The Horsethief Lake - Dalles Mt Ranch Master Planning Project

Phase II - Preliminary Recommendations and Options
March 2003
Getting down to the hard decisions

Over the past eighteen months, Washington State Parks has sought your input as we develop a master plan for Horsethief Lake State Park and the adjoining Dalles Mt. Ranch Property. To help facilitate public input, agency staff developed a document titled “The Horsethief Lake - Dalles Mt. Ranch Master Planning Project - Creating a vision for the future.” This document was initially presented at a public workshop in February 2003, and has since been widely distributed to interested organizations and individuals for comment. Public response to the agency’s planning efforts has been very encouraging.

Now we need your help again! The Horsethief Lake - Dalles Mt. Ranch staff planning team has endeavored to incorporate everything we’ve heard from you into a set of preliminary recommendations and options that together provide the beginnings of an overall park vision. Here’s how you can help... Please look over this document, check our work, and let us know how we might fine-tune our recommendations to reflect your personal hopes and dreams for this amazing place.

What’s in this document

This document focuses on preliminary planning recommendations developed for the park based on input received so far from park visitors and neighbors, other government jurisdictions and agencies, Indian Tribes, and other interested organizations. The first section provides a brief overview of the planning process. Next, we present two optional plans that narrow down the best ideas from the previous planning stages. The two optional plans include differing possibilities for facilities development, land classification (park zoning), and a long-term park boundary (desired property acquisition and surplus). Then, options and recommendations for park naming are discussed followed by detailed approaches to resolving identified planning issues. The final section outlines anticipated next steps and means for providing us with your input.

Information on this and previous planning work for Horsethief Lake and Dalles Mt. Ranch can also be found on the web at: www.parks.wa.gov/hldmrplan.asp or in hard copy form upon request.

The planning process

In November 2001, the Horsethief Lake - Dalles Mt Ranch staff planning team held an initial public workshop to gain some insight into what issues currently face the park and, in very general terms, what features are important to park stakeholders. Next, the team crafted a set of park objectives and five alternative planning themes to help structure public input. This information was distributed to park stakeholders and formally presented for comment at a public workshop in February 2003, at the Lyle Lions Club in Lyle, Washington. Drawing on input received so far, the
staff planning team has developed a set of preliminary recommendations and options (this document) for presentation at a public workshop on March 26, 2003 - again at the Lyle Lions Club.

During the next several weeks, agency staff will continue to solicit public input on the preliminary recommendations and options described in this document. Staff will then develop final recommendations consideration and approval by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission at its scheduled June 19, 2003 meeting in Wenatchee, Washington.

Facilities Concept Plan Recommendations and Options

As planning for the Horsethief Lake - Dalles Mt. Ranch area has progressed; several facilities-related issues have emerged which require further input. To help facilitate further public discussion, staff has created two options - each with a guiding emphasis:

- Option 1: Emphasize protection and interpretation of the park’s natural and cultural treasures
- Option 2: Emphasize developing the Gorge region’s recreational opportunities

Specific facilities considerations and choices are described under each option below. Composite maps that show corresponding facilities concept plans, land classifications, and long-term park boundaries are included as Figures 1 and 2 on pages 7 and 9.

Option 1: Emphasize Protecting and Interpreting the Park’s Natural and Cultural Treasures

- Dalles Mt. Ranch building complex

With a few minor exceptions, structures in the central ranch complex are considered either contributing to or primary to the historic integrity of the original Crawford ranch and surrounding cultural landscapes. Perhaps what most sets this ranch development apart from others in the region is the relatively minor degree of alteration made to the structures and landscapes over time. Although the Crawford ranch house has now fallen into disrepair, its potential historic significance was recognized early and never removed. In addition, because the barns and other outbuildings continued in active use, they too were protected and survive largely intact. Contemporary structures - most notably the Reuter ranch house and the large “new barn” - are set well away, preserving the original arrangement of structures and landscape features.

Option 1 suggests an intriguing new use, or adaptive re-use of the ranch complex as a “cultural learning center.” The park’s outstanding collection of nationally significant and...
accessible cultural resources - both Native American and white settlement-oriented – makes this an ideal statewide focal point for cultural resource-related learning. Specifically this option would:

- Rehabilitate the historic barns and outbuildings to function as classroom/meeting space, an auditorium, and interpretive display areas
- Adapt the Crawford house to provide office space for center administration, partner organizations, and volunteers
- Reconfigure and expand the Reuter ranch house to serve as overnight group lodging and dining
- Convert the new barn for use as a combined park administration and maintenance center
- Provide staff housing in a sensitively sited new structure or existing structure to provide on-site security.

