

Nisqually State Park Management Plan

Adopted March 11, 2010



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 SeaTac Area state parks who participated in public meetings, reviewed voluminous materials, and made this a better plan because of it.

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NISQUALLY STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Certificate of Adoption

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



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PREFACE

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) manages a diverse array of over 100 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.

The Centennial 2013 Plan calls for the agency to work toward opening new parks, including one at Nisqually State Park, in order to ensure a parks and recreation legacy for future generations. Completion of this plan will take us one step closer to achieving an important goal for the Centennial 2013 Plan – that all parks have land-use plans supported by the public and the Commission.

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. 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 park users, nearby community, stakeholders and State Parks staff in a public process that forges a common vision of what the state park should become. This plan is intended to focus 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

In 1987, the Washington State Legislature approved the Nisqually River Management Plan, which called for a major destination area park/put-in site at the confluence of the Nisqually and Mashel Rivers, together with trails up the Mashel River. Since that time, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has worked on assembling a land base suitable for such a destination state park. In the 2005-2007 biennium, the Washington State Legislature funded a master plan for the new park.

The development of the Nisqually State Park Classification and Management Plan (CAMP) began in November 2005 with the assembly of an internal State Parks planning team comprised of park, region and other specialized staff. In October 2007, State Parks hired a consultant team, led by The Portico Group, to assist with developing the park's master plan. A master plan is a more detailed planning document than a CAMP. The master plan for Nisqually State Park includes a land use plan, as well as an interpretive plan, a stewardship plan, a business plan, and design guidelines. It also includes more detailed site analysis than is usually completed for CAMP. The master plan does not replace the CAMP because the master plan does not include land classifications, but the master plan does inform the CAMP. For this reason, the CAMP process was rolled into the master planning process, and the two plans were developed together. Public outreach in this planning process was extensive. An Exploratory Committee was formed, consisting of members from Mount Rainier National Park, the Town of Eatonville, The University of Washington Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest, Tacoma Power, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Pierce County Parks, the Nisqually River Council, and local citizens representing park user groups. In addition, the Nisqually Indian Tribe formed a State Park Committee to determine the Tribe's desired level of involvement in the park, and to give input on the park's planning process. The planning team met regularly with the Exploratory Committee and with the tribal State Park Committee as the CAMP and the master plan were being developed. Public input was also solicited at a series of four public meetings in the Eatonville area, at a meeting of the Eatonville Chamber of Commerce, and at a Nisqually Tribe community meeting. Finally, public input was solicited through a page on the State Parks website, and through email.

PURPOSE

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

This plan is divided into five sections, with several appendices, and is organized as follows:

Section 1: Provides a brief overview of Nisqually State Park, including its geography, historical background, major attributes, and public use.

- Section 2: Describes the public process that led to this Classification and Management Plan (CAMP).
- Section 3: Outlines management objectives established for the park.
- Section 4: Describes the park's land classification (management zoning) and long-term park boundary.
- Section 5: Lists natural, cultural, and recreational/facility resource issues identified through the public planning process and outlines general approaches toward addressing them.

Appendices contain additional supporting documentation pertinent to this resource management planning process and the future management of Nisqually State Park.

