



CAMP
Washington State Parks
Classification and Management Planning Project



**Steamboat Rock State Park
Stage One
Issues from correspondence**

Updated 9-29-08

The purpose of stage one is to understand the facilities, services or resources that are important in the state parks. This helps the planning team get a sense of the range and type of issues it must consider through the planning process. Comments will also be used to determine environmental impacts consistent with State Environmental Policy Act.

In addition to the public workshop on October 1st 2008, the planning team requested written comments from customers and community members. Over 6,000 E-mail or letters were sent. The following responses were received.

Verbatim comments about each state park are in column one with the names and contact information removed. The next column summarizes the main points of the comment. Many of the e-mail responses were simply a thank you from customers that were grateful to be included, but with no specific comment. Those e-mails were very much appreciated, but to save space they were not included here.

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Steamboat Rock State Park – Verbatim Comments	Main Issue
<p>Question, have you guys been able to get the mosquito infestation under control that has happened the last couple of years? We chose not to camp there this year, because they were so bad again according to friends.</p> <p>There seems to be a lot still water around the entire camp ground now. I also noticed not as much deer activity in the last couple of years. I am assuming it is because of the bugs.</p>	Mosquitoes
<p>Secondly, the difficulties we encounter are the massive hordes of mosquitoes. We rarely encounter this problem at the other camp grounds but for some reason the mosquitoes are always more prevalent at Steamboat.</p>	Mosquitoes
<p>First, let me say that Steamboat Rock State Park is a wonderful place to camp! We love it there. The only thing I would like to see added would be plentiful bike paths through the wilderness areas, along the base of the rock, to the water on the West side of the park, etc. Oh, and perhaps run off all geese!</p>	Trails Geese
<p>About the only complaint that I have about the Steamboat Rock State Park is the large amount of duck and bird droppings, especially around the water area. Other than that it is an awesome park.</p>	Geese
<p>We really enjoy the time we spend at this park. One of our favorite sites is the boat-in camping. Because it is so busy during the summer, we tend to use it after Labor Day. It would be nice to have more sites like these available.</p>	More sites

<p>We wouldn't be able to make the meeting, but I do have a improvement I would like to see all the state parks get. I would like to see all the state parks have Wi-Fi computer connection. The cost would pay for itself by increasing the camping fee by a \$1.00 or \$2.00. This would be good also for people who are traveling.</p> <p>Thank You for the opportunity to add my improvement suggestion.</p>	<p>Wi-Fi</p>
<p>I can't attend the meeting but I support expanding the park with consideration of the impact it will have on the area. We have trouble finding a site there every year. It's a magical place. I would also suggest expanding the boat-in camping and primitive sites available and providing more details online about those options. With the online reservation system, it's tough to RELEASE a space that has been reserved. I reserved a choice space on the lake this summer that I couldn't use. I was shocked how hard it was to contact the park and let them know I wasn't coming. I called a day early and I still paid the full price so essentially there was no reason for me to try to call them with news I wasn't coming. I wonder how often sites sit empty there that people think are full because they are reserved and paid for but not used. It's too far for most of us on the Westside to consider driving to without a confirmed site.</p> <p>Thanks for your hard work on this beautiful park!</p>	<p>More sites Reservation system</p>
<p>Our family loves the facilities at Steamboat and visit at least once a year. However, due to the difficulty in obtaining a reservation for any camping with our RV we stay at one of the neighboring, privately owned, camp grounds. The process in which one must go through and the extended advanced notice in order to attempt to get a camp site makes it very difficult if not impossible to come to Steamboat. We always check the reservations but there isn't ever an opening. Any impromptu, being a month out, camping trips are impossible. The most frustrating part for our family is the limit amount of camp sites and the hassle to get a reservation.</p> <p>Additionally, our suggestion would be to have more enforcement of on water boating laws, specifically, jet skis chasing boat wake or ripping in front of boats under power, and common sense boating laws that are so obviously ignored around the state park. We love the park, the waterways, and the concession stand. It would just be nice to actually be able to get reservations and have safety enforced on the water.</p>	<p>Reservation system Safety / Law enforcement</p>
<p>First, let me say that Steamboat Rock State Park is a wonderful place to camp! We love it there. The only thing I would like to see added would be plentiful bike paths through the wilderness areas, along the base of the rock, to the water on the West side of the park, etc. Oh, and perhaps run off all geese!</p>	<p>Trails Geese</p>
<p>I know it is a popular camping spot and I suppose enlarging the number of sites is in order. Of course we hope that process does not ruin it by making it too sprawling.</p>	<p>More sites</p>
<p>We really enjoy camping at Steamboat Rock. It is very hard to get a spot in the summer months. If possible, add more spaces to camp along with some native trees for shade. The beach/swimming area could be groomed better. Maybe add in smaller scale kids playgrounds/play structures in each of the two camping loops (maybe adjacent to the bathrooms). That way people don't have to always drive down to the lake for their kids to play. Sidewalk or bike path from camp areas to the beach.</p>	<p>More sites Play structures</p>

<p>We like the quiet and the wild life, would like more trails and natural habitats that can be accessed but not disturbing to the wild life, maybe a small store and eatery? The last time we were there it was closed or being sold? Did not understand there sign. But other than that it is close to home and a wonderful park</p>	<p>Trails Concession</p>
<p>We have lived in central WA for 30 years and this summer was our first trip to the park at Steamboat Rock. We love the park and plan to come back next summer with our 3 year old granddaughter to take advantage of the beautiful big toy.</p> <p>The only suggestion we have is to improve the trail up to the top of Steamboat Rock. We thought it was a little dangerous to climb. We got as far as the rock slide then had to turn back so never got to see the view from the top. Another loop with full hook ups would be nice too if there is room.</p>	<p>Trails</p>
<p>My family has been camping at Steamboat for over 10 years. My biggest frustration is the on-line reservation system. How can it be that at 12:01 A.M., 9 months before I want to reserve, I go on-line and all the sites I want have been booked within 1 minute!!! It's extremely frustrating. I even bagged our trip last year because of this.</p> <p>Otherwise, I love this park and want to continue to visit it!</p>	<p>Reservation system</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have the boat launching facilities closer to the camping area. 2. Allow more space between camping sites. 	<p>Facilities Layout</p>
<p>We really like that park. As with many parks, we would like it even MORE if we had a wifi connection to access and if the TV reception (cable?) were provided... to get news and weather, etc. Other than that, we feel that the park is just wonderful. We would like to see the park embrace GeoCaching more too.</p>	<p>Wi-Fi TV</p>
<p>I think it would be ideal to have a built in swimming pool, since the Columbia river water is so very cold. That's my two cents worth, everything else is great and that's why we come back year after year. Thank you.</p>	<p>Swimming pool</p>
<p>Expansion would be great! Also, please continue to improve the mosquito control program. The boat facilities, play area and concessions are great.</p>	<p>More sites Mosquitoes</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More sites, preferably some available without reservations 2. An overnight dock, due to the level of the lake fluctuating it is risky to leave your boat on the beach 3. If a dock were added consider having a power source, Bass fisherman need to charge there electric trolling motor batteries 	<p>More sites Moorage Geese Trees</p>

<p>4. Goose removal, I know that is not a site improvement but the lawns are covered in goose poop, not great for kids to play on</p> <p>5. If you add more trees, consider adding non messy trees such as Ash, Maple, Oak. There are some trees on site ie poplars, sycamores that are really messy. They tend to fill your boat with debris overnight. I know that is picky but I'm in the landscape business and appreciate some trees more than others.</p>	
<p>I would like to see the park grow as it Is hard to get in there in the summer. We travel all the way from the coast, and it is getting Quite expensive just to get there, and the fees went up to \$35.00 the last time we were there I would like to see a lower fee for our age of people.</p>	<p>More sites Cost</p>
<p>Our stay at Steamboat was very enjoyable except what you probably hear from other campers...the goosepoop is a big turn off. We had to be careful for almost everywhere we stepped. Also when I made the reservations online, it LOOKED like the park was quite full. Upon arriving, we saw that there were very few people there. The park is nice, and I understand that it is quite hard to get into in the summer. Therefore I have never tried. We tend to go in April (spring break) . So the improvement I might suggest is expansion.</p>	<p>Geese Reservation system More sites</p>
<p>I feel it is one of the finest [parks] I have been in. I would like to see more full service camping spots but not to the detriment of the park. Perhaps in the area at the south end of Steamboat Rock on the west side would be possible without overcrowding the existing area or destroying wildlife areas.</p>	<p>More sites (hookups)</p>
<p>I would like to see tent sites close to the lake for motorcycles only.</p>	<p>More sites (motorbike only)</p>
<p>My family and I have been camping at Steamboat Park for almost a decade. We love the park!! The one thing we would want to change is to have the option of waterfront rv parking or some place where we can put our boat into the water and camp near that location. The constant putting our boat in and out of the water is work, when we are on vacation. Other than this one small detail--We love Steamboat Rock!!</p>	<p>Waterfront sites Moorage</p>
<p>We are glad to hear that the state is considering making positive changes to Steamboat. We love camping there and one of our concerns is the lack of spaces within the park. We have camped in the park a few times in the past, but with the changes made to the reservation system (booking a year in advance) we were unable to get reservations this year. We have used the boat launch and would love to see improvements there. More launch spaces would always be welcome as would a larger campground (including more restrooms with showers!).</p>	<p>More sites</p>
<p>I would suggest the following improvements for Steamboat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional parking for both visitors and campers (it is a bit frustrating to have to pay an additional \$10/day for parking an extra vehicle; we bring both our trailer and our boat, so always end up paying for parking and it is rare that there are open spots in front of the restrooms) 	<p>More parking Cost Mosquitoes</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spray more for mosquitoes, they are horrible during the summer months <p>All in all, we really enjoy camping at Steamboat. It's great to have full hookups and the water/beach right there. It does seem like we debate coming back every year because of the mosquitoes, but so far we always have.</p>	
<p>I can honestly say, there isn't anything about Steamboat Rock that we would change. It is one of our most favorite parks in the eastern portion of WA and OR to camp at - we love to hike the rock, the sunsets are spectacular and when we're lucky we get to watch the deer climb down from the mountain to feast on the grass - hard to beat it!</p>	No changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wi-fi access at the park • Mosquitoes are god-awful, something more then spraying 2 times a week would be wonderful • More clearly mark the shallow areas approaching the beach areas near the campsites <p>We love the park, though these issues are minor, they would be nice.</p>	Wi-Fi Mosquitoes Sand bar
<p>I am very interested in the future expansion of the park. I would like to see more singletrack trails for hiking and mountain biking and more beaches to walk along. We love the park and the proximity to the lake.</p>	Trails
<p>We have camped several times at Steamboat Rock and loved it. On our two visits our kids have had a wonderful time and have many great memories that will last a lifetime. We went to Banks lake again this year but could not get reservations, so we camped at Sunbanks Resort. Not even close to the experience at the State Park!!!!</p> <p>Here are our thoughts:</p> <p>We usually camp with a group of 7 to 10 families. <u>So we are big fans of group campsites.</u> We camped for many years at the Bridgeport State Park group site and were very pleased. It is a beautiful group site, well segregated from general campsites, lots of grass, lots of shade trees, cooking shelter (with power) with restrooms nearby. In short an ideal group site (only thing missing was that the group site is not adjacent to the water). Then we reserved the Steamboat Rock group site. No comparison to Bridgeport! It is small, brown grass with little shade.</p> <p>So our hope would be that the long term plan would include several new group sites.</p> <p>Amenities desired in the group site (in rough priority, highest priority first):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lots of grass area 	Reservations Layout Group camp improvements Moorage trees

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Shade trees 3. Restroom nearby 4. Cooking shelter with power and water 5. Segregated from other campers, at least somewhat 6. On the water – we always have boats with us and it is nice not to have to pull them out of the water each night. 7. Showers nearby 	
<p>I've been camping with a large group for about 20 years now. Some of them have been coming for 30 years.</p> <p>I'm very interested in the overall plan, Can you send me an outline of what the park service wants to do? Adding a third satellite of camp sites similar to what you have already is ok with me.</p> <p>Or,...better yet.</p> <p>One big recommendation is an improved group site(s) with some privacy from the parking lot with shading. What's there now is not very conducive for use. We have to try and get 15-20 camp sites via the reservation system every year. I've been lead organizer the last 5 or so years now and it's difficult, time consuming, stressful and costly. I speak with other groups with 4-10 camps and they all agree. We enjoy the privacy of our individual sites to get away for a bit, but we all want to be close to one another as well maybe with a common fire pit an/or cover? Being able to enjoy the vacation, park and the recreation the lake and surrounding area is always better when you can share those experiences with friends and family.</p> <p>I guess the group site and reservation process are the two largest areas of comment I have.</p>	<p>More sites Group site Reservation system</p>
<p>I have camped at Steamboat for the last 4 years in the group camp site. We usually have 6 families (about 35 people) with about 25 of those being kids under age 14.</p> <p>We really enjoy being able to put our picnic tables in a circle and cook and eat where everyone can talk during meal times. Also the kids can play together easily. They also spend a lot of time on the grassy area next to the group site.</p> <p>We like the freedom of putting our tents wherever we want. With the kids growing up they like to bring their own tent to sleep in with their friends. However, having less sand in the site would be nice.</p> <p>We also like being at the end of the parking lot where the kids ride their bikes and scooters without a lot of traffic coming through.</p> <p>We bring 3 boats and if we were closer to the water we would prefer to keep them on the beach instead of taking them out every night.</p> <p>We REALLY hate the pot holes in the group site. We are tempted to bring our own equipment in to fix them! They are hazardous!</p> <p>We would REALLY like soap in the little bathroom by the boat launch.</p>	<p>Group camp Facilities Moorage</p>

<p>We would REALLY like to have the bathrooms cleaned regularly. No matter what anyone says, they are not cleaned every day!</p> <p>The little store could make more money by selling Abreva cold sore medicine and lip balm!</p>	
<p>My first idea for improving it would be to abandon the dusk mosquito spray program. It is the only bad memory I have from my experiences there. It didn't seem to be very effective; the mosquitoes showed up as soon as the truck left, but the toxic smell stayed long after. As campers, we should expect wilderness, the good and bad. I would rather dress appropriately for bugs than be concerned the entire time I'm there about the safety of my family as we breathe in the smell of bug spray and try to hide our food, clothes, blankets, etc from exposure. It not only taints the environment, but also the memories of the experience.</p>	<p>Mosquito spraying</p>
<p>I have been going to Steamboat State Park for years. Each year more and more high tech equipment shows up. A couple of years ago there was a very large cinema screen with speakers etc that blarred out over the lake and camp ground until after 10.00pm. The same group had a light show across the camp ground that had lights on a circuit racing around an electronic track. The track was 90 feet long in a NASCAR type shape!</p> <p>Point being the camp ground is becoming more and more about bringing "stuff" and less and less about camping in the wilderness areas. The noise level is incresing, and as a result the wilderness is being drown out. I believe monitoring the site after night fall should be a regular routine, where those patrolling and checking on the camp sites encourage people to be respectful of others.</p> <p>Is it possible to have a camping area for tents only, where RVs, automobiles, speed boats, rafts, radios etc are not allowed and you have to pack your camping stuff into the area? The same area could be by the lake, but that overnight parking of boats etc withing 1/4 mile of the shore would be prohibited. (I know there is a primitive camp site by the lake, but the persons that use those bring in all the stuff, flop it on the beach and makes masses of noise until way past sundown. The sites are then hardly primitive!)</p> <p>The larger the camp ground gets, the more destruction of the surrounding sagebrush, wild life, etc will take place. If expansion is to be, the land between the rangers home and the entrance should be used, where access to the lake is good. Positioning the new camp ground there, would enable camping, etc, but would not destroy the land at the base of Steamboat Rock, which is a very delicate environment.</p>	<p>Experience</p> <p>Safety & law enforcement</p> <p>Tents only area</p>
<p>My wife and I stayed at Steamboat Rock State Park for two nights this summer and found the campground to be delightful except for one factor - the mosquitoes were simply unbearable! Before considering expanding, modifying, or altering the park management, I would heartily recommend that a more effective mosquito abatement program be adopted. We were forced to stay inside our trailer even with the application of DEET-based repellents. We saw a young boy who had a multitude of welts on his face, chest and back; his grandparents had not realized how bad the mosquitoes were and did not properly apply mosquito repellent. In addition to the obvious comfort issue, the increasing reports of West Nile virus raise a serious public health issue as well.</p> <p>I realize that there are probably overlapping jurisdictions with the attendant inertia and challenges in solving these types of environmental problems. However, I strongly urge you to aggressively address the mosquito issue as the first step in any effort to improve the park.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes</p>

