

COLUMBIA PLATEAU TRAIL STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

June 5, 2006



Washington State Parks Mission

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission acquires, operates, enhances, and protects a diverse system of recreational, cultural, and natural sites. The Commission fosters outdoor recreation and education statewide to provide enjoyment and enrichment for all and a valued legacy to future generations.



WASHINGTON STATE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



CAMP
Washington State Parks
Classification and Management Planning Project

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CONTACTS

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission gratefully acknowledges the many stakeholders and the staff of Columbia Plateau Trail State Park who participated in public meetings, reviewed voluminous materials, and made this a better plan because of if.

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**COLUMBIA PLATEAU TRAIL STATE PARK LAND CLASSES, RESOURCE ISSUES
AND MANAGEMENT APPROACHES**

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

The signatures below certify the adoption of this document by Washington State Parks for the continued management of Columbia Plateau Trail State Park.

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Date

Region Manager

Date

Deputy Director

Date

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PREFACE

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) manages a diverse array of 120 parks located throughout the state.

The Commission adopted the Centennial 2013 Plan in October, 2003, thereby creating a focus intended to energize and bring together the agency, state leadership and the public, to work toward a parks system all can celebrate as it turns 100 years old and prepares for a second century of service. The Centennial 2013 Plan blends public and private funding, engages more partnerships and creates greater public ownership of the system. An important goal for the Centennial 2013 Plan reads, "All 120 parks have land-use plans supported by the public and Commission (which includes the direction of care of historic buildings and sites and natural resources)."

These land-use plans follow a process that has been used by the Commission since 1996, called the CAMP Project. CAMP is an acronym for Classification and Management Plan. The modifications allow for a simplified and efficient process that can be used by a wider number of staff to complete all 120 plans by 2013.

The important elements of the CAMP project are retained. One of the most important elements 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 (see [Appendix A](#).) Six distinct classifications determine what recreational uses and types of developments are appropriate in different areas of a 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.

A CAMP brings together the customers, nearby community, stakeholders and State Parks staff in a public process that forges a common vision of what the state park should become (see [Appendix B](#): CAMP Project Planning Principles.) Through a public process that we believe to be as open as any, staff and public participants identify resource management issues and look at alternative approaches for addressing them. The outcome is this plan that will help focus all our efforts on balancing resource protection with recreational opportunities in a park. For State Parks' staff, this document represents policy approval and a means to create a state park that meets the Centennial 2013 Vision:

In 2013, Washington's state parks will be premier destinations of uncommon quality, including state and regionally significant natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources that are outstanding for the experience, health, enjoyment and learning of all people.

SUMMARY

This document is the result of a multi-staged planning process. The document is divided into six sections, with several appendices:

- Section 1: Provides a brief overview of the park including its geography, historical background, major attributes, and public use.
- Section 2: Describes both the agency's system-wide park management planning program and its specific application to this park.
- Section 3: Outlines management objectives established for the park.
- Section 4: Describes the park's land classifications (management zoning) and long-term park boundary.
- Section 5: Lists natural, cultural, and recreational/facility resource issues identified through the public planning process and outlines general approaches toward addressing them.
- Section 6: Lists other plans pertinent to this park.

Appendices contain additional supporting documentation pertinent to this plan.

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 natural, cultural, and recreation/facility management issues, and 3) provide initial direction to park staff (suggested management approaches) to address these issues. The ultimate purpose of this document is to describe how the agency intends to balance recreational use with measures to protect natural and cultural resources.

SECTION 1: PARK DESCRIPTION

Location: Columbia Plateau Trail State Park is located on the abandoned Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way between East Pasco (Ice Harbor Dam) and Fish Lake through the counties of Franklin, Adams, Whitman, Lincoln and Spokane beginning at milepost 235.0 near East Pasco and ending at milepost 365.0 near South Cheney, Washington. See [Figure 1](#): Columbia Plateau Trail State Park Vicinity Map.

Acreage: 4109 acres.

Acquired: Columbia Plateau Trail State Park was acquired through lease/purchase. 130 miles of right-of-way (surplused by the Burlington Northern Railroad Company) was acquired in 1991. State Park management of the trail began in 1992. The Bill of Sale was received June 12, 1995. Under rail banking, State Parks' use of the right-of-way is subject to restoration for rail purposes, with no state funds being lost.