Table 1: Summary of Nisqually State Park Issues

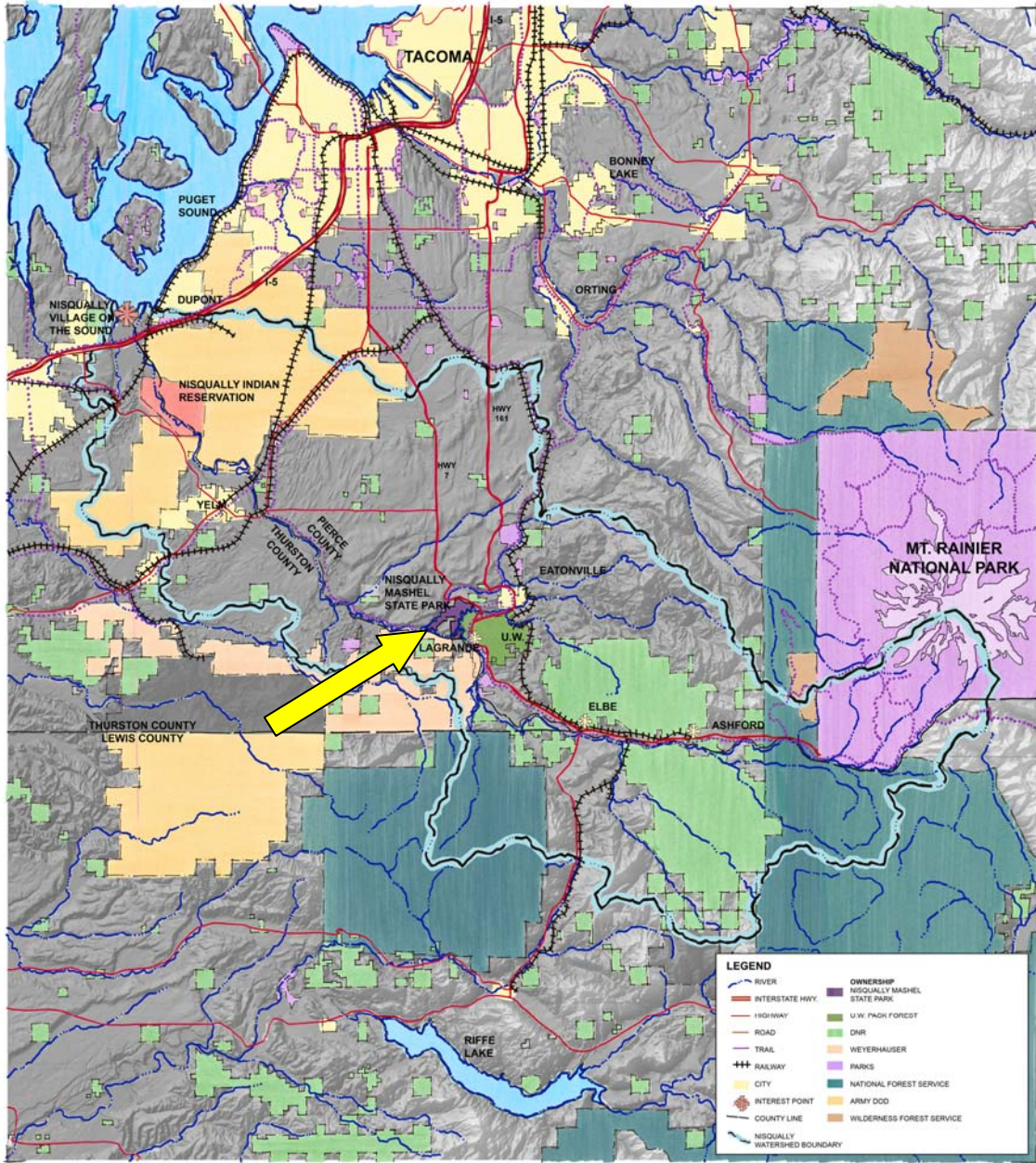
Natural Resource Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of natural plant and animal communities • Riparian area management—Ohop Creek, Mashel River, Nisqually River • Protection of wetlands • Green and sustainable development • Protection of scenic resources
Cultural Resource Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of cultural sites • Management of historic structures • Education and interpretation of cultural sites
Recreational Resource and Facility Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property acquisition • Boundary management and trespass • Connections to the region • Traffic management • Law enforcement • Public safety • Park fees • Volunteers • Staff housing • Park enterprise • Trails • Dogs • Barrier free access • Development of day-use facilities • Sports and active recreation facilities • Rafting • Access to the south side of the Nisqually River • Special events • Development of equestrian facilities • Development of overnight facilities • Interpretation and education

SECTION 1: PARK DESCRIPTION

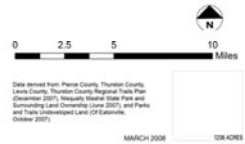
Nisqually State Park is located along the Nisqually River, roughly halfway between Mount Rainier and the Puget Sound, within Pierce and Thurston counties. (See **Figure 1**)

Location: Three miles southwest of Eatonville along State Route 7 (Sections 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 29, and 30, Township 16 North, Range 4 East; and Section 25, Township 16 North, Range 3 East).

Figure 1: Nisqually State Park vicinity map



REGIONAL AREA MAP
 MASTER PLAN FOR
 NISQUALLY MASHEL STATE PARK



Land Area: The current ownership includes 1,230 acres, and 29,000 linear feet of freshwater shoreline.

Jurisdiction: Most of Nisqually State Park is within unincorporated Pierce County, but the 140-acre parcel south of the Nisqually River is within unincorporated Thurston County.

Park Name: During the course of this planning project, the park had not been officially named by the Parks and Recreation Commission, so some planning documents refer to the park as the “Nisqually-Mashel State Park Site.” At its March 11, 2010 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission officially named the park “Nisqually State Park,” after the river and its people that have played a fundamental role in the site’s history.

Current Staffing: During the course of the planning project, Nisqually State Park was managed through Federation Forest State Park staff, but in November 2010, it was moved to be part of the Millersylvania Area. The Millersylvania Area also includes Millersylvania and Tolmie State Parks, and is staffed by the area manager, who is a Park Ranger 4, as well as one Park Ranger 3, two Park Ranger 2’s, a Construction and Maintenance Project Lead, and four seasonal Park Aides.

Acquisition History: The current Parks ownership was purchased in five parcels, the first in 1991 and the most recent in 2003, for a total of approximately \$6 million.

Historical Background: This area of the Nisqually River watershed has been used by Native Americans for millennia. It is believed that the Nisqually Tribe had a winter village site near the mouth of the Mashel River. The park is the site of the 1856 Mashel Massacre, which happened during the Indian Wars of Western Washington. There is also a privately-owned Shaker cemetery on the Mashel Prairie that is thought to contain the grave of So-To-Lick, also known as Indian Henry. So-To-Lick owned a farm on the Mashel Prairie, and served as a guide to at least one group who attempted to climb Mount Rainier.

The Ohop Valley was settled by European and U.S. settlers in the 1800s, after which agriculture and timber harvesting became the dominant land uses in the area. By 1915, the Weyerhaeuser Company had purchased much of the land within the existing park boundary, and they continued to conduct logging operations on the property until it was purchased by Washington State Parks.