<p>We have camped at the Steamboat Rock State Park numerous times over the years, both as a family and as a part of a larger group. We have always enjoyed our stay there, as at all Washington's state parks; you do such a nice job keeping the grounds up and the staff is always polite and helpful.</p> <p>My only comment towards State Parks in general is concerning the registration process. It would be so much nicer and allow for so much flexibility and spontaneity in our outings if we could register for more than one day at a time when arriving at the park rather than needing to do it all on-line or over the phone weeks ahead of time.</p> <p>As to Steamboat Rock in particular, we like to take our boat when we go there (just a little 14' Livingston). For improvements, it would be nice to have the deeper channel(s) leading in to the beach area adjacent to the camping areas marked with buoys so we don't have to worry about bottoming out on the sand bars as we come in late in the evening after the sunset fishing period. Also, it would be nice to make the tent pads a little larger to accommodate a couple of tents, as our children are older now and like to have their own tent, which is nice for us too!</p>	<p>Reservations Sand bars Tent pads larger</p>
<p>I would like to see better mooring next to campgrounds. I would like to get tv reception, it helps with children.</p>	<p>Moorage TV</p>
<p>The things I would add or change about this park are: Boat dock capacity for overnight tie up. General capacity expansion.</p>	<p>Moorage More sites</p>
<p>I would love to see the park expanded. Our family has been going there since I was a little girl and I am now 50 years old....and we simply find that there are years that we cannot go now – as we cannot get a reservation. We will even get up early morning on the date that we are allowed to make a reservation and find that we cannot get one. This has happened repeatedly and since we have trouble rearranging vacation days....we find ourselves having to go somewhere else. (which is sad)</p> <p>We have also had to change campsites numerous times while on a week long vacation and this is extremely hard as well...but again, understanding that the park is simply full and nothing can be done about that.</p> <p>Everything else about Steamboat is wonderful. Wonderful staff and facilities, have always loved the people that owned the concessions (although they may be gone now...as I know they were trying to sell it), clean bathrooms, great at maintaining insects with the spraying, etc. I would not be who I am today....without all of my great experiences at Steamboat Rock Park and it does make me sad that even this year – were not able to come because it is so popular now that we cannot get a spot.</p>	<p>Reservations More sites</p>
<p>Overall I enjoy the park as it is currently managed. I am a disabled veteran that utilizes the park several times each year to go fishing. Allowing me to stay for free as a disabled veteran is one of the best benefits I have to show for my service, and I really appreciate it as I know others do as well. I hope you continue this in the future.</p> <p>Any improvements to the launch ramp area would be welcomed, including more dock space to tie up a boat while being out of the way of</p>	<p>Boat launch Moorage Shade</p>

<p>Continued.....</p> <p>those who are launching or retrieving their boats. Shade and rain protection at some campsites would also be appreciated, particularly for the handicapped spaces. Many times when I stay it is off peak season and is raining, and it would be nice to have somewhere to sit and relax under a roof where I can stay dry, and also put supplies out of my vehicle and out of the rain.</p>	
<p>After camping at Steamboat for a couple of years, we left and went to Coulee Playground. We did this because of the severe mosquito problem you have. Coulee has none and when I say that, I mean we did not see one bug. You guys need to spray nightly - it is dangerous with the West Nile problem and a huge annoyance.</p>	Mosquitoes
<p>WOULD LIKE TO HAVE OVERNIGHT BOAT MOORAGE SLIPS WITH ELECTRIC POWER.</p>	Moorage
<p>WOW.....it is hard for me to come up with improvements for Steamboat. It is one of our favorite parks! About the only thing I could say is to make it bigger. Right now it seems next to impossible to camp there during the busy summer months unless the reservation is made 8 months in advance. We love the wide open spaces with lots of grass. Even though the park is always full.....it never feels like it.</p>	More sites
<p>We enjoy the park except for the mosquitos. We may find a different park because of this. We have camped at Steamboat 6+ years in a row. Hope this helps the direction of the park.</p>	Mosquitoes
<p>Ideas for possible improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn off the lights on the vending machines by the bathrooms; the lights violate the night. • Add more hiking trails, with maps. To look at desert, to look at wildlife, to look at geology. Need not be fancy. • Have a brochure/display telling about the geology of the scablands • Have a brochure/display telling about the desert and its inhabitants, also about human history in the area • Consider letting some of the grassy watered areas revert to natural vegetation. • If you build another camping area consider leaving the natural vegetation, but space the sites further apart. Maybe no hookups, or only electricity. • Consider creating a group camp area; the parking lot version leaves something to be desired. • Consider creating a horse camp area where campers can bring their trusty steeds and ride in the desert. (I have no idea if this is practical.) 	<p>Facilities/operations Trails Interpretive Group camp Horses</p>
<p>My family and I had a great time at the park. The only improvements we could think of is more camp sites and a cleaner swimming area we would love to see it expand to accomidate more campers, we have a large trailer and the park was very easy to manuver around. Thanks for asking</p>	More sites

<p>The water off the loop closest to the ranger station, would benefit from taking some of the weeds out of the water it is menacing for the boats and scary for the swimmers.</p> <p>Love the sites at Steamboat Rock, not too close together not dusty, nice bathrooms on one of the best if not the best lake in Washington for boating. The reservation system is somewhat frustrating when all is booked up and many sites are vacant. Not sure what the answer is. Possibly charge double if the reservations go unused without cancelling at least one week in advance. Tricky issue but it is a shame to see these sites go unused but not available.</p> <p>The obvious, an addition of another loop would be nice with the same style of layout.</p> <p>The bugs have been getting worse the last two years. Not sure if that is due to change in spraying or weather conditions. It would be more enjoyable without the mosquitoes.</p>	<p>Milfoil Reservation system More sites Mosquitoes</p>
<p>We love the park and the sandy beaches, but having to launch my boat daily is a bit of hassle, especially during prolonged stays (tying the boat up on the beach is OK, but we worry about it drifting away during wind storms). It would be nice to see a fishing dock with boat slips for each loop (I would gladly pay an additional fee for a boat slip). The dock would also be nice for those folks who enjoy fishing but do not have access to a boat during their stay. My wife mentioned it would be nice have more shower stalls. Everything else is great!</p>	<p>Moorage Docks Facilities (showers)</p>
<p>Thank you for the opportunity for our input into Steamboat Rock State Park. We just had a discussion as a family to decide what we like and dislike and would improve on there. You should know that we have been staying there a few times a year since the park first opened it is our favorite place to go camping as a family and with friends.. What we like best about the Park: The size: Just enough people to let you feel like its not over crowded when its full. Wildlife: We Love to see the deer and upland birds and yes even the snakes. Remote camping: We find that if we can't get a spot in the park that staying in the remote areas a just a great (Johns Bay). We also like the Barker Canyon area. We don't' feel that there is a need for more camping areas. Anymore would take away from the the attraction of the park. I would consider renovating the bathrooms. More than one shower stall per side and better ventilation in them. We think that a trail system between the camp grounds would be nice and down by the small lake at the entrance would be great (ranger check in station) and maybe a small dock there as well for viewing wildlife and fishing for the kids and handicap, & seniors. It would keep campers on the trails and not tromping where you don't want them to be. Information signs on the trails about the wildlife and plants and history of the area. Maybe Yurts like some of the other parks? We think that by keeping it simple (The Park) and less crowed it will keep its appeal. If you ever go up near Sun Lakes Resort (north of the Park) its a ZOO there both on land and water..Too many people...</p>	<p>No more sites Facilities (showers) Trails Dock Interpretive Yurts</p>

<p>Just a couple quick suggestions would be possibly dredging approach to camp site loops for the boaters.?, I can imagine costs and environmental issues may warrant moneys better spent elsewhere.</p>	<p>Sand bar</p>
<p>The one idea that I've always harbored about the State Parks is that they don't have any place to boondock overnite when they are full. If Steamboat Rock just had a big parking area that a person could dry camp for a nite people would return the next day and pay for camping. That is the one big improvement that you could make to Steamboat Rock.</p>	<p>Overnight parking</p>
<p>The walk-in camp area around the bay at the back of the park is a unique feature. Please keep this and do not open it up to vehicle traffic.</p>	<p>Keep walk-in sites</p>
<p>We have stayed at Steamboat for the last 3 years and enjoy it very much. Misquitos this summer in the 40s loop were unbearable.It is very difficult getting reservations. More sites would be nice, and more water sites would be better.Boat launch could be larger but we really have never had any problem getting in or out.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes More sites Boat launch</p>
<p>My family and I love Steamboat Rock and go there several times each year. The only suggestion I would have would be the restrooms cleaned better. The men's room this summer has been so bad my husband will not let out son go into it. We have on two occasions mentioned it to the staff. More camping spots would be great also we have to make reservations in January for July and most times are not able to make reservation at all for the dates we would like.</p>	<p>Facilities (cleanliness) More sites</p>
<p>The park is the best kept one in the area. We love to stay there in our Travel Trailer. When spaces are available. Enlarge the park! Our only complaint would be lack of trees for shade in certain spots (81) No shade at all. The more trees the better. The problem with goose droppings cannot be helped. The possibility of moorings along the shore would be nice for boaters. Less lines hanging from the banks and trees..... Thanks for including us in this.</p>	<p>Trees / shade More sites Geese Moorage</p>
<p>I have camped at Steamboat the part two years. I love the park and it's facilities. I would love to see an expansion of RV spots, as the current ones take cunning and courage to aquire! It is very difficult to get summer reservations. If additions are made, I advocate for larger sites like 1-50, rather than the newer half of Steamboat where there are fewer trees and closer sites.</p>	<p>More sites</p>

<p>The changes that i would like to see for the park is more privet camping sites with the full hook up sites. As well as more shady areas, also i think it would be benifit to all campers if there was family showers for those of us who camp with young children. thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts and my opinions, on how to make changes with the park.</p>	<p>More sites Trees / shade Facilities (showers)</p>
<p>I would like some kind of sign that would tell people about respecting other peoples sights or caming area. This spring we had a sight by the water and everyone who wanted to walk to the water did so through our sight. There were dogs, noise, and certainly no privacy. I realize there should be some kind of a walk through that keep people and their dogs and kids and them out of other peoples sights. Some people walked around the edges to be considerate of our privacy and they shouldn't have to do that either. There needs to be walkways to the water and tell people to stay on them. Space the sights a little ways back and everyone should win.</p>	<p>Layout (beach access) Trails</p>
<p>We enjoyed your park. It was very hard to get reservations.....you need a lot more camp sites, (build it and we will come), docks for boats would be great, trees for shade and wind protection, more space between camp sites.</p>	<p>More sites Moorage Trees / shade</p>
<p>Thank you for requesting feedback from your campers!</p> <p>This park is so popular (and almost always fully reserved in the summer), I would love to see more campsites added. In addition, some reservable boat slips would be very helpful and could also generate funds.</p>	<p>More sites Moorage</p>
<p>This is one of my favorite parks and one that I love to use. I am glad that there are state parks folks that are interested in improving this wonderful park and would love to provide input on any proposed projects.</p> <p>As a thirty plus year park and recreation professional, I appreciate what has been done in the past at Steamboat Rock and would love to provide input on future developments. I bring my RV and boat there and think that it is a great state park. Years ago, I thought that my friend Ange Taylor was on the right track with this park and that he did a wonderful job in its development.</p> <p>I would love to talk with you about development options but would need to know more about what your thoughts are on future development.</p>	
<p>As a returning park camper, I would like to make a request for the children. It would be so nice to have a small playground area for the younger kids to meet and play with others their age. As the children play they may create some new friends and stay busier. It could also bring parents together for friendly visiting opportunities.</p> <p>The park at the day use area is wonderful, but it is so far away for the quick visit. Those of us with younger children, know they don't last as long as the older children. The day use park is quite a walk especially for the smaller kids.</p> <p>Thank you for keeping the park running so well. We appreciate everything the rangers and the staff, as well as the hosts, do to keep the park a great place to camp.</p>	<p>Playground location</p>

<p>Thank you for contacting us in the matter of expansion of Steamboat Park. This park is definitely our favorite place to stay. We don't get a chance to go camping with our trailer too often but we always try to stay at Steamboat at least once a year. In fact just before I checked our e-mail, we were discussing what weekend after Labor Day we could possibly stay there. We think it's a great idea to expand the park. Hopefully more sites would increase our chances of securing a spot there. We only live 50 miles away in Ephrata and when a free weekend becomes available it's always booked solid. We feel like it's our park! I guess our only concern would be to mimic the sites already there. They are planned out nicely with plenty of room between sites. We have a few favorite sites along the water and often feel like we're the only ones there because many of the sites have a private feel to them. Some campgrounds tend to matchstick sites so tightly that one time we couldn't even extend our canopy! I think expanding Steamboat would be a great move for Washington State Parks.</p>	<p>More sites</p>
<p>We've camped there each of the last two years. I have 3 children, and one exchange child from Belarus, and they all love the park. Their ages are 4 through 13. They love the sand, the large sand dune/hill and the swimming. I like the fact they can bring their bikes and ride freely without worrying about accidents. We like the fact that there are trees at each campsite for shade. We also feel safe there as the park ranger patrols periodically.</p> <p>We are true campers. We stay in a tent, not an RV or motor home.</p> <p>I asked the kids what improvements can be made. They say it needs to be sprayed more for bugs and mosquitos, and the swimming area needs to be cleaned out for "sea weed". They don't like things grabbing their legs when they are swimming. I wish the boaters wouldn't clog up the swimming area with their speedboats. It hasn't been too much of a problem. I also noticed you are having a "geese problem" with geese droppings all over the grass areas.</p> <p>I wish there was some way to make it easier to get reservations there. It's pretty much like calling in a radio station and being the lucky one in a hundred caller. It's impossible to get a reservation when they become available. Typically, I wait until March or April before I try to reserve a spot for July or August. I've just been lucky that someone has cancelled.</p> <p>If you expand the park to create more campsites in another location, it might make it easier to get a reservation. That might be expensive though.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes Milfoil Boats on beach Geese Reservations</p>
<p>We love Steamboat, but there are a couple things that would make it even better:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is no place to moor boats there. In some parks, you can rent a slip and keep your boat there safely. At Steamboat, we have to keep it on the beach, which makes it hard to keep the boat clean, get people on and off, etc. 2. The mosquitoes about ate us alive last year when we were there, and the spraying was very ineffective. They sprayed from the street. The squitters were in the bushes and tall grass. I haven't seen so many mosquitoes since living in Klamath Falls, OR as a kid. We had to leave the next day. Some in our party left the same day! We didn't bother to go there this year. We just stayed at Sun Lakes. It wasn't worth the chance. We had 38 people this year in our group. Many came to Steamboat with us last year after a few days at Sun Lakes. Nobody wanted to go there this year. 	<p>Moorage Mosquitoes</p>

<p>Two suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I enjoy wildlife, but all the goose poop has turned an otherwise beautiful park and beach into a human health hazard. 2. A decent near-by golf course would add to the depth of activities at the park. <p>We have enjoyed our visits to Steam Boat Rock. I hesitate to suggest much change, since part of what we enjoy there is the solitude (especially up on the Rock!).</p>	<p>Geese Recreation No change</p>
<p>The only suggestion to make the park better is bigger than the park. It is a problem with the reservation system. Many of my friends and family have had such a tough time getting reservations at the campground only to arrive and find a number of empty spaces that go unused over the weekend. I know this is, or at least was, the most popular campground in WA but the unused sites are curious.</p> <p>The only explanation we can think of is that there is a group of people that gets such special privileges (free sites) that they don't face a penalty for not showing. I fully support free camp fees for Veterans, for instance, but I think they should pay a fee if they don't use a reserved site.</p>	<p>More sites Reservations</p>
<p>My husband has been visiting Steamboat Rock State Park annually since birth, which accumulates to more than 30 years. I have been joining him for the last 7 of those years. We have a vested interest in the park.</p> <p>We are very interested in any changes that the park will be undergoing. The concerns and suggestions that our uncle, XXXX, has itemized below also resonate with us. The only amendment to his suggestion of an improved group site(s) would be that said site(s) would include full hook-up facilities, and preferably multiple hook-up capabilities within each site.</p>	<p>Group site improvements</p>
<p>Our family has used 3-4 campsites at Steamboat Rock SP for 7-8 days in June for the past 4 years. Next year we are going to Lake Chelan and have no intention of returning to SRSP.</p> <p>The mosquitoes drove us out. They were horrible in 2005, bad in 2006, not an issue at all in 2007, and unbearable in 2008. Our 3 year old grandson got no less than 100 bites in 8 days, even with 3 doses of repellent every day. The rest of us had fewer bites, particularly when inside a screen tent, however letting him play in the outdoors is the only reason we came to the park.</p> <p>Recommendation: Early in the year, do the fogging every evening, just like we did in Vietnam and Georgia in the 60's and 70's.</p> <p>If you do solve the problem for June, please let me know. Until then, we'll be going to Lakeshore RV park in Chelan.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>As a returning park camper, I would like to make a request for the children. It would be so nice to have a small playground area for the younger kids to meet and play with others their age. As the children play they may create some new friends and stay busier. It could also bring parents together for friendly visiting opportunities.</p> <p>The park at the day use area is wonderful, but it is so far away for the quick visit. Those of us with younger children, know they don't</p>	<p>Playground</p>

<p>last as long as the older children. The day use park is quite a walk especially for the smaller kids.</p> <p>Thank you for keeping the park running so well. We appreciate everything the rangers and the staff, as well as the hosts, do to keep the park a great place to camp.</p>	
<p>We think the "Rock" rocks. I can't imagine wanting to change anything about it. If it is expanded that brings more people in, which is good for the economy, but it also increases expenses to operate and maintain. I would hope it could continue being the place my family begins and ends each camping season. There is nothing I would want to see changed, only continue to be managed in the awesome way it is being done now.</p> <p>It is a sight to behold from whatever angle you come at and I hope the populace isn't the attraction.</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<p>The park is always full during the peak camping summer season. Reservation system is clumsy and not fair. Large non-refundable deposits should be required. Why not 1-2 years in advance. Let the state invest the money.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The park needs to be expanded. Why not on the West or North sides of the peninsula? 2. Continuing the use of out of country reservation system is ludicrous. There are too many people out of work in this state to send it to Canada!! This also would seem to provide the ability for fraud for campers beyond the reach of state regulations. 3. Why is it that the same people are able to get the prime waterfront spots year after year, including some groups. I defy you to tell me how and why that occurs. It cannot be simply by chance! 4. Only after Washington residents have a chance for a reservation should out of state or nation campers should be accepted. Then, only for those states with a reciprocal arrangement. 	<p>Reservations More sites</p>
<p>Our family loves to go to Steamboat Rock to camp. There are only a couple of thing that I would change.. It's hard to get a reservation, so there needs to be more spots. Second if you don't have a boat, the park beach is full of goose feces and mil-foil. I know that the mil-foil is part of the natural part of the lake but it's nasty to swim in. Otherwise we love it there.</p>	<p>Reservations Geese Milfoil</p>
<p>It would be nice if the park had better showers and more bathrooms.</p>	<p>Facilities (showers)</p>
<p>Great Park – Beautifully maintained...I can only suggest adding more sites to ease congestion and allow more recreational opportunities for others.</p>	<p>More sites</p>

