South Sound Classification and Management Plan—Fudge Point

Stage 4—Final Recommendations

July 2015
Preface

This document, along with supporting maps, presents final recommendations for Fudge Point as part of State Parks’ Classification and Management Planning (CAMP) project. During the first stage of planning, public and staff participants identified many issues associated with access, safety, and recreational opportunities. The second stage described alternative approaches which served as a catalyst for in-depth discussion in the development of the long-term boundary, land classifications, and facilities concept plan. The third stage combined the best ideas previously presented as alternatives. Preliminary recommendations were also presented at the April 1st public meeting that helped refine the development of these final recommendations.
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INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission manages a diverse system of over 100 parks located throughout the state. Dramatic growth in population coupled with 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.

State Parks prepares land use plans through an agency-wide planning system called 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 boundary, and a park management plan.

For each planning project the agency assembles a planning team. The team includes planners, resource stewards, and park staff. As necessary, the planning team also calls upon the expertise of resource and facility specialists—both from within and outside the agency.

The State Parks’ planning webpage includes information on active planning projects throughout the state at: http://www.parks.wa.gov/268/Planning-Public-Input

State Parks Mission and Vision

In March of 2013, the Commission adopted the Transformation Strategy: Adapting to a new way of operating Washington’s state parks, after reaching our 100 year Centennial. The document emphasized new ways to operate parks in an effort to improve efficiency and economic self-sufficiency. Since then, the Commission has stated that State Parks cannot be fully self-supporting and continues to advocate for public financial support. The Transformation Strategy seeks to ensure a quality park system that people continue to choose for recreation and renewal. The strategy includes a new mission and vision that guide transformation principles and initiatives:

Mission Statement

*The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission cares for Washington’s most treasured lands, waters and historic places. State parks connect all Washingtonians to their diverse natural and cultural heritage and provide memorable recreational and educational experiences that enhance their lives.*

Vision Statement

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

1. Provide experiences people will choose
2. Align all activities with appropriate sources of funding
3. Pursue an interdependent relationship with volunteers, friends, and partners
4. Base business decisions on adequate and objective information and data
5. Embrace innovative practices and technology

Transformation Strategies and Initiatives

1. Demonstrate that all Washingtonians benefit from their state parks
2. Adopt a business approach to park system administration
3. Provide recreation, cultural, and interpretive opportunities people will want
4. Promote meaningful opportunities for volunteers, friends, and donors
5. Form strategic partnerships with other agencies, tribes, and non-profits
6. Expand use of land holdings for compatible revenue generating purposes
7. Develop amenities and acquire lands that advance transformation

Commission Policies

All future management decisions found in this document will follow Commission policies.


The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is responsible for the acquisition, protection, promotion, and interpretation of a unique collection of structures, places, and objects that are tangible links to the state’s past. These resources, known collectively as cultural resources, are both distinctive and significant, as they reflect many of the major themes in the state’s history and prehistory. Like endangered species in the natural world, once lost, they cannot be regenerated. Their preservation and interpretation provide enrichment for all Washingtonians as well as a valued legacy for the future.

73-04-1 Protecting Washington State Parks Natural Resources

In general, State Parks will adopt park resource preservation and development strategies, and use best management practices (BMP) to maintain the natural population fluctuations and processes that characterize the dynamics of individual plant and animal populations, groups of plant and animal populations, and migratory animal populations in parks.
Planning Process

The CAMP planning process involves four sequential stages. Each stage usually 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 State Parks and Recreation Commission, the agency’s seven-member governing board, formally adopts land classifications, long-term park boundaries, and facility concept plans and the Director approves finalized park management plans. Standard planning stages include:

- **Stage One: Identify issues and concerns**
  The purpose of this stage is to understand what is important to the park community and identifies issues to address through the planning process.

- **Stage Two: Exploring alternative approaches**
  At this stage, the planning team suggests potential alternative approaches to address the various issues and concerns raised by people in stage one. No preferred alternative is established; rather this is an opportunity to examine and understand the range of possibilities.

- **Stage Three: Preparing preliminary recommendations**
  The ideas from the alternative approaches developed in stage two are combined into a preliminary plan in this stage. The preliminary plan includes recommendations for use and development of park lands, changes to property boundaries, and ways to address issues that were raised during the process.

- **Stage Four: Preparing final recommendations**
  At stage four, final adjustments are made to staff recommended land classifications and the long-term boundary and submitted to the seven-member Parks and Recreation Commission for approval. The public is encouraged to attend the Commission meeting and provide testimony or to provide written comment.

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

The planning process incorporates requirements of SEPA for communicating to the public potential environmental effects of agency actions. During stage 3, a document describing the environmental implications of each alternative is prepared. After the stage 4, the document is posted on the project webpage.

By stage 4, information gathered during the planning process will be included in a SEPA checklist describing the environmental effects of enacting the plan. The agency will then make a formal determination of the significance of any environmental impacts and whether additional environmental analysis and documentation is necessary.
Planning Products

The CAMP planning process produces three main products for Fudge Point: land classification, long-term boundary, and a park management plan. The combination of these deliverables constitutes a land use plan. For some parks, more detailed planning to direct facility development is necessary. A facilities concept plan will be included in this report.

Land Classification

A central part of CAMP involves zoning, or classification of park lands. State Parks has developed a system of six land classifications: Natural Area Preserves, Natural/Natural Forest Areas, Resource Recreation Areas, Recreation Areas, and Heritage Areas. When assigned to a specific area within a park, each classification sets an appropriate intensity for recreational activity and development of facilities. Classifications align along a spectrum, ranging from low to high-intensity land uses. 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 for park visitors.

State Parks and land classifications are defined in Chapter 352-16 in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), which reads in part:

State park areas are of state-wide natural, cultural, and/or recreational significance and/or outstanding scenic beauty. They provide varied facilities serving low-intensity, medium intensity, and high intensity outdoor recreation activities, areas reserved for preservation, scientific research, education, public assembly, and/or environmental interpretation, and support facilities.

They may be classified in whole or part as follows:

1. Recreational areas are suited and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use, conference, cultural and/or educational centers, or other uses serving large numbers of people.
2. Resource recreation areas are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use.
3. Natural areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological value while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses.
4. Heritage areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features, and traditional cultural properties, which are of state-wide or national significance.