A Cultural Resources Survey was completed for the park in 2008. This study includes more detailed historical background.

Facilities: The only developed facilities within Nisqually State Park are logging roads and bridges constructed by Weyerhaeuser. There are currently no park facilities, but the logging roads are used as trails by park visitors.

Water: The park is bordered on the east by the Mashel River, on the south by the Nisqually River, and on the west by Ohop Creek, except for 140 acres south of the Nisqually River on the east side of the park. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory (NWI) data, a significant portion of the park’s wetlands are concentrated in the riparian corridors associated with the three streams. A large palustrine forested wetland is found in the western portion of the property near the Ohop Valley. Another large wetland complex is near the base of the east, south, and west sides of the hill in the center of the property, near the private inholdings. Most other mapped wetlands on the property are smaller. It is known that there are

wetlands within the park that are not shown on either the NWI or Pierce County's wetland maps, so further reconnaissance will be necessary in association with park developments¹.

Plants: Based on a 2006 field survey², 280 individual plant species were identified in the park, 89 of which were non-native, accounting for 32% of the total. Although no rare or protected plants were observed in the park during the surveys, several unique plant associations were observed. LYRA Biological also searched the Washington National Heritage Program (WNHP) database, and identified 16 WNHP species with a moderate to high likelihood of occurring in the park. The park's floodplain terraces and steep river canyon slopes have likely never been logged, and are characterized by mature, coniferous, riparian forests, dominated by Douglas fir, western hemlock, and western red cedar, and immature floodplain communities dominated by red alder. The upland plateau areas represent varying stages of plantation forest regeneration. Wetland areas are characterized by flood-tolerant deciduous species like Oregon ash and red alder and emergent sedges and rushes³.

Wildlife: State priority wildlife species occur in all the riparian corridors within and adjacent to the park. Species include the bald eagle, osprey, turkey vulture, and Pacific Townsend's big-eared bat.⁴ Other terrestrial species include cougar, beaver, black bear, deer, and elk. The park's streams provide habitat for five species of Pacific salmon: Chinook, coho, pink, chum, and steelhead. Sea-run cutthroat trout are also found. Of these, Chinook and steelhead are federally listed threatened species.⁵

Environmental Health: The Eatonville Landfill, a 2.25-acre solid waste landfill that stopped accepting waste in 1980, is owned by the Weyerhaeuser Company, but surrounded by Nisqually State Park. The landfill was leased from Weyerhaeuser by the Town of Eatonville. Remediation has been recommended for the site, consisting of capping it with two feet of soil, revegetating it with native plant species, and diverting a spring away from the landfill. That remediation has not been completed.

Zoning: Pierce County = Rural 10 (one unit per ten acres);
Thurston County = Long-term Forestry

Shoreline Master Program Designation: Pierce County = Currently the shoreline designation for the Mashel River and the Nisqually River is Natural, and the designation for Ohop Creek is Rural. The county is currently updating its Shoreline Master Program, and the proposed designation for all three streams is natural.

Thurston County = Conservancy. Thurston County is also working on a Shoreline Master Program update.

Historical and Cultural Preservation: There are three archaeological sites within the state park site, and another within one mile⁶. No historic sites or structures are registered on the national or state historic registers.

¹ Herrera Environmental Consultants, "Environmental Constraints Report: Nisqually-Mashel Property," 2008.

² LYRA Biological, "Nisqually-Mashel State Park Rare Plant and Vegetation Survey," 2006.

³ Herrera Environmental Consultants, "Nisqually-Mashel State Park Site Stewardship Plan," 2009.

⁴ Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitat and Species GIS dataset, 2008.

⁵ Herrera Environmental Consultants, "Nisqually-Mashel State Park Site Stewardship Plan," 2009.

⁶ Emerson and Ives, "Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Nisqually-Mashel State Park, Pierce and Thurston Counties, Washington," 2008.

Utilities: There are currently no utilities serving the park. The park site has no water rights. Ohop Mutual Light Company is currently constructing a substation adjacent to the park; this substation will provide power to local residents, and to the park when it is developed.

Business Development: No business development activities are currently happening in the park, but a business plan was developed as part of the park's master plan.

Interpretation: No interpretation is currently taking place in the park, but an interpretive plan was developed as part of the park's master plan.

SECTION 2: PARK PLANNING PROCESS

The development of the Nisqually State Park Classification and Management Plan (CAMP) began in November 2005 with the assembly of key agency staff to act as a core planning team. This team consisted of the park manager, the region director and assistant director, the region planner, and the region stewardship manager. The planning team also consulted with other agency technical specialists as needed.

To begin getting public input on the project, an Exploratory Committee was formed, consisting of members from Mount Rainier National Park, the Town of Eatonville, The University of Washington Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest, Tacoma Power, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Pierce County Parks, the Nisqually River Council, and local citizens representing park user groups. In addition, the Nisqually Indian Tribe formed a State Park Committee to determine the Tribe's desired level of involvement in the park, and to give input on the park's planning process. Meetings with the Exploratory Committee and the Nisqually Tribal State Park Committee were held at each project stage.

Starting in April 2006, the core planning team held a series of public meetings and posted planning information on the project's website. The workshops were designed to be open-ended forums to allow the public to actively participate in the future plans for Nisqually State Park. The planning team took all concerns into consideration and responded to any issues that arose during the planning process. The project has followed a four-stage process, which will be complete when the Commission provides its policy direction.

