

Larrabee State Park Management Plan



WASHINGTON STATE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



CAMP
Washington State Parks
Classification and Management Planning Project

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CONTACTS

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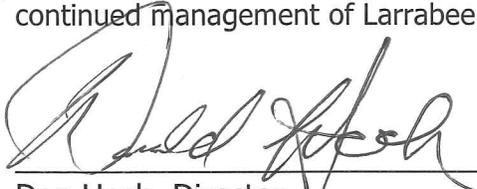
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LARRABEE STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Certificate of Adoption

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PREFACE

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (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.

In October of 2003, the Commission adopted the Centennial 2013 Plan to focus the agency, state leadership, and the public on improving Washington's state park system as it turned 100 years old and prepared for another century of service. The Centennial 2013 Plan blended public and private funding, engaged more partnerships and created greater public ownership of the park system. One of the central goals of the Centennial 2013 Plan was to work towards all parks having land-use plans supported by the public and the Commission, but when the economic crisis lead to budget downturns, progress on developing these plans slowed.

In 2014, planning for our state parks continues as part of the agencies adopted Transformation Strategy. The Transformation Strategy is intended to align agency philosophy, set general

direction, and provide a conceptual framework for transforming the agency to a new business model during the next decade.

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. One of the most important elements of the CAMP process is the classification of lands. In 1995, the Commission adopted a land classification system. Application of the system creates zones, or land classifications, within a park. Six distinct classifications determine appropriate recreational use and development in different areas of the park. In general, sensitive areas are classified restrictively and allow only low-intensity uses and development of minor facilities. Less sensitive areas are classified to allow higher-intensity uses and more extensive facilities development.

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 Transformation Strategy 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.

SUMMARY

Larrabee State Park is located ten miles south of Bellingham on Chuckanut Drive, which is a popular scenic highway with dramatic views of Samish Bay. Chuckanut Drive has been formally designated as a Washington State Scenic Byway. Larrabee is Washington's first state park. The Larrabee family donated 20 acres of land to the state in 1915 for purposes of creating a park. The park was initially called Chuckanut State Park but was officially renamed in honor of the Larrabee family in 1923. The park has a number of historic structures, including a band shell, three picnic shelters, two historic restrooms and an entry arch sign. The park has 8,100 feet of saltwater shoreline and 2,748 upland acres, which provide an extensive trail system, as well as opportunities for boating, fishing, camping, bird watching and many other recreational activities. Elevation in the park extends from sea level along the shoreline of Samish Bay to 2000 feet at the Cyrus Gates Overlook. There are two freshwater lakes in the park, Fragrance Lake and Lost Lake. Larrabee shares adjacent land ownership with the Department of Natural Resources, Whatcom County, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. These publically owned lands provide recreation opportunities and have trail systems that extend beyond individual boundaries. The *Blanchard Forest and Chuckanut Mtn Trail Systems* map (Figure 2) shows Larrabee's relationship to these neighboring public lands.

The development of the Larrabee State Park Classification and Management (CAMP) plan began in December 2013 with the assembly of an internal State Parks planning team comprised of park, region, headquarters and other specialized staff. In January 2014, the first CAMP public meeting was held. Public outreach for the planning process was extensive and included outreach to state legislators, state agencies, and elected officials from the City of Bellingham, Whatcom County and Skagit County, along with their corresponding Parks and Recreation

departments. Tribal outreach included formal letters to the Lummi Nation, Nooksack Tribe, the Samish Nation, the Upper Skagit Tribe, and the Swinomish Tribe. Additional public input was solicited through two additional public meetings, a Larrabee CAMP website, and distribution of meeting information and updates through a park email list.

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. Table 1 provides a summary listing of the park issues that were identified during the planning process.

The plan is divided into six sections with appendices and is organized as follows:

- Section 1: Provides a brief overview of the park 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 park.
- Section 3: Outlines the management objectives established for the park.
- Section 4: Describes the park's land classification (management zoning) and long-term park boundary.
- Section 5: Lists natural, cultural, and recreational issues and facility resource issues identified through the public planning process and outlines general approaches toward addressing them.
- Section 6: Provides a reference list of past documents and plans that have been prepared for the park.

