



EMBRACE YOUR  
**NATURE**

# Classification and Management Plan (CAMP)



## South Whidbey State Park Possession Point State Park Property Useless Bay

## Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Lucinda Whaley  
Sophia Danenberg  
Michael Latimer  
Mark O. Brown  
Steve Milner  
Diana Perez  
Ken Bounds

State Parks Director: Don Hoch

### Washington State Parks Headquarters Office

1111 Israel Rd. SW | PO Box 42650 | Olympia, WA 98504-2650 | <http://parks.state.wa.us>

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# Certificate of Adoption

The signatures below certify the adoption of this document by Washington State Parks for the continued management of South Whidbey State Park, the Useless Bay Property and Possession Point State Park.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Hoch, Director

1-13-2021  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Herzog, Assistant Director

12/21/2020  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Sternback, Assistant Director

2/10/21  
Date

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# Introduction

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission manages a diverse array of over 100 parks located throughout the state. Dramatic growth in population and the popularity of outdoor recreation has increased pressure on the agency to provide more recreational opportunities while continuing to preserve the unique natural and cultural resources under its management. To address these demands the Commission uses a planning process known as Classification and Management Planning or CAMP.

CAMP is a multi-staged, public participation-based planning process for individual parks that culminates with adoption of park land classifications, a long-term park boundary, and a park management plan.

CAMP brings together park users, nearby community members, stakeholders and State Parks staff in a public process that creates a common vision of what the state park should become. This plan is intended to focus efforts to balance resource protection with recreational opportunities in the park. For State Parks staff, this CAMP document represents policy approval and a means to create a state park that meets the Agency Vision:

*Washington's state parks will be cherished destinations with natural, cultural, recreational, artistic and interpretive experiences that all Washingtonians enjoy, appreciate and proudly support.*

## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to:

- (1) orient readers to the park and the agency's park management planning system;
- (2) identify park-level natural, cultural, and recreation facility management issues; and
- (3) provide initial direction to park staff to address identified management issues.

The ultimate purpose of this document is to describe how the agency intends to balance recreational use with responsible stewardship of natural and cultural resources.

The plan is divided into five sections and is organized as follows:

- Section 1: Provides a brief overview of the parks including historical background, existing facilities, and public use.
- Section 2: Describes both the agency's system-wide Classification and Management Planning (CAMP) process and its application in this planning area.
- Section 3: Describes the parks' land classification (management zoning) and long-term park boundary.

Section 4: Lists natural, cultural, and recreational issues and facility resource issues identified through the public planning process and outlines general approaches toward addressing them.

Section 5: Provides a reference list of past documents and plans that have been prepared for the park.

# Section 1: Park Description

## **South Whidbey State Park Description**

South Whidbey State Park is located on the west side of Whidbey Island near Freeland, in Island County. The 350 acre park includes 4,500 feet of saltwater shoreline and 3.5 miles of hiking trail. Amenities include a 46 site campground (closed since May 2015 due to tree risk), an amphitheater, picnic shelters, and a beach access staircase (currently closed due to a slide event). The park is supported by the Friends of South Whidbey State Park, a formal friends group and additional partners include the Calyx School which is housed in the park's former residence and the Service Education and Adventure (SEA) program which brings young people in to experience the park.

The park was officially named in 1974 and originally was comprised of 100 acres. In 1977, 250 acres of state-owned trust lands next to the park known as the Classic U were slated for harvest. A group called Save the Trees was formed in opposition to the harvest and a lawsuit ensued. Save the Trees was successful in their effort to preserve the Classic U from harvest and in 1981 the Washington State Public Lands Commissioner signed an agreement with this group and others to work together to preserve the forest. The Classic U property was transferred to State Parks in 1991.

The physical environment for the park is characterized by high-bank waterfront with past beach access provided by a staircase that was destroyed in a January 2016 slide event. The forested portions of the park contain old-growth trees and habitat with the oldest trees located in the Classic U portion of the park – the oldest is 275 years and is known as the Giant Cedar. A 1993 Natural Forest Inventory by the Washington Department of Natural Resources Heritage Program indicated that undeveloped portions of the park were appropriate for Natural Forest Area land classification to protect old growth habitat characteristics.

Based on a tree failure that occurred in the winter of 2015, stewardship program staff undertook a site evaluation to determine tree health. This evaluation identified the presence of native tree pathogens and declining old-growth tree health in the campground. Based on these circumstances, an emergency closure was instituted for both the 2015 and 2016 camping seasons. While the campground has been closed to overnight use, park users can walk and hike through the campground.