Stage 1: Identify hopes and concerns of the community and park users

To gather hopes and concerns, the planning team held a public workshop on April 27, 2006 at the Eatonville Community Center. The team sent invitations to nearby landowners, elected officials, and interest groups. *The Dispatch* and the *Tacoma News Tribune* published articles on the planning project, and the Eatonville Chamber of Commerce helped get the word out to locals. Responses from users and workshop attendees were posted on State Parks' planning webpage.

Stage 2: Explore alternative approaches to address community and user issues

In response to the community and user comments in the first stage, the planning team developed alternative approaches that might meet peoples' needs. In order to gather comments on the alternatives, the team invited people to a second workshop and offered to send them the alternatives. The contact list grew as people expressed interest. A second workshop took place on July 15, 2006 at the University of Washington Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest in Eatonville. The meeting included a park tour and lunch. The planning team took comments at the workshop and provided an option for written comments. Responses were posted on State Parks' planning webpage.

On March 8, 2007, the planning team presented a report to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission on the project's progress and the public's response to date. The Commission meeting was open to the public.

After the second CAMP meeting, it was determined that the master plan and the CAMP should be completed in concert. In October 2007, State Parks hired a consultant team to assist with the master plan. On February 22, 2008, the consultant team presented the results of their site

analysis work to the Eatonville Chamber of Commerce. On March 6, 2008, the planning team attended a community meeting held by the Nisqually Tribe, described the project to date, and answered questions and took comments from the Tribe.

On April 16, 2008, a second alternatives workshop was held at the Eatonville Lion's Club to present the site analysis and three master plan alternatives. The planning team took comments on the alternatives at the workshop, and posted the planning materials to the project web page to allow for written comments.

On April 23, 2008, the planning team attended a Parks and Recreation Commission workshop to describe the master plan alternatives and the project's progress. The Commission workshop was open to the public, and the chair of the Nisqually Tribal State Park Committee attended and spoke to the Commission about the importance of the park to the Nisqually Tribe.

Stage 3: Prepare preliminary recommendations to address issues

The planning team considered the comments received to date and developed preliminary staff recommendations based on the best available information for both the CAMP and the master plan. Staff shared its preliminary recommendations with the public at a fourth workshop on September 30, 2008 at the Eatonville Community Center. Responses were posted on State Parks' planning webpage.

Stage 4: Propose final recommendations for formal agency and Commission adoption

The planning team will make its final recommendations to the Commission on March 11, 2010 in Tacoma. The Commission meeting is open to the public. Public comments are invited at the Commission meeting.

SECTION 3: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

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

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission acquires, operates, enhances, and protects a diverse system of recreational, cultural, historical, 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.

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

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.

The park's management objectives are presented below in **Table 2** to provide management direction for Nisqually State Park.

Table 2: Nisqually State Park Management Objectives

<p>Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In coordination with local, state, federal, and tribal governments and interested groups, identify, monitor, protect, and interpret native plant and animal communities and the ecological functions they perform. • Manage the park's forests to support a diversity of wildlife, with an emphasis on advancing forest vegetation diversity and structure that favors old-growth dependent species. • Identify, maintain, protect, and interpret geologic and watershed systems associated with the park's streams and wetlands.
<p>Cultural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, monitor, and protect archeological sites and traditional cultural practice areas. • Model responsible stewardship in the management of historical and cultural landscapes and resources. • In coordination with tribal governments, interpret the past, present, and future uses of the Nisqually watershed by Native American people.
<p>Recreational Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an array of day-use and overnight facilities and services that are compatible with the park's natural and cultural resource management objectives. • Provide a full range of accessible park experiences and opportunities.
<p>Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and implement green practices and actions that protect the environment and meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. • Promote and demonstrate the wise use of natural resources. • Take actions to increase the ability of the park's infrastructure and ecosystems to adapt to the effects of climate change.
<p>Interpretation and Environmental Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use interpretation as a tool to enhance visitor experience, understanding, and stewardship of cultural resources, natural resources, and spiritual experiences. • Provide year-round, interpretive programming and opportunities. • Collect, record, and interpret the cultural and natural heritage of the Nisqually watershed.
<p>Community Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Nisqually Tribe and other interested tribes to develop a partnership to acquire, develop, and manage the park. • Work with local and state governments, tribal groups, and non-profit organizations to support regional open space, biodiversity, and watershed conservation efforts. • Recruit and manage a volunteer corps of park neighbors, users, and resource stewards to assist staff in outreach, public service, and maintenance needs.
<p>Concessions and Park Enterprise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forge alliances with partners and concessionaires that will facilitate the park development process, establish a progressive operational capacity, and create revenue centers. • Provide visitor services through public/private partnerships and other entrepreneurial programs that are clearly compatible with other park management objectives.

SECTION 4: PARK LAND CLASSIFICATIONS AND LONG-TERM BOUNDARY

Land Classification

An important part of the planning for Nisqually State Park 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 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 six classifications: Natural Area Preserves, Natural Areas, Natural forest Areas, Resource Recreation Areas, Recreation Areas, and Heritage Areas. Detailed definitions of each land classification are in the appendix. Through critical analysis of natural and cultural resource inventories and evaluation of future recreational facilities needs, staff recommends park lands be classified as shown in Figure 2.