Historical background: The rail bed was constructed by Jim Hill's Spokane, Portland, and Seattle Railway Company in the early 1900s. After being operated as a rail line for many years by Burlington Northern Company, the railroad right-of-way was surplused in 1987. When the initial rails-to-trails conversion occurred, the Port of Benton County asked and received permission to retain rail service from milepost 235 to 242. Trail features include geologic and historic points of interest, scenic vistas, and several potential public access areas. Evidence of basaltic lava flows, Pleistocene glaciation, and prehistoric mammals are found in the area. Remains of reservoirs, reservoir flumes, and homes of railroad employees and other developments are apparent along sections of the "trail". There are 5 tunnels along the trail, ranging from 200 feet to nearly ½ mile long (3 are concrete lined). There are also six steel viaducts (trestles) ranging from 800 feet to over 1/3 miles long, some of which are more than 200 feet high. The trail follows along the Snake River through the semi-arid channeled scablands from Franklin County to Lincoln County, then through the pine forests of the Turnbull Wildlife Refuge and Fish Lake (Spokane County). The Columbia Plateau Trail crosses the Milwaukee Road Railroad Corridor between Lamont and Benge, approximately 42 miles south of Fish Lake. Spokane County is presently interested in providing the connecting link between Fish Lake and the Spokane River Centennial Trail. The City of Cheney and Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission have an interagency cooperative agreement for development and some maintenance of approximately 4 miles of the right-of-way from Fish Lake to Cheney, including the ADA accessible 3.75 mile paved trail, parking lots, and access site.

Site Description: Currently, 23 miles of the trail between Martin Road (Lincoln County) and Cheney is developed and open for public use, with 3.75 miles ADA accessible and surfaced with asphalt. Generally, the rail corridor is 100 feet wide, with wider ownership widths, ranging from 150 to 500 feet, frequently occurring at community/service area stops and rail car storage areas. Several park resource inventories and other descriptive documents have been prepared for the park. Examples include the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife study assessing birds, animals and nesting sites, and a Washington State Department of Natural Resources rare plant study. [Appendix C](#): Listing of Columbia Plateau Trail State Park Resource Inventories and Other Descriptive Information includes references and locations where these documents are stored.

Facilities: 130 miles of railroad bed, 39 gates across trailheads, and seven CXT vault toilets.

Activities: Non-motorized recreation including sightseeing, hiking, bicycling, bird watching, nature viewing, study of geologic features, equestrian use.

Attendance:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Utility</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Day Use</u>	<u>Total</u>
2000			75,844	75,844
2001			162,313	162,313
2002			161,929	161,929
2003			183,055	183,055
2004			154,203	154,203

Interpretation: 1¼ -mile nature trail around the small, unnamed lake west of Columbia Plateau Trail, near the Cheney trailhead. Park staff also gives presentations concerning the trail to college classes, Rotary, Lions, and other civic groups.

Staffing:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Staff Months</u>
Ranger 3	12.0
Ranger 2	12.0
Ranger 1	12.0
C&M Project Specialist 1	12.0
Park Aide (north end)	6.0
Park Aide (Palouse Falls)	3.0