5. Natural forest areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses, and which contain:
   a. Old-growth forest communities that have developed for one hundred fifty years or longer and have the following structural characteristics: Large old-growth trees, large snags, large logs on land, and large logs in streams; or
   b. Mature forest communities that have developed for ninety years or longer; or
   c. Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.

6. Natural area preserves are designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are registered and committed as a natural area preserve through a cooperative agreement with an appropriate natural resource agency pursuant to chapter 79.70 RCW and chapter 332-60 WAC.

For each land classification, the agency Director has developed detailed management guidelines. These guidelines set specific activities and facilities permitted in each designation. The complete land classification system and management guidelines are included in Appendix A.

**Long-Term Park Boundary**

A second product of CAMP is adoption of a long-term park boundary. This is a frequently misunderstood aspect of park planning. The purpose of delineating 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 a park. It also considers whether agency-owned property should be retained or be considered surplus to park needs.

Including privately owned property in a long-term boundary gives Commission direction to staff to work with nearby landowners on potential land transactions. Transactions may range from simple agreements, to recreation and conservation easements, and sometimes even to agency purchase of property. If a landowner is not interested in participating, State Parks is unlikely to pursue the matter further. However, since land frequently changes hands, the agency uses delineation of a long-term boundary to set its long-term property planning goals.
For properties included within a long-term boundary, any of a number of possibilities may apply. State Parks 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

Including private land within a long-term boundary can sometimes alarm property owners. The planning team makes every effort to contact affected landowners and explain implications of this process. Property owners should be assured that long-term boundary and land classification decisions are for Commission policy direction only and should not affect private property values. A property inside the long-term boundary is used as an indication of a landowner’s willingness to sell, or be used as a basis for making state or local government regulatory, permitting, or zoning decisions.

Property owners should also consider that working with State Parks to voluntarily protect natural resources contiguous with those on park lands may achieve the desired conservation effect and avoid the need for acquisition of these properties by the agency. In all but the rarest circumstances, State Parks acquires land on a willing seller basis.

Park Management Plan

The third product of CAMP is preparation of a park management plan. Park management plans are relatively simple documents that describe a park’s principal features, set park-wide management objectives, and outline specific approaches and prescriptions in response to issues identified through the planning process. These plans also document the planning process and serve as a clearinghouse for supporting information. A preliminary park management plan is usually prepared during the next (third) stage of the planning process.

Facility Concept Plan

Washington State Parks celebrated its 100th birthday in 2013. Facilities in many parks have outlived their designed life span and need replacing. Also, as conditions both outside and within parks evolve, parks must adapt to meet new or changing uses. This often requires developing new or more specialized support facilities. Depending on park-specific circumstances, the CAMP
process also includes preparation of facilities concept plans as a fourth deliverable. These plans set the appropriate type, character, and general location of facilities within a park landscape. Concept plans provide a basis for capital budget requests or opportunities for construction by partners and form the framework for more detailed site and facilities design. Like land classifications and long-term boundaries, the State Parks and Recreation Commission adopts facilities concept plans to provide long-term direction of park development.

Map showing location of Fudge Point in South Puget Sound.
This map shows Fudge Point in relation to the other State Parks lands, shown in blue, including McMicken Island State Park and the Scott property.
This is a Lidar image that depicts the ground underneath the vegetation at Fudge Point. The image reveals opportunities for development and for conservation. Notice the steep walls of the ravine that feeds the lagoon.
The light purple represents the steep sides of the ravines, while the darker purple indicates a 200 foot buffer from the edge of the ravines, outward. In some cases, the closer one gets to a ravine, the more likely the ground will be sloped, wet throughout the year, and as a result, less desirable for development.
SECTION 1: AREA DESCRIPTION

The following section describes the physical, operational, political, and regulatory factors affecting the Fudge Point property.

Location: Fudge Point is located on the east side of Harstine Island in South Puget Sound, Mason County near the town of Shelton: Section 7; Township 20N; Range 2W. Coordinates for this site are Latitude 47° 14’5.48” and Longitude -122° 51’25.758”.

Land Area: Currently, State Parks owns and manages 141 acres with over 3,000 feet of saltwater shoreline. The U.S. geological Survey (USGS), Longbranch, Washington 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangle Map indicates the property elevation ranges from approximately 160 feet above mean sea level to sea level. Portions of the property are tidelands. The property slopes north and east, towards Case Inlet. Steep bluffs are present on the eastern side of the property. Groundwater beneath the upland, forested portion of the property is 160 to 200 feet below ground surface. Shallow groundwater flow is likely similar to surface topography and flows north and east.

Regional Geology and Soil Characterization: Harstine Island is located in an area of solid deposits and land features deposited during the Pleistocene Epoch which began approximately 1.5 million years ago. Soil characteristics in the Puget Sound Basin and, therefore, in vicinity of the site generally consist of glacial till deposited by the Vashon Glacier. Glacial till is a mixture of sand and gravel with silt and clay. According to the Natural Resource Conservation Service Soil Survey website, the primary soil type at the property is Sinclair shotty loam. Sinclair soils are moderately well drained, with very low to moderately low permeability. Observations of the bluffs at the eastern edge of the property indicate that the property is underlain by sand and gravelly soils.

Jurisdiction: Fudge Point is located in unincorporated Mason County.

Current Staffing: Under the current management model, there are two Park Rangers assigned to the Jarrell Cove area, which includes Fudge Point as a component of this unit. In 2015, however, State Parks will reorganize management areas through consolidation of regional parks. As a result, Jarrell Cove Area will be merged with Belfair and Penrose Point areas to form the South Sound Management Area. Under this model, there will be two ranger positions assigned to Jarrell Cove, three seasonal park aides, and one seasonal senior park aide.

Acquisition History: The first 66 acres of land were acquired in 2012. The second 75 acres were acquired in 2014. The total acreage for the property is today 141 acres.

Historical Background: Based on historical information from aerial photographs, Mason County Assessors Information, topographic maps, and an interview with the previous landowner, Mr. Russell Scott, the property has been undeveloped since at least 1937. Mr. Scott stated his family purchased the property in 1943 and stated portions of the property were timbered shortly after purchase and again in the mid-1980s. Mr. Scott stated that all the roads on the
property were constructed with sand dug from sites on the property or on the adjacent properties that the family owned. No development, other than dirt roads, was observed in any of the aerial photographs, field investigations, or topographic maps.