Table 1: Summary of Larrabee State Park Issues

<p>Natural Resource Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Protection of natural plant and animal communities · Water quality · Protection of Lost Lake and Fragrance Lake · Hazard tree management · Marine nearshore bedlands
<p>Cultural Resource Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Management of historic structures · Protection of cultural resources · Listing on National Register of Historic Places
<p>Recreational Resource Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Camping · Trail use and development · Volunteer groups · Cleator Road · Viewsheds · Development of interpretive opportunities · Boat launch at Wildcat Cove · Americans with Disability Act (ADA) issues · Pedestrian crossing over Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railway · Promotion of special events · Concessions · Playground and related facilities · Swimming · Signs and park information

Section 1: Park Description

Location: Larrabee State Park is situated in Skagit and Whatcom counties, with the majority of the park located in Whatcom County. The park is approximately 10 miles south of Bellingham on Samish Bay and is accessed via State Highway 11 (also known as Chuckanut Drive).

Land Area: The current ownership includes 2,748 upland acres, 8,100 linear feet of saltwater shoreline, and 6,700 feet of freshwater shoreline on Fragrance and Lost Lakes.

Jurisdiction: Most of Larrabee State Park is located within unincorporated Whatcom County. The southern extent of the park is located in Skagit County.

Park Name: Larrabee State Park became Washington’s first state park in 1915 when the Larrabee family donated 20 acres of land for the specific purpose of developing a park. The

park was initially named Chuckanut State Park, but in 1923 the park name was changed to Larrabee State Park in honor of the Larrabee family and their land donation.

Current Staffing: Staffing includes a Park Manager, Park Ranger, Park Ranger (seasonal), a Construction and Maintenance Project Lead, and seasonal Park Aides.

Acquisition History: Larrabee came to its current size of 2,748 acres through 26 land transactions between 1915 and 1995. The first large acreage acquisition came in 1937 with the transfer of 1,300 acres by the Pacific Realty Company. In 1955, 500 acres were purchased from the Larson Logging Company. Additional large acreage acquisitions include 580 acres in 1993 from the Department of Natural Resources, and 200 acres from Trillium Corporation between 1993 and 1995.

Facilities: Current facilities include 67 picnic sites, a railway underpass to the beach, 280 parking spaces, a two-lane boat launch ramp, three mountain viewpoints, ten trail footbridges, approximately 15 miles of trail, 10 miles of roads, four comfort stations, four vault toilets, one contact station, 51 standard campsites, 8 walk-in campsites, 26 trailer hook-up campsites, three overflow campsites, a group camp for up to 40 people, two residences, two reservable picnic shelters with capacities of 50 and 100 persons, one shop/garage building, a bandshell, and a membrane bioreactor (MBR) sewage system.

Water: The park is bordered on the west by Samish Bay, and includes 8,100 feet of saltwater shoreline. The park contains two freshwater lakes; Fragrance Lake and Lost Lake, which have a total of 6,700 feet of shoreline. There are significant wetlands associated with Lost Lake.

Plants: Based on a 2005 field survey¹, 20 vegetation community types and 18 primary plant associations were identified within the park. Much of the park is covered by dense second-growth forest and wetland vegetation. "California oatgrass - common woolly sunflower grassy balds" is the rarest and most threatened plant association in the park and it is of statewide significance. The wetland community plant types in the park are also relatively rare.

Wildlife: The following species occur within Skagit and Whatcom counties and may be present within the park: bald eagle (no known nests within the park), marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, deer and elk. Nearshore marine environments include Chinook salmon and Bull trout.

Zoning: For the northern portion of the park, the Whatcom County zoning designation is *Public Recreation*. For the southern portion of the park within Skagit County the zoning designation is *Public Open Space of Regional/Statewide Importance*.

Shoreline Master Program Designation: Rural Conservancy in Whatcom County and Conservancy in Skagit County.