<p>We would love to see additional camping sites, as it is very hard to get into Steamboat Rock! We don't live far, and it is the perfect camping spot for us to just get a way for a couple days.</p>	<p>More sites</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. expand 2. I see that replacement trees have been planted and understand why they are sparse , but a few more for shade would be nice 3. I know that the milfoil weed is a tough one to deal with but saw no notices on helping slowing its spreading further 4. Expand with more serviced sites... 5. While there this year a lawn mower was used with a rear hamper, once the hamper was full the operator simply backed it over a slight bank and plopped the clippings onto the beach. This was not xxxxxxxxxxxx that always uses the rider but was an xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. He saw my disappointment in this but simply carried on. He had done this twice that week. 6. Cleaner beach areas in the camping area's. Yes I have a dog and cleaned up after her but beverage bottles and snack containers didn't come from her. 7. Is there something that can clean the weeds from the beaches? Or because is never ending nothing is done about it? 	<p>More sites Milfoil More hookups Operations Trash</p>
<p>Thanks for the opportunity to comment. I can think of 2 things right off the top.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climbing Steamboat Rock was precarious and quite difficult. And I am a healthy, fit person. I am not asking for handicap accessibility to the top as that would be prohibitive. But the placement of a handrail would go a long way in making it a safer trip up and down the steep rocky trail. 2. The top of Steamboat Rock is a wonderful and beautiful place. But the trails are confusing and lacking in description. I would like to see a map displayed of the area in a kiosk so a walking trip can be planned. Include mileage and significant points along the way. Also show pictures and stories of the various wildlife that lives up there. <p>I think the camping facilities are top notch. Not much is needed to improve the campground.</p> <p>I also wonder if the grasslands between the highway and the campground could be better utilized. But I do like the buffer they create. And it also provides a home to lots of wildlife. So maybe just as well to leave it alone.</p> <p>Thanks for your help with Washington State Parks. Some of the best State Parks in the country.</p>	<p>Trail / safety Interpretive / signs</p>
<p>Thanks. My biggest suggestion is: Quit watering so much!!!! Twice a day every day, all over the park is a huge waste. In addition, someone MUST go through what exactly is being watered. In the circle where I was staying, I'd say a good 5 or 6 campsites were having their tent pads watered.</p>	<p>Operations (Irrigation)</p>

<p>We like Steamboat Rock State park very much. We would prefer to not have to pay for showers though. Could we just pay more for the camping fee? And the garbage dumpsters always overflow. They could dump them more often or make the containers larger. We would be in favor the the park expanding. It's very hard to get a reservation for several families currently. If there were more camp sites it would possibly make things easier. We used to be able to get ahold of someone at 7am, 9 months in advance and book several sights together, but that's almost impossible now. Those are our thoughts. If you don't change a thing, we'll keep coming back though!</p>	<p>Fees Operations More sites</p>
<p>My vote is for expansion.</p> <p>Expansion to the west would be so practical, and most importantly, have very little impact on the current usage of the east side water activities. It would remain one park, but with water activities in completely different areas, which would not affect water traffic & safety.</p> <p>There are already some very nice beach areas on the west side of the park.</p> <p>There are never enough camp sites in WA State, particularly at Steamboat Rock. It's nearly impossible to get a camp site there during the summer months as it is one of the most popular parks in WA. I would say at Steamboat Rock, 80% of the people are turned away as the campsite is full. A rough estimation would be that 50% of people are turned away every day all over WA State as campgrounds are too full.</p> <p>I have personally answered a query by a national very well known travel website, advising people to either travel to Idaho/Montana for summer camping holidays, or make your reservations in WA 9 months in advance. I have camped in State Parks all over WA, OR, Idaho, Montana and into Canada for years. The parks in WA and OR are THE MOST difficult, and most expensive, to get into as there are not enough sites to accommodate demand.</p>	<p>More sites Fees</p>
<p>Thank you for the e-mail regarding planning for Steamboat Rock. We have thoroughly enjoyed camping at this state park. We have camped with tents and with our trailer. I have two suggestions. The last time we were there we had a medium size tent and a small tent and had trouble fitting the two onto one tent pad. Larger tent pads would be nice. My other suggestion would be improved shower facilities. The last time we were there the coin slot was jammed in the shower and I could not get hot water. The handicapped shower was empty so I tried that. It took my coins, but I was still unable to get hot water. I might add that the water was really cold...cold enough to hurt my head when washing my hair. My suggestion would be to add more showers and a different system for getting hot water. You have a beautiful park and it is very well maintained.</p>	<p>Larger tent pads Facilities (showers)</p>
<p>Loved the park just the way it was and can't think of any changes that need to be made other than posting's down in the camping sections with fire restrictions or park announcements.</p>	<p>Signs</p>
<p>My family and I have been camping at Steamboat for the past 20+ years.. It is a great park and don't really want to see any major changes. We stay in the North park camping area. It looks like some improvements were already made since last summer, the women's bathroom had new stalls and a shelf added to the shower area. A fence added in certain areas etc.. Only thing here is the wheelchair units don't have enough hot water and I have lost many dollars and time with my kids to get them cleaned up to find out after we are</p>	<p>Facilities (showers) Mosquitoes</p>

<p>ready to shower and put in our quarters NO HOT WATER comes out. So would suggest larger hot water tanks. I have not had this problem happen often in the regular women's restrooms. So don't know why the wheelchair access units always seem to have cold water, even in the early morning before most are awake.</p> <p>Also, as the years have progressed the mosquito problem has been getting worse!. Not sure why this is... but would suggest that during July and August the park is sprayed <u>every night</u> to try and gain some ground over these annoying insects that love to snack on me and my kids! It's terrible dealing with the non stop bites and itch they create which definitely puts a damper on things..</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration regarding these recommendations.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>I am a 22 year camper at Steamboat, first at the unimproved boat sites, then migrated into the park as we had kids. Today, with two teenagers, we bring a group of 6-10 families during a 10 day period at the end of June. It is our favorite place in the world. Yes, it is a pain in the butt to make your reservations 9 months ahead, but it really attracts the kind of campers (families and fisherman) that we want to camp around.</p> <p>Due to the high volume of campers and state-wide budget cuts, we have noticed that the bathrooms are not as clean in the last two years as they have been before. But the most concerning thing is the mosquitoes. Two out of the last three years our camping trip has been challenged by the high number of mosquitoes. Promises of more and better spraying have not come through. Especially, when we learned that our friends who went in August also experienced the same problem.</p> <p>Yes, the park will always fill up with campers, despite the bugs. But, it is a serious health concern that these cannot be controlled. Early in our camping experience, 15 to 20 years ago, bugs were also a problem, but that was before spraying. Spray every night if you have to, but these have to be controlled.</p>	<p>Operations(cleaning) Mosquitoes</p>
<p>We enjoy Steamboat Rock very much, particularly the fishing, boating, and hiking to the top of Steamboat Rock. Your state park staff does a great job. I do have a few comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We usually camp on the South end in August. Our experience is that the water is low at that time of year and the boat access is very restricted by the low water and weeds. It would be good to include dredging and maintaining a boating channel to the South end in the plan. 2. Whereas some of the camp sites are well shaded with beautiful well maintained trees, many are not. Given the heat of summer camping at Steamboat, I recommend a more vigorous tree planting and maintenance program around all sites. 3. We enjoy taking our boat to some of the more remote sandbars surrounding the park for swimming. These are often heavily littered and we do our part to haul out extra trash. However we cannot do it all. I recognize that these are not in the park per se, but they are part of the Steamboat Rock experience for many of its users. I recommend that you institute a program, voluntary or otherwise, to help clean up these beaches. 4. Several years ago my son contracted EColi at the park (I believe it was strain 151). We suspect it was from the deer, either from swimming/snorkeling in the near shore area or from petting our dog that perhaps rolled in some deer droppings. I realize you 	<p>Sand bars Tress (shade) Operations (trash) Concession</p>

<p>cannot get rid of the deer or sterilize the park. Some deer culling may be warranted. At a minimum, we believe you should test for EColi and clearly post warnings to park users.</p> <p>5. Fishing is a big attraction for us. It would be nice if the store sold worms and other bait.</p>	
<p>I think Steamboat Rock state park is one of the best state parks I have seen. It is a very well maintained. The only improvement I can think of is to have electricity at the tent sites. This would make it possible to charge boat batteries, plug in lights, etc.</p>	Facilities
<p>Thank you very much for requesting input from the public. This is how government is supposed to work!</p> <p>I will not be able to attend. I do however, have suggestion.</p> <p>Perhaps, the park can eventually have a horse trail? Or very close access to adjacent parks property, that can have a horse trail. I would guess that most of the people who use the park are from Western Washington. There is a large horse population in Western Washington (particularly in Snohomish county). The off season is perfect weather for horse riding on trails.</p>	Trails (horse)
<p>Only suggestion that I would make would be maintaining the pesticide on the misquotes. They were so bad; that if you were to walk on the grass you would be swarmed by misquotes and have a dozen bites by the time you reached the pavement. It was truly miserable and my children were eaten alive. Our new saying was “stay off the grass:.</p>	Mosquitoes
<p>How about considering expansion (full hook up sites to the left prior to arriving at the check in station) that extend down to the beach just south of the Rock. This would encourage and open more boaters to the back side and perhaps alleviate crowding in the main area. Is there a possibility of opening primitive sites just as you turn in off the main hiway on the left hand side? I also think that disability pass users should be issued a swipe card to use the disability bathroom to eliminate the use of the bathroom by non disability pass users. This can be frustrating waiting to use that bathroom only to witness several teenage girls exiting after spending a lengthy amount of time primping.</p>	More sites Facilities (ADA)
<p>Honestly, my stay last summer at Steamboat Rock was not a good one. I rode my bicycle and stayed at campsites from Portland into Canada, yet frankly the mosquitoes were awful at Steamboat Rock and was the worst stop for the entire trip. Of course you are not responsible for acts of nature, yet if you have knowledge of a problem, then you should certainly tell campers not to go there. I was miserable with the clouds of mosquitoes, and so were the other folks there. The only haven was inside a tent, yet then the fogging trucks came and that was suffocating. Being there was like paying in advance for a meal, and served trash. What do you expect? Your department may have made money by not telling folks to stay away from the area yet be certain that the word is out from those who persevered and stayed to others not to go there. Service comes first, and you should do better with the public.</p> <p>If you are to redesign such a place for camping, think about it more carefully. Many campsites I've seen are put in swampy areas, which really is a bad idea considering mosquitoes. Best to put folks higher up and away, even in a wind. If you tell them that they are there so they will not be bitten by swarms of mosquitoes, then they'll be grateful (and can walk down to the marsh areas as they desire).</p>	Mosquitoes Mosquito spraying

<p>We enjoy spending time in the Grand Coulee area but did not catch the amount of fish which we were expecting so we were not anxious to return.</p>	<p>Fishing</p>
<p>Steamboat Rock State Park is a world class park and we have had many great memories camping there. I love to see it maintained for many years to come. We love the fish cleaning stations through-out the park we have met many good people just cleaning fish. Also the circled roads to various site areas was an excellent idea in past planning which makes for easy in and out parking.</p> <p>Here are some ideas from a boater's/fisherman's point of view that come quickly to mind.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dock to park boats overnight. This would cause less traffic going in and out of the camping areas. Currently one has to pull his/her boat in and out each day and we usually get in late at night and trying to back one's boat up is not an easy task for even an experienced boater in these camping areas. • More water-front sites would be another plus. As sites 85-87 is our first choice and not always available. Reasons for this choice? We can park the boats along the shoreline to come in and have lunch during the days. A few others that we have meet camping there each season I like that area because they use the shoreline to dock their boat each night rather than pulling them out each day. • Another access on the South-side of the road leading into the park (if that even belongs to the park) would be great especially if more sites are in the planning. That gives a whole new perspective to the park and more options to boater's and fisherman if they want to utilize another area of the lake. On windy days that is a long stretch to get back into the devil's punch bowl from that side of the lake. • A shelter for shade during those really hot days to gather under if budgeting is available. 	<p>Moorage More sites Shade</p>
<p>Thanks for the opportunity to provide some feedback. The one thing I missed most when I camped there was the lack of shade and privacy. It would be great if we could plant more trees around the camp sites strategically to solve both the above problems.</p>	<p>Trees / shade</p>
<p>My family has been using this park for over 30 years to enjoy camping, boating and fishing. We like the park just as it is. However, it is getting harder to get reservations during summer months due to its popularity. I assume that any changes that are being considered are to enlarge the park to allow more usage. We would be in favor of some enlargement that would preserve the spaciousness of the camping experience and not put too many additional boats on the lake. Clearly, it is a large lake and it can probably support a limited amount of more boat traffic without a significant impact to the experience. One of the important features of the park is the open space which provides a unique experience, in my opinion. The logical area for building more hook-up sites would be between the existing south and north camps. I do not think that more campsites should be packed into the existing north and south camp areas. I like the circular format of the existing sites which give the camper adequate separation from the neighbors. Another idea would be to provide hook-up sites in the existing Jones Bay area. This would take some load off of the existing hook-up sites in the main camp areas. Perhaps a few more boat camps could be added in the bay north of the boat ramp area.</p>	<p>More sites</p>

<p>I would recommend no changes unless you are really sure they will lead to improvement.</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<p>Thank you for the opportunity to contribute feedback toward the improvement of Steamboat Rock State Park. Banks Lake and Steamboat Rock State Park are wonderful resources and my personal "go-to" location for quality camping and fishing. Our trips to Steamboat Rock are highlights for the year for my wife and two kids. We've shared many quality vacations as a family there and have made numerous trips camping with other friends and family there as well. I'm sure I will follow up with additional comments on what can make this already wonderful State Park. In the meantime, here are some initial thoughts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) I would like to see an additional boat launch, fish cleaning station and bathroom facility on the South side of the park entrance. I really enjoy the fish cleaning stations in the park. It really adds to the quality of the facility and keeps people from cleaning fish on the shoreline. I would like to see more of these fish cleaning stations at other state parks and boat launches. 2) Millfoil control! I'm not sure what can be done here, but if there's anything that can be done to minimize the millfoil, it would be great. I generally like to camp in the Southern most lower loop area..sites 32 - 37 I think they are. I enjoy that because I can leave my boat in the water at night and not be too far away from it. Often times, there is a ton of millfoil in that little inlet. It gets caught in my brother's intake for his jet boat. 3) I really appreciate the large grassy areas that some State Parks provide. We camped up at Bridgeport State Park a few weeks ago for the first time. The kids loved the centralized grassy area in the middle of the campground and spent much of their time playing in that area. I would recommend something similar be added to Steamboat Rock State Park. Having a big, grassy area to play baseball, football, frisbee, etc. would be wonderful. 4) Another element of Bridgeport State Park that I enjoyed and would recommend for Steamboat is the introduction of some new, large broad-leaf trees. I appreciated Bridgeport's selection of mature maples and other trees including some unique ornamental trees. It really added to the feeling of that park being an oasis in the middle of the arid desert. 	<p>Facilities (boating) (open lawns) Milfoil Trees</p>
<p>I am no stranger to camping, having owned and driven my RV all over the western states, as far east as Minnesota, and as far north as northern Alaska. Steamboat is my favorite park of all of them. It is equalled by only a few in the state of Alaska. For that reason I am horrified that you would think to change the camping areas at all.</p> <p>The only improvement I can think of would be to pave a few narrow nature trails into the wilder areas. At this time I do not walk away from the campgrounds or the beach areas because of fear of snakes. If there were a few narrow, asphalt paved trails, I think I would enjoy more areas of the park.</p>	<p>No changes Trails</p>

<p>A group site would be beneficial not only to our group, but other groups that I know of who plan annual trips to the park. This might also help to ease some of the pain of the registration process.</p>	<p>Group camp</p>
<p>Steamboat is a favorite among many people. Having a permanent sign post out front that reads "camp ground full" should be an indication improvements could be made and produce revenue for the State. For those of us that use the park, the biggest point of frustration is the availability. Maybe consideration of connecting the north and south areas with additional sites should be investigated. As the camp ground is full most of the time, it forces campers without reservations to use the banks lake shore. The shoreline and surrounding areas are showing signs of over use year after year. It's a nice area and we need to protect it!</p> <p>It would be interesting to review what the reservation vs.. cancellation ratio is in the park. Again due to the availability, One would believe reservations are being made many many months in advance just in case someone might want to consider camping in the area.</p>	<p>More sites Reservations</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not reduce the park in any way. This park is a true gem. I especially like the fishing-related facilities, specifically the outstanding boat launch w/ dock, and the fish cleaning stations (please keep ALL of them as several are located throughout the park). 2. As viewed during my last visit in June of this year, there are several areas that were freshly burned; one between the boat launch area and the camp area, located along the water, the other "above" the road towards Steamboat Rock the physical landmark. These appear to be prime areas for additional campsites, and I would like to see them developed as such. HOWEVER, I would highly recommend that these be developed as sites with more room/separation between sites. I would also support these as being full utility sites, e.g. water, power, and sewer. 3. I would like to see a series of trails between the park proper, and the entrance to the park off of the Banks Lake highway. One might even include a few picnic tables. This beautiful area contains plenty of wildlife, and could allow for handicap access throughout, as well as hiking and biking. NO motored vehicles allowed, e.g. motorcycles, 4-wheelers, etc. 	<p>More sites Trails</p>
<p>As for changes I would like to see a new loop added even if it is not right on the water.</p> <p>Additional walk-in tent sites and/or boat-in sites should be added and would not cost too much.</p> <p>The two biggest issues, mosquitoes and weeds, you probably can't do too much about. However, if West Nile Virus becomes a bigger problem something must be done. The last couple of years the mosquitoes have been unbearable (worse than Alaska) despite the spraying efforts</p>	<p>More sites Mosquitos Weeds</p>
<p>I would like to see steamboat rock expanded to add campsites at the south end of steamboat rock and off to the left of where the entrance road. There is plenty of space and wouldn't crowd the water because its far away from the existing camp area. It has become increasingly more difficult to get in there every year. Extra capacity would help.</p>	<p>More sites</p>