**Facilities:** The property includes a 1.5 mile, gravel surfaced, two-track entrance road.

**Water:** Based on the Washington State Department of Ecology Wetland Rating System, the 4.56 acres estuarine portion of the lagoon includes freshwater/saltwater interface and is classified as a Category I estuarine/coastal lagoon wetland.

**Plants:** Fudge Point uplands consist of mixed conifer and deciduous forest that support highly functioning wetlands and small streams. The uplands were last logged in the mid-1980s and as a result many disturbance regime plants have established in the logged areas which are today dominated by red alder (*Alnus rubra*) and big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) trees. Closer to the bluffs a wider array of vegetation includes Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and Western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*) which typically overhang the upper beach and in many places extend laterally eastward over the beach for 20 feet or more.

Riparian understory shrubs common along the shore include sward fern (*Polystichum munitum*), salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*), and low Oregon-grape (*Mahonia nervosa*). This overhanging vegetation has long been known to contribute important organic material (leaves, sticks, and twigs) to the marine environment.

The lagoon receives freshwater inputs from two streams. A sand spit surrounds the lagoon with characteristic backshore vegetation dominated by dunegrass (*Leymus mollis*) along the waterward edge of the spit.

**Animals:** Fudge Point is highly productive habitat for many creatures. According to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitat Program’s Priority Habitat Species (PHS) database indicates that seabird colonies (Pigeon Guillemot); seal/sea lion haulout where pupping occurs seasonally; Bald eagle nests; hardshell intertidal clam, Pacific oyster, and subtidal Geoduck habitat; Rock sole and Sand Lance spawning area; herring holding area, all occur within proximity of the property with the lagoon serving as the central core habitat in support of these animals.

The tidelands are rich with shellfish, seabirds, and marine animals. The abundant shellfish species include mussels (*Mytilus sp.*); geoduck (*Panope abrupta*); and horse clams (*Resus nuttalli, T. capax*), manila (*Venerupis philippinarum*), butter (*Saxidonus gigantean*), and native littleneck (*Phoebothaca staminea*) clams. The riparian zone along the marine shoreline of the property reflects the underlying shoreline geology.

The Fudge Point property includes sand lance spawning habitat and feeder bluffs that supply sediment to spawning areas south of the site, including spawning areas for surf smelt. Both surf smelt and sand lance are “forage fish” and provide an important link in the Puget Sound food web and salmon recovery, as they are prey for salmon.
Environmental Health: The property does not have any identified regulated sites. Today, the property shows the impacts of past logging activities, but remains undeveloped.

Zoning: Rural Residential 5 acres

Shoreline Master Program Designation: The proposed Mason County shoreline master program update designates Fudge Point “Conservancy.” Currently, Mason County is updating its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), which regulates land use and development within 200 feet from rivers, lakes, and marine shores. The draft plan is now being reviewed by the Planning Advisory Commission.

Historical and Cultural Preservation: There are no recorded cultural resource sites within the Fudge Point property.

Utilities: There are no utilities.

Legislative District: Washington’s 35th Legislative District is represented by state senator Tim Sheldon (Democrat) and state representatives Dan Griffey (Republican-position 1) and Drew MacEwen (Republican-position 2).

Transportation: Regional access to the Fudge Point property is by U.S. Highway 101, state route 3, East Pickering Road, East Harstine Island Bridge Road, East South Island Drive, East Harstine Island Road North, and East Ballow Road.

SECTION 2: Final Recommendations

The purpose of this section is to present the planning team’s final recommendations, which are based on comments received in the previous planning stages.

Please note that the sum total of all the recommendations represents a significant workload to staff, and may create high expectations among agency staff and park stakeholders. At this time, completing, or in some cases even beginning to implement recommendations is not feasible with existing resources. Therefore, the following recommendations should be understood as a “potential to do list.”

LONG-TERM BOUNDARY

Summary of Public Opinion

Public comment primarily focused on protection of private lands from trespass on the beach, especially between McMicken Island and Fudge Point. The primary concern was prevention of pedestrians intentionally accessing private beach through State Parks lands, in turn, damaging and poaching the shellfish beds. Public comments from neighbors, with a few exceptions, revealed that the long-term boundary be limited to the lagoon area and were adamant that
State Parks not include a terrestrial link for pedestrians on the beach between McMicken Island State Park and Fudge Point.

State Parks Recommendation

Staff’s recommendation is to include about 200 acres in the Fudge Point long-term boundary without a pedestrian connection between Fudge Point and McMicken Island along the beach. In addition, staff recommends including several acres of upland associated with the stream that feeds the small lagoon closest to Fudge Point. Inclusion of this small area of land will help to protect water quality in the stream, wildlife habitat, and allow the possibility of public access if suitable.

Note that the fullest extent of the property encompasses the ravines, which serve as a portion of the headwaters that feed the lagoon. The proposed extent of the long-term boundary will protect wetlands and allow the forests to regenerate in the uplands and ravines, providing long-term protection of water quality. In addition this land will allow for an interesting hiking experience. The ravines are steep and over time will be home to very large trees. The trail grades will vary and new alignments will highlight natural systems that comprise this property.
LAND CLASSIFICATION

Summary of Public Opinion

During Stage 2 planning, State Parks staff presented the widest range of potential development options at Fudge Point. First, the public provided comments on the five options. Second, public and staff comments were considered together with the goal to determine the most appropriate kind of development, balancing the level of recreational intensity with the protection of natural resources, while respecting adjacent private lands.

Six key elements shaped the land classification designations:

1. Original purpose of the land acquisition including an understanding of deed restrictions.
2. Physical opportunities and constraints: what does the land allow for development or conservation?
3. Public input on future development and conservation.
4. Staff input: consideration of the Agency mission, core values, Transformation strategies, recreation opportunities, and stewardship goals.
5. Commission input regarding the long-term boundary and land classifications.
6. Federal, state, and county regulations.

Many public comments, coupled with staff recommendations, showed support for day-use and overnight facilities, but suggest restraint, emphasizing small-scale development to better protect the wild character of the landscape and to provide special protection of the lagoon’s sand lance and smelt habitat. Other comments from the public suggested overnight campers will poach from commercial shellfishing operations, increase traffic on county roads, and negatively impact natural resources of Fudge Point.

