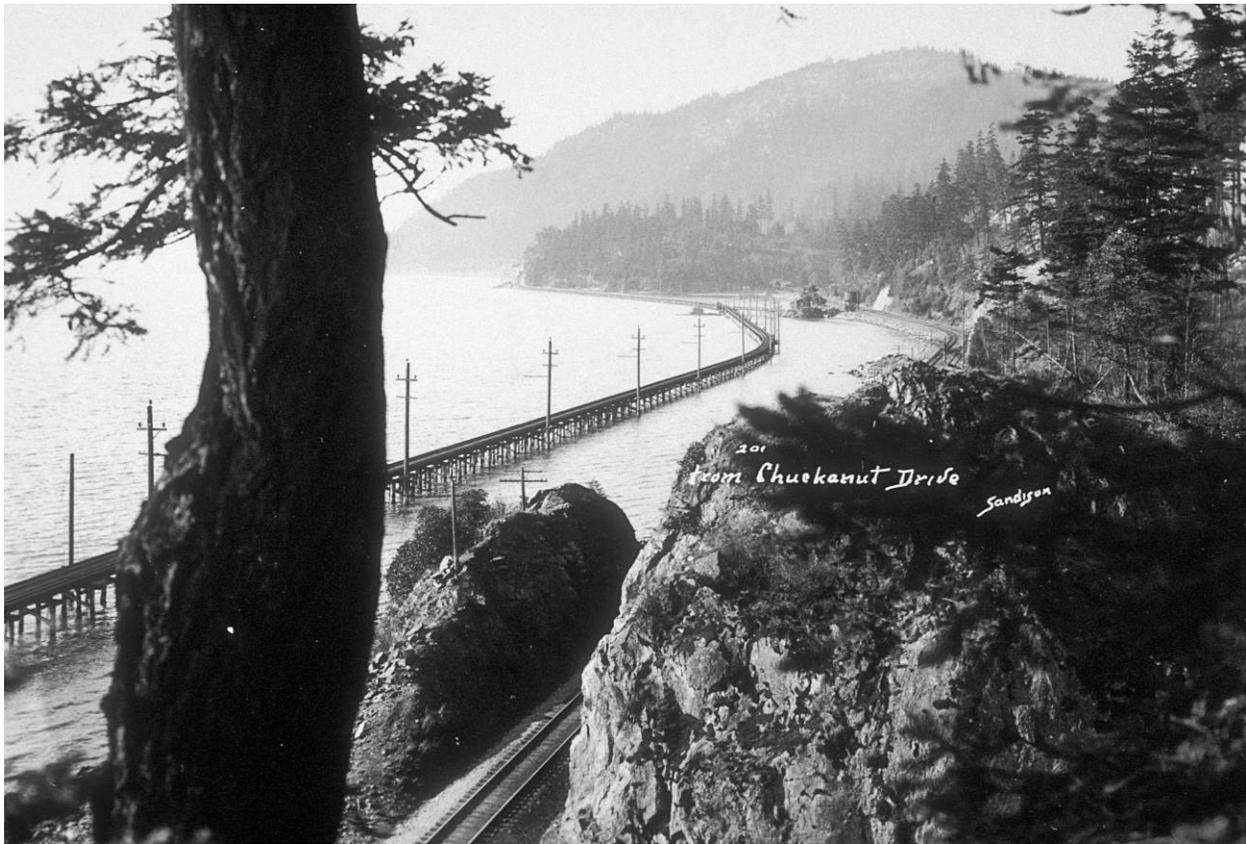


# Larrabee State Park Classification and Management Planning (CAMP) Project



## Stage 3 – Preliminary Recommendations June 10, 2014



WASHINGTON STATE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



**CAMP**  
Washington State Parks  
Classification and Management Planning Project

## Preface

Washington State Parks is in the final stages of a land-use planning project for Larrabee State Park. The planning project, also known as Classification and Management Planning (CAMP), sets appropriate land uses, delineates long-term property boundaries, and addresses resource management and recreation issues identified by the public and park staff. This document presents preliminary recommendations for land classification, long-term boundary, and management of Larrabee State Park.