<p>Our family and friends have camped there every August for four years now. (this was the first year we were eaten alive by mosquitos). The facilities are great! I thought it might be nice to put in a basketball court. Otherwise, we love it there and have no issues!</p>	<p>Mosquitos Facilities</p>
<p>Steamboat Rock is one of my favorite parks in the system. We spend a lot of time in the park between April and October.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The new stripping that was done in the boat/trailer parking lot is TERRIBLE. The spots are way to narrow so what is happening is trucks and trailers are parking in every other parking spot which is actually cutting the truck/trailer parking in half. 2. People that are camping in spots that are accessible by boat only should have to park their trucks/trailers in the far end of the lot while they are camping. We found it very irritating this summer that numerous trucks/trailers remained parked in the prime spots of the parking lot for the whole 10 days that we were there. 3. There are bolts on the side of the dock that can put deep scratches in your boat. At Potholes those bolts are covered with black rubber which prevents damage to your boat. 4. Enforcement of the rules that are posted. Such as, it is illegal to transport people in your boats (while on the trailer) or on your jet skis (while on the trailer). This happens every day. We see it all the time and it is so dangerous. People even drive by the ranger doing this and nothing is done about it. People swimming and fishing from the boat launch is another huge problem at this park. These things make it very hard to launch or land your boat. Watching and trying to figure out what all the people on the dock are going to do is very nerve wracking. And, all the little kids on the dock without life jackets on is another problem. 5. The check in process is very confusing if the booth is not open when you pull into the park. We always just fill out a form and put it in the drop box but several times we've been told by the girl in the golf cart that we must come up to the booth when they are there. Well, those are usually the hours that we are out fishing so it is not convenient. And then sometimes using the drop box is OK . So, the process doesn't seem the same all of the time. 6. The locks on the handicapped bathrooms work some of the time but not usually. Maybe those locks could be replaced. 7. The sprinkler system needs to be monitored. Some sprinklers are watering the concrete while others are watering the cement pad under the picnic tables. <p>Other than the few things listed above, this park stands out as one of the most wonderful, beautiful parks in the Washington State Park system. If this park is going to be expanded more enforcement of the rules will be needed. The ranger's will need to be more visible and start enforcing the rules. Not just the rules that create revenue (extra vehicles) but the rules of conduct, swimming and fishing from the docks, life jackets while on the dock and transporting people in boats and on jet skis.</p> <p>Thank you for seeking the opinions of the public who utilize our wonderful Parks system.</p>	<p>Maintenance Public safety / Law enforcement Check in procedure</p>

<p>We did not camp there this year due to assorted reasons. But one of our concerns is the terrible mosquito problem. We've been camping there for 12 years or so. Back then, there were mosquitos, but it was tolerable. For the past 3 years or so the problem seems to have escalated. It has made our stay there somewhat miserable.</p> <p>If nothing else, please address this problem.</p> <p>I think that it would be great to make the park a little bigger. I would not make it too much bigger because that would spoil the beautiful scenery around it. It would be nice if there was a place to do laundry at the park also. My last suggestion would be to put in some more showers. The mosquito problem this year made our stay alot less enjoyable than normal.</p>	<p>Mosquitos</p> <p>Expansion</p>
<p>I have a few ideas for Steamboat Rock State Park as I have been camping there for over 20 years and I would love to continue to camp there for many more.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Would it be possible to dredge the lake in front of the south loop? The sand bar is pretty high and if the lake is down it makes it much more difficult for boaters to approach the beach to tie up their boats. It is even more difficult for us with direct drive tournament boats that can't raise our out drives. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dredging the milfoil out would be another enormous benefit. It gets tangled in the prop and there is always the safety concern of the milfoil being sucked up into the raw water cooling system of all the boats on the lake. This happened to another boater a few years ago and it ruined his boating vacation. 2) Mosquitoes!!! I am sure you have heard this enough but they are horrible. Steamboat is an amazing campground and my family just loves camping there but the wife and kids just can't stand the mosquitoes. Can you bring back a more powerful killing agent? I remember very clearly camping at Steamboat 15-20 years ago as a teenager and the mosquitoes were not a problem at all. We used to sleep outside under the stars and would not get one bite. What has changed throughout the years? These past few years you can't be outside for more than 30 seconds and you are swarmed. <p>Please bring back a more powerful killing agent and Steamboat will be a much more enjoyable place to camp.</p>	<p>Sand bar</p> <p>Milfoil</p> <p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>We have long enjoyed the beautiful setting of Steamboat Rock, it is our favorite camping destination. Though booking reservations often requires far more patience than I have on store at any given time, I run that gauntlet of stress and failure simply because the park is WORTH IT.</p> <p>I asked my husband if he would like to pass on any suggestions for improvement and these were his thoughts: leave the park as pristine and natural as possible should you opt to expand the camping areas, and possibly a more aggressive approach to those darn mosquitos would be nice!</p>	<p>Reservations</p> <p>No expansion</p> <p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>another water spicket on the other side of the site, electricity, fill in the holes in the grass & water the grass(although I know the site gets used just about every day).</p>	<p>Facilities</p>

<p>We use to go every year, but the mosquitos are just too much and having to be sprayed in the face by a drive-by spray truck was an oxymoron. We go to Lake Chelan now. Sorry, we loved it there, but I just can't see where you can fix this problem. Thank you, though, for contacting us. And yes, we would like you to keep us informed, you never know, we may change our minds. Is there a certain time of the year where the mosquitos aren't so bad?</p>	<p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>We absolutely love Steamboat Rock State Park, however we have decided not to return because of the Mosquitos. Even with massive amounts of repellent, we were being eaten alive. My son ended up with 46 welts on his body. I have no idea if this is a problem that can be fixed, but we would not return until it is.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>I am very concerned as to what the changes might be. Our experiences differ each year depending on who we are camping next to, and what part of the summer we attend- such as water level..</p> <p>Noise levels have been a problem, when multiple sites gather at one site to party or play cards etc. Sometimes till 12 or 1 in the morning. It would be nice if this was not aloud after a certain time.</p> <p>Two years ago my son age 16 was told he would have to turn off his projector they were using to watch a movie on the side of the tent (by 10:00 Pm). The ranger said it would bother people. But people can be in their campsite till all hours, being very loud playing cards, such as our experience this year.</p> <p>The strung - up christmas lights / patio lights on the RV's are a huge distraction to me as I sleep in a tent, but these are aloud to stay on all night.</p> <p>Other than a few mishaps we love steamboat Rock state park. We map out a schedule as to when the sites will become available, we call on multiple phones , with multiple people the second it opens trying to get through to get any site or a specific loop. Prefer 80's and 90's, but will go any where in the North loop.</p> <p>Low water levels mid August- more sea weed / grass this year than I have ever seen in certain ares. Can this be improved?</p> <p>The bathrooms by the boat launch need to be male/ female designated.</p> <p>For whatever reason, the men in these bathrooms can't flush their own toilet or even pee in it precisely. This summer they were very gross. Give the men their own bathroom and let them deal with their own mess.</p> <p>I don't feel many changes are needed. We like it the way it is. It is clean, (w/ exception of boat launch bathrooms) lots of sun, sand and water sports! This is why we come to Steamboat Rock state Park.</p> <p>An ice truck and an ice cream truck could make a killing if it made the rounds of each loop! This year we did not bring bikes, so we never went to the store at the swim area for ice or treats!</p> <p>And last but not least, I don't feel that it needs to be bigger! Why change a good thing. Don't over crowd the lake. We already have</p>	<p>Law enforcement Water level Milfoil Facilities More sites</p>

<p>people from Coulee play land and sun banks resort that come up to (our) end and hang at the sandy beach we spend every single day at from 9-5. But it is not too crowded, but what's going to happen to the lake with 50 more boats are on it any given day, if more sites are available. I realize it is hard to get a reservation, and I even complain about that at times.</p>	
<p>A marina would be great....or at least more and better docking facilities.....</p>	<p>Moorgae</p>
<p>1) group site: expand it, improve the grass, and plant trees to eventually provide shade. 2) add camping sites/boat launch on the south side of the road as you first enter the park. This would open up access to the lake on the south side of Steamboat rock. Currently it is really far to access by boat. This option would add more camping and would not increase the boat traffic on the North side of the rock. 3) allow space for more than 1 tent per site. 4) Do something about the goose dropping (yuk) on the day use site.</p>	<p>Group site More sites Tent pads (larger) Geese</p>
<p>1. Our family loves steamboat rock! The people there have done a wonderful job! We have been annual campers - for the past 12 years. 2. We wish the reservation process was easier - we spend several mornings with someone on the phone and someone on the computer just trying to get a spot. Maybe those that are leaving campground should be able to reregister for the next summer. 3. I noticed the bathrooms are getting a little rough. On the north campground the birds are really distroying the back side of the building. 4. The .50 shower issue should be reviewed - maybe redo the timers for .25 sents for two minutes. People try to get by with one quarter and I understand this messes up the timers - ? 5. As to expanding the park - not sure if this is a good idea - it is already quit large.</p>	<p>Reservations Facilities</p>
<p>Our comments would be about a swimming area attached to each camping area. We did swim straight out in front of the camp ground with our two daughters – 7 and 4 years. We found A LOT of broken glass along the shore line, and the couple in the campers next to us went back down to look for more and came up with a whole grocery bag full. Luckily, we did not have any cut feet but if an area was set aside purely as swimming (not only at the day use area) in the camp areas, then maybe the boaters etc would be more careful with their glass bottles. Just a thought...otherwise, it's a wonderful park and we enjoyed our stay</p>	<p>Public safety</p>

<p>This is great! I am glad you have sent mail regarding this state part. I have been camping at Steamboat Rock with My Grandfather since I was a child (I don't recall when this park actually opened, I was small, and we also camped at the old park that was at the entrance of Steamboat Rock... etc...). With Age, I have been camping there less (per year) but have always enjoyed this facility with My Grandfather and his friend every fall, religiously (for the fishing). I have also taken my Daughter, and other family members to this park, it is hands down our favorite!</p> <p>I really like the location of the camping (slips) in regards to how close they are to Banks lake. This makes it an easy choice to continue to camp at with my grandfather and his friend (we put the boat right on the beach and have to walk a whole 50 yards... That is AWESOME) as everyone ages</p>	
<p>A set aside camping area for people with dogs would be good allowing archery hunting within the park in designated areas would also be reasonable</p>	<p>Dog area Hunting</p>
<p>Yes, please include me in future emails. Super cool that you are gathering information from people who actually camp there!!</p> <p>Here are some things that make steamboat rock park special and why my wife has been coming for 27 straight years, and I've been coming with her for the last 16 straight years. The main thing is that it feels like we are getting away from the hustle and bustle of the city and ending up in a place that is not overly crowded. Many of the following things contribute to a feeling of relaxation. I hope that will be a primary goal going forward.</p> <p>Great things to be preserved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low population density on the water – keeps boating safer and more enjoyable 2. Low population density in the campground – feels like we are actually camping and not elbow to elbow while camping, spaces are reasonably large. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Do not add more sites in between the boat launch and the existing pods...consider adding more sites on the other side of steamboat rock. 3. Great family activities – my three kids, wife and I love... <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Building sand castles on the beach b. Riding bikes on the paved roads c. Tubing/kneeboarding/wakeboarding behind the boat d. Hiking the rock e. Fishing from the boat 4. Minimal cell and internet connection – keeps me and others from doing “work” while on vacation. <grin> 5. Good trees to protect campsites from the wind <p>Possible things to enhance the experience</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Find a way to allow briquettes to be used to cook smoked ribs, smoked chicken, smoked pulled pork and other delicious camping food while still protecting the safety of the campsite. This is probably one of my biggest annoyances. 2. Add more beach side sites on the other side of the steamboat rock (NW corner). This would give more camping spots to people 	<p>Fires / briquettes More sites Boating safety Trails Moorage Trees</p>

<p>but still preserve the feeling of low population density. Adding more sites between the boat launch and sites 80-88 will overly crowd the beach and the water area and generally ruin the experience.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The channel between devil's gulch and the rest of bank's lake is too dangerous with all the jetski's and other boats zipping through there. Do things to avoid adding more jetski/boat traffic through the channel. 4. More paved bike paths 5. Better boat moorage – price included in camping fees a requirement 6. Add more trees to protect campsites from the wind. 	
<p>Thanks for the notification. What I would like to see is a better tent area that has trees for shade. Currently the tent sites sit right in the hot sun. Also, I would like to see the park better managed. By that I mean when quiet hours are at 10:00, then everyone is quiet. It has turned into quite a party campground with large groups up until 1:00am partying.</p>	<p>More tent site Law enforcement</p>
<p>As you probably know, number one issue for many campers is mosquitoes. I have been camping there for a few years and each year I saw an increase in mosquito population. This year it grew to an absolutely unbearable level and my family no longer wants to camp there. The spraying truck does not seem to have any effect and besides it does not look like a good idea for people to breathe those pesticides.</p> <p>Watering the grass seems like an obvious explanation of this year-over-year deterioration of my favorite park. I would not mind setting my tent and camping on a yellow dry grass or even sand - currently there is no way to enjoy the green grass without being badly bitten anyway so people spend their time in RVs or tents which does not look like outdoor fun.</p> <p>Well, enough ranting! :)</p>	<p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>I like it just the way it is!</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<p>Over the last 20+ years I have gone to Steamboat annually. One item worth mentioning is the day park concession stand and swimming area. It is very inconvenient to get ice, etc. from the current location. Also the swimming area is very under used. This area of the park could use more planning and be made readily accessible.</p>	<p>Move concession and swim beach</p>
<p>The biggest thing that needs to be improved is that the park needs to be greatly expanded. It's nearly impossible to get a reservation. There's plenty of room on the Steamboat peninsula to expand the campground.... The lake is almost completely development free, so it's still possible to “get away from it all” and be alone with nature.</p>	<p>Expansion More sites</p>
<p>Why is there a need for a long term plan anyway. What is wrong with the current situation? Aside from allowing the reservoir to rise and eliminate the beaches at the campgrounds, I have no complaints, except the elimination of the free camping areas.</p>	<p>No changes</p>

<p>Steamboat is one of our favorite parks in the country!! It could use a couple of updates/improvements. We have been camping there since the early 80's first as a teen and now adult. Any improvements would be great-but I do have a short "wish list"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PAY PHONES- since there is virtually NO cell phone service, this would be a huge bonus- I know there is at least 1 pay phone but more would be great. 2. More sites- It is so hard to get reservations!! 3. A small grocery store. For those of us with big rv's - it difficult to pick up and go to town. 4. Bike trails- or Bike lanes on the main highway- 5. Cabins 	<p>Pay phones More sites Concession Trails</p>
<p>Whatever you do at Steamboat, the mosquito problem needs to be addressed. The fogging attempt is obviously futile. It is a real problem.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>the swimming area being unused and a long walk to the concession stand for ice. I've never seen a park with a swimming area hardly used at a park. This definitely could use some attention.</p> <p>Seeing some of the input I've seen go to you from other of our fellow campers has allowed me to come up with more ideas.</p> <p>I'm not sure you can do anything about is the sand bar outside the campsites in the 30 & 40 circles. This year we had to navigate a narrow winding shallow channel choked with milfoil to get out. With the fluctuating water levels, some years you can't even get your boats in or out at all. What the chances of dredging a channel a cross the sand bar?</p> <p>Sites 1-10 and sometimes beyond are accosted with sewage smell from the the sewage pond just over the hill. There have been years where everyone left early due to this. On occasion it can get pretty bad.</p> <p>Also, improvement on mosquito control is always a topic of discussion virtually every year we attend. It can ruin your trip.</p> <p>So our list seems to hit these points so far.</p> <p>Group sites with individual hook ups with some separation similar to your existing sites. A better reservation process for large groups. Concession Access Swimming area access Mosquito control. Sewage smells. Boat access to the South set of circles.</p>	<p>Swim beach Sand bar Sewage smell Mosquitoes</p>

<p>Steam boat park is a great place, would love to see some more camp sites, but also have campsites that make it easier to dock a boat close to where your camping,</p> <p>to me these camp sites do not need to be full hook up but someplace I can set up with a truck camper.</p>	<p>More sites</p>
<p>Our family has spent many vacations at Steamboat Rock State Park....actually every year from 1992 till last year, 2007. Some years we always booked two vacations there. But that has all changed now. Because of the Reservations System that was implemented some years ago, we will never book stays at a Washington State Park again. The System is the most frustrating and discouraging system anyone could ever put in place! But enough of that.I guess for my part there are some recommendations I could suggest be made to the Park and I'll try here to do that.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obviously, the Park needs to be expanded somehow. If there is anyway additional property can be acquired on the Rock peninsula, it needs to be done. 2. Tent spaces are too small and the rules too strict. Tents, today, are much larger and many people have the need to set up more than one tent to handle all the kids that are brought along. Increase the tent space considerably. 3. No tent space rules on weekends. Allow campers to erect their tents anywhere on their camp site. This works at PotHoles State park. 4. Install water at all tent sites. 5. Eliminate the "Extra Car" charge for all Washington Residents. 6. This may be tough, but, restrict Reservations at the three (3) most frequently requested parks to Washington residents only. This would include Pearrygin State Park, Steamboat Rock State Park and the third. If an out of stater needs reservations he pays double the going rate for that stay. We've got to do something to make these parks more available to residents. 7. Reinstate "First Come First Served" Reservations at the three (3) most frequently requested parks in the state. Permit reservations to be applied for by mail...this would be snail mail only. Reservations received after January 1st of each year, and postmarked, Jan 1st, or later, would be, say, eligible for held reservations up to 50% of the park space. This would allow those who really want reservations another option other than the frustrating call-in fiasco. Maybe you might have to fine-tune this and be more elaborate on the rules but something is needed. Also allow for mail-in reservations to request a site number. This could be done by allowing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices. Something must be improved here. 8. Allow residents of Washington to build up points for staying at Washington parks. Points would be used for future stays at reduced rates or for that matter, free stays. For instance, five paid days, would entitle the user one free night at any WA. state park anytime, say, 6 months later (or a month later, or a year later). The idea is to give the WA resident some incentive to return to a WA state Park. 9. Here's a Big One: Bring the Park Store up to the park! Many people need ice and it's extremely difficult for the elderly, like me, to 	<p>More sites Tent pads larger Reservations Cost Milfoil Concession</p>