Historical and Cultural Preservation: No known archaeological sites occur within the park. The park has a number of historically significant structures including a bandshell, three picnic

¹ Smith, H.M. IV, P.H. Morrison and D. Visalli. 2005. Rare Plant and Vegetation Survey of Larrabee State Park. Pacific Biodiversity Institute, Winthrop, Washington. 201p.

shelters, two historic restrooms and an entry arch sign. These historic structures are not currently registered on state or national historic registers. A 1993 Masters Thesis² documents the presence of log chutes from the late 1800s and early 1900s within the park.

Utilities: Water is provided by the City of Bellingham, and the park operates and maintains its own membrane bioreactor (MBR) sewage treatment facility.

Business Development: No business development activities are currently occurring within the park. A business plan was prepared for the park in 2009.

Interpretation: Volunteer interpretation occurs intermittently within the park, but no formal interpretive programming exists. Interpretive panels at Cyrus Gates Overlook provide an explanation of the view at this scenic overlook. The park does not have an interpretive plan.

Activities: Recreational activities that occur in the park include, but are not limited to, camping, hiking, mountain biking, trail-running, horseback riding, fishing, beach access, climbing, and geo-caching. The Cyrus Gates scenic overlook and trailhead is located at 1,400 feet and provides views west over Lummi Island and the northern San Juan Islands. A lower viewpoint at the last switchback on Cleator Road provides views of Lookout Mountain and Mount Baker.

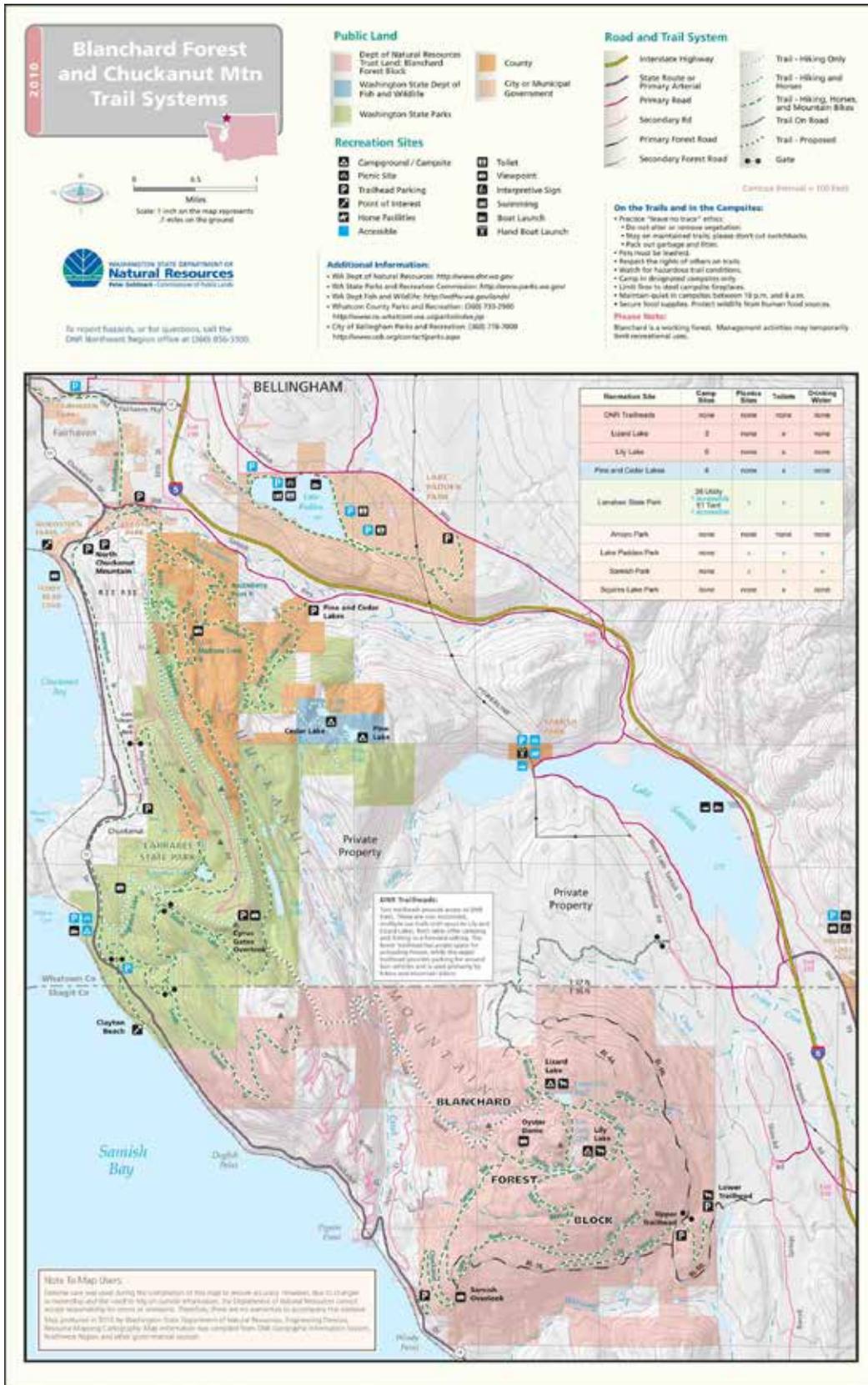
Attendance: The annual visitation total in 2013 was 514,543.