During the first stage of planning, public and staff participants identified a host of issues facing this park. In the second stage, the agency planning team developed alternative approaches in response to identified issues. Now for the third stage, drawing upon public input, we have incorporated the best ideas from each alternative into a single preliminary plan. The planning team will present these preliminary plan recommendations for public input at a workshop scheduled for June 4, 2014, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, at the Fairhaven Public Library in Bellingham.

Written follow-up comments are encouraged and should be sent to Randy Kline, Project Lead, at [larrabee.planning@parks.wa.gov](mailto:larrabee.planning@parks.wa.gov) or mailed to: Washington State Parks, Attn: Randy Kline, PO Box 42650 Olympia, WA 98504-2650. We anticipate requesting final adoption of the Larrabee land classification and long term boundary at the Commission's regularly scheduled July 24, 2014 meeting in Bellingham.

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## Introduction

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) manages a diverse system of over 100 parks located throughout the state. Growth in population and the popularity of outdoor recreation has increased pressure on the agency to provide recreational opportunities while continuing to preserve the unique natural and cultural resources under its management.

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.

Planning for our parks continues as part of the agency's 2013 *Transformation Strategy* which can be accessed on the State Park's website at

<http://www.parks.wa.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/304>

## Planning Process

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 park boundary, and a park management plan.

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 at: <http://www.parks.wa.gov/268/Planning-Public-Input>.

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; the agency's seven-member governing board; formally adopts land classifications and long-term park boundaries and the Director approves a finalized park management plan. Standard planning stages include:

### **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.

### **Stage Two – Exploring alternative approaches**

At this stage, the planning team suggests potential alternative approaches to address the various issues and concerns raised in stage one. No preferred alternative is established; rather this is an opportunity to examine and understand the range of possibilities. These alternatives were reviewed during an April 15, 2014 public meeting held at the Fairhaven Public Library in Bellingham.

### **Stage Three – Preparing preliminary recommendations**

In this stage, the best ideas from the alternative approaches developed in stage two are combined into a preliminary plan. The preliminary plan includes recommendations for use and development of park lands, changes to property boundaries, and ways to address issues identified during the planning process. The preliminary plan will be discussed at a June 4, 2014 public meeting to be held at the Fairhaven Public Library in Bellingham.

### **Stage Four – Preparing final recommendations**

At stage four, final adjustments are made to recommendations and submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval. The public is encouraged to attend the Commission meeting and provide testimony or to provide written comment.

### **State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review**

The planning process incorporates the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) to identify the potential environmental effects of agency actions. Information gathered during the planning process will be included in a checklist describing the environmental effects of enacting the plan. The agency will use this as the basis to make a formal determination regarding potential environmental impacts.

## **Preliminary Recommendation - Land Classification**

A central part of CAMP involves zoning, or classification, of park lands. State Parks has developed a system of six land classifications: *Recreation Areas*, *Resource Recreation Areas*, *Natural Areas*, *Heritage Areas*, *Natural Forest Areas* and *Natural Area Preserves*. 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 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 identify specific activities and facilities permitted in each classification. The complete land classification system and management guidelines are included in Appendix A.

## **Preliminary Larrabee Land Classification**

Larrabee State Park is located approximately ten miles south of Bellingham on Chuckanut Drive (State Route 11) which is a popular highway with dramatic views of Samish Bay. Chuckanut Drive has been formally designated as a *Washington State Scenic Byway*. The park has 8,100 feet of saltwater shoreline and 2,683 upland acres which provide an extensive trail system as well as opportunities for boating, fishing, bird watching and many other recreational activities. 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 traverse individual ownership. The *Blandchard Forest and Chuckanut Mtn Trail Systems* map below shows Larrabee's relationship to these neighboring public lands.

Proposed land classifications for Larrabee are shown on the Preliminary Recommendation Map shown on page 7 below. Color-coding of land classifications are as follows:

- Recreation Area – Purple
- Resource Recreation Area – Blue

- Natural Area – Orange
- Heritage Area – Yellow

Half tones of these colors describe land classifications for lands that are not owned by State Parks, but are proposed for inclusion in long-term park boundaries to facilitate cooperative management. The heavy black line delineates existing State Park ownership.