The park will be developed at the appropriate scale to ultimately support local, regional, and state-wide access to the park. Please note, however, that many residents who live adjacent to Fudge Point expressed strong resistance to camping without a staffing plan in place that provides for an overnight ranger facility at the park. As a result, phase 2 development involving overnight facilities will require review of visitation rates, evaluation of the potential impacts on the community including roads, and a financial analysis to determine the potential profitability.

State Parks Recommendation

Three land classifications are recommended by staff as appropriate for Fudge Point based on information gathered in the field, consultation with Operations managers and engagement with the public. They include: Resource Recreation, Recreation, and Natural area. The property is primarily classified as Resource Recreation with smaller proportions of land reserved for Recreation and Natural. Please note that the numbers referring to acreage include land that is identified within the long-term boundary.
• **Resource Recreation:** 116 acres (current state park ownership) and 166.4 acres (the total including lands within the long-term boundary). The land is characterized by the east beach, feeder bluffs, uplands, wetlands, and ravines.

• **Recreation:** 20.3 acres include uplands that are centrally located, relatively flat, and previously disturbed. In addition, .8 of an acre of land is reserved for beach access.

• **Natural:** 3.8 acres of land associated with the lagoon system and north beach at Fudge Point, which provides critical habitat for sand lance and smelt.

**Resource Recreation Area**

This classification, defined as suited and/or developed for medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use, represents a balance between conservation and recreation. The natural systems of Fudge Point hold much potential for successional regrowth of the uplands despite impacts by logging efforts 20 years ago. Although it will take decades for the land to re-establish mature forest characteristics, State Parks will manage this property in support of its regeneration and emphasize protection of intact natural resources. Other examples of landforms that will benefit from conservation include ravines, streams, mature trees, and associated understory plants.

The steep feeder bluffs and beach, located on the north and east sides of the property, will provide critical ecological functions that contribute to the overall health of Puget Sound. State Parks will manage the beach to promote public awareness and respect for sand lance, smelt, and shellfish resources. There will be no facilities or structures such as launches, bulkheads, docks, piers or mooring buoys to better protect these resources and to also remain consistent with deed restrictions associated with the original purchase of the land. These options will allow park visitors to access and enjoy the wild character of Fudge Point.

Fudge Point offers recreational opportunities, at sustainable levels, for human use and enjoyment. The trails in resource recreation areas allows for hikers and bikers and provide access to remote areas of the park, highlight unique natural features, and low bank access to Puget Sound. Interpretative trails will play a key role in educating and directing visitors to respect natural resources and the property rights of our neighbors especially on the beach.

**Recreational Area**

*Recreation* is suitable for high-intensity outdoor activities such as camping, interpretive amphitheaters or other uses that serve large numbers of people. Fudge Point includes opportunities for terrestrial access by car, bike or foot. Once in the park, several acres of cleared, high ground is appropriate for development of day-use parking, flush comfort stations, picnic shelters, camping, and operational facilities.

Development will be centered in the park away from the water and ravines. The existing road will provide access and include opportunities for overnight, day-use parking, and administrative facilities. Further beyond, the road will provide low-bank access to the beach. Here, a .8 acre is
designated Recreation Area to accommodate ADA access onto the beach, two ADA compliant parking stalls, vehicular drop-off, and a toilet.

Field investigations in 2015 reveal that is physically possible to build both overnight and day-use facilities in the proposed Recreation Area, but it is not yet determined if these facilities are considered feasible to either construct or operate. A financial analysis will be needed to better understand this question prior to commencement of a master planning process.

_Natural Area_

The Lagoon, classified as _Natural Area_, maximizes protection of the north shoreline, lagoon, and mouth of the stream. It limits development while allowing for some low-intensity recreational use that is subordinate to natural systems. Appropriate activities include interpretive trails, signs, shellfish harvesting, and swimming.
CONDITIONAL USES

Activities conditionally permitted under the agency’s land classification system may be permitted at specific sites only with the concurrence of the Commission (Appendix 4). Staff recommends the Commission permit the following conditional activities at the Fudge Point Property:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recreation Areas</th>
<th>No conditional uses permitted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resource Recreation Areas</td>
<td>Permit Jet Skiing, Power Boating, Water Skiing, and Wind Surfing along shorelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Areas</td>
<td>No conditional uses permitted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff recommends that conditionally permitted boating activities be permitted in Resource Recreation Areas as indicated above. These activities should not be supported with onshore facilities so as not to encourage this use. In the event of damage to the shoreline environment, staff should undertake additional measures to address or otherwise mitigate impacts.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Introduction

Park management plans describe the principal features of a park, set park-wide management objectives, and outline specific approaches and prescriptions in response to issues identified in stages one, two, and three. These plans also document the planning process and serve as an informational resource.

Principle Features

Fudge Point is characterized by steep ravines, feeder bluffs, sandy/gravelly beach, an estuary system, and logged uplands. Low bank water access is one of the most important aspects of the property allowing for visitors to enjoy Puget Sound’s Case Inlet and view Mount Rainier over the Kitsap Peninsula. Fudge Point is very walkable because it includes a smooth, sandy surface. The estuary and beach also provides habitat for sand lance and smelt which are considered key sources of food for Puget Sound salmon. The feeder bluffs, primarily located on the east side of the property, maintain healthy habitat by providing sedimentation and overhanging vegetation.

The logged uplands provide opportunities for development. There is an ideal area of the property that has seen much disturbance located east of the existing entrance road. It is today characterized by alder, young conifers, and shrubs. It is an area of land that includes high ground. It is level and considered buildable. Dramatic ravines, located west of the entrance road, cross the property diagonally southwest to the northeast, draining into Case Inlet.
Key Management Objectives

In collaboration with our neighbors and stakeholders, State Parks is addressing management concerns including:

- Trespass and protection of resources
- Vehicular access
- Pedestrian/bicycle access
- Overnight/Day-use facilities
- Administrative facilities
- Park staffing numbers
- Fire response
- Master plan

Trespass and Protection of Resources: The beach and tidelands between Fudge Point and McMicken Island State Park are of primary concern. Neighbors report trespass by land and boat. The question is how to best educate and prevent park visitors from wandering onto private lands?