<p>walk from the parking lot to the store as its now situated....especially if I need to bring three bags of ice back. Also, there would be more sales, much more, if the park store was located either at the entrance to the south or north campgrounds.</p> <p>10. Make more primitive sites available. We definitely need more. Put launch sites at all primitive sites if possible. Make water available at all primitive sites if at all possible.</p> <p>11. Look into methods for removing the milfoil locally around the entrance to the boat moorage areas at the park. Check out what has worked at other locations such as:</p>	
<p>I am a frequent flyer to Steamboat Rock state park. I grew up in Almira and have watched the park grow since I was a kid. We spend many weekends there in the summer with our boat and we have managed to reserve camp sites a couple times every summer with a very large group. There are ten families in our group and we love the locations since most of the husbands are farmers and can just drive over the hill to work every morning and come back in the evening. As a group we have only one complaint.....MOSQUITOES. They are horrible. The worst I have ever seen. Three years ago, my seven year old daughter had 96 mosquito bites on her. We counted them. And that is not saying that we did not cover her in bug spray, deet, and any other repellent that we could think of. Last year was not so bad. Lots of bites for everyone but not 96 bites. And then this year we stayed for 10 days in June and the mosquitoes were very bad again. The second worse we have seen in the past 10 years or so that we have been staying there. Isn't there anything at all they can do about it? Besides the twice a week spraying which basically just annoys the mosquitoes instead of killing them. We do love it there but the mosquitoes are wearing us down and causing us to consider other places to vacation. We dread the mosquitoes every year. Otherwise I would not change a thing.</p>	Mosquitoes
<p>We love Steamboat Rock State Park.... except for the goose issue. It isn't overly wonderful that our kids are playing in goose poop. I don't know if there is a solution for that, but any attempt would be great.</p> <p>That is my only complaint! (it won't keep me from coming back every year)</p>	Geese
<p>Steamboat is a beautiful park with a lot to offer families. As more and more families learn of this wonderful park it becomes harder and harder to get into. For years we have played the game of booking single nights and moving every day just so we can enjoy a few days on Banks Lake. It is certainly time for more camp sites!! It seems (to an untrained eye, that is) that there may be a little bit of room to expand the campground from the South loop to the Ranger housing and also in between the North and South loops. Maybe it's even possible to add another loop that sits up against the rock. Although this is not ideal for boaters, it allows non-boaters an alternative camp area and creates more spots altogether. One other idea is to extend the park into the area that is south of the ranger housing. Although this is where many of the deer and other wildlife make there homes, it may be usable land.</p> <p>Another suggestion is to make ALL the sites with hookups by adding power to the current standard sites. Even tent campers can use water and electricity, and we find that many of the hook up sites are being used by tent campers just as much, and some weekends more so, than RVs.</p> <p>The other area of concern is the bathroom facilities. For the last four summers we have used the showers in both the North and South</p>	More sites More hookup sites Facilities (showers)

<p>loops and found that within seconds of turning on the shower, you are standing in a puddle of other people's shower "remains." Very unsanitary and frustrating since we are paying for the use of the shower at a rate of \$.50 for a minute.</p> <p>Being a school teacher I don't know much about planning and the layout of campgrounds. However, these are just some suggestions you can add to your list. I am speaking on behalf of my extended family that camps at Steamboat Rock every spring and summer, and we vote for more FULL HOOKUP camp sites!</p>	
<p>We have camped at Steamboat for nearly ten years now, and we have several ideas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make more beach available near the campsites. MANY people crowd around small sandy beaches there. There is not enough usable waterfront near the campsites. 2. Reservations are extremely hard to come by--many folks want several sites at a time--together--but usually end up all over the park. NO FUN! There has to be a way to solve that. 3. One solution to #2 is to enlarge the park--there is a lot of usable land, why not enlarge? You could double the size of the park and still fill nearly every site all summer. One area to enlarge would be to enlarge at the north end where the boat/tent only sites are--add at least 25-35 more beachfront sites, pave the road, add water, power, and showers and make the sites full-hookups. People would be willing to pay more for a true waterfront campsite. Or, add waterfront sites over on the west side of the island near the south end of Steamboat Rock--a completely different area. The space between the existing two halves of the campground should NOT be used, in my opinion, because of overcrowding of the existing park areas, as well as leaving room for wild animals to get the the water. 4. Get rid of the mosquitoes!!! THEY are not in charge--Man is supposed to have dominion over the earth, not the other way around. 5. Get rid of the geese--and thus the geese POOP! That is why so few people use the public beach areas. 6. Add another check-in area for those who already have reservations--when the State of Washington has had people's money for 9 months--to the day--of arrival, those folks should have a faster check in. So...a lane marked "HAVE RESERVATIONS" and a lane marked "DO NOT HAVE RESERVATION" or something similar. That is something that could be fairly easily implemented all over the state at the busier and larger parks!! 	<p>Swim beach More sites Mosquitoes Geese Check in procedure</p>
<p>What would we like done about Steamboat Rock SP.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get rid of the geese so we can enjoy the grassy areas. And it would be nice with less deer in the camping area. 2. Fix the boat ramp --get the sand out so a trailer can back in evenly. And the boat will not get tilted when returning to the trailer. 3. We like the size of the park etc. 4. We enjoy the large area for Pheasant hunting, and the thought that after hunting we can go fishing. 5. The fish cleaning facilities are great and most of the time in good working condition and relatively clean. 6. Don't overload the area with more campsites. Big is not always good. 	<p>Geese Boat launch No changes</p>
<p>We simply love the park, and will hope to camp there each summer. We had site #38 this July, and it was perfect for me, as I am disabled and getting to the water in most of the park area is difficult. However, the access to the water from our site was alot more gentle of a slope.</p> <p>Long term plans would be in my opinion, to have alot more areas to enjoy the beach. It is funny when everyone is huddled under the same few trees near the water for shade.</p> <p>The host this summer was just wonderful. I watched her, and the site camper wasn't gone two minutes, and she was there cleaning the site!</p>	<p>More beach access for ADA</p>

<p>We love our visit there, and can't wait until next year.</p>	
<p>The only recommendation I would make is too discuss better eradication techniques for the mosquitos. What is currently in place is no longer adequate.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>Our biggest disappointment with the campground is that the shower facilities are terrible. The last three times we've been there, the showers have not functioned properly (North Loop). Once it was the coin machine was broken. Another time the hot water faucet wouldn't function; no water came out. Another time the waiting line for showers was so long we just gave up. With the volume of campers using the park, it's my belief that these facilities need to be improved, and made more reliable. Maybe more showers, larger hot water tanks, fool-proof coin machines (if there is such a thing); whatever it takes. I would have expected better facilities at one of the state's premier campgrounds.</p> <p>If there is any way to build some boat docks, for people to keep their boats in the water, that would be great. Don't need power or anything fancy, just a secure place for people to keep boats in the water for extended stays at the campground. I know some people are able to beach their boats near the campsites, but it's not always possible due to water levels. If there were several docks available, maybe near the launch ramp, people could leave their boats in the water and just haul their gear back and forth to the boat. Not sure what the capacity of these docks would need to be in order to accommodate boaters. This would free up the congestion at the launch ramp, and would also make more room available in the campsite area.</p>	<p>Facilities (showers) Moorage</p>
<p>We like almost everything about the place. Our only suggestions would be to do something about the goose dropping situation at the park and to create some kind of beach with access from the campsite areas.</p>	<p>Geese</p>
<p>As I was showering at the park I was wondering if you used a simple solar water system to heat your shower and other hot water needs or at least preheat the water this could long term produce revenue. I don,t mind paying for a nice shower. Other uses for solar especially at Steamboat should be considered as cost reduction. Adding one more camp area would be great also</p>	<p>Facilities (showers)</p>
<p>The Park could definitely use more camp sites and increased boat launching facilities. A marina for overnight mooring would be nice, but would take away some esthetics.</p>	<p>More sites Moorage</p>
<p>We recently visited Steamboat rock. The area is beautiful, and we had a great time. However one big disappointment was the conditions in the swimming area. This has the potential to be a great beach area. The amount of weeds in the area prevented many from swimming.</p> <p>A second area of concern is the condition of the rest rooms. I know the budget is small for maintenance, but the showers need daily attention and the coins emptied daily from the showers. On 3 occasions during the week, the coin boxes were too full to accept coins for the showers. We had to ask to have them emptied.</p>	<p>Swim beach Facilities (showers)</p>

<p>I think people will respect the facilities more if they find them in proper conditions and maintained on a regular basis. I hope you don't take this a simple complaining. Steamboat rock is obviously very popular and has great potential. I hope you know that I understand the limitations that the park budgets are under.</p>	
<p>In general, we've enjoyed this state park immensely. there are a few improvements that can be made. The main one is the mosquito issue. We tent camp and the last few years the mosquitoes were unbearable. We have a small boat and we would get relief by leaving the camp and hanging out at other parts of the lake. The spraying presently used for control is somewhat ineffective and inconvenient, that is having to leave the camp for several hours in the evening. Would underground watering help eliminate this? Maybe the 2 sections treated differently, one where the landscape is allowed to return to a desert setting, that is, less or no watering while the other section kept the same for those that can escape the mosquitoes in a camper.</p> <p>Another suggestion would be to have more boat-in camp sites. We would like to reserve one of these sites but have not yet figured out how that is done.</p> <p>As stated, we have been going to this state park for many years but have but only once gotten a site in a loop near the water (this year, where we ended up having to cancel). Can more of the water front be opened up to camp sites?</p>	<p>Mosquitoes More sites</p>
<p>We would be great to see another loop at steamboat for more spaces. We would also like to see tents in tent spots and not full-hook-ups J More parking for boat trailers (it gets pretty full)</p>	<p>More sites Boat parking</p>
<p>One suggestion that I have is to increase the size of the park with more camp sites. I've thought for years that it would be neat to fill in the space between the South and North campgrounds with campsites. Put in a connector path between the two campgrounds for bicycles and walkers. Connecting the two campgrounds with a paved path would take bicycles and walkers off the main road, which of course would be safer. We most often go to Steamboat with other families and are frequently going back and forth between the two campgrounds to visit. It would certainly be helpful to have more shade for some of the tent sites, especially for the campsites nearest the main road. Most of the hook-up sites seem to have lots of tree shade. Could more trees be planted along the road side of the tent sites, perhaps right behind the tent pads? It would take several years for them to mature, but many sites seem to be hotter than hades without any shade in the afternoon sun.</p>	<p>More sites Trails Shade / trees</p>
<p>We love it there! But are tormented by the mosquitoes each time. It keeps us and others from coming more often.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>The only suggestion that I have is to make a trail from the camping area to the top of Steamboat Rock that can be navigated by someone who is below average in hiking and climbing skills.</p>	<p>Trails</p>
<p>I would think that just making it a little bigger would be great and would bring in money for the parks. The one problem that I would look at is if the park usage has dropped with the high price of fuel, I know I did not go to the park this year because of fuel and I stayed on the west side.</p>	<p>More sites Geese</p>

<p>Don't change the road access. Our greatest memories of Steamboat Rock State Park were being able to drive on the unimproved roads out to the sandy lagoon right at the base of the South West corner of Steamboat Rock. I have often commented how in most public areas such roads are closed to all vehicle traffic. It would be a shame to close the roads that make this State Park stand out as unique.</p>	<p>Roads</p>
<p>One suggestion I have would be for a paved road to access the nice beach at the southwest corner of Steamboat Rock. I know that there is a primitive road system which one can drive by truck to reach this beach, but it would be nice to be able to reach it by car. This would allow those who do not have a boat to access this beach.</p>	<p>Roads</p>
<p>I have not missed one summer at Steamboat Rock state park in the past 25 years. My family and I enjoy boating, camping, and other outdoor activities the park has to offer.</p> <p>Since the park is so popular, it is very difficult to get reservations. In the past, we have gone with several other families and have really missed being able to do that due to the difficulty getting campsites. I would certainly support an additional pod or other method of expanding the campground.</p> <p>The recent update to the restrooms was nice. It would be helpful if the employees kept the restrooms cleaner and stocked with toilet paper.</p> <p>It has been disappointing to see the island shrink down into a little sand pile from the hill it once was. It is almost a little eyesore. It might be nice to renovate that area or clean it up. Has there ever been talk of digging the sand bar out a little so boats can still get through to the south pod when the water is low?</p>	<p>More sites Sand bar</p>
<p>We have been taking both of our boys there ever since they were 6 months old, 2 times a year for a week at a time. 4 years later and after just leaving there this morning, I look forward to hearing what will happen with Steamboat. My only suggestion would be to make the sites more private and spread out. The loops closer to the water are very compact and it would be nice to have a bit more privacy. Another thing that I would like to add is that in July when we were there the mosquitoes were horrible, the worst that we have ever seen. The host had informed us that people had complained and so the trucks were not driving behind the campsites, only in the front. This is a huge disappointment and I feel that the campers should come first, not the mosquitoes. When I left Steamboat in July, I had over 30 bites on one leg and this is with using DEET 40. The spray only in the front doesn't kill them and within an hour they are out in full force.</p>	<p>Site layout Mosquitoes</p>
<p>Thank you for considering my input to improve Steamboat Rock State Park. I have been camping at Steamboat Rock State Park each year since 1995. Not many changes have been made to the park over the years. Maintenance of the facilities and sites has been well done. My comments are below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase size of Tent area in each site. Most tents are generally larger then the allowed area. Can add an additional tent area to each site; we use two tents to support our family and friends. Each site is allowed 8 adults, but that requires two tents. Many of the full hookup sites are used only for tents (I always get the full hookup so I can have water and electricity). With the fire dangers, we use electric appliances to cook and use a small refrigerator at the site to keep food cold. 2. Eliminate the Mosquito population. 3. Fix the sprinkler system coverage. I find that most sites have unwanted dry spots and water spray in areas not wanted. I know the layout makes this difficult, but it can be fixed. 	<p>Tent pads Mosquitoes Facilities (irrigation) More sites Sand bar Interpretive Parking</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Renovate the bathrooms and increase shower capacity. I like the individual rooms at each bathroom, but they are often occupied. 5. Put in running water and electricity at the tent sites. 6. Add a third loop of ~50 sites between the North and South sections. The space is not used for other purposes. 7. If additional sites are added, extend the length of the docks to accommodate the increase in number of boats. 8. Dredge Devils Punchbowl along the camp site to help get boats in and out of the mooring areas on the beach. I have a inboard boat, does not do well with the weeds in the lake in these very shallow areas. Also, the sand bar is very shallow to cross. 9. Improve the boards for posting with more information on the area, wildlife (pictures would be nice), and trail maps for hiking around the area. There is some information posted, but is incomplete. 10. Boat trailer parking would need expansion if the park expanded. Also, in 2008, new parking lines were put in place. The spaces are too narrow to put a truck and trailer. Should be widened by 1 foot each. 	
<p>The park is beautiful. We camp (a lot of times alone in the park), pheasant and duck hunt, watch the wildlife, fish and hike. When I hear of planned changes I cringe to think that all that might change. At 65 years old I've learned that change isn't always better. Please don't change the park if the change will eliminate or reduce any of the reasons we come there: A little isolation, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing and hiking. I'm all for increasing the numbers of pheasants released and the frequency of releasing them. I am against reducing the natural habitat part of the park to increase camp sites or any activities for people. There is enough room for those activities already. I've never been to the park in the summer. I assume it is in high demand. If it is in high demand it is because of the way it is. Lets not change it</p>	No changes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) need additional boat ramp and especially mooring accomodations; 2) additional showers; 3) more camping spots to make it easier to get in. 	Moorage More sites Facilities (showers)
<p>We love Steamboat Rock State Park but it is very hard to get a reservation there. Sometimes the campground says, "Full" when it's not. We would like to see the campground a little bigger, you have a real gold mine there!</p>	More sites
<p>Steamboat rock is one of our favorite places to camp. I have been frustrated with getting reservations in the summer. Even when I call 9 months ahead, it is a problem. We usually camp in the spring before school is out.</p> <p>We would like to see more camping sites, but then we are concerned that there would be too many people. The water is busy with boats in the summer as it is.</p> <p>When we camped in June this year, the sign said the park was full, but several sites remained empty all weekend.</p> <p>There are always tents in the full hookup sites and we wonder if there should be more tent sites, so the availability is there for the RV 's that want to hook up. I can't believe that tents would want to pay the full hookup fee if they don't have to.</p> <p>We also camp every year at Gifford on Lake Roosevelt and having a dock to moor the boat while we are camping is great. When you spend a week at a place, it is nice to have a dock for the boats. We tie ours up on the shore at Steamboat, but when everyone is on the</p>	More sites Moorage