Long-Term Boundary

Delineation of long-term park boundaries is an 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 and 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; or
- Consider purchase of a private property in fee.

Note: The following land classification and long-term boundary designations are subject to Commission approval.

Nisqually State Park Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary

In order to maintain the park experience as a natural setting, which balances increasing demands for outdoor recreation and public river access with the protection of native plant and animal communities and cultural resources, the following land classifications are proposed (see **Figure 2**):

- Classify approximately 492 acres within the 3,487-acre long-term boundary as Recreation areas, allowing for medium- to high-intensity uses. The Recreation areas in Nisqually State Park will be primarily in the parts of the park that are closest to Highway 7 and outside of known critical areas.
- Classify an approximately 321-acre area encompassing the steep slopes on both sides of the Mashel River as a Natural Forest area, allowing low-intensity uses. The area meets the criteria for designation by the Washington Natural Heritage Program and is proposed because the area includes some of the oldest forest in the park. Such old forest is a priority for conservation efforts through the Washington Natural Heritage Program.
- Classify approximately 284 acres as Natural areas, which allow for low-intensity uses. They include most of the remaining steep slopes along the Nisqually and Mashel rivers as well as known wetland areas near Highway 7. The objective of the Natural land classification is to maintain ecological integrity in sensitive natural areas while allowing appropriate public access.
- Classify a 0.56-acre area in the Mashel Prairie as a Heritage area. The area, which includes the Indian Henry cemetery, is not currently owned by State Parks. The Heritage designation is proposed to appropriately protect and preserve this cultural resource. The Heritage classification allows for prescriptions and design guidelines consistent with protecting the cultural landscape. Additional Heritage designations may be pursued as evidence is obtained from on-site cultural resource surveys – required prior to any park development.
- Classify the remainder of land within the proposed long-term boundary, approximately 2,389 acres, as a Resource Recreation area, which allows for low- to medium-intensity uses.

The long-term boundary includes the existing 1,230-acre state park site, as well as undeveloped and select developed lands adjacent to the boundary. The proposed long-term boundary is bounded in the west by Kjelstad Road East and the western margin of the Ohop Creek Valley. The eastern boundary is 300 feet east of State Route 7 (SR 7), and the northern boundary is 300 feet north of SR 7. In the south, the long-term boundary is a line running east-west from the southwest corner of the current southernmost State Park property line, with a 600-foot adjustment southward to encompass an existing logging road. The Long-term boundary properties provide a variety of potential park benefits, including natural resource protection, open space preservation, viewshed protection, staff housing, and expanded recreation development. Specific areas of interest/concern include:

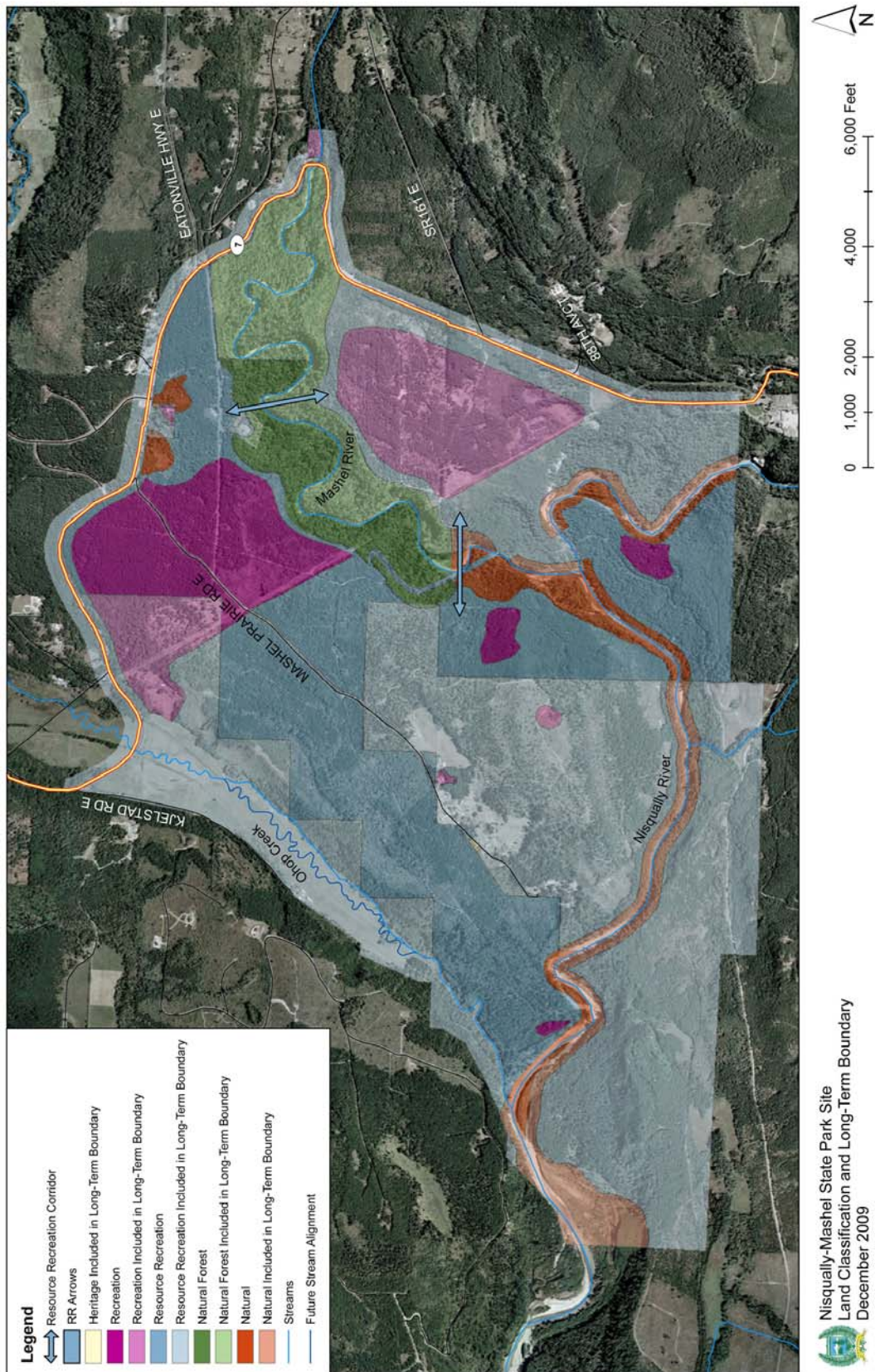
- Acquisition of the large inholding owned by the Manke Timber Company. This parcel is necessary for access and connectivity between the parcels that State parks currently owns,