Strategy: Improve signage, install maps, and continued coordination with neighbors, local and state police.

a. Directional Signs and Buffer Zones
   1. Clearly demarcate the State Parks boundary south of McMicken Island and along the land bridge using a combination of signs and markers, placed in a, to better prevent encroachment onto leased tidelands and private beach. Work with interested parties to install signs.
   2. New signs and maps will communicate that visitors are leaving State Parks lands and entering private property. The directional signs or boundary markers, provided by State Parks, will be strategically placed on the beach to maximize visibility at McMicken and Fudge Point. Department of Fish and Wildlife will make the maps with metal backing showing private and public lands, installed by State Parks.
   3. Place new bulletin boards where appropriate at McMicken Island, Scott property, and Fudge Point. Include signs that encourage proper digging etiquette such as backfilling holes.
   4. Work directly with Seattle Shellfish LLC at McMicken Island and Taylor Shellfish Farms at Fudge Point.
   5. Install signage on Colonel Wright Road and Plantation Way that communicates there is no State Park access from these roads.
6. Contact Google Maps or other internet mapping services to correct their directions to park access for the Fudge Point property, Scott Property, McMicken Island, and Harstine Island parks.

b. Interpretive Signs
   1. Design interpretive signs with partners to communicate messages that highlight protection of natural resources and recreational opportunities, while educating visitors on how to best respect adjacent private lands.

c. Visitor Contact
   1. Develop volunteer program with area manager to provide direct visitor contact at key times in the summer months. The purpose of the program is to provide a presence on the beach, but not to provide surveillance as a security guard. Rather, the goal is to educate visitors about the tidelands and to explain where visitors can walk. A program such as this would be dependent on volunteer availability.

d. Coordination with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
   1. Create maps printed on metal sheets showing land ownership and property lines.
   2. Work with DFW law enforcement to emphasize contact with trespassers.

e. Dial 911
   1. Call 911 if you witness a crime on private or public lands. Mason County will forward the call to Washington State Patrol. State Patrol will in turn contact DFW if the crime occurs in their jurisdiction or State Parks if the crime occurs on park property.

**Vehicular Access:** Limit day-use access from dawn until dusk.

a. Install gate at the entrance of the park to control entry.

b. Open gate from dawn until dusk.

c. State Parks will open the park in the evening, however, to accommodate special events.

d. Access into and out of Fudge Point will be through the current location on East Ballow Road. There will be no access via Plantation Way. It was determined through the planning process that Plantation Way would be inappropriate for this use. Plantation Way is a residential street with many homes located very near the right-of-way.

e. Vehicular access to the Scott property via Colonel Wright Road was determined through the public process as inappropriate for public access. State Parks maintains administrative access, however, into the park using this road.
Park Staffing Number and Positions:

a. Future staff numbers at Fudge Point will be based on the intensity of development. For example, if a small campground is constructed, in addition to typical day-use facilities, a ranger or park aide position will be warranted.

Administrative Facilities: Need, type, and scale of facilities will also depend on the level of intensity of use at Fudge Point. More development associated with day-use will require smaller-scale developments, while overnight facilities will probably require more administrative support. Typically, a small park with a campground can include a visitor contact station/administrative office and garage. A garage can serve many purposes, but will likely house equipment used to maintain the park.

Boating: Because of deed restrictions placed on the waterside parcel at Fudge Point no boating facilities such as docks or marinas or boat launches will be installed. State Parks will not install mooring buoys in this vicinity because of commercial shellfishing in the bedlands. Mooring buoys are already available at McMicken Island State Park.

Fire Response: is dependent on size and location of the fire. For example, staff at Jarrell Cove is trained to dispatch a fire using tools and a fire pumper primarily for small-scale incidents. Larger scale incidents that involve buildings will include the local volunteer fire department. If a fire cannot be contained, the Department of Natural Resources may respond to fight the fire. In the future, a hydrant system with a two inch supply line could be constructed in association with development of a new water system used for comfort stations and picnic shelters. Design of a water system will require an adequately sized reservoir and pump system as a water source for State Parks staff as well as the local volunteer fire department.

In addition, State Parks staff will establish an emergency response plan that considers evacuation routes and ways to reduce the likelihood of a fire through fuel modification and reduction in the forested areas of the property.

Master Plan: Although this report includes a facilities plan (see below), the descriptions are considered conceptual to better illustrate their need, utility, and general location. A master plan, however, will include a public process that builds on the ideas first conceived in the master plan and will allow designers to better understand opportunities and constraints of the property. The master plan will:

- Include surveys of the land to generate existing conditions by mapping topography and locations of natural features such as wetlands, feeder bluffs, and vegetation communities.
• Illustrate design concepts regarding all built features
• Outline phasing of the development
• Cost estimates

FACILITIES CONCEPT PLAN

Introduction

A facility concept plan provides information on the general location and type of facilities that are appropriate for a park. Future schematic designs, associated with funded construction projects, will reveal more detail. The development of facilities at Fudge Point should include a two-phased process with development of day-use first and, if determined to be economically viable and appropriate in scale, overnight facilities second. Staff will consider with public input the most logical and cost effective phasing of park-wide projects in association with development of an overall schematic site plan for the property. For example, the entrance road, day-use parking, and water access facilities will be prioritized over development of other amenities such as overnight and administrative facilities to ensure public access.

A timeline for development is entirely dependent on securing necessary funds through the state capital budget process. It is realistic to expect that the first phase of development for park access could be funded within the next five and ten years. Construction of overnight facilities in the second phase will take more time to secure funding and to plan.

Although the recreation classification allows State Parks to retain the possibility for overnight facilities, a rigorous examination of the opportunities and constraints must be developed to more fully understand if such facilities are economically feasible, sustainable, and scaled to promote a balance of conservation and recreation.

Staff’s recommended facilities concept plan is included as Appendix 2. This plan illustrates what is physically appropriate for recommended land classifications. Potential development of recreational facilities may include:

• Vehicular circulation
• Bicycle and pedestrian circulation
• Comfort stations-day use and overnight
• Beach access
• Interpretive installations
• Picnic shelters
• Camp host sites
• Campground
• Cabins
• Visitor contact station
• Operations garage/shop
Circulation System

Vehicular Circulation: The existing entrance road serves as the central spine of development with all of the proposed facilities on the property physically connected to it. Beginning at Buffington’s Corner on East Ballow Drive, the 1.5 mile long entrance road to Fudge Point is aligned to take advantage of the path of least resistance, a relatively flat route that avoids the ravines and wetlands that cross the property diagonally. Today, the entrance road is a two-track dirt/gravel road in fair condition.