Figure 1: Columbia Plateau Trail State Park Vicinity Map

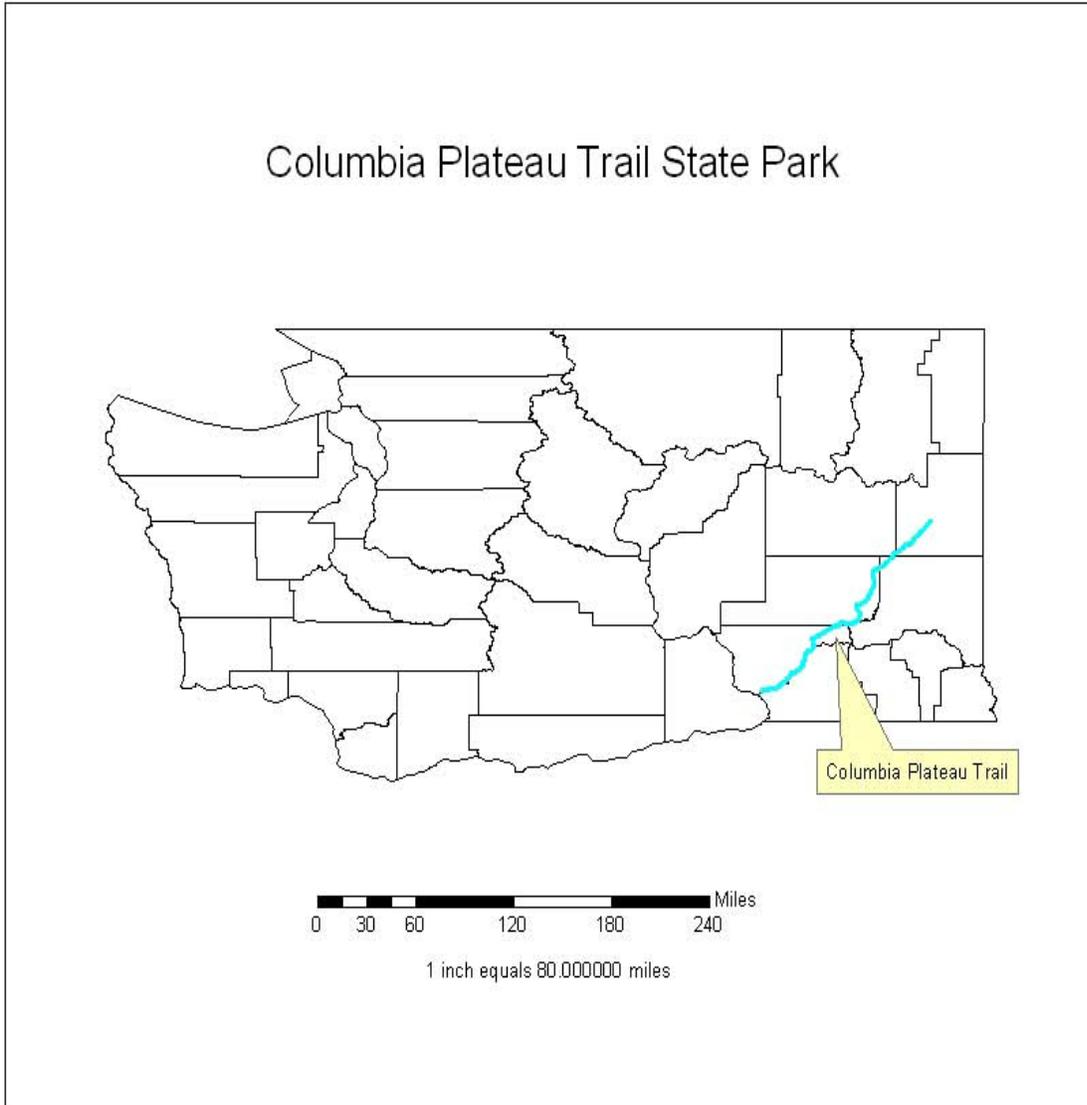


Table 1. Summary of Columbia Plateau Trail State Park Issues.

<p>Natural Resource Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Preservation of natural plant and animal communities (Page 15) ◆ Protection of wetlands and riparian areas (Benge and Cheney areas) (Page 16) ◆ Control of noxious weeds/exotic plant species (Page 17) ◆ Rattlesnakes (Page 18a) ◆ Protection of geologic features (Page 18b) ◆ Rockfalls and slides (Page 18c) ◆ Wildfire prevention/suppression (Page 19) ◆ Sanitation facilities and littering (Page 20a) ◆ Lake Sacajawea Bar gravel deposit (Page 20b)
<p>Cultural Resource Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Protection of cultural and historic railroad features (Page 20c)
<p>Recreational Resource Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Interpretation of park resources (Page 22a) ◆ Trailhead facilities (Page 22b) ◆ Campsite facilities along the trail (Page 23) ◆ Potable water (Page 24a) ◆ Recreational uses (Page 24b) ◆ Access to adjacent property (Page 24c) ◆ Hunter access and firearm control (Page 24d) ◆ Trespassing by trail users on private property and property boundary identification (Page 25a) ◆ Fencing (Page 25b) ◆ Tunnel safety (Page 26a) ◆ Trestle safety (Page 26b) ◆ Emergency response to injuries/cost of response (Page 27a) ◆ Park hours of operation and closures (Page 27b) ◆ Law enforcement and visitor safety (Page 27c) ◆ Consumption of alcohol (Page 28a) ◆ Potential community partnership and/or friends group projects (Page 28b) ◆ Connections to other trails/trail systems (Page 29a) ◆ Trail surface (Page 29b) ◆ City of Cheney wastewater (Page 29c) ◆ Park enterprise programs (Page 29d)

SECTION 2: PARK PLANNING PROCESS

Management planning at Columbia Plateau Trail State Park began in 1995 with the assembling of key agency staff to act as a core planning team. This team consisted of the Park Manager, Region Manager, Assistant Region Manager, headquarters Planning Program representatives, and a Natural Resource Stewardship Program representative. The planning team also consulted with a number of other agency technical specialists throughout the planning process.