and also for the development of the People's Center and its supporting facilities. The People's Center is the focus of cultural interpretation in the park's master plan.

- Acquisition of the privately-owned parcels along Mashel Prairie Road. Acquisition of these parcels from willing sellers will ensure park security, as well as allow for restoration and interpretation of the culturally and naturally significant Mashel Prairie. It will also allow State Parks' Native American partners to develop a re-creation of a seasonal village site.
- Acquisition of conservation easements for the area 300 feet north of SR 7 to ensure a parkway feel while driving along SR7 past the park.
- Purchase, trade, or develop a cooperative agreement for the portion of the University of Washington Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest that is west of SR 7. This will allow for access to the culturally-significant Mashel River confluence, as well as providing developable land for group camping, horse camping, and a mountain bike challenge course. It also provides for trail connectivity between the State Park trail system and that in Pack Forest.
- Acquisition of the Weyerhaeuser land south of the Nisqually River between the current State Parks ownership and Ohop Creek. This parcel will allow for backcountry hiking and camping, and for a connection to a future Thurston County trail system.
- Acquisition of or management agreement for the parcels owned by the Nisqually Land Trust. The Land Trust has significant ownership along the Nisqually and the Mashel Rivers, and within the Ohop Valley.
- Management agreement with Tacoma Power to allow for trail access across their land south of the Nisqually River.

Figure 2 delineates the park 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: 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 process, and suggested management approaches to address them. 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 anticipated. All management actions will be consistent with the laws and policies⁷ 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. This is a long-range planning document; therefore, the following issue responses should be seen as a "to do" list where items will be prioritized as staff and financial resources permit.

⁷ 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).

Natural Resource Issues

Nisqually State Park Natural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Protection of natural plant and animal communities	<p>As per the Commission’s Natural Resource Management Policy (73-04-1), emphasize management to conserve existing natural plant and animal communities and undeveloped open space. Specific recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the management recommendations found in the Nisqually-Mashel State Park Forest Health Plan (Ettle and Emmons, 2008). • Develop staff, volunteer, and outdoor learning opportunities to further develop inventories and observation records of natural plant and animal populations. Use the inventories as a baseline for developing adaptive management indicators for each resource. • Establish a volunteer coordination program to monitor and control invasive species. • Before development, conduct thorough plant inventories to verify the absence of sensitive and rare plant species in areas planned for development, and to inventory for invasive species. Remove the invasives as part of the development. • Prevent unnecessary fragmentation of riparian corridors, floodplains, and contiguous upland habitat blocks.
Protection of wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with interested agencies and stakeholder groups to delineate and assess all wetlands within the long-term boundary. • Work with wetland specialists and interested outdoor learning groups to develop reproducible monitoring protocols and adaptive management indicators⁸ to assess wetland function and integrity over time. • As per the Commission’s Natural Resource Management Policy (73-03-1), “new park facility developments shall not be built in critical areas except where the theme, character, quality or other park planning provides overriding justification for development in such areas, and appropriate mitigation can be provided”.

⁸ For a description of adaptive management, please see the park’s Stewardship Plan.

Nisqually State Park Natural Resource Issues

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Riparian area management—Ohop Creek, Mashel River, Nisqually River</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage river access by allowing motorized road access only for staff, people with disabilities, or approved special events. • Manage river access by crossing streams on high bridges that span the top of the river valleys, where feasible and where indicated in the park’s master plan. • Ensure that activities planned for the riparian areas are consistent with local salmon and steelhead recovery plans. • Control public access to the shorelines during Chinook salmon and steelhead spawning seasons. • Evaluate and implement an erosion control measure at the road wash-out near the Mashel River bridge. • When improvements are planned for the Mashel River bridge, evaluate the bridge’s impact on the river’s channel migration zone and on fish habitat, and mitigate to the extent possible. If mitigation will not prevent significant natural resource damage, consider removing the bridge. • Leave tree fall material where it falls in the river and creek valleys, except where it crosses approved trails or poses a visitor safety hazard.