In the future, the entrance road will be widened to allow for two-way traffic, surfaced with asphalt, and include bike lanes. This two-way traffic segment, following the existing road, will be about one mile in length and terminate in the day-use parking lot, centrally located within the existing property.

This parking lot will be designed to accommodate peak visitation in summer. A future master plan will estimate potential visitation counts. The scale of the parking lot will consider how to best balance recreational access with protection of natural resources at the park. This area will serve as a central node of activity for park visitors. It will be surfaced with an appropriate hardened material and designed to convey storm water using a system that ensures recharge of the groundwater on-site to adequately manage water quality into Puget Sound. Other amenities will surround the parking lot and are described below.

From the central parking lot, the road continues down-slope, leading to a small two-stall ADA compliant parking area located near the beach. The entrance road also serves as a pedestrian walkway and ADA car access and as a drop-off area for all park visitors. The road then continues up-hill to the central parking lot. There will be no entrance or exit from Fudge Point via Plantation Way.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation: Trail development will promote wellness, provide access, and protect habitat. In some cases, trails may be aligned into ecologically sensitive locations or potentially hazardous locations in an effort to prevent unintended development of social trails. Through intentional design, trail systems can be aligned to improve safety, provide protection to sensitive natural areas with opportunities for interpretive education.

Trails will be integrated into the landscape with some segments appearing more refined than others depending on their purpose, location, and popularity. Some trails will be wider to allow for people or bicycles to pass each other or by contrast more narrow for single-purpose use into remote areas. Future trails will be surfaced with a variety of appropriate and compatible materials such as native soil, gravel, concrete or asphalt depending on design requirements.

In addition, bicycle lanes may be needed many years from now to link the northwest corner of the Scott Property with Fudge Point. This concept will only be realized as a partnership between State Parks and Mason County. A demonstrable need for this kind of amenity, however, would be required to prompt a project such as this.
In the future, a trail plan will be required to more fully understand potential alignments, purpose, and materials.
Day-use Development

Comfort Stations: Future planning will reveal where to best locate comfort stations. Designers will consider key criteria such as location, where people gather, where drain fields can be constructed, and size based on projected capacity. Larger scale comfort stations will be constructed in the vicinity of the campground and day-use parking lot. A small-scale comfort station will be located closer to the beach in close proximity to the ADA parking stalls. The purpose of a comfort station near the water is to provide a convenient location for visitors, while also protecting water quality.

Beach Access: The access point is located along the existing entrance road. Favorable topography coupled with an existing access road provide an opportunity to install a small-scale, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, ramp to link the uplands with the beach.

Interpretive Installations: In the future, interpretive signs and information kiosks will be integrated into a trail plan to provide more information to visitors about Fudge Point.

Picnic Shelters: Picnic shelters are constructed for a variety of reasons. They serve as central nodes of activity for school groups to gather, weddings, and for public and family events. Sometimes larger scale shelters include electricity, water, and tables as amenities. On the other hand, shelters can be smaller in scale and provide protection of a single picnic table. Both scales could be appropriate at Fudge Point.

Other: Over time, other facilities not described in this report may be required to operate the park. This is why creation of a master plan is the key next step in the development of Fudge Point. All future proposals will be reviewed for applicable environmental regulations.

Overnight Facilities

Camp Host Site: A camp host site allows volunteers to spend extended lengths of time at Fudge Point. The benefit of a volunteer is immeasurable. They make visitor contact, aide park rangers, and monitor the park. Volunteers sometimes engage in various operational tasks with park rangers.

Campground: This report recommends a small-scale campground similar in scale to Jarrell Cove, about 25 camp sites. A small campground is appropriate for the overall size of the park and allow for a wider range of state residents to enjoy the park. The campsites will include electrical hookups to accommodate RV access. Camping will be limited to the uplands, away from the water and ravines, to ensure protection of the property’s wild character and views of the park as seen from the water.

Cabins: A small number of cabins would allow visitors who do not have camping equipment the ability to experience the park. Cabins also provide the potential for revenue generation.
Administrative Facilities

Note: Administrative facilities will be scaled to meet the level of intensity of day-use and overnight development. For example, a day-use facility may not require a visitor contact station or other administrative buildings such as a shop/garage or vehicle yard. On the other hand, if an overnight facility is built, there will be justification for a greater staff presence and as a result administrative buildings in support of these uses are appropriate.

Visitor Contact Station: A facility such as this serves the dual purpose of housing park office space and as a single point to provide information.

INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Fudge Point, located on Puget Sound’s Case Inlet, provides low bank access to the water while offering outstanding views of Mount Rainier and the Kitsap Peninsula. Today, the beach appears wild and undeveloped with driftwood embedded into the beach, encircling a brackish lagoon system that abuts the steep hillside behind it.
This beautiful location, however, is also home to successful aquaculture activities occurring on adjacent, privately owned tidelands. For example, Taylor Shellfish Company farms geoduck north and east of the point. Northwest of the Fudge Point property, private landowners in Harstine Island’s Ballow community also have commercial shellfish growing operations that farm geoduck and oysters.

This report recommends development of an interpretive plan that educates visitors about the many resources and recreational opportunities at Fudge Point to ensure no harm to this commercial operation and to promote respect for natural systems and resources.
Appendix A

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS LAND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Washington Administrative Code Establishing Land Classification System

WAC 352-16-020 Land classification system. State park areas are of statewide natural, cultural, and/or recreational significance and/or outstanding scenic beauty. They provide varied facilities serving low-intensity, medium intensity, and high intensity outdoor recreation activities, areas reserved for preservation, scientific research, education, public assembly, and/or environmental interpretation, and support facilities. They may be classified in whole or part as follows:

(1) Recreational areas are suited and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use, conference, cultural and/or educational centers, or other uses serving large numbers of people.

(2) Resource recreation areas are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use.

(3) Natural areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological value while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses.

(4) Heritage areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features, and traditional cultural properties, which are of statewide or national significance.