In order for such a cultural learning center to be successful, the agency would require help from partner organizations and volunteers. This ambitious project especially because it requires extensive adaptation of historic structures. Two major aspects of the agency's mission are accomplished through this option: protection of historic properties and provision of resource-related interpretive and educational opportunities.

☐ **Crawford Oaks area**

The Crawford Oaks Area is located along the north side of SR-14, about halfway through the park. The area also includes an existing roadway access to the 40-acre County landfill inholding. Its frontage along the north side of SR-14, and short-distance access to a host of natural and cultural interpretive opportunities, make it an ideal location for an interpretive center. Much of this area has been previously disturbed through landfill road construction activities thereby potentially mitigating any disturbance that construction of park facilities might have on archaeological resources or native vegetation. Additionally, stands of trees, topography, and the relatively short distance that facilities would be visible from SR-14, make the site highly compatible with protection of viewsheds as seen from surrounding areas.

Option 1 would develop an interpretive center at the Crawford Oaks area and a hiking, cycling, and equestrian trailhead. The interpretive center's primary function is to draw the attention of visitors, pique their interest in the park's natural and cultural features, sell them a latte and coffee table book, and direct them to other interpretive opportunities in the park. The site's proximity to SR-14 and its immediate access to nationally significant natural and cultural features would set this interpretive center apart from others in the Gorge region.

This option would also include construction of parking and trailhead facilities to provide primary trail access to nearby interpretive opportunities and the lower Dalles Mt. Ranch multiple-use trail system. Constructing a trailhead accessed directly from SR-14 would
eliminate the need for trail users to drive their vehicles to the Dalles Mt. Ranch complex, thereby staving off significant increases in park-related use of Dalles Mt. Road.

**Horsethief Lake area**

Developed areas of Horsethief Lake currently include a sixteen-site campground with a combination of utility, non-utility, and walk-in/bike-in sites. A developed day-use area is made up of a single large parking area, formal picnic area, restroom (without showers), and small interpretive display. A boat launch for Horsethief Lake includes a single ramp, parking area, and fish cleaning station. What was once a paved roadway into Collowesh Bottom now serves as a separate boat launch into the now raised Lake Celilo (Columbia River). A small administrative area is located along the park entrance roadway and includes a staff residence and shop structure, part of which serves as the providing a convenient emergency contact point for park. The staff residence also serves an important cultural features.

In general, Option 1 would continue to promote the Horsethief Lake area as the primary recreational focal point for the park. Several new recreational and interpretive opportunities would be developed in addition to enhancement of existing facilities. Expansion of the campground to about fifty sites, addition of a group camp, and relocation of park maintenance and administrative offices to the Dalles Mt Ranch cluster are among the larger projects envisioned under this option.

Combining the park's two boat launches into one improved launch facility into Horsethief Lake is also recommended. This project would require construction of a railroad underpass for boats traveling into the Columbia River, but would solve two major park management issues. First, a busy "at-grade" railroad crossing now necessary to launch boats into the river would be eliminated. Second, reducing public use near the Columbia River boat launch would afford significant additional protection to nearby cultural sites.

Other facilities development activities under Option 1 include:
- Improving architectural appearance of staff residence and add vegetation screening
- Constructing a contact station for collection of park fees
- Constructing Lewis and Clark interpretive kiosks, panel, and self-guided trail
- Constructing a petroglyph display (relocated from Dalles Dam) and trailhead for petroglyph tours (shared restroom with boat launch facility)
- Constructing an amphitheater
- Upgrading the day-use/campground restroom to include showers

**Trailheads and trail system**

At present, trail activities at Horsethief Lake and the Dalles Mt Ranch area are at best marginally supported by existing
facilities. Current trailhead development at the Dalles Mt property is limited to informal parking at the ranch building cluster, the small parking area south of the Columbia Hills NAP, and at the paragliding parking area near the eastern park boundary. Pedestrian activity in these areas is limited to roads and overland use. The Horsethief Butte area offers some trail opportunities, but access is limited to parking on the SR-14 road shoulder.

Option 1 would develop several trailheads, all with off-highway parking and some with restrooms. The park’s primary trailhead would be constructed at the Crawford Oaks area (see above), while improved secondary trailheads would be located at the Horsethief Butte area, near the Reuter House, the paragliding site, and south of the Columbia Hills NAP. Securing management agreements or acquiring properties between SR-14 and Dalles Mt Road (Hunting Blinds/Wetlands) would afford additional trail opportunities and would likely need some type of trailhead development.