#### Natural Areas

Proposed Natural Areas include the rocky bald area located in the northern portion of the park. This designation limits recreational activities to pedestrian trail uses, interpretive signing, and other low-intensity development.

#### Heritage Areas

The Heritage classification requires that modifications or additions not significantly affect historical integrity and that contemporary uses be allowed to the extent consistent with preservation and interpretation.

There are a total of seven buildings/structures that are considered historically significant in the park: the bandshell, three picnic shelters, two comfort stations, and the entry arch. All are located on the west side of Chuckanut Drive in the day use area. As proposed, the Heritage Area would encompass the two Depression-era comfort stations in the park - one by the bandshell and the second by the entrance arch - the arch itself, three picnic shelters and the bandshell.

#### Resource Recreation Areas

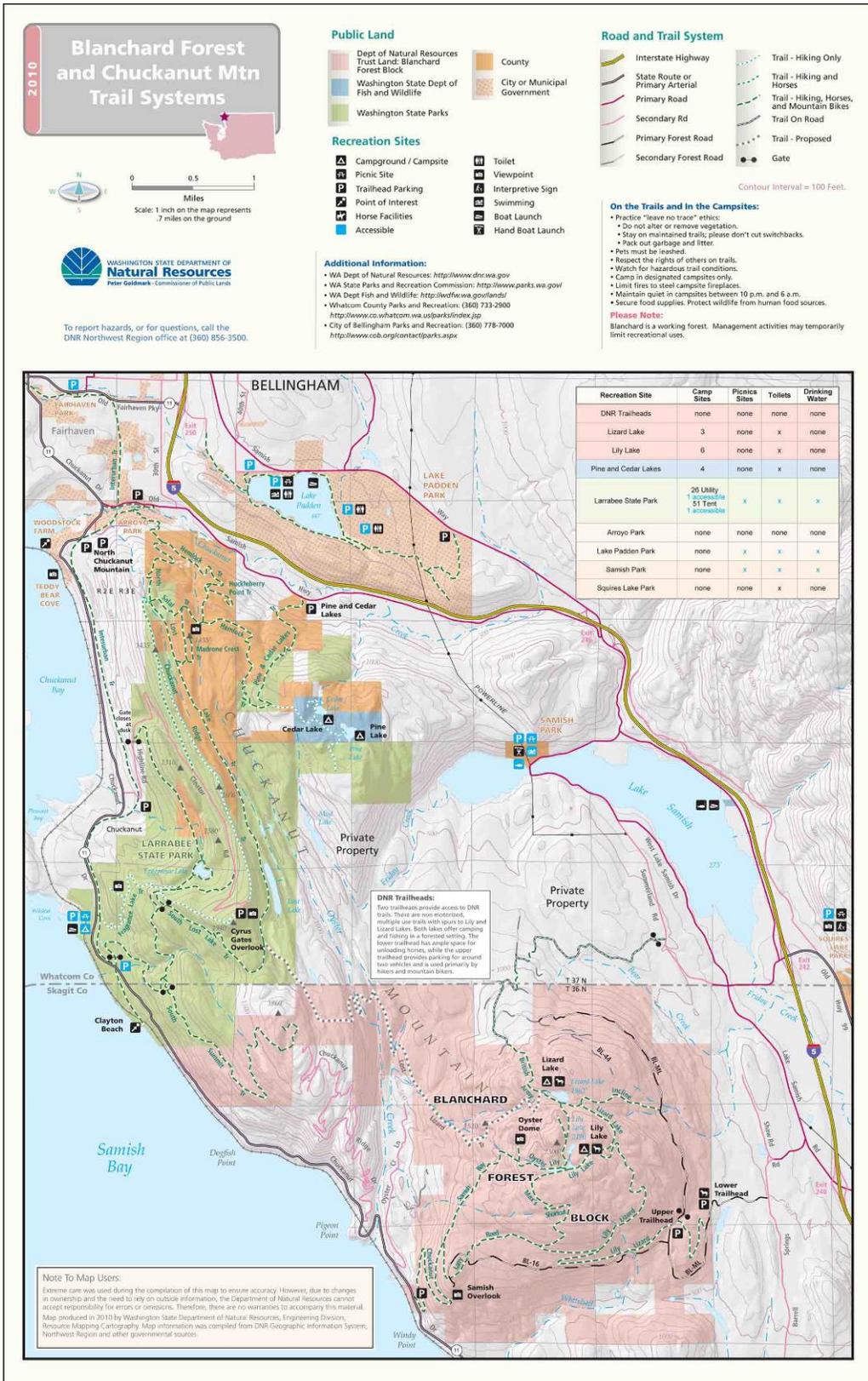
The Resource Recreation classification is intended to provide sustainable recreational use consistent with protection of natural and cultural landscapes. Recreation in these areas is generally limited to shared use trails, primitive camping and sanitary facilities, access roads, and other medium-intensity uses. The proposed Resource Recreation Areas 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.