(5) Natural forest areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses, and which contain:
   (a) Old-growth forest communities that have developed for one hundred fifty years or longer and have the following structural characteristics: Large old-growth trees, large snags, large logs on land, and large logs in streams; or
   (b) Mature forest communities that have developed for ninety years or longer; or
   (c) Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.

(6) Natural area preserves are designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are registered and committed as a natural area preserve through a cooperative agreement with an appropriate natural resource agency pursuant to chapter 79.70 RCW and chapter 332-60 WAC.

WAC 352-16-030 Management within land classifications. (1) The director shall develop management guidelines for each land classification listed in WAC 352-16-020. The guidelines shall provide specific direction for each classification, outlining the philosophy of each classification, its appropriate physical features, location, allowed and prohibited activities, and allowed and prohibited developments. (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow uses that are otherwise prohibited, nor prohibit uses that are otherwise expressly allowed, by the commission, this code, or by statute.
# Land Classification Management Guidelines
## Recreation Areas

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<td>Washington State Parks Recreation Areas</td>
<td>State Parks Recreation Areas are suited and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use, conference, cultural and/or educational centers, or other uses serving large numbers of people.</td>
<td>State Parks Recreation Areas are to respond to the human needs for readily available areas for outdoor recreation and facilities to congregate for education, artistic expression and other ennobling pursuits. They are to provide a variety of outdoor recreational, educational, artistic, and cultural opportunities to large numbers of participants. Primary emphasis is on the provision of quality recreational services and facilities with secondary recognition given to protection of the areas natural qualities.</td>
<td>State Parks Recreation Areas physiographic features such as topography, soil type, drainage, etc., shall be adaptable to varied types of intensive uses and development. An attractive natural setting is desirable, however, human-made settings are acceptable. There are no specific size criteria.</td>
<td>State Parks Recreation Areas generally are made not found. They shall be located throughout the state with primary emphasis to service major centers of urban populations and/or outstanding recreational tourist attractions. Scenic and inspirational values shall be considered but are secondary to the site adaptability and population criteria. When part of a large diverse park, recreation areas should be sited in proximity to public roads and utilities.</td>
<td>State Parks Recreation Areas may allow and provide for a wide variety of indoor and outdoor day, weekend and vacation activities. Provision may be made for high intensity participation in camping, picnicking, trail use, water sports, winter sports, group field games, and other activities for many people. Off-trail equestrian and/or bicycle use may be appropriate in selected areas if approved by the commission. Activities requiring high levels of social interaction are encouraged.</td>
<td>State Parks Recreation Areas shall provide appropriate facilities and services for the participation and enjoyment of high concentrations of outdoor recreationists and/or participants in indoor educational, cultural and artistic activities. A high degree of development is anticipated. Facilities may include road and parking networks, swimming beaches, full service marinas, trails, bathhouses, artificial lakes and pools, play fields, large sanitary and eating facilities; standard and utility campgrounds, stores, picnic grounds, group shelters, conference centers, environmental learning centers, hostels, and administrative support facilities.</td>
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### Land Classification Management Guidelines

**Resource Recreation Areas**

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<td>Washington State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</td>
<td>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium- and low-intensity recreational use.</td>
<td>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas are sites where the high quality of a particular natural or cultural resource or set of such resources is the lure for human recreation. Thus, the rationale for recreation is based on the value of attractive natural or cultural resources. Management of these areas must stress the centrality of preserving the quality of the natural and cultural resources while allowing appropriate and sustainable levels of human use and enjoyment.</td>
<td>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas have a variety of physiographic features. While they may contain areas of environmental sensitivity, most portions of each area will be able to withstand low- to medium-intensity recreation use without significant environmental degradation.</td>
<td>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas may be located anywhere in the state where natural or cultural factors produce land and water sites particularly suited for recreation in a natural setting. Access to these sites should be reasonably proximate to major urban centers, but some access restriction may be necessary to avoid overuse of resources. Within large diverse parks, these areas should be located at least a moderate distance from public roads and high use intensity areas, while still maintaining reasonable public access for their intended use.</td>
<td>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas provide opportunities for low- and medium-intensity recreational experiences including, but not limited to, picnicking, primitive camping, a variety of recreational trail experiences, interpretive facilities, historic/cultural exhibits, nature observation, photography, orienteering, kayaking, canoeing, floating, and fishing. Off-trail equestrian and/or bicycle use may be appropriate in selected areas if approved by the commission. Basketball, tennis, organized group sporting activities requiring formal sports fields, commercial-sized piers and docks, standard and utility camping, indoor accommodations and centers, developed swimming areas, and other similarly intense uses are not appropriate. Scientific research is permitted.</td>
<td>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas development shall be permitted to the extent necessary to serve allowed activities. Parking, sanitary facilities, and other ancillary developments and support facilities should be constructed in a manner that is consistent with the site's ability to manage environmental change.</td>
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Land Classification Management Guidelines
Natural Areas