<p>shore, it limits the swimming space by the campsites. Being able to camp by the water and just walk down to the beach to swim and use the boat is the best part of steamboat for us.</p>	
<p>We loved our time at Steamboat Rock and my only suggestion would be to make the trails easier to access for younger hikers. We had some 9,10,11,12 yr olds and going up the trail was pretty precarious at points.</p>	<p>Trails</p>
<p>1. Mosquito control (can they spray behind all the camp circles in addition to what is done now staying on road?) 2. Canada Geese control (maybe it's ok now, seems to be getting much better) 3. Milfoil control (seems to be getting worse by the boat launch/day area, plus the north and south site area) 4. Police/County Sheriff Patrol in Devil's Punch Bowl (or lack thereof). Have not seen a sheriff for 4-5 years. 5. Add 50 new campsites (between South and North sites). 6. Restroom/Shower facilities (new or upgrade) 7. Continue with tree planting upgrades. I did see a lot of new trees planted this year.</p> <p>I would like to see the cove and beach at the South tip of Steamboat Rock on the Big Lake side remain primitive and boat access only, no overnight camping, no access for cars/jetskis/campsites, etc. Continue to confine all campsite/boat/jetski/launch water access to Devil's punchbowl only.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes Milfoil Law enforcement More sites Facilities (showers) Trees</p>
<p>The spacious camping sites are terrific! We have grown kids and grandkids, and we never quite know who all is going to show up! I know the drill pretty well now, and reserve an extra large site 9 months in advance, but the kids are unable to plan that far ahead due to job committments and college etc. The staff has always been very pleasant and helpful, and we really appreciate the enforcement of "quiet time".</p> <p>In terms of improvements, more women's showers would be great! Every time I try to get in there, it is already being used and/or there is a waiting line. Fortunately our truck camper has a small shower so I am able to use that.</p> <p>Boat moorage would be wonderful! So far we have always been able to beach our boat, but the water level can get low in September, making navigating the sand bar a little tricky.</p> <p>Steamboat Rock State Park is great. We use for fishing, enjoy the facilities, and proximity to good fishing. Staff are very good. It is difficult to get reservations at times, so expansion might be indicated. Would like to see boat moorage in long range plans. I use camper and have to take second vehicle for boat. Daily fee for extra vehicle is high, and unfair, I think, because motor homes towing in extra vehicle incur no fee. I could leave extra vehicle home if moorage was available. Probably trading dollars but would be more convenient too. Would have to be safe.</p>	<p>Facilities Moorage</p> <p>More sites Moorage Cost</p>
<p>For the last 6-8 years it has been extremely difficult to get reservations for a large group in the north camp, our favorite area, for the same number of days. We are great guests whom the camp hosts, Bob and his wife Fran, love.</p> <p>Suggestions are -</p> <p>1. As in getting season tickets for ball games - How about an opportunity for those who regularly visit Steamboat EACH year an open window to schedule dates. ie. Those names registered with you and have a rating (no. of years, consecutive years, etc.) whom you know as excellent long term guests can schedule two weeks earlier than the normal crowd? Procedure to do this is clear and definitive.</p>	<p>Reservations Recycling Operations</p>

<p>As for other concerns they are the same as we face in our city.</p> <p>Recycling - All visitors should have to recycle their cans and bottles (paper might be too messy). Canisters will be placed accordingly to areas of people. Beach, bathrooms, by the dumpsters, day use area, etc. Garbage pickup should also be more timely during the heavy summer season. Every other day instead of 3 days.</p> <p>Crowd control - As our neighbors are working on "neighborhood watch and safety for all" we too should be reminded to speak with our camp hosts if there are any concerns or questions. Additionally, I believe the CH's are extended beyond the hours in the day. May I recommend you split up the responsibilities of the hosts? Add another set of hosts per area, north and south. 1 set has the responsibility of public relations - speaking with groups, problem solving questions or concerns, establishing well understood lines of communication, being visible throughout the day.</p> <p>2nd set has the responsibility of grounds. The early morning walk around (like I do at my school as principal) and then the evening walk around to make sure things are picked up, notice tents, camper and mother homes security and that everyone is placed well in their groups, etc.</p>	
<p>We've been to Steamboat Rock State Park three or four times for a minimum stay of four nights each. My only complaint is how hard it is to get reservations. What a hassle. We go with other people, so we try to get sites near each other and have not yet found a process to get the sites that works smoothly.</p> <p>I love how clean the camp is itself. Showers sometimes get bad, but that is bound to happen. I think you've covered your bases very well.</p>	<p>Reservations Facilities (showers)</p>
<p>1) a second launch would be nice at the south end of the park or centralize the launch in between and turn existing launch & parking area into camping,</p> <p>2) beach moorage is nice there because of the sand, but more beach line or a dock system would be nice.</p> <p>3) more sites somewhere, it's super hard to get in there to camp. We love that park but it is a real task to stay there.(refer to item 1)</p> <p>4) a trail system through the park to keep walkers and bikers off of the road for safety.</p>	<p>Boat launch Moorage More sites Trails</p>
<p>It needs more camping spaces. There is plenty of land and water. It's almost impossible to get a spot unless you make reservation months in advance. Have some of the new site close to the water that aren't RV spots. Big RV'ers always reserve these spots the second they become available. It would be nice if there were path ways to get to the beaches rather than going through someone's camp site. North of the boat launch would be a good area for new camping sites.</p> <p>Is it possible to dredge a channel through the sand bars to bring boats up to the beach?</p> <p>A dock at the camping areas would be great so that boats don't use up the shore line. A dock would make loading boats better.</p>	<p>More sites Sand bars Moorage</p>
<p>Provide a public fishing pier near to the campsites and fishing bait store. Stock the lake each year if not doing it already.</p>	<p>Docks Fishing</p>

<p>We were not allowed a campfire. This really put a damper on our evening entertainment. We realize the fire danger but you need to realize our view also. Can something be done to ensure a campfire?</p> <p>Also wanted to tell you that the fee are really getting to high. Our group can well afford these higher rates but I am thinking about the young families with small children that are on a limited income. Can something be done to help them out.</p> <p>On our walk this morning my husband made a comment that a tram to the top of Steamboat Rock would be quite an attraction. You might even take a look at Wallowa St. Park in Ore. At some canoe and kayak rentals.</p>	<p>Campfires Costs Tram</p>
<p>Need group camp(s) More extra vehicle parking</p>	<p>Group camp Parking</p>
<p>We love Steamboat Rock and I really can't think of any changes other than better bug control. That has prevented us from returning to the park!!! The mosquitoes are beastly there - otherwise it is a beautiful, well-maintained facility and the fishing is usually awesome.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>When we stayed at Steamboat it was during October. We couldn't have asked for a better time; fall foliage and all. Our family used three sites and the park wasn't crowded. If we were to judge our experiences based on that trip, I would say don't change a thing, but we also know that Steamboat is one of the most requested parks in the system.</p> <p>I have only one request; the park has separate campsites areas, I would stay with that theme. Since not all of users are boat or water people, I don't think it would be necessarily have the new campsites near the water. Some are there for the hiking and wildlife.</p> <p>You might also consider something like Cama Beach State Park. Our daughter lives on Camano Island and this park is fantastic. I don't think shuttles would fit into Steamboat, but the cabins might.</p>	<p>Site layout Cabins</p>
<p>Boat moorage for campers would be great. It would be nice to be able to leave your boat in the water for the stay. And it would bring more money in for the park. This is done a Sun Lakes and I used it there and it was a nice convenience.</p>	<p>Moorage</p>
<p>we use Steamboat as our family vacation every year along with about nine other families. We bring the motorhomes, boats, cars and kids. This year we had 32 children in our group, so you can imagine how many there are of us! We have been doing this for many years now, making the end of June, Banks Lake time. Everyone loves the lay out and we try to lock up a cul-de-sac (or two) so most of us are in one area. One of the things I would like to see is a marina for the boats. Many of the campers that come into the park have a boat. Some pull it every night while others moor it just off the park. I would gladly pay the extra to have my boat setting in a slip knowing it is secured for the night without having to pull it out just so I can re-launch it the next day.</p> <p>All that being said, I must admit, I am having reservations on returning to Steamboat again next summer. You can't imagine how much fun we have there every summer for 10 days, however, the mosquitoes have gotten to the point where they are out of control. I understand that it is Grant Co. who comes in and sprays, however, the last few years, it has been pointless. I have a beautiful 35'</p>	<p>Moorage Mosquitoes</p>

<p>Please keep us informed about Steamboat Rock we just feel that it is the best camping boating lake in Washington. We have had two summers when we just could not get reservations for our vacation. We did decide try out Lincoln Rock State Park. We ended up getting up early one the second day and drove over the hwy. spend the long day at Steam Boat Rock!! We enjoy the hiking very much their. I for one would say ENLARGE THE PARK so this family can go to the best State Park in Washington. P.S. we only go to State Parks.</p>	<p>More sites</p>
<p>We camp at Steamboat Rock SP 2 or 3 times per year. It is a wonderful, well run park, with a large variety of recreational opportunities. The staff there deserves a great deal of praise for the quality of their operation. So here's our thoughtful input.</p> <p>The fact that campers must make reservations nine months in advance, attests to Steamboat's popularity, potential for growth, and as an increased revenue stream for the State. The options appear to fall into three categories, (1) improvement of existing facilities, (2) major expansion, and (3) other expansion issues.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improvement of Existing Facilities: Parking space at the current facilities is pushing the limits when considering campers, boat trailers and tow vehicles (p/u trucks). Yet it appears about 25% of the sites could be lengthened perhaps 10 or 15 feet at minimal expense by merely relocating the concrete barrier and applying a small amount of blacktop. 2. Major Expansion: Given the past performance of Steamboat SP, customers would easily fill an increased capacity of 50% over the current facility in the near term. Addition of another "loop" equivalent to the North or South loops would provide the occupancy and cash flow to pay for itself in a reasonable period of time (we'll leave the math to you). The addition of a third "loop" will significantly increase the number of folks who can enjoy the Grand Coulee area and all it has to offer. 3. Other Issues: The major attraction of Steamboat SP appears to be the weather, boating and fishing. This is not to downplay hiking, bird watching and other worthwhile activities, but the large number of boats in the park, and the volume of day use launchings, is undeniable. Therefore, an increase of campers by 50% may require a similar increase in boat launch/retrieval/parking facilities as well. Additional launch facilities would not necessarily have to be at the same location as the current facilities. <p>In addition, we would suggest that a long range master plan be sketched out so that what is done in the near term works with what you <u>may</u> want to do in the longer term. The next expansion will not be the last, so having a rough idea of where you might go in the future would be helpful. It doesn't have to be set in stone and can change as times and requirements change.</p> <p>We LOVE Steamboat and come every year. We feel any improvements you do would be just icing on the cake.</p> <p>The only thing we would suggest for budgeting purposes is a better mosquito control situation during the heavy mosquito months. We normally camp in June, and to be honest, the twice a week thing is NOT enough. This year nearby campsites ended up buying chemicals and a sprayer and sprayed our "circle" we were camping in since all the children were being eaten alive! I think during heavy months, since there is a known mosquito problem, mosquitoes should be sprayed for, and larvacide put out early. By sprayed for, perhaps something more direct than just fogging and if using the fogger, every day, weather permitting. We didn't get spray while we were there since it was breezy on Tuesday, and nobody showed on Thursday. That left a week of mosquito hell for us!</p> <p>That would be our only suggestion, beef up mosquito control and it would be perfect!</p>	<p>More sites Facilities (parking) Boat launch</p> <p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>We would like to see more camp sites available with full hook-ups if not at least water and power in the tent sites, we have camped at the park for several years in our RV in a tent site and people with tents in the RV sites. We love the park but it is also very hard to get a site in the summer months.</p>	<p>More sites</p>

<p>One problem we have observed both as campers and hosts at Steamboat Rock is the lack of a paved trail from the campgrounds to the day-use area. We think if there was a paved trail it would be much easier for families, folks with bikes, elderly campers and strollers to access the swimming beach and day-use area. It would be great if the trail could start at the south campground and run right through to the day-use area. If the day-use area was easier to access, you might see less erosion of the banks near the campgrounds.</p> <p>We understand new campgrounds will be added to Steamboat Rock. We think this is a great opportunity to cater to families for a change! While we understand that many well-healed campers enjoy the full service available in the current campgrounds, we feel that young families with less money and no RV are left out. We'd like to see a campground between the current north loop and the day-use area with only primitive sites and yurts. Grayland has a set of sites on the dunes that have great bathrooms! A couple of these type of bathrooms (private showers, private toilets, deep eaves for shelter) and lots of tent sites would make young families and those with limited funds very welcome. And the trail we proposed above could run right through these sites. How fabulous is one's kids could ride their bikes on a paved trail safely to the day-use area.</p> <p>Any new campgrounds and the new paved trail should be well back from both the road and the shore, for safety and to encourage folks to not further erode the banks.</p> <p>Can Steamboat acquire the land between the highway and the entrance? It would be great if those ORV roads were trails instead. The park itself has very few trails, it would be great if those dirt roads were clear of traffic for hikers.</p>	<p>Trails More sites (lower cost)</p> <p>Trails</p>
<p>Try to find a way to curb the mosquito breeding ground - the "ponds" close to the campground/lake are an obvious source - can something can be done early spring to eliminate the mosquito breeding in these areas?</p>	<p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>I think Steamboat Rock State Park is one of the better parks in Washington State. My only suggestion would be more common areas like some of the parks on the coast. Coverd or partialy covered picnic/BBQ areas or firepits would be nice, also perhaps a vollyball pit or horseshoe pits. Things families can do together when it is windy on the lake or in the evening after a hard day of boating or fishing. Even a large open lawn to play catch or football on would be great.</p>	<p>Moe common areas</p>
<p>My family and friends have enjoyed visiting Steamboat Rock the past few years. Its a beautiful place! My suggestions for any improvements to the area would be to keep it as it is. It is a place that is not over crouded or over used.</p> <p>If there is consideration of more camp sites being added then my suggestion would be that a third area be developed at the Southwest side of Steamboat Rock, Southwest of the reservation office. This would also include a boat launch, additional parking and a small day use area that would give access to the main part of Banks Lake.</p>	<p>No changes</p>

<p>We love Steamboat Rock State Park and have found that there are definitely not enough campsites. If you are to add new campsites, that would require the need for additional bathrooms/showers. I also think that the sandbar in the river located in front of the north campsites needs to be marked - we hit the sand bar this summer and did some damage to our boat. I believe others have hit the same spot which could be avoided if the spot is properly marked.</p>	<p>More sites Sand bar</p>
<p>It would be nice to see some improvements at the park, but would really hate to see it become crowded and congested. Our families camp every year at Wenatchee Confluence park because it is so clean and the camp sites so large. That would be my vision for Steamboat Rock.</p> <p>Also, you have an atrocious mosquito problem there. Perhaps coordinated efforts with the local health department are in order. We actually left after three days of an original 9-day stay because of the mosquitoes. Even the dog had to come in the trailer because she was so bitten. Her nose ended up being hugely swollen because of all of the mosquito bites. And I went through 5 - yes 5- cans of mosquito repellent in just three days.</p> <p>We'd love to see a few more activity options at the park, such as tennis and basketball courts, horseshoe pits, and maybe some mountain biking trails. It would also be nice to have better access to the lake so that we don't have to walk through people's campsites. And finally, it would be so nice to have an off-leash area for people's dogs. That's the one thing that is missing at every single Washington state park. And you have the land! Having an off-leash area to play frisbee or toss a ball to our pets would be wonderful.</p> <p>So...keep the sites large and clean, add more recreational opportunities such as basketball and tennis and biking, add an off-leash area, and most of all FIX THE MOSQUITO PROBLEM. Driving a truck around once a day spewing a cloud of something or other doesn't cut it. The mosquitoes are in the grass, not on the road.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes Facilities expansion Dog area</p>
<p>It is a great place to camp and fish. It is extremely popular because it was very difficult to get into this last summer. The mosquitoes were absolutely horrendous when we were there the beginning of Aug. This was our first year camping there and really enjoyed everything except for the mosquitoes.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>I am taking this opportunity to tell you that one of the main reasons that we like to camp at Washington State parks is that we have 3 active dogs that we love to take along on our vacations.</p> <p>It would be great, if you are able to expand the property at Steamboat Rock, to have a designated area for campers with pets, or specifically dogs.</p> <p>If that were available, it would be easier to provide a safe area for off-leash exercise for the dogs and socializing for the pet owners. As it is in Seattle where we live, pet-owners might be provided with convenient pet-waste disposal options, and could be responsible for clean-up and maintenance.</p> <p>In addition, an off-leash beach area would be very popular, as is the one here at Magnuson Park on Lake Washington.</p>	<p>Dog area</p>

<p>One of our fondest memories of Steamboat Rock was being awakened in the middle of the night by a single bark from one of our Border Collies, who had been asleep with us in our tent. We sat up, alarmed, but to our relief and delight, we saw that what had startled the dogs was a herd of deer grazing next to our tent. They appeared as giant shadows on the fabric of the tent. We all sat hushed and still, watching with wonder until the deer moved on. Which is to say that we certainly appreciate that the wildlife of the park are an important part of the camping experience. I would like to think that a designated pet area would make it that much easier for the deer or other animals to avoid confrontations with protective pets.</p> <p>People who are not dog owners sometimes do not realize how dog-friendly areas encourage great socializing and friend-making opportunities for the humans who accompany their pets. So I would like to emphasize to your decision-makers that this sort of amenity would be mainly for the benefit of people and increase the usability of the park.</p> <p>We know how popular your park is, and how difficult it can be to get camping reservations in the summer, so if you like this idea, please be generous with space. I'm sure it would be a popular option.</p>	
<p>The biggest problem for us, is that I don't always get reservations in on time for the big family gatherings we enjoy. I do really like the reservation system. Our six adult children, six spouses, sixteen grandchildren & growing. Thanks Much for the planning, work, effort that goes into Steamboat Rock and all of our other State Parks.</p> <p>My husband had one suggestion; A Hiking Trail around Steamboat Rock itself.</p>	Trails
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mosquito control seems to be a problem and it may be due to the pond near the lower campground. 2. It would be nice if an actual trail was available to climb to the top of Steamboat Rock instead of the less defined trail that is currently there. 3. I also think it would be nice if the parking restrictions were enforced a bit more vigorously as it seems there are sometimes 3 and 4 cars in one site. 4. Speeding is a problem on the road down to the boat launch. When the kids are riding their bikes, cars rocket by them at 35 to 40 MPH. A radar type sign and/or the issuing of a few tickets should be considered. 	Mosquitoes Trails Law enforcement
<p>I would like to see larger tent areas or more than one tent site being allowed in the standard camp site areas.</p>	Larger tent pads
<p>A couple key improvment ideas that I see for the park would be to consider a few, additional campsite loops, (preferably w/full hook-up) and minimal/discretionary removal of milfoil vegetation from the lake bottom in key areas where both boat-to-shore access and campsite boat mooring is identified and/or desired.</p>	More sites Milfoil Moorage

