
- Enhance visitor experience through an improved entrance experience, a comprehensive trail system considering year-round and/or season-specific uses, new parking and trail head facilities, expansion of overnight accommodations, new design guidelines for the park that the rich history of the area, day use area projects, and other measures (for more detail see "*Preliminary Alternatives*" document Attachment B);
- Identify desired changes in park boundaries and land ownerships;
- Establish land classifications for the entire park; and
- Address park administrative facility needs to improve management capabilities.

(Please note, all concepts and alternatives described in the attached documents are subject to change based on survey results and comments received during the planning process.)

Master planning and data collection were initiated in the summer of 2006. Site visits and briefings were conducted by State Parks and MS2000 staff with regulatory agencies, interested parties, and the Mount Spokane Advisory Committee to define issues, opportunities and constraints. Also, State Parks' staff held a number of public meetings between May 2006 and April 2007 in an effort to solicit input from the public to assist them in their design of conceptual alternatives described in the "*Preliminary Alternatives*" document, Attachment B.

Lead Agency: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Proponents: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Master Facilities Plan for the Mount Spokane State Park) and Mt. Spokane 2000 (Master Concession Plan for the ski area)



Location of proposal: Mount Spokane State Park, Spokane County, Washington

EIS Required: The lead agency has determined this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2) (c) and will be prepared. **Phase 1 documents, including environmental and fiscal analysis, can be reviewed on the State Parks website:**

<http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/mtspokane/>

The lead agency has identified the following potential areas for evaluation in the EIS:

- Biological impacts of developing new recreational facilities on the north and west slopes of Mount Spokane, as well as those associated with enhancement of existing recreational use of existing developed recreation areas;
- Impacts to watersheds, watercourses, and wetlands resulting from forest thinning, clearing and debris removal, trail crossings, surface-water runoff from new trails and facilities, siting of recreational facilities, buildings and infrastructure, and a possible increase in on-site water withdrawals and usage;
- Soil erosion impacts;
- Impacts to recreation, historic and cultural facilities, cultural landscapes, and traditional cultural practices;
- Impacts on critical viewsheds;
- Consistency with existing regulations, plans, and ordinances.

Scoping: Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

Written comments are being solicited by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and must be received on or before **March 17, 2008**. Please direct your comments to:


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Date: February 25, 2008

Signature:  _____