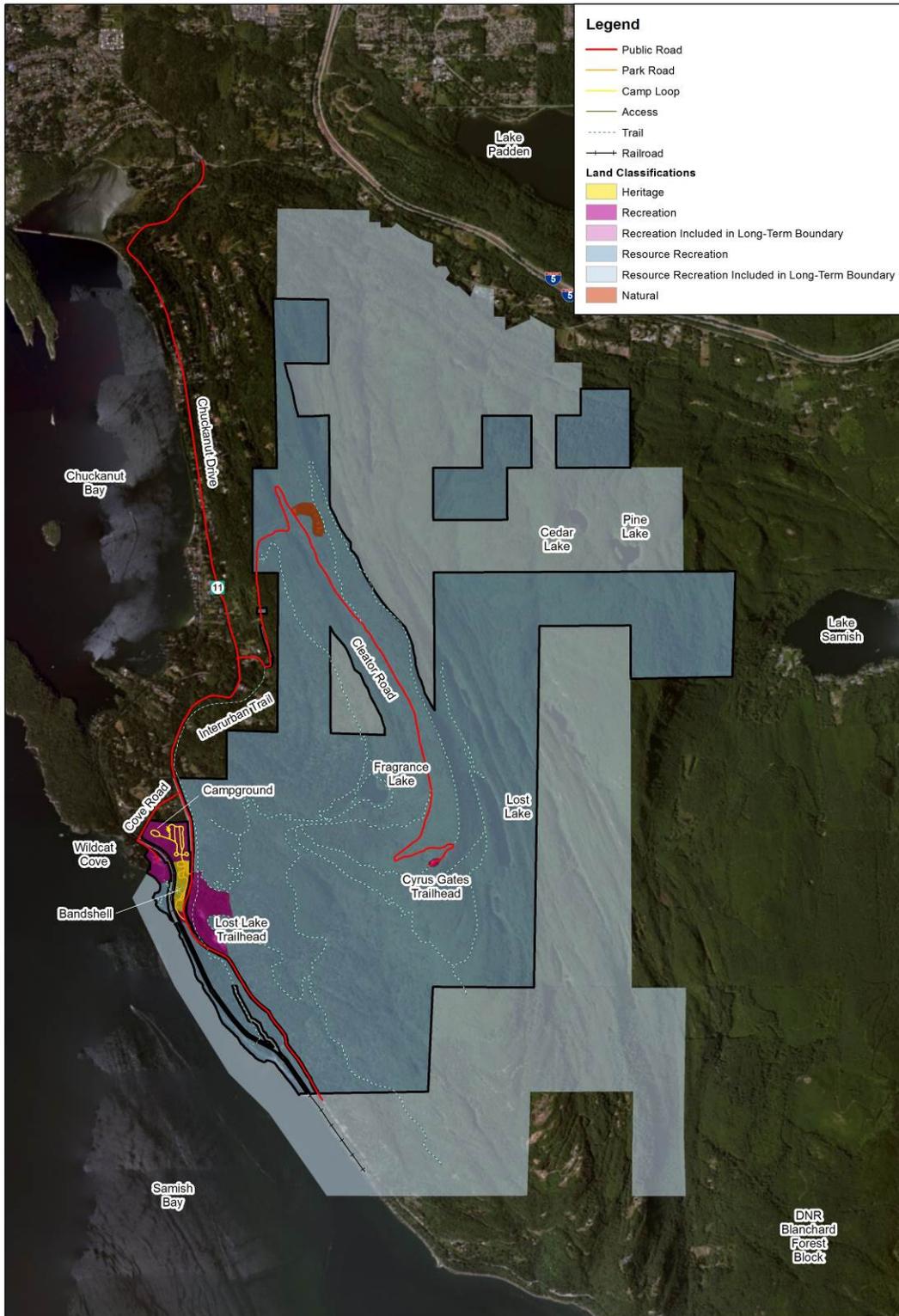
The majority of the park is proposed for designation as Resource Recreation. This includes the shoreline upland area on the west side of Chuckanut Drive with its associated beach access and the "mountain" portion of the park with its associated trail network east of Chuckanut Drive.

#### Recreation Areas

The Recreation classification allows for a wide variety of intensive recreational activities, as well as development of extensive recreational facilities and accommodations (e.g., campgrounds, cabins, picnic shelters, restrooms, and other supporting facilities). The proposed Recreation Area classification would also allow for an additional camping area at Larrabee State Park.

Proposed Recreation Areas include the park's existing developed campground, RV campsites, and group camp as well as a potential expansion area encompassing a portion of the park on the east side of Chuckanut Drive north of the existing park office. Also included are the park's administrative area (office and shop), Lost Lake Trailhead, the existing park residences, the sewage treatment facility and Cyrus Gates trailhead.





# Larrabee State Park Preliminary Recommendation



Larrabee State Park CAMP Project  
Stage 3 – Preliminary Recommendations

## Preliminary Recommendation - 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 a 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 achieve shared goals, to recreation and conservation easements, and sometimes even to agency purchase of property. Please note, if a landowner is not interested in participating, State Parks is unlikely to pursue the matter further.

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 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, 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.

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 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 area as shown on the Preliminary Recommendation map:

- 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.
- 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 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.

- Moving north along the east side of the park the LTB includes private property north and west of the existing Whatcom County managed Pine and Cedar Lakes trailhead.
- 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.
- Within the LTB area at the north end of the existing park, a number of smaller private parcels are included.
- The immediate marine waters adjacent to the park shoreline are included.

All land within the LTB is proposed to be classified as Resource Recreation.

## Preliminary Recommendation – 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. The purpose of this section is to present recommendations that address issues identified by staff and the public during previous stages of the planning process. This information will ultimately form the core of the Larrabee Park Management Plan. Please note that the sum total of all the preliminary recommendations represents a significant workload to staff, and may also create high expectations among 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 “to do list” that park management will prioritize and complete as financial and staff resources permit.

**Table 1: Summary of Key Issues**

Natural Resource Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of natural plant and animal communities</li> <li>• Protection of rare plant species including rocky balds</li> </ul>
Cultural Resource Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of existing cultural landscape</li> <li>• Potential listing on National Register of Historic Places</li> </ul>
Recreational Resource Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beach access from Lost Lake Trailhead via pedestrian overpass above the existing railway</li> <li>• Pedestrian safety along Chuckanut Drive (State Highway 11)</li> <li>• Potential campground expansion</li> <li>• Expanded trail use and development</li> <li>• Coordination of trail use among user types</li> </ul>

## Preliminary Park 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 which reads:

*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 regarding the desired future as the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission begins its second century of service stating that:

*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 properties and landscapes.
- Model responsible stewardship in the management of historical and cultural 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 and historical 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 ADA accessible park experiences and opportunities.

**Park Boundary**

- Identify a long-term boundary and 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.
- 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.
- Work to understand the specific preferences of the Larrabee State Park user.

## Larrabee State Park Natural, Cultural, and Recreational Issues and Management Approaches

<b>Natural Resource Issues</b>	
Issue	Management Approach – Preliminary Recommendation
Protection of natural plant and animal communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classify sensitive areas, including the existing rocky balds within the park, as Natural Area to provide increased protection</li> <li>• Manage the park in a manner that acknowledges the importance of habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors</li> <li>• Participate with regional workgroups to maintain habitat connectivity</li> <li>• Manage the park consistent with the recommendations from the 2004 <i>Rare Plant and Vegetation Survey of Larrabee State Park</i></li> </ul>
Fungi harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with agency-established harvest limits, work with local fungi experts to ensure sustainability of fungi harvest</li> </ul>
Commercial salal harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to prohibit commercial salal harvest activities unless part of a specific plan to accomplish some resource conservation or stewardship purpose</li> </ul>
Protection of Eagle Nests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park staff will work internally with the Stewardship Program to implement current United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) management standards for known nest locations</li> </ul>
Protection of rare plant species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with park stewards and local plant experts to identify and protect rare plants in the park including the rocky balds</li> </ul>
Invasive plant species (e.g. holly, ivy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Whatcom County Noxious Weed Board, park stewards, the local native plant society, and volunteers to develop and implement an integrated invasive species and pest management plan</li> </ul>
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the Department of Ecology, Whatcom County Health Department and other partners, investigate and eliminate the source of bacterial contamination that is impacting Wildcat Cove and associated marine areas</li> </ul>
Protection of Lost Lake and Fragrance Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with local and state land use regulations, provide protection for Lost Lake and Fragrance Lake</li> </ul>
Wildfire prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As necessary, coordinate with agency forestry specialists to develop a forest health plan that considers removal of ladder fuels where appropriate to protect neighboring properties and otherwise reduce the risk of wildfires</li> </ul>
Recreational shellfish harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to facilitate the opening of Wildcat Cove for shellfish harvest</li> <li>• Work with private and public partners to design interpretive media and activities that educate regarding nearshore habitat and the nexus between water quality and shellfish health</li> <li>• Continue to allow recreational shellfish harvest on park beaches consistent with WDFW harvest regulations</li> </ul>
Marine Nearshore Bedlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish a mutually beneficial management scenario for the bedlands adjacent to park ownership</li> </ul>

## Cultural Resource Issues

Issue	Management Approach– Preliminary Recommendation
Protection of Larrabee cultural landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classify developed footprint in day use area as a Heritage Area</li> <li>Prepare a cultural resources management plan to determine appropriate treatments for all historic features</li> </ul>
Protection of archaeological resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work to develop a partnership with higher education institutions and tribal interests to survey potential archaeological sites</li> </ul>
Listing on National Register of Historic Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the potential to nominate portions of the Larrabee cultural landscape for listing on the National Register</li> </ul>

## Recreational Resource Issues

Issue	Management Approach – Preliminary Recommendation
Camping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve drainage on sites #10-15 to prevent wetness in spring</li> <li>Investigate the potential to expand the number of campsites by providing a camping opportunity on the east side of Chuckanut Drive</li> <li>Provide a primitive campsite(s) at Lost Lake</li> <li>Investigate opportunities to change some existing campsites to cabins</li> </ul>
Trail use and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to permit pedestrian trail and overland uses throughout park</li> <li>Continue to permit mountain bike and equestrian opportunities in the park</li> <li>Seek to link with regional trails including the Inter-Urban Trail and adjacent trail systems</li> <li>Work with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources and Whatcom County to establish a regional, long-distance loop trail</li> <li>Work with the Department of Natural Resources and private property owners to create a Chuckanut to Blanchard trail connection</li> <li>Work with user groups to create a multi-use trail extension for the Double Black Diamond trail that connects with Lost Lake Trailhead or the Inter-Urban Trail</li> <li>As necessary, work to re-route the Overlander Trail</li> <li>Require that trails be built to either Forest Service or International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) trail standards</li> <li>Consider formation of an on-going user group entity to advise the park on trail and event related issues</li> </ul>
Volunteer Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with local partners to form a registered “Friends” group</li> <li>Continue to coordinate with local recreational user groups to assist with trail construction and maintenance</li> </ul>
Cleator Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep Cleator Road maintained and operational for access to Cyrus Gates Overlook viewpoints and to facilitate access to trail based recreational opportunities</li> <li>Provide periodic viewshed clearing at the Cyrus Gates Trailhead and the trailhead below Cyrus Gates trailhead</li> </ul>
Development of Interpretive Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider interpretative themes that include environmental education and park history in coordination with the interested local partners</li> <li>Work to complete an interpretive plan with associated inventory of interpretive resources and potential themes</li> <li>In cooperation with partners, consider the development of geological interpretive signs along the Rock Trail</li> </ul>
Boat Launch at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lengthen existing boat launch and improve the grade to provide a better user</li> </ul>