<p>-conveniently located dishwashing stations for tent campers, perhaps with hot water. -reservable boat mooring buoys. -additional camp sites.</p>	<p>More sites Moorage Facilities (dish washing)</p>
<p>The only thing I can think of was that it would have been nice to have the hiking trail up Steamboat Rock a little better developed. My husband and myself are in our 40's and made it up the hike with a few extra breaks. However with all that loose rock on the trail, I can see someone sliding all the way down and hurting themselves.</p>	<p>Trails</p>
<p>The facilities were great. The only problem was the mosquitos. Seems like you water a bit too much. Or perhaps provide some spots away from the river up on the hill. Perhaps build a dock for fishing. No real complaints here.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes Docks</p>
<p>Only bad part is mosquitos very very bad and spraying doesn't get them off the grass in campsites We hope you can address some other ideas to relieve this problem</p>	<p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>1. Expand camping opportunity SOUTH of the park – congestion is now occurring throughout the north but south is abandoned. Any access to the westside of the lake ??– good location if it's SOUTH of the park. Possibly put in facilities on the east side where the fisherman launch halfway up the lake???</p> <p>2. Control camping and beach use north of the boat launch—its narrow and dangerous as you boat out of the bay (often at high speed water skiing)</p> <p>3. Dredge near the current camp pods—really getting shallow – maybe put in a channel if you can't dredge a lot. Gotta deal with the Milfoil – it's bad and getting worse . The periodic draining is NOT doing the job.</p> <p>4. Consider allowing gas facilities somewhere south of the park—would draw users to that end.</p> <p>This park definitely needs to have many more sites. We don't even try to get in until after school starts. Also you need to look at the strict campfire restriction imposed by the Ranger. This park is on a peninsula and is a green oasis with little fire danger from fires in campfire rings yet seldom have we been able to have fires while camped at this facility during September.</p>	<p>More sites Sand bars Milfoil</p> <p>Campfires</p>
<p>Steamboat is one of my two favorite spots to camp in the whole area. The things I love are that the spots don't seem to be right on top of one another like other places; I like the mosquito control program, I like that many spots are shaded but would like to see more shaded ones created if the park is expanded; I would like to see more spots on or close to the beach if possible and maybe a little longer hours at the little store; the most significant request when expanding the park is to please keep the spots medium to large...although I realize that does not do much for the park system ecomomically...it is one of the strongest reasons I come to Steamboat</p>	<p>More shade Concession</p>
<p>I have utilized the park for over twenty years, up to 7 times a year. This is my favorite state park because of the fishing opportunity.</p> <p>The two major detractors are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- The aggressive seagulls. There are about 7 seagulls that will steal food off the plate within 3 feet of a person. We enjoy fixing a meal and eating outside, but the seagulls are impossible. A program to target and remove a couple offenders should not be difficult to implement. Relocate them to Neah bay where they can compete for food naturally in a rich environment. 2- The resident Canadian geese. They have no predators and have 100% survival of the chicks. Thirteen breeding pairs have 	<p>Seagulls Geese More sites Moorage Check in policy</p>

<p>Continued.....</p> <p>about 100 chicks survive to adulthood. They leave a mess greater than any pack of dogs brought into the park on any weekend. The numbers of geese at the park is unnatural. Cull some of the eggs or cull some of the adults. These geese are controlled at city parks and golf courses all over the state. Kids and adults like to play soccer or catch on the park lawn but the geese own it and have marked with their waste every were.</p> <p>Improvements such as expansion would be great since the additional revenue would better support the staff. Campers like us will be able to secure sites. The park has room for expansion. The time has come for this improvement.</p> <p>Boat docks would be nice but I like my boat close for security reasons. I have never had anything taken from my boat. But I do not want to provide a better opportunity for theft either.</p> <p>Have the park rangers ride into the park with a person unfamiliar with the check in policy and note where they have a problem. I have had a difficult time with the check in procedure. I am prepared with my reservation information to drop off, but I could not find the box the place it in. The ranger caught up later, but why ask for information when the drop off box is not apparent?</p>	
<p>My family and I fell in love with the park about 11 years ago, and have made it part of our summer vacation plans every year (for at least a week – sometimes 2 weeks) since then. It has also become a destination for the extended family as well – we’ve had friends and family from all over the Western US join us there for camping and boating many times. It is a very special place, and my wife and I hope some day to buy vacation property in the Coulee Dam area because we love it so much there. But for the mean time, we’ll continue to look forward to our annual trek across the mountains and to Steamboat Rock SP.</p> <p>The improvements I can think of suggesting fall into two categories – facilities, and operational. So here they are:</p> <p><u>Facilities</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand the size for camping – would love to see a 3rd loop built in between the two current loops. Would also love to see one or two of the primitive camping areas (north of the boat ramp, and/or in the Northup area) turned in to full-service campgrounds. 2. The addition of the handicap-access bathrooms / showers a number of years ago helped the crowding situation a lot, but the bathrooms are still too small for the number of people served. They need to be completely re-built, and expanded in size. 3. Over the years, quite a few of the sprinkler heads have been damaged or have gotten out of adjustment. Consequently, some areas that used to be grass are now dirt, because they don’t get watered properly. These need to be fixed so that the delight of being able to walk from grass into a tent or camper (and not track dirt in) is consistent from site to site. 4. Boat ramp: it’s generally in excellent shape, and doesn’t get too backed up most of the time, but it could use a third (and maybe even a fourth) lane, as well as longer docks so that more boats can tie up while people are retrieving vehicles. 5. Group camp: This has always baffled us in it’s mediocrity, compared to the quality of the rest of the campground. What you really need is something like what Potholes state park has – a separate loop of campsites, with trees encircling it, and a nice central grass area where the whole group can gather around a campfire. The “area” at Steamboat – basically just the end of the boat ramp parking lot – is, frankly, embarrassing. My wife and I often wonder why any group would stay there. We have a large number of relatives in the local area, and would love to have a reunion at Steamboat, if there was a decent group area. But we’ve avoided it and have gone to other parks (Moses Lake, Potholes,etc.) instead. 	<p>More sites Facilities (restrooms)</p> <p>Additional boat launch Group camp Trails Law enforcement Operations</p>

6. Steamboat Rock hike trail: It's an excellent trail, and a real treat of a view once you reach the top, but the steep part half way up the rock is too dangerous, especially for the older folks. It would be nice if that trail could be enhanced, and maybe some stairs or ladders put in on the steep part.
7. On the positive side, I have to mention: the fish cleaning stations are fantastic, and the pit toilet bathroom up near the point north of the boat ramp is the nicest one of those I have EVER seen. And the boat tie-up posts near the lake-side sites are great as well. J

Operations

8. Excessive night-time noise is by far the biggest problem operationally. The camp hosts seem to hole up in their trailers at about 9 pm each night, which seems to signal to the partiers that it's time to make noise and turn up the music, until at least midnight, if not later. For those of us who sometimes want to get up early to go fishing, that makes it tough. In all the years I've been going to Steamboat, I've never observed a camp host confronting a late-night noise-maker. This stands in stark contrast to other Washington campgrounds I've been to where they will readily talk to anyone making any level of noise above quiet conversation after 10 pm. In years past, the park ranger would make a final "sweep" around 10:30 and talk to people who were noisy, but I've noticed in the last few years that that doesn't happen anymore – maybe budget cuts are the culprit. But I sure miss that. In the last several years, I've had to go personally confront noisy neighbors at least half a dozen times. I think the best way to solve this problem is to enforce a STRICT 10:00 or 10:30 pm "no noise" rule, and it would have to be jointly enforced by the rangers and camp hosts, in addition to VERY clearly communicating it to guests as they arrive at the park.
9. Trash: it seems like the dumpsters fill up very quickly, especially during busy summer months. Could the contract with the waste hauler be changed to have them come twice as often during the summer? And there is always a fair amount of litter scattered around the campground, swim / boat tie-up, and walking trail areas. I always make it a point to take a grocery bag with me and pick up litter as I go for walks, but I'd suggest a more coordinated effort be managed by the camp hosts as part of their "payment" for the free stay – have them organize a regular "litter walk" once or twice per week, where they recruit guests from their camp areas to walk around for ½ hour and pick up litter. I would definitely participate in that.
10. Boat ramp: I see people get regularly confused as to the direction they are supposed to come in and loop around, the area they are to prep their boats (so that they don't hold up others), and the area that they are supposed to pull out of the way to so they can prep their boats for the trip home. So clearer signs and pavement striping would be helpful. Also, the parking spaces are too narrow for averages truck / trailer rigs – these need to be restriped as well. In addition, an additional parking area would be nice on those really busy summer days.
11. Milfoil weeds: I'm guessing that there is no program to control milfoil on the beaches that are part of the park; it would be nice if that were controlled.
12. Bathroom cleaning: I know that it's always difficult to find a time to have this done, but the early-morning time that it's done tends to wake up a sleepy campground when the noise of cleaning (and especially the stall doors slamming shut) takes place. Maybe mid-day would be better, while everyone's out enjoying activities on the lake?
13. Store: the concession store at the swimming beach is great to have, but carrying 5 bags of ice along that hot asphalt walkway to the boat ramp parking area on a 100 degree day is tough. Could that store be relocated? Or a road and parking area be built up closer to the current store?

Milfoil
Concession

That's all I can think of – and it's probably much more than you wanted to read. J But my love and my family's love for Steamboat Rock S.P. / Banks Lake is hard to over-state – we plan a good chunk of our vacation time each year there, and will continue to do so, as

<p>long as I have a say in it. I hope my suggestions above prove to be useful, and I look forward to hearing news about improvements kicking off.</p>	
<p>1st Electric power would be a wonderful.</p> <p>2nd Blocking off the parking lot at that end stating that it is a group site. Every year we have someone trying to make their way through our site with their car. Making it non-accessible to through traffic.</p>	<p>Group camp</p>
<p>The only thing that comes to mind that would be a great help to our family would be more camp sites. It is always very hard to plan so far ahead in order to reserve sites.</p> <p>Oh, and a few less mosquitoes would be nice.</p>	<p>More sites Mosquitoes</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Addition of eco-friendly yurts made from recycled material 2. Better recycling signage; something all Washington State Parks seem to need help with 3. More trees and foliage to specifically shade camp sites and offer greater privacy 4. More trash and recycling cans at the day use park and swim beach 5. Replace coin operated showers with showers on timers and let people rinse off for free 	<p>Yurts Recycling Trees</p>
<p>I think the main goal of the long-term plan should be to expand the capacity of the park due to its high demand. An easy way to do this would be to turn the "day area" into more campsites. I have never seen the day area crowded, or even much used at all. Most of the people who come for the day seem to use the beach adjacent to the boat launch.</p> <p>Another change that might help is to make the boat-in campsites (NE of The Rock) park of the online reservation system. This would mean designated spots, if they aren't already. I've never used these spots, but I certainly would have if reserving them was easier.</p>	<p>More sites Reservations</p>
<p>I would provide a "swimmers only" beach so that the interaction with motorized watercraft can be minimized. As it currently works, swimmers have to dodge bow lines and outboard motors to enjoy the water.</p>	<p>Swim beach</p>
<p>Mosquito's were the worst, all day long. It was hard to enjoy the day and we would have to build a fire just to help keep them away. I have never seen them this bad anywhere else. You need to get a control now for next year. The spray helped a ton, and should be done daily. We spent a lot of money on bug spray and our kids had large welts for days if not weeks after. This is a health issue. thank you!</p>	<p>Mosquitoes</p>

<p>difficult to get a reservation for Steamboat Rock State Park. This may become easier if the park were to expand, or it may mean just more people. As a water skiing family, we may be selfish, but we and our friends enjoy the lack of boats (and therefore waves) on Banks Lake.</p>	
<p>We would like to see more shade at most state parks in the campsites.</p>	<p>Shade</p>
<p>I fill that the state park does not need to be bigger. Its nice as it is. More people will make it more noisy and crowded and make the lake more dangerous. we have really enjoyed our stay there and will probably be back in years to come</p>	<p>No changes</p>
<p>I would love to hear more info about any plans with Steamboat Rock in the future. We have camped there several times and love it. Although, I must comment that it is almost impossible to actually get a reservation and with the current system, it takes hours of searching and planning to try and get a reservation.</p> <p>I think the park should definately be expanded. There is a lot of room there to make a lot more campsites.</p> <p>It would also be nice if there was a small playground area in each of the two main loops as it is such a long walk down to the current playground area.</p> <p>It would also be great to see the sprinkler system be fixed. Each time we are there, there are always faulty sprinklers and we are usually left with a soaking wet picnic table area or even worse, a soaking wet tent. I love that there is a sprinkler system since the end result is a very nice park but it would just be very nice if a little more time was taken to make sure they are in working order.</p> <p>It would also be nice if the tent pads could be reworked occasionally. Some are really nice but many others are becoming very weedy and bumpy.</p> <p>But, most importantly I think the park should definately be expanded as I said earlier. It is such a popular destination and sells out the minute the reservations are open.</p>	<p>More sites Playground Facilities (irrigation)</p>
<p>I appreciate the email and opportunity for some input. Yes we have enjoyed camping @ Steamboat I think every year now for about the past 10 years, maybe a little longer, usually the first weekend school is out. We live in the TriCities. Family of 5. My wife and I are 50. We have 3 kids 20, 18 and 11. We usually camp with one or more friends that have kids of similar age. No complaints really about the way things are now, with the possible exception of having to make reservations 9 months in advance. The park is almost always full but seldom feels crowded so there is probably a good argument to expand. It's best from the economic standpoint to have every site spoken for in advance, vs not filling the park, but maybe some of the sites could be released for reservation on a much shorter timeframe than 9 months? Some people can't even make a vacation request until the start of the current year. I have to make reservation for June 2009 in Sept 08. Maybe some group areas for 3 or more sites together that can be released after the first of the year as individual sites if groups haven't filled them? The area for groups over by the day park doesn't look like it has power and is seldom used?</p>	<p>More sites Trees Reservations</p>

<p>from the boat dock which doesn't mix well with boaters. They leave bikes parked in the middle of the ramp etc. It's always a concern to have too many people around when backing a boat in the water. Especially true if the boat's behind my camper.</p> <p>Parking seems adequate. It helped when it became ok to park the boat trailers on the grass.</p> <p>Overall Steamboat is a very nice place to take my family camping.</p>	
<p>The park is our favourite but we've had a hard time getting reservations. I was of the understanding you could only book 3 months in advance. Now I know it is 9 months so hopefully we will be able to get back there. It is a gorgeous park and so well looked after.</p>	<p>Reservations</p>
<p>Steamboat Rock is one of our favorite places to camp, however it is one of the hardest places to get reservations. It would be nice to lookup the sites on the map to see what is available for a particular month and just click on the site number to reserve that site if it comes up available.</p> <p>Steamboat Rock is a very popular place for camping. It would be nice if there were more full hookup sites available. I also noticed a lot of tent campers using RV sites. It seems to me that a camping area just for tenters with water, showers, restrooms etc, would be nice. This would keep the RV sites for RVs.</p> <p>Would also be nice if there was an easier way to climb Steamboat rock. The first part of the climb is the hardest for those who are not quite in shape. If there were stairs there it would make the climb a lot more easier. The stairs would need to have a wire cage around them to protect them from falling rocks.</p>	<p>Reservations More sites Trails</p>
<p>I think one of the most important improvements you could make to the campground is putting in electrical outlets to the group campsite. It gets very warm in August and it can be unbearable. It's hard to see the other beautiful sites just down the road with full hook-ups enjoying their trailers and AC.</p> <p>Another suggestion might be to have the group campsite better marked or completely non accessible to through traffic.</p> <p>Leveling the dirt area and maybe having a grassy area around it would be nice too.</p> <p>The six families enjoy our stay every year and can't wait to come back again. We all agreed that even just getting power out to that area would be great.</p>	<p>Group camp</p>