This option establishes a significantly expanded network of hiking, cycling, and equestrian trails. In general, cycling and equestrian uses would be accessed via the Crawford Oaks trailhead and extend northward to Dalles Mt Road. Trails constructed north of the roadway would be intended for pedestrian use to promote a lower intensity trail experience and support protection of natural features both within the adjacent NAP and on park property. Pedestrian use of trails is permitted throughout the park.

**Interpretive gateways**

With the addition of the Dalles Mt Ranch property to Horsethief Lake State Park have come new challenges in orienting and directing park visitors to the many new opportunities the park now offers. Entering the park from the west presents a particular difficulty. By the time motorists realize they are in the park, they have already missed the turnoff to Dalles Mt. Ranch - that is if they knew about the area in the first place. Clearly, improving directional signing along SR-14 before the Dalles Mt turnoff is a much-needed improvement. Park orientation improvements are also necessary to better direct visitors traveling from the east.

Option 1 constructs an orientation pullout along the south side of SR-14, west of the Dalles Mt. Road intersection. Ideally this pullout would be constructed within the highway right of way and include a small parking area and orientation kiosk. The intent of this pullout would be to draw in first-time park visitors, inform them about the types of opportunities the park offers, and direct them to their chosen destination. This improved information would enhance highway safety as well as reduce unnecessary trips and backtracking. Option 1 further intends that the Crawford Oaks interpretive center fulfill the same function for visitors traveling westbound into the park.
Figure 1: Emphasize Protecting and Interpreting the Park’s Natural and Cultural Treasures
Option 2: Emphasize developing the Gorge region’s recreational opportunities

In contrast to the previous option, Option 2 is oriented toward recreational opportunity as opposed to interpretation and resource protection. It also poses an important question: Given the inherent limitations on development of Horsethief Lake and Dalles Mt Ranch, is it appropriate to consider exchanging significant portions of these sites for properties in the Gorge that offer opportunities more commonly associated with state parks? This question is discussed in detail in the Long-Term Park Boundary section on page 11, but also has a critical bearing on facilities development.

- Dalles Mt Ranch building complex
Option 2 employs a very different approach to uses for the Dalles Mt. Ranch complex. It suggests retaining only those structures with potential for overnight accommodation or some other financially sustaining use that offsets the ongoing cost of operation and maintenance (e.g., vacation rentals or long-term leases). Other structures necessary for administrative or maintenance purposes might also be retained, but the balance of structures would be considered extraneous to park needs and either surplused or removed. Those structures considered most likely to be self-sustaining include the Reuter ranch house and the Crawford ranch house. The former is included because of its obvious attractiveness as a residence and the latter because of its potential to provide an authentic turn of the century ranch house experience.

- Crawford Oaks area
With respect to the Crawford Oaks area, Option 2 only includes construction of a trailhead facility at the site. While minor interpretive facilities (e.g., displays and orientation kiosks) might still be provided, an indoor interpretive center would not be developed. Instead, the Horsethief Lake area would become the park’s interpretive focal point.

- Horsethief Lake area
Option 2 differs from Option 1 primarily with respect to providing visitor services through privately operated concessions. This option assumes that expanded development of the Horsethief Lake area and resulting increases in use would tend to improve the feasibility of establishing park concessions. Opportunities such as canoe kayak rentals/tours, recreational equipment rentals, camp store, and others would provide enhanced recreational opportunities, provide needed services, and potentially generate revenue to off-set park costs. Option 2 includes development of a combined concession/restroom facility to support these concession-related activities.

Additionally, Option 2 retains the existing administrative/maintenance structure in its present location and reduces the degree to which interpretive opportunities are developed. Simple panel displays are constructed in favor of self-guided interpretive trails, kiosks, amphitheater, etc.

- Trailheads and trail system
Principal differences between the two options mainly involve the paragliding area and acquisition/development of trail opportunities between SR-14 and Dalles Mt. Road. Option 2 includes exchanging property now used for paragliding for other recreational lands in the Columbia River Gorge region. While agency staff would seek to retain or
replace this opportunity, the current site may no longer be available under private ownership.