## **Useless Bay Tidelands Description**

The Useless Bay tidelands are not commonly known to recreational users or upland property owners in the vicinity. These 560 acres of tidelands are located approximately eight miles south of South Whidbey State Park on the west shoreline of Whidbey Island. They were acquired in 1947 from the Washington Department of Natural Resources and portions include walkable beach area during low tides. The tidelands are disconnected with ownership gaps created by privately owned tidelands and Island County owned tidelands associated with Double Bluff County Park. Portions of the tidelands occur in areas of intensive residential development that has evolved over the years from seasonal cabin use to year round residential use. Based on historic research it appears the tidelands were acquired with the goal of closing the private

tideland gaps and securing upland access. In the 1960's there was an attempt to acquire 20 acres of upland property that was not successful. The most public use occurs on the western most ownership which is part of a four mile out and back beach walk originating at Double Bluff County Park.

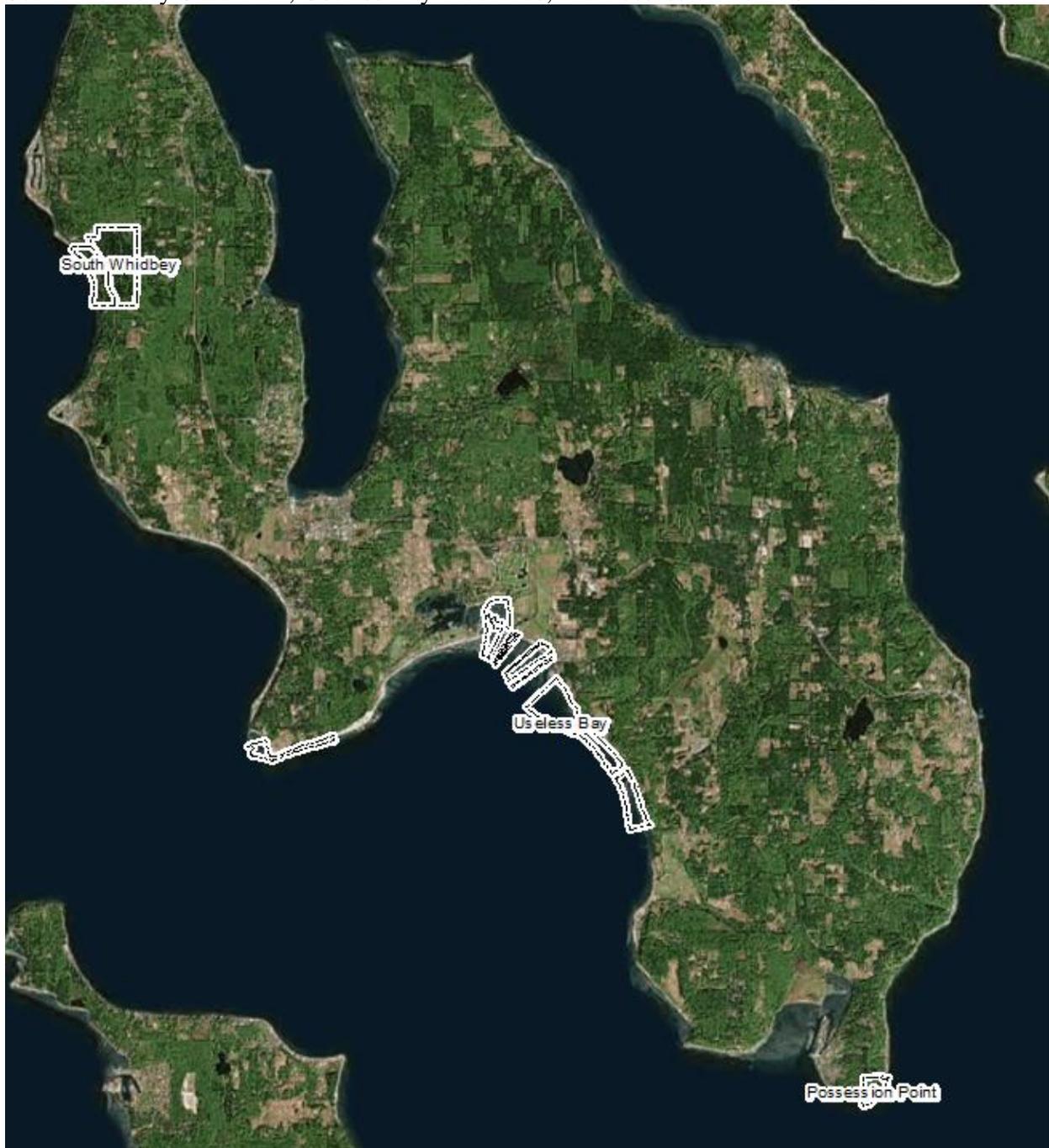
There are no improvements or signage on the tidelands. The only legal public access is the western most tidelands from Double Bluff County Park where there are county owned uplands and a small parking lot. There are three county road public shoreline access points located on a road that serves residences. However only one county access point provides access to State Parks tidelands and this to a portion located in Deer Lagoon that is either covered by water or is a mudflat. The eastern and southern most tidelands are located at the base of high bluffs which further restricts the potential for upland access.

### **Possession Point State Park Property Description**

Possession Point is a 25 acre property with 2500 feet of saltwater shoreline. It was acquired in 2001 for purposes of establishing a Cascadia Marine Trail campsite. Funding for purchase came from a Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant and from a local non-profit called the Goosefoot Community Fund. As an RCO funded acquisition Possession Point is subject to covenants that restrict its use to public access and outdoor recreation. Current facilities on the site include a small parking lot, approximately 1.5 miles of hiking trail, a half mile of walkable beach and a staff residence. The staff residence is increasingly difficult to maintain as it ages. State Parks will consider future removal of the existing staff residence and additional shoreline restoration.

Figure 1 Location Map

South Whidbey State Park, Useless Bay Tidelands, and Possession Point State Park



**Location:** The planning area for this project includes three state park properties: South Whidbey State Park, Possession Point State Park Property and Useless Bay Tidelands all located on Whidbey Island in the Puget Sound.

**Land Area:** South Whidbey State Park is 350 acres with 4,500 feet of saltwater shoreline. Possession Point State Park Property is a 25 acre property with 2500 feet of shoreline. Useless Bay Tidelands is comprised of 560 acres of tidelands.

**Jurisdiction:** The planning area is located in unincorporated Island County.

**Park Names:** South Whidbey State Park, Possession Point State Park Property and Useless Bay Tidelands.

**Management Area:** The planning area is within State Park's Central Whidbey Management Area.

**Acquisition History:** Initial naming of South Whidbey State Park occurred in 1974, the Useless Bay Tidelands were acquired in 1947, and Possession Point State Park Property was acquired in 2001.

**Facilities:** South Whidbey State Park includes a day use area, hiking trails, and picnic areas. In 2015 the campground was officially closed due to tree risk. There are no improvements on the Useless Bay Tidelands. Possession Point State Park Property is a day-use and water trail site that contains a residence formerly used for staff housing.

**Historical and Cultural Preservation:** No known archaeological or historic sites occur in these parks.

**Utilities:** South Whidbey State Park and Possession Point State Park Property are served by water and have either sewer service or septic service. Useless Bay Tidelands has no improvements.

**Interpretation:** Interpretation and volunteer interpretation occur at South Whidbey State Park but no formal interpretive programming exists. Possession Point State Park Property and Useless Bay Tidelands have no interpretive programming.

**Activities:** Recreational activities that occur in the parks include, but are not limited to, day-use, hiking, trail-running, fishing, water-based activities and geo-caching.

# Section 2: Park Planning Process

Generally, the CAMP planning process involves four sequential stages. Each stage includes a public workshop and an opportunity to provide follow-up comments in writing by mail or e-mail. The process does not conclude until the Commission formally adopts land classifications and long-term park boundaries and the Director approves a finalized park management plan. The Commission adopted the land classifications and long-term boundary included in this plan at their May 18, 2017 meeting in Leavenworth. The four CAMP stages are described below.

## **Stage One - Identify issues and concerns**

The purpose of this stage is to understand what is important to the park users and identify issues to address through the planning process.

## **Stage Two - Exploring alternative approaches**

At this stage alternative approaches are proposed to address the issues and concerns raised in stage one.

## **Stage Three - Preparing preliminary recommendations**

The best ideas from the alternative approaches developed in stage two are combined into a preliminary plan. The preliminary plan includes recommendations for land classifications and the use of park lands, the long-term boundary, and ways to address issues identified during the planning process.

## **Stage Four - Preparing final recommendations**

Final adjustments are made to the preliminary recommendations based on feedback received. These final recommendations are submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval of the land classifications and long-term boundary.

## **State Environmental Policy Act**

The planning process also incorporates requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) to identify any potential environmental impacts related to the CAMP planning process. Information gathered during the planning process is used to prepare an environmental checklist describing the environmental effects of enacting the plan.

## **Public Planning Process**

Over the course of the planning process five public meetings were held including a public tour of the South Whidbey campground. Public meetings follow the standard sequence for all CAMP efforts and included:

- *Stage One: Identify issues and concerns (October 2015)*
- *Stage Two: Exploring alternative approaches (January 2016)*
- *Stage Three: Preparing preliminary recommendations (January 2017)*
- *Stage Four: Preparing final recommendations (March 2017)*

An additional informational meeting was held in April 2016. Public meeting attendance varied from 35 to 100 people. Staff also met separately with park stakeholders and neighbors to hear

their concerns and provide additional information about park planning, development, and management. Staff provided a report to the Commission at its January 2017 meeting outlining the planning process, key issues, and preliminary staff recommendations.

### **Legislative and Tribal Coordination**

Legislative coordination occurred throughout this process. Meeting materials were provided to legislators during the process and various legislators and public meetings.

Formal consultation was initiated with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, the Kikiallus Indian Nation, the Snohomish Tribe and the Upper Skagit Tribe. These tribal entities were provided an opportunity to meet with the State Parks Director to discuss the project.

# Section 3: Land Classification and Long-Term Park Boundary

The CAMP planning process produces three main products for each park: land classifications, a long-term boundary, and a park management plan. The combination of these deliverables constitutes a land use plan.

## Land Classifications

The CAMP process uses six land classifications which are identified in WAC 352-16: (1) the Recreation classification designates areas suitable for and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use; (2) the Resource Recreation classification designates areas suitable for and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use; (3) the Natural classification designates areas suitable for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes; (4) the Heritage classification designates areas suitable for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historic properties; (5) the Natural Forest classification designates areas suitable for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses; and (6) the Natural Area Preserve classification designates areas suitable for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features.

For each land classification, there is a list of activities and facilities that are permitted, conditionally permitted, or not permitted within the classification. A conditional activity requires approval of the Commission during CAMP. An activity identified in the matrix as permitted in a classification is not obligated to be included within the park.

Based on analysis of future program direction, facility needs, and the existing natural and recreational resource base, the Commission classified the parks within the planning area as a combination of Recreation, Resource Recreation and Natural/Natural Forest Area.

### South Whidbey State Park

A combination of three land classifications are proposed for South Whidbey State Park. These classifications are shown on the map included in Appendix 3.

- *Recreation* applies to the existing day-use areas to allow for continued high-intensity use, including the upper and lower parking areas, park roads, maintenance buildings near the park entrance, the trailer dump station, the amphitheater and the Calyx School building.

In the former campground, the comfort stations and CXT toilet that served individual campsites and the immediate area surrounding the comfort stations to allow for any necessary maintenance and repair. It includes the former group camp to support potential day-use of the group picnic shelter and accompanying comfort station.

- *Resource Recreation* applies to the park roads within the current camping area.

- *Natural/Natural Forest Area* applies to the forested hiking trails and undeveloped area on the east side of Smugglers Cove Road. To allow for continued conservation it includes the portions of the campground which will be closed to overnight use. Also included are all portions of the park on the west side of Smugglers Cove Road that are not classified as Recreation or Resource Recreation.

#### Possession Point State Park Property

One land classification is proposed for Possession Point. This classification is shown on the map included in Appendix 3.

- *Resource Recreation* applies to the entire property including the existing developed area that encompasses the current residence, the water trail campsites, the upper parking lot and the road leading down to the residence. This classification also includes the upland forested portion of the park outside of the developed area to allow for hiking and to recognize the fragile nature of the shoreline bluff.

#### Useless Bay Tidelands

One classification is proposed for the Useless Bay property. This classification is shown on the map included in the Appendix 3.

- *Resource Recreation* applies to the entire tideland ownership. This classification allows currently occurring water-based recreational activities such as beach walking, kayaking and kite-boarding to continue while providing for ongoing resource protection.

### Permitted Conditional Use Activities

Activities *conditionally* permitted under the agency’s land classification system may be permitted at specific sites only with the concurrence of the Commission. The Commission identified the following conditional activities for the three State Park properties:

- Recreation Areas: No conditional uses permitted
- Resource Recreation Areas: Power Boating, Water Skiing, and Wind Surfing along shorelines
- Natural/Natural Forest Areas: Filming/special events, Kayak/Canoeing and Sailing

### Long-Term Park Boundary

Long-term park boundaries are intended to take a big picture look at lands surrounding a park that, independent of ownership, may advance the conservation and recreation mission. Additionally, the long-term park boundary is used to identify surrounding lands with which State Parks would like to advance shared management goals. For properties included within a long-term boundary, any of a number of possibilities may apply. Staff may:

- Seek to formalize an agreement with an adjacent property owner to advance a shared property management goal;

- Solicit a conservation easement from an adjacent property owner to protect certain natural or cultural features;
- Readily accept a donation of all or part of a private property;
- Consider exchanging agency-owned property for a private property; or
- Consider purchase of a private property in fee.

#### South Whidbey State Park

Eight parcels totaling 110 acres are included in the long-term boundary. State parks will work with these neighboring property owners to promote a trail connection with Trillium Community Forest which is located south and east of the park. Dependent on the level of development occurring over succeeding years, a 40 acre parcel has been included as a long-term potential campground location.

#### Possession Point State Park Property

Maintain the current park boundary with no recommendation for transferring ownership of any portion of the park property. No parcels outside the current park are proposed for inclusion in the long-term boundary.

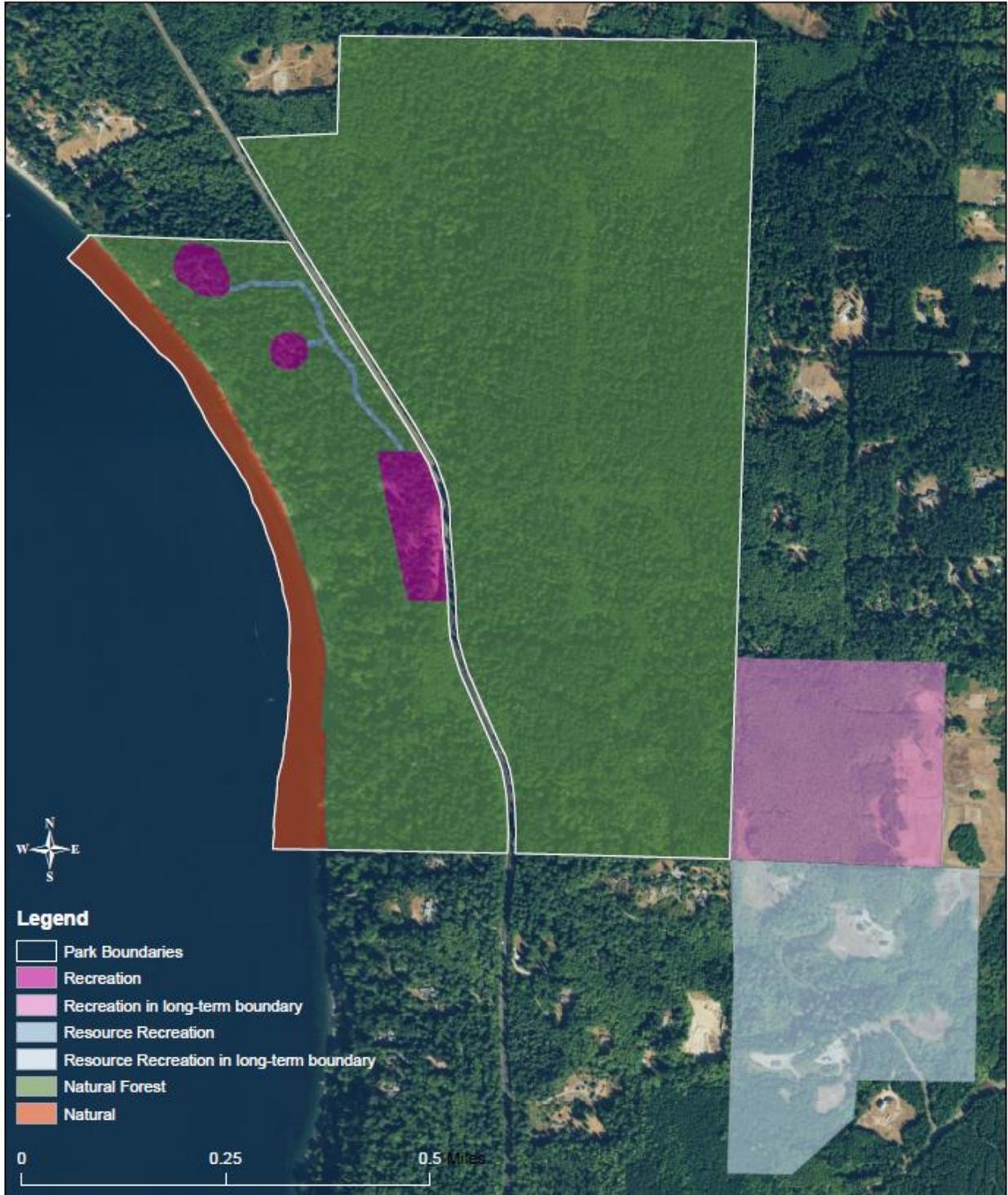
#### Useless Bay

Maintain the current park boundary with no recommendation for transferring ownership of any portion of the park property. Island County's Double Bluff County Park is included in the long-term boundary to facilitate cooperative management.

Figure 2 Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary Maps



# South Whidbey State Park Land Classification & Long-Term Boundary





# Possession Point State Park Property Land Classification & Long-Term Boundary





# Useless Bay Tideland State Park Property Land Classification & Long-Term Boundary



# Section 4: Issues and Management Approaches

Management approaches provide direction to staff and the public for addressing the issues that arose through the planning process. These management recommendations were developed through work with the advisory committee and feedback received at public meetings. State Parks intends to continue such committee engagement to build on the improved community and neighbor relationships.

Readers should note that the issues presented below represent a significant staff workload and may also create very high expectations among agency staff and park stakeholders. Clearly, completing or even beginning all the suggested management approaches in the short-term is not realistic. This is a long-range planning document; therefore, the following issue responses should be seen as a "to do" list where items will be prioritized as staff and financial resources permit.

## Management Issues Identified

The management issues below were identified through the planning process and are discussed and addressed in the management recommendation table below. Management issues identified in collaboration with park stakeholders and staff include the following:

- Forest health
- Beach and water access
- Working with partners
- Overnight and day-use facilities
- Developing interpretive opportunities
- Trails
- Signs and park information
- Volunteers

## Main Issues of Interest

Public input occurred throughout the process via website submission, direct emails to the project manager, and comments submitted during public meetings. All comments were compiled and posted on the project website.

### South Whidbey

In May 2015, the campground was temporarily closed due to elevated risk associated with diseased trees. The campground has been closed since this initial closure but is open to day use. This planning process considered keeping a portion of the overnight campground open, in particular the group camp. However, the extent of tree pathogens would require substantial tree removal to do so. The planning process also considered alternative campground locations within and outside the park boundaries. No alternative locations were identified in the park, but a 40-acre parcel on the southeast corner of the park has been included in the long-term boundary to allow for potential future camping opportunities.

State Parks will continue the current campground closure and begin to transition to day use with a focus on interpretation and event programming. State Parks has included property within the long-term boundary for a potential future campground and will continue to support the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District in its effort to establish a new campground.

In January 2016, a storm event caused the existing staircase to slide onto the beach, eliminating the primary mode of access. A past engineering report indicates that the bank within the park is unstable and will continue to erode making establishing new beach access in this area a challenge.

State Parks will work to re-establish beach access within the park, acknowledging this will be difficult. Future technologies may provide the potential for beach access, but for the immediate future, the public will be encouraged to gain access through other state and local parks.

Possession Point

State Parks originally acquired Possession Point to provide a water-accessed camping opportunity along the Cascadia Marine Trail. The forested upland portion of the property was acquired along with the shoreline and has existing hiking trails.

State Parks will maintain the park boundary with no recommendation for transferring ownership of any portion of the park property unless an appropriate public entity is willing to take over operation consistent with existing recreational deed restrictions and State Parks’ natural resource and recreation policies.

Useless Bay Tidelands

State Parks’ ownership in Useless Bay is unique in that it comprises marine bedlands with no State Park-owned upland public access. Recreation on these bedlands is primarily water-accessed and includes uses such as kayaking and kite-boarding.

State Parks will continue to manage this property for water-accessed recreation and conservation with no pursuit of upland access.

**Management Approaches**

Management approaches provide direction to staff and the public for addressing issues identified during the planning process. These management approaches were developed through feedback received at public meetings and through written public comment.

**South Whidbey State Park: Issues and Management Approaches**

Natural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approaches
Protecting natural plant and animal communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage park resources consistent with Natural Resources Management Policy 73-04-1 <i>Protecting Washington State Parks Natural Resources.</i></li> <li>• Protect environmentally sensitive areas including the old growth habitat that occurs in the park.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before development, conduct plant inventories to verify the absence of sensitive and rare plant species in areas planned for development.</li> <li>• Remove invasive species as part of development projects.</li> </ul>
Forest Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with agency forestry specialists to develop a forest health plan that includes regular tree assessment and considers removal of hazard trees in areas where the public congregates, including day use and parking areas.</li> <li>• In the Natural/Natural Forest Area land class, prioritize retention of old growth trees and support of natural forest processes.</li> </ul>
Protecting rare plant species and rare plant associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with local plant experts to develop a rare plant protection plan to identify, monitor, and establish protective prescriptions.</li> </ul>
Invasive plant species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with weed boards, the local native plant society, and volunteers to develop and implement an invasive plant species management plan.</li> </ul>

<b>Cultural Resource Issues</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Management Approaches</b>
Protecting cultural and historic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a cultural resources management plan to determine appropriate treatments for all cultural features.</li> </ul>
Protecting cultural and archaeological resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete site-specific cultural resource surveys for areas that will be disturbed due to development.</li> <li>• In all development actions, comply with direction from the Commission's Cultural Resources Policy 12-98-1 and Governor's Executive Order 05-05 regarding consultation with tribal entities.</li> </ul>

<b>Recreational Resource Issues</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Management Approaches</b>
Camping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to the risk associated with tree pathogens and subsequent potential for tree failure, transition the existing campground to a day-use area with public access for trails and day use related facilities.</li> <li>• Work to ensure South Whidbey park users are aware of the camping opportunities provided at Fort Casey and Fort Ebey state parks.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to provide additional camping at other Whidbey Island state parks, such as Fort Casey, to minimize the loss of camping opportunities at South Whidbey.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to provide hiker/biker oriented camping.</li> <li>• Continue to support the work of the South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District to create a camping opportunity in South Whidbey.</li> <li>• Include property in the long-term boundary for a potential future campground location.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As necessary, maintain the campground dump station to provide a safe and sustainable sewage disposal option for those recreating in South Whidbey Island.</li></ul>
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Recreational Resource Issues	
Issue	Preliminary Approaches
Day use area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to the risk associated with tree pathogens and tree failure, transition the existing campground to a day-use area with public access for trail use and a range of other day use activities.</li> <li>• Redefine the former campground as a day use area.</li> </ul>
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to permit pedestrian trail use year-round in the park.</li> <li>• Continue to permit geocaching consistent with agency directive 06-01 <i>Geocaching, Letterboxing and Related Activities in State Park Areas</i>.</li> <li>• Seek to link with regional trails and adjacent public land ownership including the Trillium Community Forest.</li> <li>• Upgrade the Wilbert Trail including boardwalk improvements in wet areas.</li> <li>• Work to complete a trail conditions assessment to prioritize trail repairs, trail needs and on-going maintenance.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for interpretive programming and improved wayfinding signs on park trails.</li> </ul>
Developing Interpretive Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with staff, partners and interested tribes to develop an interpretive plan for South Whidbey (including Possession Point State Park) to facilitate development of guided and self-guided interpretive opportunities.</li> <li>• Continue working with partners to expand existing environmental education programs and special events.</li> <li>• Use interpretation as a tool to communicate forest health and stewardship messages</li> </ul>
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to establish ADA access to the amphitheater.</li> <li>• Improve ADA access for the Harry Wilbert Trail with an emphasis on providing access to the Ancient Cedar.</li> </ul>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with and support partners including the Calyx School, Friends Groups and Service Education and Adventure (SEA).</li> </ul>
Amphitheater and promotion of special events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to improve coordination for marketing the park for weddings and other special events.</li> <li>• Explore partnership opportunities with the Whidbey Children’s Theater to provide additional amphitheater programming.</li> </ul>
Volunteer Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to coordinate with local groups to assist with trail construction and maintenance.</li> <li>• Continue to coordinate with local groups such as the Sound Water Stewards to provide trail and beach guided walk and talks.</li> <li>• Promote volunteer events that assist with invasive plant species removal and weed control.</li> </ul>
Signs and Park Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to provide regular event information updates on the park website.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to include maps and information at trailheads and on the State Parks website.</li> </ul>
Beach and water access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities to re-establish trail access to the beach recognizing that this may be challenging given the high-bank shoreline conditions and past history of slope failure.</li> <li>• Work with the Washington Water Trails Association (WWTa) to explore expanded kayak use on the beach.</li> </ul>

## Possession Point State Park Property: Issues and Management Approaches

Natural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approaches
Protecting natural plant and animal communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage park resources consistent with Natural Resources Management Policy 73-04-1 <i>Protecting Washington State Parks Natural Resources</i>.</li> <li>• Before development, conduct plant inventories to verify the absence of sensitive and rare plant species in areas planned for development and to inventory for invasive species.</li> <li>• Remove invasive species as part of development projects.</li> </ul>
Forest health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with agency forestry specialists to develop a forest health plan that includes regular tree assessment and considers removal of hazard trees in areas where the public congregates, including water trail camping areas, trailheads and parking areas.</li> <li>• Minimize development of the forested uplands to protect and preserve the bluff.</li> </ul>
Protecting rare plant species and rare plant associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with local plant experts to develop a rare plant protection plan to identify, monitor and establish protective prescriptions for rare plants in the park.</li> </ul>
Invasive plant species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with weed boards, the local native plant society and volunteers to develop and implement an integrated pest management plan. Continue to draw on local experts to monitor progress.</li> </ul>

Cultural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approaches
Protecting historic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a cultural resources management plan to determine appropriate treatments for all cultural features.</li> </ul>
Protecting cultural and archaeological resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete site-specific cultural resource surveys for areas that will be disturbed due to development.</li> <li>• In all future development actions, comply with direction from the Commission's Cultural Resources Policy 12-98-1 and Governor's Executive Order 05-05 regarding tribal consultation.</li> </ul>

Recreational Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approaches
Camping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit camping to water-accessed camping only as part of the Cascadia Marine Trail system.</li> <li>In consultation with the Washington Water Trails Association, review the current location of the water trails site and consider moving it to a location on the south side of the park away from adjacent residential cabins.</li> </ul>
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to permit pedestrian trail use in the park.</li> <li>Work with volunteers to maintain existing trails.</li> <li>Seek to link with regional trails and adjacent public land ownerships.</li> <li>Work to complete a trail conditions assessment to prioritize trail repairs, trail needs and on-going maintenance.</li> <li>Explore opportunities for interpretive programming and signs along park trails.</li> <li>Continue to permit geocaching and letterboxing, consistent with agency directive 06-01 <i>Geocaching, Letterboxing and Related Activities in State Park Areas</i>.</li> </ul>
Existing staff residence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future solution to housing may involve removal of the existing residence and additional shoreline restoration.</li> </ul>
Developing interpretive opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with staff, partners and interested tribes to develop an interpretive plan for the Possession Point State Park Property, encouraging development of guided and self-guided interpretive opportunities.</li> <li>Use interpretation as a tool to communicate forest health and stewardship messages.</li> </ul>
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To the degree possible, work to ensure that existing and new facilities accommodate ADA access.</li> </ul>
Volunteer groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to coordinate with local groups to assist with trail maintenance.</li> <li>Continue to coordinate with local groups to provide trail and beach guided walk and talks.</li> <li>Promote volunteer events that assist with invasive plant species removal and weed control.</li> <li>Continue to work with the Washington Water Trails Association regarding water trail campsite location and use.</li> </ul>
Signs and park information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work to provide improved maps at trailheads and trail directional signs that are consistent with accessibility guidelines for outdoor developed areas.</li> <li>Include maps and information at trailheads and on the State Parks website.</li> <li>Work to notify water trail and day-use park users of proximity to private property, especially the residential cabins located on the north end of the park.</li> <li>Ensure that signs provided for kayakers are clearly visible from the water at mid-tidal conditions and take into account kayakers vantage point and line of sight.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use signs as a method to discourage and prevent trespass by kayaks landing on the beach.</li> </ul>
Park access and parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow potential parking below the existing road and parking area, especially to provide ADA access.</li> <li>• Subject to the requirement for a special activity permit, continue to allow vehicular access to the shoreline for recreational groups.</li> </ul>
Recreational diving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to provide shore- and water-based access for recreational diving.</li> </ul>

## Useless Bay: Issues and Management Approaches

Natural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Protecting natural plant and animal communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage park resources consistent with Natural Resources Management Policy 73-04-1 <i>Protecting Washington State Parks Natural Resources</i>.</li> </ul>

Cultural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approaches
Protecting cultural historic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a cultural resources management plan to determine appropriate treatments for any cultural features.</li> </ul>
Protecting cultural and archaeological resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In all future actions, comply with direction from the Commission's Cultural Resources Policy 12-98-1 and Governor's Executive Order 05-05 regarding tribal consultation.</li> </ul>

Recreational Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approaches
Recreational use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to manage this property for water-accessed recreation and conservation with no pursuit of upland access at this time.</li> </ul>
Water-based recreational use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to allow and support water-based uses such as kayaking and kite-boarding.</li> </ul>

## Section 5: Other Park Plans

Previously prepared plans and reports provide additional guidance for the management of specific resources or activities in the park. The plans and documents below predate this management plan. The relationship between this plan, other existing plans, and recommended future plans should be seen as iterative. As new information is derived from more detailed resource and recreational use-specific planning, existing plans should be reviewed and modified to reflect changed circumstances. No single plan should be vested with ultimate authority, but rather, the ongoing process of creating new plans and revising existing plans should be seen as forming an increasingly comprehensive base of policy direction. The role of this document is to serve as an “umbrella” under which all park-related plans are referenced. A list of plans and reports that are related to this CAMP are listed below.

- Washington Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Program. 1993. Washington State Parks Natural Forest Inventory.
- Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. April 2, 2012. PND Engineers, Inc. Memorandum on South Whidbey State Park Site Visit and Recommendations related to stairs to the beach.
- Stewardship Brief-Forest Health Issues in the campground (CG)/group camp at South Whidbey State Park, August 2015, Robert Fimbel (WSPRC).
- Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. July 6, 2016. PND Engineers, Inc. Memorandum on Possession Point State Park Findings related to the existing bulkhead.