² Davis, David H. Log Chutes on the Industrial Frontier. A Case Study of Chuckanut Mountain, Whatcom County, Washington. A Thesis Presented to the Faculty of Western Washington University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts. April 1993.

Figure 1: Larrabee State Park vicinity map



Figure 2: Blanchard Forest and Chuckanut Mtn Trail Systems



Section 2: Park Planning Process

For each planning project, the agency assembles a planning team. The internal 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 provides information on current and past planning projects throughout the state.

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 and, in this case, a trail plan.

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. These issues were identified during a January 16, 2014 public meeting held at the Fairhaven Public Library in Bellingham. Invitations to the public meeting were provided to nearby landowners, elected officials, and interest groups. Responses from users and workshop attendees were posted on the State Parks website.

Stage Two – Exploring alternative approaches

The planning team developed two alternative approaches to address the issues and concerns raised in stage one. No preferred alternative was established; rather, this was an opportunity to examine and understand the range of possibilities. Larrabee's alternatives included one that focused on protecting natural and cultural features, and one that focused on enhancing recreation opportunities. Each of the alternatives had different long-term boundary (LTB) proposals with one proposing a larger LTB and one a smaller LTB. These alternatives were reviewed during an April 15, 2014 public meeting held at the Fairhaven Public Library in Bellingham. The *Skagit County Herald* published a news article on the planning process. Responses from users and workshop attendees were posted on the State Parks website.

Stage Three – Preparing preliminary recommendations

Based on feedback from the second public meeting, the best ideas from the alternative approaches developed in stage two were combined into a preliminary plan. The preliminary plan included recommendations for land classifications and the use of park lands, the long-term boundary, and ways to address issues identified during the planning process. The preliminary plan was presented at a June 4, 2014 public meeting held at the Fairhaven Public Library in Bellingham.

Stage Four – Preparing final recommendations

Final adjustments were made to the preliminary recommendations based on feedback received at the third public meeting. On July 24, 2014, these final recommendations were submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval of the land classifications and long-term boundary. Members of the public were encouraged to attend the Commission meeting and provide testimony or written comment. Trail planning will occur as the next step in the process.

The planning process also incorporated 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 was used to prepare an environmental

checklist describing the environmental effects of enacting the plan. Based on this information, the agency issued a formal SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) on June 16, 2014. The DNS was distributed for a two-week public comment period.

Section 3: Management Objectives

Management objectives serve to define the vision and purpose of each state Park. They must be consistent with laws, policy, and the mission statement of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

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.

Likewise, the March 2013 *Transformation Strategy* gives guidance and provides a vision for the desired future as the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission begins its second century of service:

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.

The following overall management objectives have been developed to provide direction for Larrabee State Park management:

Natural Resources:

- Encourage park activities that protect and promote improved marine water quality.
- In coordination with local, state, federal, and tribal governments, interested groups, and universities; identify, protect, and interpret native plant and animal communities and the ecological functions they perform.
- Model responsible stewardship in the management of natural resources.

Cultural Resources:

- Identify, evaluate and protect Native American archaeological sites and traditional cultural practice areas.
- Identify and protect historic and cultural properties and landscapes.
- Model responsible stewardship in the management of cultural and historic resources.