Additionally, Option 2 does not seek management agreements or acquisition of properties between SR-14 and Dalles Mt. Road. Consequently, trail opportunities and supporting trailhead facilities described in Option 1 would not be pursued.
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Phase II – Preliminary Recommendations and Options

Figure 2: Emphasize Developing the Gorge Region’s Recreational Opportunities

- Horsethief Lake area
  - Expanded camping area (up to 50 unit and standard sites)
  - Group camping site
  - Picnic area with formal swimming area
  - Improved and expanded lake boatlaunch and wash-down area (railroad underpass desirable for river access)
  - Small store concession for fishing and boating supplies and other camping essentials
  - Canoe/kayak rental concession
  - Contact station
  - Improved architecture of residence/shop and

- NAP/Upper Dalles Mt trailhead
  - Parking
  - Restroom
  - Pedestrian access to Natural Area Preserve trail system

- Dalles Mt Ranch cluster
  - Retain adequate structure for park administrative and volunteer uses
  - Crawford ranch house relocated for vacation rentals
  - Other structures resurrected to support private agricultural activities

- Park gateway
  - Highway pull-out with small parking area
  - Visitor orientation and information kiosk

- Ranch house
  - Vacation rental or long-term private lease
  - Retain architecturally defining features of structure

- Brune homestead
  - Access to historic site retained for pre-arranged group tours

- Colowesh Bottom
  - Relocated petroglyph display
  - Guided petroglyph interpretive walks with improved trail
  - Lewis and Clark interpretive display
  - Small parking area and restroom

- Crawford Oaks trailhead
  - Parking
  - Restrooms
  - Visitor orientation and information kiosk
  - Hiking, cycling, and equestrian trailhead to access lower Dalles Mt trail system

- Horsethief Butte
  - Parking/Trailhead with restroom
  - Pedestrian access to Butte trail system and rock climbing area
Recommended Land Classifications

An important part of planning for the Horsethief Lake - Dalles Mt. Ranch area involves the zoning or classification of park lands. State Parks has developed a system of six land classifications. When assigned to a specific area within a park, each classification sets an appropriate intensity for recreational activity and development of facilities. Classifications are aligned along a spectrum ranging from low to high-intensity recreational uses and developments. By classifying park lands, the agency is able to consciously strike a balance between protecting park resources and providing an appropriate variety of recreational opportunities to park visitors.

The agency’s land classification system includes six classifications: Natural Area Preserves, Natural/Natural Forest Areas, Resource Recreation Areas, Recreation Areas, and Heritage Areas. Detailed definitions of each land classification are available from the agency on request. Through critical analysis of natural and cultural resource inventories and evaluation of future recreational facilities needs, staff has developed two land classification options for the park. Both recommend classification of the park as a combination of Natural, Resource Recreation, Recreation, and Heritage Areas. However, the two options include subtle differences in how these classifications are applied.

Option 1: Emphasize protecting and interpreting the park’s natural and cultural treasures

This option (Figure 1) classifies areas known or likely to support rare or sensitive native plant communities as well as those providing important wildlife habitats as Natural Areas. These areas generally include wetlands, riparian areas, cliffs, talus, vernal ponds, oak groves, and sensitive native grassland associations. The Natural Area designation is intended to strongly emphasize protection and enhancement of natural plant and animal communities and identifies areas for more intensive management attention. The designation affords protection to these areas by specifically limiting recreational use to pedestrian activities and likewise limiting development to trails and modest interpretive/directional signing.

Option 1 classifies areas of known historical significance as well as larger interpretive sites as Heritage Areas. These areas include the Dalles Mt. Ranch development and the site of the proposed park interpretive center at Crawford Oaks. While the Dalles Mt. Ranch development contains both historic and non-historic structures, the Heritage classification has been applied to the entire site to emphasize intended use of the area for cultural learning purposes. The Crawford Oaks area, while not especially culturally significant, has similarly been classified to emphasize its intended use for cultural interpretation purposes. Although the park also contains a highly significant assemblage of archaeological and cultural sites, drawing attention to them through land classification has been intentionally avoided. However, classification of the petroglyph trailhead, display area, and petroglyph tour route as a Heritage Area is one notable exception to this approach. This exception has been made because the display area and tour route are widely known and considered appropriate sites for controlled interpretive activities.
The Horsethief Lake developed campground, day-use area, and administrative area are together classified as a large Recreation Area in this option. This classification is intended to emphasize recreational use and enjoyment of this highly developed recreational landscape. Classification in this manner also serves to focus high-intensity recreational use in an existing developed area and, indirectly, afford a higher degree of protection to other undeveloped areas of the park.

Option 1 classifies the balance of the park as a collection of Resource Recreation Areas. The purpose of this mid-intensity classification is to promote more intensive recreational pursuits in balance and harmony with significant protection of natural and cultural landscape features. This classification recognizes that the quality of natural and cultural resources is what makes these areas attractive to park visitors. Consequently, resources are afforded significant protection, but somewhat less than in area classified as Natural Areas.