Wildcat Cove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>experience</li> <li>• Look for opportunities to construct a water trails site and/or provide a separate kayak launch area</li> <li>• Work towards improved coordination of traffic at the boat launch during high traffic fishing seasons</li> </ul>
ADA Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to ensure that existing and new facilities accommodate ADA access</li> </ul>
Pedestrian Crossing over BNSF Railway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 pedestrian crossing improvements</li> </ul>
WSDOT pullouts and parking on Chuckanut Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to address parking and pullout issues along Chuckanut Drive including Discover Pass enforcement and signage</li> </ul>
Promotion of special events (e.g., festivals and weddings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate to market the park for weddings and other special events</li> <li>• Include park shelters and potentially park amphitheater on the reservation system</li> <li>• Improve ADA access to band shell area</li> <li>• Coordinate with partners to develop folk and traditional arts opportunities in addition to community events</li> </ul>
Playground facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to provide and maintain existing playground facilities</li> </ul>

# Appendix A

## Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Land Classification System

### Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Establishing the 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

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
<p>Washington State Parks Recreation Areas</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>

## Land Classification Management Guidelines Resource Recreation Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
<p>Washington State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium- and low-intensity recreational use.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>

## Land Classification Management Guidelines Natural Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Natural Areas	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> are to respond to the human need for readily available "conservatories" of nature and open spaces. Emphasis is directed toward nature and the conservation of native flora and fauna, special geologic or paleontologic 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 paleontologic features.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> 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 paleontologic 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 "uncontrolled" form. They may be partially or wholly on land, subterranean, or part of the marine environment.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> are not "made", 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 "found" and "held" against creeping encroachments and raising land values. They often become over used and "lost" 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area</u> 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.</p>

## Land Classification Management Guidelines Heritage Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Heritage Areas	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Area</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Area</u> 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.</p>

## Land Classification Management Guidelines Natural Forest Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Natural Forest Areas	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> 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:</p> <p>(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 90 years or longer; or <input type="checkbox"/> U communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> are places where human access to and interpretation and enjoyment 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> may be located anywhere in the state where natural factors produce forest vegetative cover. These areas are not "made", 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> 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.</p>

## Land Classification Management Guidelines Natural Area Preserves

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
<p>Washington State Parks Natural Area Preserves</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> are sites where human access is limited to educational and scientific purposes. The principal function of these areas is to preserve natural ecosystems or geologic features of statewide significance. Public access for recreation must be subordinate to the principal function of the classification.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> have a variety of topographic and vegetative conditions. They are generally large enough (300 or more acres) to contain one or more distinct and intact ecological communities. Smaller areas may be appropriate if representative of a unique or unusual ecological community or geologic feature. They may be partially or wholly on land, subterranean, or part of the marine environment. 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> may be located anywhere in the state where natural ecological systems or significant geologic features exist. These areas are not "made", but rather exist due to historical circumstances that have resulted in little or no human interference in the natural system. As a part of an overall system, these areas should be geographically spread throughout the state.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> provide opportunities for scientific research and education about natural systems, geologic features, sensitive, rare, threatened or endangered species or communities. Recreational use of existing or relocated trails may be permitted, provided that it can be clearly demonstrated that such use does not degrade the system of natural processes occurring in the preserve. Otherwise, trails are limited to administrative, scientific and organized educational activities and uses. No other activities are permitted.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> development shall be limited to access facilities for permitted activities and structures to inhibit general public access. No other facilities or structures are permitted.</p>

### Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Facilities

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Amphitheater	P	C	C	N	N
Archery/Target Range	C	C	N	N	N
Camping - Std and Util	P	N	N	N	N
Camping - Primitive	P	P	C	N	N
Camping - Adirondack	P	C	N	N	N
Camping - Horse-oriented	C	C	N	N	N
Camping - Water Trail	P	P	C	N	N
Children's Play Area	P	C	C	N	N
Day Use Picnic - Tables	P	P	C	N	N
Day Use Picnic - Group Shelter	P	N	C	N	N
Day Use Lodges/Centers	P	N	C	N	N
Environmental Learning Centers	C	N	C	N	N
Equestrian Facilities	C	C	C	N	N
Fields - Informal Play/Mowed	P	C	C	N	N
Indoor Accommodations	P	N	C	N	N
Interpretive - Centers	P	N	P	N	N
Interpretive - Kiosks	P	P	P	C	N
Interpretive Trail	P	P	P	P	C
Interpretive - Signs	P	P	P	P	C
Parking - Vehicles	P	P	C	N	N
Roads	P	P	C	N	N

### Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Facilities (Continued)

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Sanitary: Comfort Stations	P	N	C	N	N
Sanitary: Composting/Vault	P	P	C	C	N
Sports Fields	C	N	N	N	N
Skiing - Alpine Facilities	C	C	N	N	N
Swimming Facilities	P	N	C	N	N
Trails - Hiking	P	P	P	P	C
Trails - Mountain Biking	P	C	C	N**	N
Trails - Equestrian	C	C	C	N**	N
Trails - Nordic Track Skiing	P	P	C	N**	N
Trails - C-C skiing	P	P	P	P	C
Trails - Snowmobile	P	C	C	N**	N
Trails - Paved non-motor	P	C	C	C	N
Water: Docks/Piers ≥ 10 boats	P	N	C	N	N
Water: Docks/Piers < 10 boats	P	P	C	C	N
Water: Launch Ramps	P	C	N	N	N
Water: Hand Launch Areas	P	P	C	C	N
Water: Mooring Buoys	P	P	C	C	N

P (Permitted) - Use permitted with normal agency design review

C (Conditional) - Use may be permitted, but conditioned to assure design is compatible w/purpose of land classification and abutting classification objectives.

N (Not Permitted)- Use not permitted.

NA - Not Applicable

\* All uses in a Natural Area Preserve must be specifically approved by the Park and Recreation Commission as part of a management plan.

\*\*Relocation of existing trails into a natural or natural forest area is permitted per WAC 352-32-070(3) and WAC 352-32-075(2)(b).

### Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Activities

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Farming/Orchards	C	C	C	N	N
Filming/Special Events	P	P	P	C	N
Grazing	C	C	C	N	N
Harvesting - Edible Fruiting Bodies	P	P	P	P	N
Harvesting - Mushrooms	P	P	P	P	N
Harvesting - Shellfish	P	P	P	P	N
Harvesting - Fish	P	P	P	P	N
Harvesting - Algae, etc.	P	P	P	P	N
Haying	P	P	P	N	N
Metal Detecting	P	P	C	N	N
Orienteering	P	P	C	N	N
Ocean Beach Driving	P	C	N	N	N
Off-Trail: Equestrian	C	C	C	N	N
Off-Trail: Hiking	P	P	P	P	N
Off-trail biking	C	C	C	N	N
Paragliding	P	P	C	N	N
Technical Rock Climbing	P	P	C	C	N

### Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Activities (Continued)

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Water: Jet Skiing	P	C	N	N	N
Water: Kayak/Canoeing	P	P	P	C	N
Water: Power Boating	P	C	N	C	N
Water: White Water Boating	P	P	C	C	N
Water: Sailing	P	P	P	C	N
Water: Skiing	P	C	N	N	N
Water: Swimming	P	P	P	P	N
Water: Wind Surfing	P	C	C	N	N
Winter: Alpine Skiing	C	C	N	N	N
Winter: C-C Skiing (off-trail)	P	P	P	P	C
Winter: Mushing/Sled Dogs	C	C	C	N	N
Winter: Snowshoeing	P	P	P	P	C
Winter: Snowmobiling (off-trail)	P	P	C	N	N
Wood Debris Collection	P	P	P	N	N

P (Permitted) - Use permitted with normal agency design review

C (Conditional) - Use may be permitted with Commission concurrence, but conditioned to assure compatibility w/purpose of land classification and abutting classifications.

N (Not Permitted)- Use not permitted.

NA - Not Applicable

\* All uses in a Natural Area Preserve must be specifically approved by the Park and Recreation Commission as part of a management plan.

\*\*Relocation of existing trails into a natural or natural forest area is permitted per WAC 352-32-070(3) and WAC 352-32-075(2)(b).