Nisqually State Park Natural Resource Issues

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Green and sustainable development</p>	<p>In August of 2007, the Commission directed staff to develop a plan to make the agency a leader in the country for sustainability and being green. In June of 2008, the Commission adopted the following Sustainability and “Being Green” Policy, and a Sustainability Plan was adopted in December 2009:</p> <p><i>“It is the policy of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission that the ethic of sustainability and the practice and actions of “being green” be integrated into every aspect of agency operation so that Washington State Parks will be the sustainability leader among state parks nationwide.”</i></p> <p>Specific recommendations for Nisqually State Park are in the master plan’s Design Guidelines. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply Low Impact Development strategies for managing stormwater in relation to site, infrastructure, and building facilities. • Design all new buildings to perform equivalent to a LEED silver compliant structure. • Incorporate passive approaches to heating, cooling, ventilation, and lighting. • Capture rainwater runoff from roofs to eliminate use of potable water for irrigation. • Provide recycling and composting facilities, but implement a “pack it out” policy for other solid waste.
<p>Protection of scenic resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant or retain screening vegetation to limit views of developed areas from park roads and trails, except where needed for orientation. • Trees may be removed and native grasses and low shrubs or herbaceous species planted in areas near roads, trails, and overlooks where views of natural or cultural features should be retained. Specific views to retain include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Views to Mount Rainier or other landscape features from the camping area meadows and the Village Center ○ Views from trail overlooks to the Cascades, Mount Rainier, and the river valleys ○ Views from the Observatory

Cultural Resources Issues

Nisqually State Park Cultural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Protection of cultural sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Parks will continue to consult with interested Native American tribes to ensure archaeological resources are accurately identified and recorded, as well as adequately protected. • In all future actions, State Parks will comply with direction from the Commission’s Cultural Resources Policy 12-98-1. • Prepare a detailed cultural resource protection plan. Cultural resource management planning outcomes will provide long-term protection of cultural resources, including the establishment of monitoring and reporting protocols. • Complete site-specific cultural resource surveys before development for the areas that will be disturbed.
Education and interpretation of cultural sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In coordination with the Nisqually and other interested Native American tribes, determine which cultural sites are appropriate for interpretation. <p>Implement the park’s Interpretive Plan, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing the People’s Center, an interpretive center focused on telling the park’s Native American cultural story • Using Lushootseed language on signs and interpretive panels throughout the park • Telling the story of the Mashel Massacre • Telling the story of the park’s role in the reconciliation of the native and non-native peoples and the rejuvenation of the land and its people <p>An area south of the Nisqually River is classified as a Recreation Area to allow for the development of the Traditional Knowledge Camp, which is envisioned as a place for tribal elders to pass on knowledge and skills to younger generations of tribal members. The Recreation Area shown on the classification map is conceptual. The exact location will be determined at a later time, based on site suitability analysis and a completed partnership agreement with the Nisqually Tribe and other interested tribal partners.</p>

Nisqually State Park Cultural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Management of historic structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As additional property with historic structures is acquired, such as the Old Milk Barn, prepare Historic Structures Reports to make recommendations for rehabilitation and reuse prior to any modification of the structures. • All rehabilitation of historic structures will adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Recreational Resource and Facility Issues

Nisqually State Park Recreational Resource and Facility Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Boundary management and trespass	Design the park's road and trail system consistent with the Transportation and Circulation Plan, to maintain access to private inholdings while discouraging trespass into them.
Connections to the region	Seek partnerships with park neighbors to enhance recreational and educational activities. Partnerships may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership with the Nisqually Tribe and other interested tribes to acquire, develop, and manage the park, and to interpret the story of the land and its people • Trail connections to the Town of Eatonville • Trail connections and a forest management partnership with the University of Washington Center for Sustainable Forestry at Pack Forest • Local area transit to the State Park, Mount Rainier National Park, Northwest Trek, and other local attractions • Trail maintenance and education by the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, or other user groups • Educational partnership with the Pioneer Farm Museum • Partnership with the Tahoma Audubon to determine placement, design, and construction of bird viewing blinds in appropriate places off the park's trail system
Traffic management	Implement the park's Transportation and Circulation Plan and the recommendations of the Traffic Study (Tilghman, 2009). Specific recommendations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocate the park entry drive to a location east of Mashel Prairie Road • Monitor traffic volumes and consider a right turn pocket or taper at the new park entrance • When a trail connection to Eatonville is developed, design a pedestrian crossing of SR 7 southeast of the intersection with Eatonville Highway East.
Law enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate Park Ranger staffing on site with park development to minimize the risk of crime and vandalism of the new park facilities. • Lock gates to the day-use areas of the park at dusk.
Public safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In coordination with local fire districts, develop an emergency fire plan for the park. • Develop a lahar early warning and evacuation plan for the park • Adhere to the draft WSPRC Tree Risk Management Policy to identify, prioritize, and remove high-risk trees. • Include river safety information on informational kiosks near river access points.