Recreational Resources:

- Provide for a wide and diverse range of outdoor trail, recreational experiences, and land uses that preserve the natural character of the park and are compatible with cultural resource management objectives.

- Provide an array of quality day-use and overnight facilities and services that are compatible with natural and cultural resource management objectives.
- Provide opportunities for a variety of trail-based uses that are compatible with natural and cultural resource management objectives.
- Identify trail standards and maintain safe trail conditions for all users.
- Develop and maintain effective orientation information through trail signage, rules and conditions.
- Provide a full range of accessible park experiences and opportunities for park visitors with disabilities.

Park Boundary

- Identify a long-term boundary and develop a management plan that establishes priorities for land acquisition, surplus, easements, and a variety of cooperative management approaches with nearby park neighbors, including the Department of Natural Resources, Whatcom County, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Community Partnerships:

- Engage community participation and partner with stakeholder groups to implement park management objectives including trail development and events.
- Support the community in forming and maintaining a park Friends Group.
- Work with local and state governments, tribal groups, and non-profit organizations to support regional open space and regional trail connections.
- Work to establish a relationship with Western Washington University that assists in accomplishing park management objectives.

Interpretation and Environmental Education:

- Use interpretation as a tool to enhance visitor experience, understanding, and stewardship of natural, historical, and cultural resources.
- Provide year-round interpretive and outdoor learning programming and opportunities.
- Maximize use of the bandshell for community events and Folk and Traditional Arts programming.

Park Enterprise and Optimization:

- Provide visitor services through public/private partnerships and other entrepreneurial programs that are compatible with other park management objectives.
- Use methods such as surveys and public outreach to understand the specific preferences and recreational needs of the Larrabee State Park user.

SECTION 4: PARK LAND CLASSIFICATIONS AND LONG-TERM 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 Classification

A central part of CAMP involves zoning, or classification, of park lands. State Parks has developed a system of six land classifications. When assigned to a specific area within a park, each classification sets an appropriate intensity for recreational activity and development of facilities. Classifications align along a spectrum, ranging from low to high-intensity land uses. By classifying park lands, the agency is able to consciously achieve a balance between protecting park resources and providing a variety of recreational opportunities for park visitors.

State Parks' land classification system includes six classifications: Natural Area Preserves, Natural Areas, Natural Forest Areas, Resource Recreation Areas, Recreation Areas, and Heritage Areas.

Based on an analysis of facility needs and the existing natural resource base, staff recommends that the Commission classify Larrabee State Park as a combination of *Recreation, Resource Recreation, Natural, and Heritage Area* as described below and shown on the map in Figure 3.

- Classify approximately 62 acres within the current park boundary as Recreation area allowing for medium to high-intensity uses. Recreation areas include the park's existing developed campground, RV campsites, and group camp, as well as a potential camping expansion area on the east side of Chuckanut Drive, north of the existing park office. Also included as Recreation area are the park's administrative area office and shop, the Lost Lake Trailhead, the Cyrus Gates Trailhead, the existing park residences, and the sewage treatment facility.
- Classify approximately 2,668 acres within the current park boundary as Resource Recreation area allowing for low to medium-intensity uses. The Resource Recreation classification provides a balance between protection of natural and cultural resources and recreation opportunity. Uses in this classification are limited to multiple-use trails, primitive camping, composting or vault sanitary facilities and other low to medium-intensity uses. The proposed Resource Recreation area classification allows existing hiking, mountain biking, trail running, equestrian, and other trail-based activities to continue, and provides the opportunity for additional trail-based recreation. The Resource Recreation classification would also permit a primitive camping site at Lost Lake.
- Classify approximately 10 acres as Heritage area to ensure that future modifications maintain historical integrity consistent with existing historic buildings and structures. There are a total of seven buildings and structures that are considered historically significant, including the bandshell, three picnic shelters, two comfort stations, and the entrance arch. All are located on the west side of Chuckanut Drive, in the day use area.
- Classify approximately 7 acres as Natural area to protect the rocky bald located in the northern portion of the park. This designation limits recreational activities to pedestrian trail uses, interpretive signing, and other low-intensity uses.

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. One of the purposes of delineating a long-term boundary is to take a big-picture look at lands surrounding the park that, independent of ownership, may advance the conservation and recreation mission of the park. Additionally, the long-term park boundary is used to identify surrounding lands with which State Parks would like to advance shared management goals. The long-term park boundary 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 cooperative management or potential land transactions. Transactions may range from simple agreements, to recreation and conservation easements, and sometimes even to agency purchase of property.

Since land frequently changes hands, the agency uses delineation of a long-term boundary to set its long-term property planning goals. 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 the 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 value, be used as an indication of their willingness to sell, or be used as a basis for making state or local government regulatory, permitting, or zoning decisions.

For properties included within a long-term boundary, any of a number of possibilities may apply. State Parks 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
- Consider purchase of a private property in fee

Staff recommends that the Commission establish a long-term park boundary for Larrabee State Park, as described in Figure 3.

At Larrabee, properties have been included in the long-term park boundary (LTB) to promote consistent management, and to allow the potential for future alternative land management or ownership scenarios between State Parks, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and Whatcom County. The proposed LTB for Larrabee State Park includes the following areas:

- Beginning at the south end of the park, the long-term park boundary includes DNR land with trail opportunities that can be accessed from Larrabee. Also included is the 80-acre privately owned Westergreen property which provides opportunities for trail connections as well as views of Samish Bay.

- Moving north on the east side of the park, approximately 550 acres of private timberland are included to facilitate an improved trail connection between Larrabee and DNR's Blanchard Mountain.
- Continuing north, the LTB includes the DFW-owned Cedar Lake and Pine Lake parcels, and also encompasses the trailhead that leads to these lakes. The trails leading to Cedar and Pine Lakes traverse State Park owned lands. The inclusion of these DFW lands in the LTB reinforces the need for cooperative management between DFW and State Parks.
- Moving north along the east side of the park the LTB includes undeveloped private property north and west of the existing Whatcom County-managed Pine and Cedar Lakes trailhead. These private lands have similar forest resources to neighboring park properties and the potential exists to achieve shared management goals.
- Continuing across the top of the park, the LTB includes Whatcom County-owned land that has an existing trail system with connections to trails in Larrabee.
- In the northern portion of the existing park, a number of smaller private parcels that are completely surrounded by public land are included within the proposed LTB.
- The immediate marine waters adjacent to the park shoreline are included so that the park can work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish a mutually beneficial management scenario for these aquatic bedlands.

Most of the land outside of the current agency ownership but within the long-term park boundary is proposed to be classified as Resource Recreation, aside from a small portion of the rail line adjacent to the campground, which is proposed to be a Recreation area. Figure 3 delineates the long-term boundary where darker-shaded colors indicate properties already in agency ownership and lighter-shaded colors indicate properties not in agency ownership, but desirable for long-term boundary inclusion.

Figure 3: Larrabee State Park Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary



SECTION 5: PARK ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

This section of the document outlines the principle natural, cultural, and recreation/facility resource issues identified by the public and staff during the CAMP process, and suggested management approaches to address them. As in any real world situation, some issues do not neatly fit into any one of these three categories, while others may span more than one. Some license has been taken for the sake of consistent presentation. Addressing these issues will, in almost all cases, involve park staff working with Regional Stewardship, Environmental, and Planning staff. Additional stakeholder involvement is anticipated. All management actions will be consistent with the laws and policies governing the agency, in addition to all federal, state, and local regulations. As the issues and their management approaches are addressed in the future, associated materials (e.g., inventories, plans, monitoring records) will be added as appendices to this document.

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.

Natural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Protection of natural plant and animal communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage park resources consistent with Natural Resources Management Policy 73-04-1 <i>Protecting Washington State Parks Natural Resources</i>. • Classify sensitive areas, specifically the existing rocky balds within the park, as Natural Areas to provide increased protection. • Prevent unnecessary fragmentation of contiguous habitat blocks to preserve habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors. • Participate with regional workgroups and adjacent land owners to maintain habitat connectivity. • Work with the Whatcom County Noxious Weed Board, the local native plant society, and volunteers to develop and implement an integrated invasive species and pest management plan. • 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. Remove invasive species as part of development projects.
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the Department of Ecology, Whatcom County Health Department, the Surfrider Foundation and other partners, investigate and if possible, eliminate the source of bacterial contamination that is impacting Wildcat Cove and associated marine areas. As of 2014, raccoon and dog feces are the primary source of contamination and management to control this impact is occurring.
Protection of Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classify Lost Lake and Fragrance Lake as Resource Recreation to prohibit intensive recreational development.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include Pine and Cedar Lakes in the long-term boundary. • Enhance and protect riparian buffers.
Hazard Tree Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 campgrounds, trailheads and parking areas.
Marine Nearshore Bedlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish a mutually beneficial management scenario for the aquatic bedlands adjacent to park ownership.

Cultural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Management of Historic Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classify the developed footprint in a portion of the day use area as a Heritage Area, including the bandshell, the three picnic shelters, the two depression-era comfort stations and the entrance arch bases. As of December 2014 the original entrance arch has been removed. It is in storage and can be reassembled. • Prepare a cultural resources management plan to determine appropriate treatments for all historic features.
Protection of cultural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to develop a partnership with higher education institutions and tribal government to identify potential archaeological sites. • Complete site-specific cultural resource surveys for areas that will be disturbed due to development. • Consult with region environmental specialists before beginning any ground-disturbing activity. • 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.
Listing on National Register of Historic Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the potential to nominate portions of the Larrabee cultural landscape for listing on the National Register.

Recreational Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Camping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve drainage on sites #10-15 to prevent flooding in spring. • Investigate the potential to expand the number of campsites by providing a camping opportunity on the east side of Chuckanut Drive in part to locate camping away from railway noise. • Provide primitive backcountry camping at Lost Lake. • Consider opportunities to add cabins. • Work with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Company to explore the possibility of reduced train whistle use during campground quiet hours.
Trail use and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with trail and recreation use groups to complete a trail plan that includes but is not limited to hiking, trail running, mountain biking, and equestrian use. • Continue to permit pedestrian trail use (including hiking and trail running)

	<p>in the park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to permit mountain bike and equestrian trail use in Recreation and Resource Recreation areas of the park. • Continue to permit geocaching and letterboxing, consistent with agency directive 06-01 <i>Geocaching, Letterboxing and Related Activities in State Park Areas</i>. • Seek to link with regional trail systems, including the Interurban Trail and adjacent trail systems managed by Whatcom County and the Department of Natural Resources. • Work with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources and Whatcom County to establish a regional, long-distance loop trail. • Work with the Department of Natural Resources and private property owners to create a Chuckanut-to-Blanchard trail connection. • As part of the overall trail planning process, work with user groups to create a multi-use trail extension for the Double Black Diamond trail that connects with Lost Lake Trailhead and/or the Interurban Trail. • As part of the overall trail planning process, work to re-route the Overlander Trail. • Require that trails be built to either Forest Service or International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) trail standards. • Although multi-use trails are preferred, consider single-use trails as a mechanism to promote safe trail use and reduce user conflict (i.e. for mountain bike or equestrian use). • All technical rock climbing, including activity taking place along the Lost Lake trail and in the boat launch area, must occur consistent with agency policy and Washington Administrative Code (WAC) chapter 352-32-085. • Work closely with trail and user groups to discourage unauthorized trail building and to repair or eliminate unauthorized trails that have been built in the past. • Educate trail users regarding trail use rules through signage and active participation with local and statewide trail use groups. • As part of the trail planning process, consider renaming Rock Trail since it is a commonly used trail name. • Look for opportunities to provide easier trails to accommodate use by beginners, children, families and older park users. • Work to install non-slip surfacing on bridges and walkways. • Work to address culvert issues at south Lost Lake and Fragrance Lake road cutoff trail.
Volunteer Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local partners to form an official park friends group. • Continue to coordinate with local recreational user groups to assist with trail construction and maintenance. • Continue to work with the Surfrider Foundation to provide interpretive walks on the beach and guided watershed walks. • Promote volunteer events that assist with invasive plant species removal and weed control. • Provide volunteer activities in conjunction with events such as Earth Day.
Cleator Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Cleator Road maintained and operational for access to Cyrus Gates

	<p>Trailhead and viewpoints and to facilitate access to trail-based recreational opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As an alternative to a State Parks owned grader, pursue a cooperative relationship with Whatcom County for the maintenance of Cleator Road. • Work to secure a grader, or access to a grader, to improve the park's ability to maintain Cleator Road. Consider pursuing a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant for purchase of a grader and a brush hog. • Work to complete road resurfacing and drainage improvement including culverts.
Viewsheds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every five to ten years provide viewshed clearing at the Cyrus Gates Trailhead and at the Mount Baker viewpoint by the last switchback on Cleator Road below Cyrus Gates Trailhead. Viewshed clearing last occurred in 2014.
Development of Interpretive Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey and identify interpretative themes that promote the natural and cultural heritage of the park, including environmental education coordination with interested local partners. • Work to complete an interpretive plan with associated inventory of interpretive resources and potential themes. This plan should organize a network of interpretive opportunities based on circulation systems and their proximity to significant interpretive resources and/or story points. • In cooperation with local partners, develop an interpretive sign plan focused on the geological history of the Rock Trail. • Develop interpretive and event programming for the 2015 centennial. • Work with private and public partners to design interpretive media and activities that educate about nearshore habitat and the nexus between water quality and shellfish health. Continue the current program with the Surfrider Foundation.
Boat Launch at Wildcat Cove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lengthen the existing boat launch and improve the grade to provide a better user experience. • Look for opportunities to improve kayak launching at the Wildcat Cove boat launch. • Develop a plan to provide improved coordination of traffic at the boat launch during high-traffic fishing seasons.
ADA Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to ensure that existing and new facilities are accessible to people with disabilities, and that the park is ADA compliant including an ADA compliant trail from Lost Lake parking lot to the Interurban trail.
Pedestrian Crossing over BNSF Railway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a priority project, work to secure funding for a pedestrian crossing over the BNSF railway on the Clayton Beach trail, along with related trail and road crossing improvements.
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to address parking and pullout issues along Chuckanut Drive, including Discover Pass enforcement and signage. • Work with WSDOT to provide an improved pedestrian crossing between the Lost Lake Trailhead parking lot and the trail system on the west side of Chuckanut Drive. • Provide additional parking for horse and llama trailers at Lost Lake trailhead that includes horse-friendly items such as hitching rails and an accessible mounting ramp.

Promotion of special events (e.g., festivals, race events and weddings) and Concessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market the park for weddings and other special events. • Include park shelters and the park bandshell on the reservation system. • Coordinate with partners to develop folk and traditional arts opportunities in addition to community events. • Work with community groups to encourage use of the bandshell for concerts and other music events. • Consider private concessions such as kayak and bike rentals and guiding services. • Consider having a camp store that provides souvenirs and camping amenities. • Consider holding additional interpretive events at the bandshell. • Work towards creating a Friends Group to assist with coordinating bandshell events.
Playground and Related Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide and maintain the existing playground equipment in the day use area. • Check the depth of the wood fiber surfacing below the play structure two times a year to ensure that it maintains adequate fall protection and replenish as necessary. • Provide additional water fountains in the park. If feasible, operate them year-round. Select fountains that are accessible for people with disabilities, and that also provide water for pets.
Swimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look to clarify swimming regulations and swimming safety through improved signage.
Signs and Park Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide improved maps at trailheads and trail directional signs that are consistent with accessibility guidelines for outdoor developed areas. Include maps and information at trailheads and on the State Parks website. • Work to provide trail signage that is coordinated and consistent with adjacent land management agencies. • Regularly update event information on the park website. • Consider providing a "gpx" format trail map that can be uploaded by users in their GPS units.

SECTION 6: 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 Larrabee State Park are listed below.

- 1942 Larrabee Master Plan map
- 1972 Master Plan Report for Larrabee Recreation Area

- 2004 Rare Plant and Vegetation Survey Larrabee State Park
- 2009 Larrabee State Park Business Plan

[END]