WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Palouse Falls, Lyons Ferry and Lewis and Clark Trail State Park CAMP

Preliminary Recommendations for Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary

Presented by: Laura Moxham and Melinda Posner, Parks Planners
Agenda and Purpose

• CAMP process to date
• Tribal work group
• Preliminary recommendations
  • Vision
  • Land classification
  • Long-term boundary
• Next steps
Virtual Environment

• How to comment and ask Qs
• Planning Page: https://parks.state.wa.us/1072/Palouse-Falls-Lyons-Ferry-Lewis-and-Clar
  • Additional Public Meetings
  • Comments by November 30, 2021
Four Stages of CAMP

Stage 1. Identification of the issues

Stage 2. Development of alternatives to address issues

Stage 3. Preliminary recommendation
   Land Classification
   Long-Term Park Boundary

Stage 4. Final recommendations to the Commission
   Land Classification
   Long-Term Park Boundary
Land Classifications

- Recreation Area
- Resource Recreation Area
- Heritage Area
- Natural Area
- Natural Forest Area
- Natural Area Preserve
Long-Term Park Boundary

- Management Agreements
- Conservation Easements
- Donations
- Exchanges
- Purchase
- Surplus
• Responds to issues and concerns

• How the agency intends to manage the park’s natural, cultural and recreational resources
State Environmental Policy Act  
**SEPA**

- Consider environmental impacts
- Prepare draft checklist
- Collect input throughout process
- Review by interested parties and agencies
1. Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
2. Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
3. Nez Perce
4. Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
• A Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) is a **property eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places** (NRHP) based on its associations with the cultural practices, traditions, beliefs, lifeways, arts, crafts, or social institutions of a living community.

• Palouse Falls and Lyons Ferry
Blue Mountain Management Area
Lewis and Clark Trail State Park

West to Waitsburg 4.4 miles

East to Dayton 5.7 miles
Lewis and Clark Trail – Key Issues

- Flooding
- Public safety
- Day-use area
- Linear trail proposal
- Park expansion areas
- Historic structures
Lewis and Clark Trail – Vision

- Proposed expansion areas to expand camping and water access
- Improve public safety
- Address flooding
- Trail expansion opportunities
- Updated interpretive displays
- Protect historic structures
Lewis and Clark Trail Preliminary Recommendation
5-MINUTE COMMENT PERIOD
Palouse Falls State Park

- Washtucna- North 25-mile drive
- Approx 5 mi north of Lyons Ferry State Park
- 105-acre park
- Franklin and Whitman Counties
- 2014- State Designated Waterfall
Palouse Falls - Key Issues

Public safety

- Remote/rugged
- No cell coverage
- Unprepared
- Services over an hour away
- Currently no potable water
- Fatalities in the park
- Rescues
Palouse Falls- Key Issues

Public safety
Palouse Falls - Key Issues

TCP-Sacred Area

Natural Resource Damage

Trespass
Palouse Falls- Key Issues

Traditional Cultural Property (TCP)

- 'Castle Rock' or 'Coyotes Puppies'

Diminished recreational experience
Palouse Falls - Key Issues

Natural Resource Damage

Unsanctioned (Social) Trails
Palouse Falls- Key Issues

- 1-2 hour back-ups to Hwy 261
- Staff time
- Discover Pass
- Vehicle size
Palouse Falls State Park -Vision

- Palouse Falls State Park Heritage Site
- Recognize TCP and cultural history
- Scenic overlook park
- Passive recreational experience
- Expand interpretive opportunities
Long-Term Boundary

- Scenic overlook
- Honoring the TCP
- Improved day-use experience
- Rich history at the site for interpretation
  - Geologic
  - Cultural
  - Historic-Railroad development
- Orientation center and turn-around
- Consider managed access options
- Viewshed protection
- Passive recreational opportunities
Land Classification

- **Recreation Area**
  - Additional parking, allow for flush toilets
  - Trails to viewpoints

- **Heritage Area**
  - Developed Footprint
  - Bluff trail and restoration
  - Viewshed protection
  - Restoration
  - Interpretive and educational improvements

- **Natural Area**
  - No unsanctioned public access- north and south side of park (special activity or research permits may be applied for to access the upper falls to the north)
  - Restoration
Additional Commission Action

Approve Conditional Uses within the Heritage Classification

1. Paved Parking and Roads
2. Picnicking
3. Comfort Stations
4. Irrigation

Approve Name Change: Palouse Falls State Park Heritage Site
5-MINUTE COMMENT PERIOD
Lyons Ferry State Park

- Starbuck- 10-minute SE
- Dayton- 35-minute SE
- 5 miles south of Palouse Falls SP
- Army Corp of Engineers Park
- 168-acre day use only park
- Franklin County
Lyons Ferry - Key Issues

• Traditional Cultural Property
• Capital project/s funded- Camping
• Army Corp of Engineers park- leased by State Parks
• Cultural resource protection
• Ferry preservation
Lyons Ferry - Vision

- Visitor experience recognizes historical and cultural significance of the site
- Heritage land classification recognizes TCP
- Active recreation activities continues and complements Palouse Falls
Preliminary Recommendation

- Traditional Cultural Property
- Recreation Classification
  - Design/permit campground capital project is underway
  - Existing Day-Use, boat launch, swim area, bulkhead, roads, park shop and residence
- Heritage Classification
  - Remaining area of the park
  - Managed access
- Management plan
- Ferry is being requested to be recorded and removed
5-MINUTE COMMENT PERIOD
Next Steps

• Upcoming Public Meetings
  • November 8, 2021- Dayton, WA
  • November 9, 2021- Ritzville, WA
• Public comment through November 30, 2021
• January 2022- State Parks Commission Decision
Questions?