In this option, Resource Recreation Areas generally include agricultural fields, timber cultures, historic homesites, as well as other historic and ethnographically significant cultural landscapes. Use and development of these areas is generally limited to multi-purpose hiking, cycling, and equestrian trails and supporting trailhead facilities, roadways, minor picnic sites, and interpretive facilities. Indoor opportunities are not permitted in these areas.

**Option 2: Emphasize developing the Gorge region’s recreational opportunities**

With regard to land classifications, Option 2 differs only slightly. The Reuter ranch house north of the Dalles Mt. Ranch building complex is classified as a Recreation Area rather than a Heritage Area. This change intends that the primary function of the ranch house is as a recreational lodging or some other use that capitalizes on its attractiveness as a large residence. The ranch complex to the south remains classified as a Heritage Area to recognize the sites historic significance, however ultimate use of these structures would be limited to administrative purposes, surplused, or perhaps even removed.

Although it may appear insensitive to the historic integrity of the area, this option recognizes that many of the ranch structures are in an advanced state of decay and will require significant capital investment to restore or adapt to some other use. Even once repaired, on-going maintenance costs will continue the financial burden of these structures indefinitely. This option simply suggests that the agency’s limited resources might be put to better use developing and promoting the region’s other recreational opportunities.

**Recommended Long-Term Park Boundaries**

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

The agency might
- Seek to formalize an agreement with an adjacent property owner to advance a shared property management goal
- Solicit a conservation easement from an adjacent property owner to protect certain natural or cultural features
- Readily accept a donation of all or part of a private property
- Consider exchanging agency-owned property for a private property
- Consider purchase of a private property in fee

The staff planning team has developed two starkly differing long-term boundary options for the Horsethief Lake - Dalles Mt. Ranch area (Figures 1 and 2). Lighter shaded land classifications in the figures indicate properties that are not owned by the agency but desirable for long-term boundary inclusion. Consequently, the assemblage of both lighter and darker shaded areas represents the long-term park boundary in each option.

Option 1: Emphasize protecting and interpreting the park’s natural and cultural treasures

The long-term boundary suggested by Option 1 (Figure 1) modestly expands existing park ownership and the scope of desirable property management agreements. The expanded boundary includes several properties owned by other government agencies as well as portions of adjacent privately owned and Tribal allotment properties. This option, however does not seek fee acquisition of any adjacent property. Instead, a series of property exchanges and on-going management agreements would be proposed to further bolster the parks recreation and conservation mission.

Specifically, Option 1 would include the following properties in the park’s long-term boundary:
- Seek title acquisition of 80-acre DNR property at the east park boundary through Trustland Transfer Program
- Seek agreement to manage 40-acre USFS property south of SR-14 near the Crawford Oaks area
- Seek agreement to manage approximately 80-acre USFS property at western park boundary both north and south of SR-14
- Seek voluntary viewshed protection agreements for private and Tribal allotment properties along north side of SR-14
- Seek title acquisition of approximately 80-acre property between SR-14 and the Dalles Mt Road through exchange or surplus/purchase transaction
Additionally, this option would seek State Parks management of the adjacent 2,800-acre DNR Columbia Hills Natural Area Preserve (NAP). Assumption of management responsibility for this property would achieve significant staffing economies (site is currently managed from DNR’s Ellensburg regional office) and enhance on-site protection of rare native plant communities and wildlife habitat. Perhaps the most notable change to existing use of this NAP under State Parks management would be a prohibition on hunting at the site. (Under existing administrative rules, hunting is not permitted in any state park area.)

**Option 2: Emphasize developing the Gorge region’s recreational opportunities**

Option 2 represents a radical departure from existing land ownership, particularly at the Dalles Mt. Ranch property (Figure 2). This option asks the question, “What is the highest and best use of ranch lands at Dalles Mountain?” Some have suggested that the best use of the property is private ranching and not parkland at all. They believe the local economic benefits provided by agricultural use strongly outweigh any recreational benefits or tourism income that park development might offer. Others have suggested that trading the Dalles Mountain Ranch property for property providing more conventional types of recreational opportunities might make more sense for the greater Columbia Gorge region. That is, keep productive lands in ranching and acquire lands more suited to recreation for parks. Still others believe that even though the ranch includes a number of important historic structures and landscapes, the cost of repairing and maintaining these features in a manner that preserves their historic integrity might prove cost prohibitive.

The decision process currently underway is strictly limited to planning for development and management of Horsethief Lake State Park and the Dalles Mt. Ranch property. Consequently, staff has sought to address the highest and best use question by asking the question, “What properties at Dalles Mountain are absolutely essential to providing a viable state park experience?” Option 2 was crafted with this question in mind.

Specifically Option 2 seeks to retain lands that:
- Protect rare native plant communities and important wildlife habitat
- Preserve a broad collection of historic homesites, landscapes, and timbervcultures
- Protect areas most likely to contain archeological sites - both Native American and pioneer settlement-related
- Provide a full suite of recreational opportunities comparable to that offered in Option 1
- Maintain a contiguous conservation corridor from the shores of the Columbia River along Eightmile Creek to the top of the Columbia Hills

Other lands containing mainly agricultural fields are considered surplus to agency needs and made available for exchange. Structures in the Dalles Mt. Ranch complex, not necessary for recreational use or for administrative purposes are also considered surplus to agency needs.
Option 2 would make several changes to protection of cultural resources and the extent of recreational opportunities compared to Option 1. First, the historic Brune homesite, consisting of a collection of building foundations, developed landscape, and a nearby timber culture, would not be retained in park ownership. Public access and protection of the site could conceivably be retained through deed restrictions and reservations, but management control would be lost. Second, protection of the visual appearance of surplused agricultural fields might significantly change under private management. Again, deed restrictions might limit use to agricultural purposes, but long-term management may or may not retain an historically authentic appearance. Finally, opportunities for trail construction would be limited to a smaller land base, likely resulting in higher use densities and diminished opportunities for solitude experiences.

It is important to note, however, that the state funding sources used to purchase Dalles Mt. Ranch carry with them stringent requirements for “conversion” to other uses. That is, any lands declared surplus to park needs would require replacement with other nearby lands of equal value and like natural and recreational features. It could be argued that any loss of recreational opportunities and natural resource value could be replaced with acquisition of other nearby property. However, the one-of-a-kind nature of cultural resources makes replacement more difficult.

Finally, Option 2 would not seek to acquire management responsibility for the adjacent DNR Columbia Hills NAP. This would in effect retain the status quo for management of this site.
Park Naming Options

Selecting a name for a new park or re-naming an existing park is often a difficult and emotionally charged process. The Horsethief Lake and Dalles Mt. Ranch areas pose an unusual naming challenge. The State Parks and Recreation Commission originally named the 350-acre Horsethief Lake State Park in 1964 in recognition of the park’s dominant water feature (the lake created by construction of the Dalles Dam and railroad line was originally named by Army Corps of Engineers surveyors in the early 50’s). However, with acquisition of the Dalles Mt. Ranch property in 1993, park holdings have expanded nearly tenfold to encompass a contiguous block of almost 4,000 acres. To many, the name Horsethief Lake State Park no longer accurately describes the park’s geographical context nor does it adequately capture the essence its outstanding natural or cultural features. The name Dalles Mt Ranch also fails in these regards. Yet the entire property is a single contiguous park, deserving of one overarching identity.

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, having frequently wrestled with the complexities of naming, in 1978 adopted a park naming policy. Applicable portions direct that, “In naming of sites, priority shall be given to geographic locations, historic significance or geologic features.” In 1995 the Commission adopted additional rules requiring that official park names “...generally include in it the term ‘state park’.”

The staff planning team has not developed a recommendation for a single park name. Because of the park’s large size and diversity of geography, historical significance, and geology, the team instead recommends that a general structure be used. That is, one overarching name with separate site names within. For example, ABC State Park - Jane Doe Area. Additionally, names of sites may reflect their dominant land classifications. For example, the ABC State Park - Jane Doe Heritage Area or ABC State Park John Doe Recreation Area. The table below shows a number of names suggested by the public and staff and how they might fit into the structure described above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Whole Park Names</th>
<th>Horsethief Lake Site Names</th>
<th>Dalles Mt Ranch Site Names</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Klickitats State Park</td>
<td>Horsethief Lake Recreation Area</td>
<td>Crawford Ranch Heritage Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nixluidix State Park</td>
<td>Collowesh Bottom Area or Spedis Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Columbia River Gorge State Park</td>
<td>Five Mile Rapids Area or Long Narrows Area or Petroglyph Canyon Area</td>
<td>Dalles Mountain Area or Klickitats Area or Columbia Hills Area</td>
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This is by no means a complete list of possibilities. Agency staff will continue to solicit ideas and preferences from planning participants and develop a final recommendation for Commission consideration.
Park Management Issues and Recommendations

The table below is a listing of park management issues identified through the public planning process for the Horsethief Lake - Dalles Mt. Ranch area. For each issue, the staff planning team has outlined a preliminary approach describing how these issues will be addressed. These are intended regardless of which planning options (described in earlier sections) are ultimately selected for the park’s facilities master, land classifications, or long-term park boundaries. Additional issues and approaches will be added as they are raised.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Resources</th>
<th>Preliminary Recommended Management Approach</th>
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<tr>
<td>Protection of wildlife habitat</td>
<td>East Region Stewardship and Headquarters Stewardship will work with WDFW to conduct habitat and wildlife inventories for the park. The result of the data collection will be the formulation of a habitat management plan for wildlife in the park, as well as any threatened and endangered species identified in the inventories (e.g. Peregrine Falcon). Management of the Rattlesnake den will occur if problems arise from the public being in the area. Management actions will be in accordance with agency policy on Nuisance Wildlife Management.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protection of natural plant communities</td>
<td>State Parks Stewardship staff has been working with DNR Natural Heritage program to inventory sensitive plant populations at Dalles Mountain Ranch. In addition to these inventories, an inventory of critical habitat areas in the park should be conducted. Park staff, Eastern Region Stewardship, and HQ stewardship will seek advice from DNR Natural Heritage Program, Native Plant Society of Washington, and other interested parties to formulate a vegetation management plan for the park. The vegetation management plan should include, at a minimum, the following; 1) sensitive plant species, 2) noxious weeds, 3) critical habitat protection, 4) riparian area protection and 5) identification of areas appropriate for grazing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grazing</td>
<td>State Parks realizes that grazing is an important cultural aspect of the DMR area, and that in some instances grazing may serve as a tool for maintenance of the area’s natural resources (e.g. fire fuel loading, and noxious weed control). Therefore if it is determined that grazing would benefit natural processes, maintain cultural landscapes, or add interpretive value to the park, it may be allowed following the development of a grazing management plan. Any grazing plan will include input from DNR, WDFW, NRCS, local ranchers, and other interested parties. All grazing on DMR will seek to achieve specific goals and objectives as outlined in a grazing management plan and any leases or contracts will be issued in accordance with agency policy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Control of noxious weeds</td>
<td>Park staff and Eastern Region Stewardship staff should coordinate with the Klickitat County Weed Board to establish an Integrated Pest Management plan for the park. Such a plan will be formulated in accordance with state laws and agency directives associated with integrated pest management.</td>
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## Fencing

Maintenance and repair responsibility of boundary fencing and internal fence lines will be conducted in accordance with Commission Policy on park fencing. Fences within the park should be evaluated as to their cultural landscape/interpretive value and included in the park-wide interpretive plan when appropriate.

## Prevention and suppression of wildfires

Park staff and East Region Stewardship staff will work with DNR and local fire districts to develop a wildfire response plan for the DMR/HTL area. The use of prescribed burns may also be explored as part of natural vegetation management planning.

## Coordination with Klickitat County

State Park staff recognizes that conversion of the 6,000-acre Dalles Mt. Ranch to a state park represents a significant change in land use for this area. Staff intends to work closely with Klickitat County to address issues of concern and seek practical solutions. Agency staff will continue to solicit input and cooperation from County Commissioners and staff during each phase of the master planning process currently underway.

## Coordination with interested Native American Tribes

State Parks recognizes the cultural and spiritual importance the DMR/HTL area has to the region’s Native Americans. Agency staff will continue to solicit input and cooperation from interested Tribes during park master planning activities currently underway. Subsequent planning and development activities may require formal Tribal consultation to help guide appropriate protection of cultural and archaeological resources. Agency staff will continue to work with Tribal staff to follow accepted protocol to determine if/when such formal consultation is indicated.

Agency staff will also seek to form on-going partnerships with Tribal staff and Tribal members to develop programs and materials for use in the park’s interpretive efforts.