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<td>Washington State Parks Natural Areas</td>
<td>State Parks Natural Areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological value while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses.</td>
<td>State Parks Natural Areas are to respond to the human need for readily available &quot;conservatories&quot; of nature and open spaces. Emphasis is directed toward nature and the conservation of native flora and fauna, special geologic or paleontological resources, and the natural amenities of the area. Human wants for other than naturally existing educational and recreational opportunities are considered secondary to nature's requirement for the sustained maintenance of its natural balances, or the preservation of special geologic or paleontological features.</td>
<td>State Parks Natural Areas have a variety of topography and features to provide a diversified natural environment with interesting but not necessarily unique flora and fauna, or geologic or paleontological features. Where classification is based on biological considerations, sites should consist of land areas large enough to maintain natural biological processes in a nearly undeveloped state and provide users with a feeling of solitude and tranquility, and an opportunity to view nature in its &quot;uncontrolled&quot; form. They may be partially or wholly on land, subterranean, or part of the marine environment.</td>
<td>State Parks Natural Areas are not &quot;made&quot;, but rather currently exist due to historical circumstances that have resulted in little or no human interference in the natural environment. Those areas most desirable in terms of physical features and size usually are &quot;found&quot; and &quot;held&quot; against creeping encroachments and raising land values. They often become over used and &quot;lost&quot; as populations spread around them. As a part of the overall system, these areas should be geographically spread throughout the state. When classifying specific park areas, consideration must be given to the ability to adequately manage the areas against undesirable human encroachment.</td>
<td>State Parks Natural Areas provide opportunities for outdoor recreation on designated trails. Those trails may be developed and used only to the extent that they do not significantly degrade the system of natural processes in a classified area. Hiking, non-groomed cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or other trail uses of similar impact to natural systems and providing a compatible recreational opportunity, may be permitted, after consultation with appropriate local, state, federal and tribal resource management agencies, and upon a finding by the agency that such trails are not likely to significantly degrade natural processes. Relocation of existing equestrian, bicycle, Nordic track or other similar trails into a natural area may be permitted upon a finding by the director that such relocation is for the purpose of reducing overall resource impacts. All trails may be moved, redesigned, closed and/or removed upon a finding that their use is causing significant degradation to the system of natural processes. Technical rock climbing requires authorization by the commission. Off-trail use for nature observation, photography, cross-country skiing, harvesting of mushrooms and berries and similar uses are permitted to the degree that they do not significantly degrade natural processes. Scientific research is permitted.</td>
<td>State Parks Natural Area development shall be limited to facilities required for health, safety and protection of users and features consistent with allowed activities. Facilities to enhance public enjoyment shall be limited to primitive items such as trails, trail structures and minor interpretive exhibits. All improvements shall harmonize with, and not detract from, the natural setting. Parking and other trailhead facilities should be located outside of a classified area.</td>
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<td>Washington State Parks Heritage Areas</td>
<td>State Parks Heritage Areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of outstanding, unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features, and traditional cultural properties, which are of statewide or national significance.</td>
<td>State Parks Heritage Areas are designated to preserve and/or interpret selected areas or features for the education and enjoyment of the public, an area's intrinsic cultural value, and/or for scientific research.</td>
<td>State Parks Heritage Areas vary in size and physiographic makeup according to their location and reason for existence. Historic landscapes may require relatively large acreage while archaeological sites may be measured in square feet.</td>
<td>State Parks Heritage Areas usually are located where they are found or the feature exists. However, in some instances relocation or re-creation of artifacts, resources or facilities is possible. In these situations they may be located in appropriate settings and concentrated near major population centers and along primary travel routes.</td>
<td>State Parks Heritage Area activities shall generally be limited to those directly associated with the interpretation of the area or feature, and the education of the patrons. Picnicking, recreational trails, and other low- to medium-intensity recreation uses may be allowed if they do not detract from the principal purpose of the area, its setting, structures, sites and objects.</td>
<td>State Parks Heritage Area development shall generally be limited to that necessary for the protection and interpretation of the area or feature, and the education and safety of the patrons. Sanitary facilities, recreation trails, and picnicking facilities may be provided in a manner which does not detract from the aesthetic, educational or environmental quality of the area, its setting, structures, sites or objects, or, if applicable, its value for scientific research.</td>
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<td>Washington State Parks Natural Forest Areas</td>
<td>State Parks Natural Forest Areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses, and which contain: (a) Old-growth forest communities that have developed for 150 years or longer and have the following structural characteristics: Large old-growth trees, large snags, large logs on land, and large logs in streams; or (b) Mature forest communities that have developed for 50 years or longer; or communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.</td>
<td>State Parks Natural Forest Areas are places where human access to and interpretation of natural forest processes are limited to those activities and facilities that do not significantly degrade natural forest processes. Public access into these areas emphasizes appreciation of nature through experiencing nature. The principal function of these areas is to assist in maintaining the state's bio-diversity while expanding human understanding and appreciation of natural values.</td>
<td>State Parks Natural Forest Areas have a variety of topographic and vegetative conditions. They are generally large enough (300 or more acres) to contain one or more distinct and relatively intact vegetative communities. Smaller areas may be appropriate if representative of a unique or unusual forest community. Desirably, they are part of a large system of open space, wildlife habitat, and vegetative communities that provide a good opportunity for long-term ecosystem sustainability.</td>
<td>State Parks Natural Forest Areas may be located anywhere in the state where natural factors produce forest vegetative cover. These areas are not &quot;made&quot;, but rather currently exist due to historical circumstances that have resulted in little or no human interference in natural forest progression. As a part of an overall system, these areas should be geographically spread throughout the state, recognizing that maintenance of bio-diversity is one of the primary functions of their classification. When classifying specific park areas, consideration must be given to the ability to adequately manage the areas against undesirable human encroachment.</td>
<td>State Parks Natural Forest Areas provide opportunities for outdoor recreation on designated recreation trails. Those trails may be developed and used only to the extent that they do not significantly degrade the system of natural forest processes in a classified area. Careful design of recreation trails should match intended uses, to maintain consistency with the purpose and philosophy of the classification. Hiking, non-groomed cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or other trail uses of similar impact to natural systems and providing a compatible recreational opportunity, may be permitted, after consultation with appropriate local, state, federal and tribal resource management agencies, and upon a finding by the agency that such trails are not likely to significantly degrade natural forest processes. Relocation of existing equestrian, bicycle, Nordic track or other similar trails into a natural forest area may be permitted upon a finding by the director that such relocation is for the purpose of reducing overall resource impacts. All trails may be moved, redesigned, closed and/or removed upon a finding that they are causing significant degradation to the system of natural forest processes. Technical rock climbing requires authorization by the commission. Off-trail use for nature observation, cross-country skiing, photography, harvesting of mushrooms and berries and similar uses are permitted to the degree that they do not significantly degrade natural forest processes. Scientific research is permitted.</td>
<td>State Parks Natural Forest Areas development shall be limited to facilities required for health, safety and protection of users and features consistent with allowed activities. Facilities to enhance public enjoyment shall be limited to trails, trail structures, and minor interpretive exhibits. All improvements shall harmonize with, and not detract from, the natural setting. Parking and other trailhead facilities should be located outside of a classified area.</td>
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APPENDIX B

The following maps reference the Stage 2 document that presented alternatives for the long-term boundary and land classifications. Detailed information on the previous stage can be viewed on the State Parks planning website. The maps represent low, medium, and high intensity. The maps found in the Stage 3 document represent a merging of the best ideas into a single set of maps.
Appendix C

FUDGE POINT STATE PARK PROPERTY—CULTURAL RESOURCES STUDY FOR A CLASSIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (CAMP) PROCESS AND POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AREAS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON