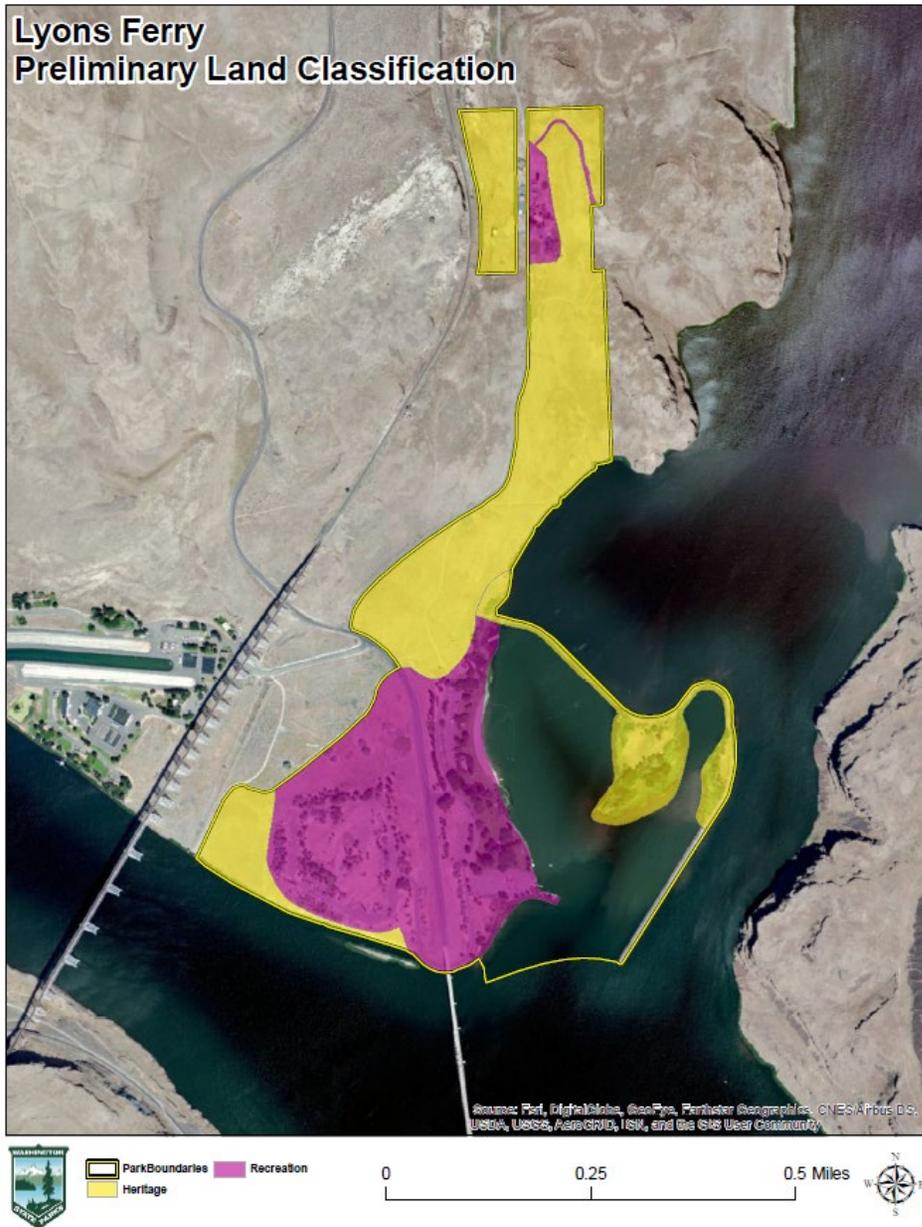


Palouse Falls, Lyons Ferry, Lewis and Clark Trail State Parks CAMP- Preliminary Recommendation
Lyons Ferry State Park Description and Recreation Activity Table – September 21, 2021



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Background

Lyons Ferry is a 168-acre day-use park with more than 52,000 feet of shoreline at the confluence of the Snake and Palouse rivers. It was named after the Lyons family, who from 1860 to 1968 operated a ferry across the Snake River until it was replaced by a bridge. The Park and its surrounding environment are highly valued for their significant cultural and natural resources.

Park Features

The Park offers active day-use facilities for swimming, boating, fishing, personal watercraft and picnicking. It is well-landscaped with grass and shade trees, providing a cool oasis in the dry climate of the Palouse.

Historical Information

The Lyons Ferry area was home to a Palouse (Palus) Indian village. First written accounts of this village were documented by Lewis and Clark and the Corp of Discovery while passing through the area in October of 1805. In the fall of 1914, near present day Lyons Ferry State Park, the first Union Pacific Railroad locomotive crossed the Snake River on one of the largest bridges along the entire transcontinental route.

Lyons Ferry State Park is cooperatively managed by Washington State Parks and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Park opened to the public in 1971, and was operated by Washington State Parks until 2002, when operation was returned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In 2015, operation of the park was transferred back to Washington State Parks.

Lyons Ferry State Park Preliminary Recommendation

The Preliminary Recommendation includes elements and features from both alternative approaches explored in the Classification and Management Planning process. The long-term boundary of Lyons Ferry is to remain unchanged. The entirety of the park and the surrounding area is owned by U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and they do not have plans to divest of their ownership of the park or their surrounding ownership.

The intent is to provide park visitors a park experience that recognizes the historical and cultural significance of the site while enjoying active recreation elements the park has historically provided. This can be accomplished by a combination of the *Heritage* classification and *Recreation* classification.

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Because Lyons Ferry is part of a larger Traditional Cultural Property and is a significant site for many tribal governments, the *Heritage* classification is being used to preserve and provide interpretive opportunities within the park. Within the Heritage classification, most recreational elements must be conditionally approved by the State Parks Commission, see Table below.

The *Recreation* classification allows for active recreation activities that have existed in the park to continue. No new recreational use is being proposed other than re-developing the campground to provide overnight accommodations. The active recreation opportunity provided at Lyons Ferry gives park visitors a nice contrast when coming from visiting Palouse Falls State Park. Lyons Ferry will complement Palouse Falls with full-service recreation amenities including overnight accommodations when the campground is complete. With the two parks within 5 miles, visitors can get two very different experiences in one outing.

Area	Land Class	Recreation Activities	Conditional Recreation Activities	Questions/Comments
Active day-use area including the roadway, parking, swim beach and grass lawn, boat launch and the old campground area. Area to the north for State Parks shop, ranger house and maintenance road	Recreation	Parking Comfort Stations Motorized Boating Camping Swimming Picnicking Roadways Interpretative Activities	N/A	
The remainder of the park including exterior perimeter along the water adjacent to the campground, levy,	Heritage	Parking Water Access Hand launch Picnicking Fishing Swimming	Parking Picnicking Roads Sanitary Comfort Stations Swimming Hand Launch	

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hand launch area and property extending to the north		Interpretive Activities	Designated Water Access Points for Campers	
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