## Coordination with Columbia River Gorge Commission and the USFS National Scenic Area

Following State Parks and Recreation Commission action on the facilities concept plan, land classifications, and long-term park boundary for Horsethief Lake State Park and the Dalles Mt Ranch Property, agency staff will seek zoning changes (if necessary) as part of the Columbia River Gorge Commission’s National Scenic Area Management Plan review process. Agency staff will also continue to advocate public park use of the Dalles Mt Ranch area during review processes for designation of the Dalles Mt Road as a “key viewing area” by the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

## Cultural Resources

### Preliminary Recommended Management Approach

Protection of historic landscapes and structures

Agency staff intends to develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Horsethief Lake - Dalles Mt Ranch area in concert with master planning and other planning exercises. A cultural resource inventory (archeology, cultural landscapes, historic structures, and small-scale features) has already been completed for this area. Coupled with the results of park master planning this information will form the basis of the park’s cultural resource management plan. Once such a plan is established, management of cultural and historic resources will follow prescriptions set forth in the plan. Until a final cultural resource management plan is approved, treatment of historic properties and cultural landscapes should be limited to stabilization measures only.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protection of Native American archaeological resources and cultural sites</th>
<th>As part of the Cultural Resource Management Plan for the area, treatments for the appropriate protection of archaeological resources and cultural sites will be developed in cooperation with Tribal officials. Similar to historic landscapes and structures, prior to development of a cultural resource management plan, any treatment measures should be limited to stabilization measures only. Agency staff will also continue to solicit input and cooperation during park master planning now underway and future park planning and development activities.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collection of park-related oral histories</td>
<td>As part of park-wide cultural resource management planning and interpretive planning, oral histories and stories associated with the DMR/HTL area should be collected and documented. As part of this effort, agency staff should seek an active partnership with interested Native American Tribes to ensure the accuracy of pre-European history and determine which stories are suitable for interpretation to the public.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Recreational Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Preliminary Recommended Management Approach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>DMR/HTL has a system of existing trails and potential for development of multiple use trails to link visitors to different resources and exceptional views throughout the park. As part of capital park development work, funding should be sought for development of a comprehensive trail plan and construction of a trail system. Development of such a plan should seek public input to ensure the trail system is developed and managed in a manner that is responsive to user needs and resource protection. Agency staff should seek out active partnerships with trail user groups and other interested parties to plan, develop, and maintain the park’s trail system. Until a comprehensive trail plan is developed for the area, an interim trail plan should be prepared to address issues for existing trails such as allowed conveyances, maintenance needs and signing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Interpretation of natural and cultural resources | As part of capital development of major interpretive facilities, a park-wide interpretive master plan should be prepared. This plan should seek the involvement of regional natural and cultural resource organizations and experts and at minimum include:  
  • Identification of park management goals related to interpretation  
  • Identification of target audience  
  • Identification of parameters/limiting factors under which the interpretive program must operate  
  • Inventory and identification of natural/cultural resources appropriate for interpretation  
  • Development of interpretive themes and sub-themes  
  • Development of a network of interpretive opportunities, i.e., enticement, orientation, interpretive hubs, and location/design of specific opportunities |
| Interpretation of historic ranching equipment | As part of the park-wide interpretive planning effort agency staff should continue working with the Friends of Dalles Mountain Ranch to rehabilitate historic ranch machinery. The location, extent, and facilities allocated for this purpose should be determined through park master planning now under way. If possible, the process of restoration should be shared with park visitors and be a part of the park’s interpretive master plan. |
| Paragliding                    | Paragliding at Dalles Mountain Ranch will be managed as outlined in the Interim Paragliding Management Plan previously established for the park. Should the park area now used for paragliding be surplused and exchanged, park staff will attempt to work with private property owner to maintain access to the site for paragliding purposes. Following master planning for the Horsethief Lake - Dalles Mt Ranch area, a final paragliding management plan will be prepared that reflects any changed circumstances. |
| Rock climbing                  | Due to the popularity of Horsethief Butte for rock climbing, a management plan for this activity has already been prepared. Rock climbing activities will continue to be managed through this plan. |
Let us know what you think

No doubt, some of what you've seen has either captured your imagination or perhaps even upset you. Please be aware that what may seem like a great idea to you might seem entirely inappropriate to others. The agency's task is to get as much public input as possible and carefully weigh this to determine what the public truly wants and also what makes the most sense for administration of the park.

There are several ways for you to give us your thoughts or to get more information. You may direct written correspondence to Peter Herzog, the project's principal planner, c/o Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission P.O. Box 42668 Olympia, WA 98504-2668; e-mail Peter.Herzog@Parks.Wa.Gov; or call him at (360) 902-8652. You may also contact the Eastern Region's Stewardship Program at (509) 665-3329 or drop by the park office. The Horsethief Lake - Dalles Mt. Ranch Master Planning Project website www.parks.wa.gov/hldmrplan.asp also provides an e-mail link for comments.

We hope you find this process interesting and that you choose to remain actively involved in planning for the park. This is your park! With your help, we will hand this park down to our grandchildren as a lasting legacy and a treasure of which we can all be proud.