Nisqually State Park Recreational Resource and Facility Issues

Issue	Management Approach
Park fees	Park user fees are set by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and cannot be modified on a park-by-park basis. Fees are expected to be charged to offset special services in the park, such as camping.
Volunteers	<p>The following strategies should be explored by staff to develop and enhance outreach and volunteer networks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and coordinate opportunities for community outreach, including facilitating regular open house forums and community events. • Develop and maintain a visible volunteer outreach campaign with a focus on the recruitment of community-based volunteers. • Identify needs and opportunities for outreach and volunteer activities and programs, and review on an annual basis. • Develop annual landscaping and maintenance work plans to identify a range of projects and service needs suitable for volunteers of varying ability. • Establish and maintain community-based invasive species removal programs for the park.
Staff housing	<p>In order to recruit and retain high-quality staff, the agency should develop 3-5 staff housing units. Preference should be given to purchasing suitable existing homes within the long-term boundary, versus building new homes, and preference should be given to homes near the periphery of the long-term boundary, versus in the center of the park, but flexibility should be maintained on both counts in case the preferred conditions do not align in time with the housing need.</p> <p>Three potential staff housing locations are designated as Recreation Areas within the long-term boundary of the park. One is at the northeast corner of the long-term boundary, one is near SR 7, east of the Mashel Prairie Road intersection, and one is on Mashel Prairie Road, near the center of the long-term boundary. These three locations are conceptual only at this time; the final locations of these sites will be determined later, based on the availability of suitable housing sites.</p>
Park enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forge alliances with partners and concessionaires that will facilitate the park development process, establish a progressive operational capacity, and create revenue centers. • Enterprise activities should support the park’s primary missions of recreation and resource protection • Provide visitor services through public/private partnerships and other entrepreneurial programs that are clearly compatible with other park management objectives.

Nisqually State Park Recreational Resource and Facility Issues

Issue	Management Approach
Trails	Implement the park's Transportation and Circulation Plan, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paved, multi-use pedestrian and bicycle trails • Unpaved hiking trails • Equestrian trails that sometimes parallel the multi-use trails • Mountain bike trails and challenge course • Trail connections to Eatonville, UW's Pack Forest, and Thurston and Pierce County trail systems
Dogs	Allow leashed pets on developed trails.
Barrier-free access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strive for universal access to park facilities. • Implement the park's Transportation and Circulation Plan, which calls for the park's primary trail systems to be barrier-free.
Development of day-use facilities	Implement the park's Land-Use Plan, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Village Center, with a park office and store, and a gathering space for events and program activities • A stormwater-fed fishing pond • Picnic shelters and uncovered picnic tables • A woodland-themed playground • An interpretive center, called the People's Center, and an associated "observatory" at the highest point in the park. <p>The locations of these facilities are all classified as Recreation Areas. In addition, a site near the confluence of the Nisqually River with Ohop Creek is also classified as a Recreation Area to allow for an enhanced trailhead, potentially including a flush toilet and a picnic shelter.</p>
Sports and active recreation	Develop playgrounds and open play spaces in the Village Center and in the campground loops.
Rafting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide river access for rafts, kayaks, and canoes at the Mashel confluence and near the Ohop Creek confluence with the Nisqually River. • Limit vehicular access to both locations to people with disabilities and approved groups or special events. • Work with downstream land managers to determine appropriate egress sites, and educate river users about these sites.

Nisqually State Park Recreational Resource and Facility Issues

Issue	Management Approach
Access to the south side of the Nisqually River	Implement the park's Transportation and Circulation Plan, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebuilding a bridge across the Nisqually River near the Mashel confluence • Building a high bridge across the Nisqually River near the Ohop Creek confluence • Developing a management agreement with Tacoma Power to allow trail use across their property south of the Nisqually • Developing hiking trails and backcountry campsites south of the Nisqually River
Special events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the park's Land Use Plan, which calls for an amphitheater for gatherings and special events in the Village Center. • Encourage educational, interpretive, or recreational special events to the extent that they do not adversely affect the park's natural or cultural resources.
Development of equestrian facilities	Implement the park's Land Use Plan, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An equestrian center in the Old Milk Barn. This facility would be run by a concessionaire, and would provide horses for use by beginning equestrians and other people who do not own a horse. • A horse camping area on the East Mashel Plateau. • Horse trailer parking near equestrian trailheads.
Development of overnight facilities	Implement the park's Land Use Plan, which includes up to 500 campsites, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three camp loops near the Village Center, which include loops for recreational vehicle camping, tent camping, and cabins • Two camp loops on the East Mashel Plateau, which include group camping and horse camping • Backcountry campsites south of the Nisqually River
Interpretation and education	Implement the park's Interpretive Plan, which includes interpretation on three main themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Culture theme that focuses on the Native American life-ways related to this site • A Conservation theme that focuses on the historic and current uses of the land and the desired outcomes of current management practices • A Renewal theme that focuses on the emotional and experiential facets of the park

APPENDIX A: WASHINGTON STATE PARKS 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
<p>Washington State Parks Natural Areas</p>	<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:</p> <p>(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 <input type="checkbox"/> 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
<p>Washington State Parks Natural Area Preserves</p>	<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

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

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

Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Activities

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Farming/Orchards	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

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

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