<p>1. more grass or concrete around the camp sites. i've found that when the camper or motorhome is backed into the site, the door usually opens up to dirt.</p> <p>2. some sort of a small store/concession stand inside the actual campground where basic supplies could be sold. electric city is the closest place now.</p> <p>3. everyone is getting more and more dependent on the internet every day, so a wi-fi connection would be convenient, or any way to get internet connected.</p>	<p>Lnadscape Concession Wi-fi</p>
<p>We have been camping at Banks Lake/Steam Boat Rock Park for about 6 summers now and we love it. We have always camped in the family campsite. We love this site because: it is away from other campers, the kids can be as loud as they want, we have the parking lot for the kids to ride their bikes in, we are so close to the boat launch, close to the bathrooms, close to the snack shack, close to the beach and "sand Island", there are great trees for the clothes line and a nice water spicket. These are the improvements that I can think of: level out the ground better, make the grass nicer, make the left shower in the women's shower room warm (referring to the bathroom behind the snack shack). It seems to be very cold every year. Maybe put in an outlet somewhere for electric coolers and electric air pumps. We would not like you to do anymore of those commercials either. We prefer the lake all to ourselves.</p>	<p>Group camp Facilities</p>
<p>We love Steamboat Rock State Park. At one time it was one of our favorite places to camp <u>BUT</u> the mosquitoes have gotten so bad that it makes our trip miserable. I am sorry to say we didn't even camp at Steam Boat Rock this year. I hope there is something that can be done about the mosquitoes in the future so we can come back and enjoy your beautiful park.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>First I wanted to say that steamboat rock is an outstanding camp ground and well maintained! If at all possible camp sites near the water so we may leave our boats in the water near our camp site. other then that great job.</p>	<p>Site layout</p>
<p>As current of residents of xxxxxxxx, WA , we would like to bring the following to your attention. Being frequent visitors/campers of our state parks, especially Lincoln Rock, Confluence, Steamboat Rock and Maryhill, we are surprised to see the continuing condition of these parks. We enjoy these parks and have frequented them often. In visiting state parks outside of Washington we have not seen this problem. With the current conditions like we have experienced here it is questionable as to our returning, be it camping or for day use.</p> <p>There is a severe problem with the Canadian Geese that frequent these parks, and we are sure they frequent other parks. Their droppings are all over the place and one would not want to see this when visiting our state parks. We should be proud of our state parks and not expect the visitors be it resident or from out of state to endure this problem. Goose dropping were everywhere - on the roads, in the parking lots, on the lawn and walkways and in some cases the parks are full of geese just wandering around making it worse.</p> <p>We are sure you know that this condition creates a health hazard for all visitors including their pets and is an embarrassment to our state park system. During our stay at these parks, camping or for day use we have never seen any park personnel attempting to clean up after these Geese which makes one wonder who is policing the parks and there conditions. With a budget of \$105,424,500 for 2003-2005 of which 82% equaling \$95,157,500 goes for maintenance and other services (as noted on the State Parks website) one would think that a better job could be done in keeping our state parks in better condition. If we were from</p>	<p>Geese</p>

<p>out of state and found these conditions we would question returning to visit/camp in these parks and possibly the state of Washington.</p> <p>Also as noted on the state parks website - (quote) State spending on parks as a portion of the total state budget has declined in the last decade. It is less than one quarter of one percent of the state budget.</p> <p>Yet, parks contribute more than \$1.1 billion to the state's economy, If this statement is correct then you as elected personnel should review, audit this appropriation and see where the additional money is going and question why it is not used for the purpose from which it is collected, which is the park system.</p> <p>We hope that the forgoing offers some incentive for you and the Washington State Parks divisions and personnel to do a better job of taking care of our state parks!! Until this and other already identified problems can be corrected, We do not think that the parks department should be looking at any long-term plans that might lead to a larger park, different facility options or other changes. Using existing resources, take care of and improve what we currently have.</p>	
<p>We love Steamboat just as it is, particularly the circle layout of the campsites that allow for views other than looking into someone else's trailer. Adding an additional campground between the two existing areas or nearer the entrance to the park would make it much easier to find sites available, especially in the summer and in September when it is very popular.</p> <p>Although we don't use the boat-in sites, adding better restroom facilities, including showers (even if it is only an outdoor rinse-off shower), would be nice. We hike out there and always find a lot of flies and mosquitoes in those primitive facilities.</p>	<p>More sites Facilities (restroomss at boat in site)</p>
<p>Each year for the past 20+ years, people in our "group" have been making the journey to the Rock. We usually grab anywhere from 8 to 12 campsites each year. It is getting more difficult though to come over as a group, since it is more difficult to reserve more than one or two sites at a time.</p> <p>We would like to ask that somehow there be a way to make it possible to reserve a block of campsites together at the same time. I know that many other groups come over as well. Not only would this help the groups, but it would make it more friendly at the campground as well, since currently we have to go through other people's sites to go and visit with our friends who are a few sites away, or even in a different loop--or in the opposite end of the campgrounds.</p> <p>Another positive change would be to put up some more permanent volleyball or badminton nets for those who wish to play large group games.</p> <p>Additional trails would be great as well for those wishing to hike.</p>	<p>Reservations Trails Facilities (vloocy ball / badminton)</p>
<p>We would like to see more camping spots for RV's that are not reservation available, during the busy times you can't just pop in and get a spot for a night or two. I wish that the fishing was better, Its seems like every year it is getting worse.</p>	<p>Reservations Fishing</p>

<p>We have been to the park several times and intend to return often, it is one of our favorite parks. Our only comments would be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It would be nice if plantings could be added to make the sites a little bit more private. Although, you wouldn't want to obstruct the beautiful views of the water and surrounding hills that you have either. 2. We use the lake for kayaking and would like to see some way to share the lake with power boaters that is safer for us. Perhaps there could be speed limits or no wake zones in the lagoon to west of the camp sites. We absolutely loved the ability to launch our kayaks from or very close to our campsite. 3. Additional rest room facilities would also be nice, it is a long way to go in the middle of the night to get to rest rooms from some of the camp sites. 4. We also noted that the eurasion milfoil was worse this year. Are there any plans to control it? 5. It would be nice to have more hiking trails throughout the park and a walking trail beside the road from the campsites down to the boat launch park. 6. It would be nice to have information on the pesticide spraying program sent to us at the time of confirmation of our reservation. We would have liked to know what was being sprayed and the time and date it was done. We did enjoy not sharing our vacation with hordes of mosquitoes! 7. We love the circular design of the campsites. It makes it so easy to maneuver an RV that way, please don't change that! The only easier thing would be pull-through site. 8. The only thing we miss at this park is that we have not been able to have a campfire during any of our visits. Would it be possible to construct fire pits that would be safe if the fire danger wasn't too high? We certainly wouldn't want to endanger the area but a campfire would definitely enhance the camping experience. 	<p>Trees Shared lake use More restrooms Milfoil Trails</p> <p>Campfire</p>
<p>We would like to see a bigger state park. There is enough land. I guess it depends on how much it would cost. Just maybe we could get a camp site the days we want instead of going by how booked it is. we get on line and every camp site is booked, and we do it nine months advance. we made reservations for may already, but did not get the days we wanted. maybe, just maybe, If steamboat was bigger we would be able to get the site and day's we want. We been going fishing over there for eighteen years and you could camp anywhere for four dollars a night, then you closed a lot down and I know why we seen it all. we really like Jones bay but to get that spot impossible. hope the park does grow, we love it there. keep up the great work.</p>	<p>More sites</p>
<p>Increase the size of tent sites. Modern tents, especially family tents are getting big and stretch the capacity of the existing sites. As a result sprinklers wet down tents too close to the edge or tents encroach on grass to the rangers' displeasure. It would seem the tent site could be at least as wide as the drive and deep. Frankly in this day and age 20X20 is not too big.</p> <p>It would be nice to invite a concessionaire who would rent boats, canoes and kayaks. Banks lake is a wonderful place to fish and the area inside the park is a great place for non-motorized boats.</p>	<p>Larger tent pads Concession More sites Facilities</p>

<p>My wife says the fixtures in the ADA bathrooms need to be upgraded.</p> <p>Designated ten sites in the trailer areas would protect the grass. I have observed that most RV's with families also have tents.</p> <p>Expand the park across the road. We are Puget Sound folks and go early in June and we reserve early. The Park needs more space.</p>	
<p>I have used the launch and I'd like to see it maybe positioned some how so the wind doesn't beat up your boat when you tie off to it. BUT again I've only used it maybe twice.</p>	Boat launch
<p>First I would like to say what a wonderful park Steamboat Rock is. We stayed last year and hope to be fortunate enough to secure a reservation for June 2009 when the dates open up for reservation.</p> <p>I would like to stay informed on the progress.</p> <p>Possible improvements/changes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From Spring to Fall, have boats to rent at Steamboat Rock. Fishing is a big draw to Steamboat Rock and Banks Lake. We rented a boat from a vendor just down the road but would have preferred to stay near the park. 2. Add cable to each full hook up site. 3. Add more groceries etc. at the park in a little store that is open from spring to fall, but perhaps only limited morning hours (i.e. 9-noon) so that visitors don't have to take the long drive to get them. 	Boat rentals Cable at site Concession
<p>I have a few good suggestions to make about the park:</p> <p>1st- put in boat docks that campers can use to more to while staying in the park.</p> <p>2nd- Have allowable first come first serve space available that does not require a 9 month in advance reservation. I am sure there are times that cancellations occur and there is no way of knowing.</p> <p>3rd- Put in a phone service to the office check in and publish it so that we can call to check for cancellations.</p> <p>4th- Add additional 100 sites ASAP as this is the ONLY REAL STATE PARK ON THIS SIDE OF THE CASCADES and as you already know it is extremely popular.</p>	Moorage Reservations More sites
<p>We like the park the way it is, some minor changes could make it nicer such as a reservation system for ALL the camp sites. The park already has too many people and water craft. Do not increase the capacity. I have sent similar comments to Bruce Lorenger (sp?) of the dept of interior regarding the campground addition plan. We like Banks Lake the way it is. Thanks for fixing the solid waste problem at the park. Leave well enough alone.</p>	No changes

<p>We love Steamboat Rock SP. Our only complaint has to do with little flying pests (mosquitos)!! It seems that the last several years have gotten really bad - maybe the Grant Co spray formula has changed? Maybe less watering of the lawn would help?</p> <p>We would be ok with expanding the park - I think the boat launch and lake could accommodate.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes</p>
<p>We would love to see more Campsites. This park is amazing and hard to get into. (As in making reservations.)</p> <p>Please add more sites!! I love the paved Circles for the kids to ride bikes and the grass areas.</p> <p>I would like to see a play area for kids.</p>	<p>More sites Play areas</p>
<p>More campsites PLEASE. An easier process to register for sites. It is so upsetting when you get a site, start putting in information, accidentally mess up on a number and lose the site because someone else takes it.</p>	<p>More sites</p>
<p>Yes, we have been camping since Steamboat's trees were really short (have that on super 8 movies), so it's been a family tradition to camp and boat each year - when we can get a reservation. Sadly the weed is really getting bad. - Can anything be done about it? Also if you are going to expand at all, maybe expand over the other side - where there is yet no weed? The mosquitos were really bad this year.....altho they sprayed???</p>	<p>Weeds? Mosquitoes</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soap in the restrooms • Further Mosquito management • Buoys in the North Cove so boats do not need to throw their own anchor • Locked docks with lighting in the North Cove. I know there could be design issue with rising and lowering water but boaters will pay for docks if they are good • Swimming Pool and hot tub with lifeguards. Fee based on camp charge • Wi-Fi in campground---must have • Improvement to camp areas. IE: Grass up to asphalt pad rather than sand • Onsite restaurant managed by outside vendor or more of a grocery store by the loops • Ice machines in N and S loops • Mill foil removal in North Cove • New loop between South and North Loop • Time share option if new loop were built, possibly privatization of that loop. • Raking-dragging of north loop beach using ATVS to clear dried mill foil <p>Our family would pay a premium for these type of services. I think the state needs to explore ways of "making" money as well as providing a service(Steamboat) at a breakeven point.</p> <p>We love the park and these are just ideas.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes Moorage Facilities (pool) Wi-fi Landscaping Concession Milfoil</p>

<p>My main suggestion would be for enlarging the park which would make it more accessible to more people</p>	<p>More sites</p>
<p>We've been coming to Steamboat rock for 12 years. The biggest need seems to be for more campsites, especially tent sites. It is near impossible to get in if you didn't schedule a reservation 9 months ahead. I don't always know when I am going to get vacation, so we spend weeks trying to get a spot during the summer..and sometimes fail. A loop for tents would be nice...it seems there are very few spots without hookups. It would also be nice to have a swim area that is not so far from the camping areas...something that is roped off so that the boats don't come in and run over people. The day use area is not even used by campers hardly because of the distance. The demand for the park seems to be bigger than the growth. An additional bathroom in each loop could be necessary if there are more campsites added. Boat tie ups along the beach in designated areas would be nice. Further early prevention of mosquitoes before summer hits in addition to the weekly spraying could also be a consideration, if not already done. Good luck with your efforts and thank you for all you do to improve and maintain our parks!</p>	<p>More sites Swim area Restrooms Mosquitoes</p>
<p>Steamboat is our "Mother/Daughter" camping destination and love EVERYTHING about it, including the Air Force Fly-bys. Over the years, securing a favorite site has become a real chore, so my suggestion (along with everyone else's) is to make more camp sites. While many come for the water sports, not all of us do. We come for the heat, the nice view of the lake and the hills and the great weather. So maybe a location away from the water would be something you could do.</p>	<p>More sites</p>
<p>My husband and I have spent many summers (about 10 years) at Banks Lake. We have enjoyed time at Steamboat Rock Park. We usually camp with our RV at the Community Park in Coulee City and then drive our boat to SRP and launch it. However, last summer we were lucky enough to secure a site at the park.</p> <p>While we reserved a site for 10 days – we ended up leaving after only 3 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our site was against the poplar trees and we had an infestation of mosquitoes that covered our grandkids with bites. There was not enough spraying going on to help us. ➤ Our site was at the beginning of the park so it was too far to walk in the extreme heat to the boat launch and concession stand where the kids wanted to play. I ended up driving the RV back and forth which was very inconvenient. <p>We would suggest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ a direct path along the lake between the campsite locations that end up at the concession stand and boat launch; ➤ develop more campsite locations. It took me years and a bit of luck to actually get a site for the week of July 4th; ➤ and it would also help to have some sort of shuttle service around the park. <p>Good luck with your planning project. It is a beautiful park that we will continue to enjoy for many years to come.</p>	<p>Mosquitoes Trails More sites</p>
<p>First off, I want to say that Steamboat Rock is one of the finest state parks in Washington and my family and I have been going there every year now for 8 years and enjoy every minute of it. However, you asked for some feedback and I am happy to provide some.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do something about the mosquitos – the schedule for spraying does not seem very consistent and it would be nice that if it were on a consistent schedule they would not get so bad, especially, when you can barely leave your camper/tent/RV without being 	<p>Mosquitoes</p>

<p>attacked. Immediately after spraying it alleviates the mosquito problem for many days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe have some boat docks • The current tent sites are not large enough. The tents people are buying these days are easily exceeding the size of the tent site. • I think you could put sites closer to the lake even build new campsites between the north and south loops, seems like there is enough space 	<p>Moorage Larger tent pads More sites</p>
<p>I appreciate receiving the opportunity to provide ideas for the planning of the future of Steamboat Rock SP. We have been RV and boat users of the Park for the past 11 years and look forward to each return stay. (Although the mosquito situation the last 2 years has been a real problem).</p> <p>CAMPING: One area of current frustration is seeing full hook up sites occupied by tenters. I was a tenter for many years and would not want to have been discriminated against so my suggestion is for the area between the North loop and the day use area be developed for tenters. They need to have a beach area that will always exist even when Banks Lake is raised to it's upper level. Shade trees, need to be planted and maintained in large numbers. The sites should have power since most current day tenters use small electric fridges and coolers. Adequate indoor and outdoor shower houses would be constructed for their use as would be dish cleaning sinks. By providing this area for tenters only the Park would be able to restrict the use of full hook up sites to RV's only and convert the existing tent sites to full hook up sites.</p> <p>Another idea is for a third area to be created at the south -west end of the "Rock" on Banks Lake. That would put more boaters into the main lake which is currently hardly used at all. That location is close to the existing sewage treatment area which would help to keep costs down for such an expansion.</p> <p>THE LAKE (smaller lake campground is located on): Some effort to deal with the milfoil weeds should be initiated. Especially along the beach areas where the weeds are now stopping the water from flowing properly and creating stagnant unhealthy water. This is especially a situation in the South Loop area.</p> <p>Site Maintenance: It has been very obvious that the level of care to the existing sites has decreased in the past couple of years. Although a majour upgrade to the power system was installed which is great, the actual care of the grass and trees has dropped off. The site we were in this year, 43, sprinklers were all but unoperational. Two of them just poured water out at ground level creating flooding into the picnic table area. The others barely sprinkled the designated area at all. Upon notification to the maintenance staff and assurance that they would be repaired nothing was done. Trees have dead branches on them which are hazardous to the RV's and people around them. Trees need to be pruned each year to ensure proper growth and shade for all.</p> <p>MOSQUITOES: More rigorous control must be initiated. West Nile Virus is becoming more and more of a concern to everyone. It would seem that in the last 2 years spraying and the extent of spraying has dropped off considerably. The spraying used to be done regularly, regardless of wind conditions. Not spraying because of a breeze doesn't make sense. When it is calm the spray hangs in the air and settles in the loops where the truck drives. When there is a breeze the spray is carried to areas outside the camping loops and into the swamps and sagebrush area where there are the mosquitoes live in greater numbers. I also notice that spraying is no longer done along the outer campground area paths. In order for the Park to have adequate mosquito control they might need to have their</p>	<p>Tent only area Shade / trees Milfoil Maintenance Mosquitoes</p>

<p>own sprayer instead of relying on the County to do it. The level of mosquitoes this year drove most campers into their RV's and tents during the evening which is very unfortunate and certainly takes away from the outdoor camping experience.</p>	
<p>I have been a long-time camper at Steamboat Rock State Park, having camped there with my family and friends for nearly 20 years. During these many camping trips I have had the opportunity to participate and observe activities in and around the Park. My observations have led to the proposals that I have sent you herein. I have discussed these ideas with numerous other persons who have camped at the Park and their comments have resulted in the two final proposals that you will see in the attachments to this Email.</p> <p>My two proposals can be summarized as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A pedestrian-bicycle path between the ranger station, the South and North campgrounds, and the picnic area. 2) A large new camping loop along the West coast of the Steamboat Rock peninsula. <p>Please see the attachments to this Email for aerial photographs with red markings and a more detailed explanation of my proposals. The attachments two are Microsoft Word documents.</p>	<p>More sites Trails</p>
<p>This park is one of our favorite campgrounds in Washington. The only thing that we would like addressed, is the hunting that is allowed near the park. We will not use this park during hunting season. As we drive into the park off the highway, the last thing we want to see is a deer etc. being killed. This would completely ruin our holiday. We also believe that the area in which Steamboat Rock is located, is great place to enjoy the natural environment, with its many trails. I believe these attributes make this park so beautiful, why would you allow hunters in to kill the animals that call this area home</p>	<p>Park policies</p>