The public participation process for Columbia Plateau Trail State Park began in February 1996 with a series of public meetings (held at Pasco, Washtucna, and Cheney in February and November 1996 and May 1998, and an open session at the June 1996 Commission meeting) to gather input to guide both the management plan and the master facilities development plan process. Separate public meetings were also held to discuss specific fencing issues. During these meetings, the planning team solicited comments on a preliminary park mission statement and park management objectives and led attendees through a process of identifying management issues facing the park. A questionnaire was also used to gauge participants' opinions concerning a variety of trail-related issues and concerns. Public input/review comments, plus staff discussions and refinements produced recommendations for land classifications, naming the park, and the facilities development master plan. The Commission adopted the land classifications, proposed park name, and the master plan at its June 12, 1998 meeting.

Due to other workload priorities, the Columbia Plateau Trail Management Plan was put on the "back burner" for a few years, so before finalizing this plan, another public meeting was held in Washtucna on June 1, 2005 to make sure that there were no additional issues that had been overlooked in the process.

This document has undergone extensive staff review and sign-off process prior to being accepted by the agency Deputy Director. In the future, park and region staff, through open houses and other public forums, will solicit stakeholder comments on the progress made towards addressing the issues presented herein and to assist staff in the identification of new emerging issues. The intent is to keep this document viable and up-to-date with changing and emerging issues that affect park management.

SECTION 3: PARK OBJECTIVES

During initial stages of planning, staff worked with stakeholders to craft a series of objectives to guide future management of the park. Management objectives are outlined in Table 2, below.

Table 2: Park Objectives

<p>Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Identify, protect, preserve, and interpret key natural resources of the park, including rare and high quality examples of vegetative communities, associations and species; important fish and wildlife corridors and habitat areas; and geologic formations related to ice age floods, volcanism, and tectonic upthrust.
<p>Cultural resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Protect, preserve, and interpret where appropriate the key cultural resources of the park, including Native American archaeological and cultural sites, sites and historic properties related to the original railroad corridor, and 19th and early 20th century agricultural properties.
<p>Recreational Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Provide for a wide range of non-motorized outdoor recreation opportunities including (where appropriate) primitive and equestrian camping, trails for equestrians, bicyclists and pedestrians, wildlife viewing, picnicking; and interpretive activities.
<p>Interpretation and Environmental Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Combine the resources and skills of State Parks with local and statewide organizations and individuals specializing in resource education, interpretation and curatorial services, to expand programs and facilities that promote Columbia Plateau Trail State Park as a major destination for environmental education and interpretation.
<p>Community Function</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Recognize the park's importance in the economic and social life of the Columbia Plateau area and continue to work actively with local government and other community-based organizations and interested parties to meet the needs of the local community, as well as the citizens of the State of Washington and visitors from around the world.
<p>Administrative Facilities and Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Draft an achievable plan for ongoing maintenance of the existing park infrastructure and development of the proposed facilities.
<p>Concessions and Park Enterprise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Enhance public services via revenue generating programs and projects that heighten the park experience for visitors, minimally impact park natural and cultural landscapes, and serve to increase park-generated income and thereby upgrade park fiscal capacity. Such enterprise efforts may include commercial facilities and programs, and off-site advertising.
<p>Long-Term Boundary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Identify a long-term boundary and property management plan that establishes priorities for land acquisition, surplus, easements, and a variety of cooperative management approaches with nearby resource managers and park neighbors.

SECTION 4: PARK LAND CLASSIFICATIONS AND LONG-TERM BOUNDARY

Land Classification

An important part of the planning for the Columbia Plateau Trail area involves the 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 are aligned along a spectrum ranging from low to high-intensity recreational uses and developments. By classifying park lands, the agency is able to consciously strike a balance between protecting park resources and providing an appropriate variety of recreational opportunities to park visitors.

The agency's land classification system includes six classifications: Natural Area Preserves, Natural Forest Areas, Resource Recreation Areas, Recreation Areas, and Heritage Areas. Detailed definitions of each land classification are available from the agency on request. Through critical analysis of natural and cultural resource inventories and evaluation of future recreational facilities needs, staff recommends that park lands be classified as shown in [Figure 2](#).

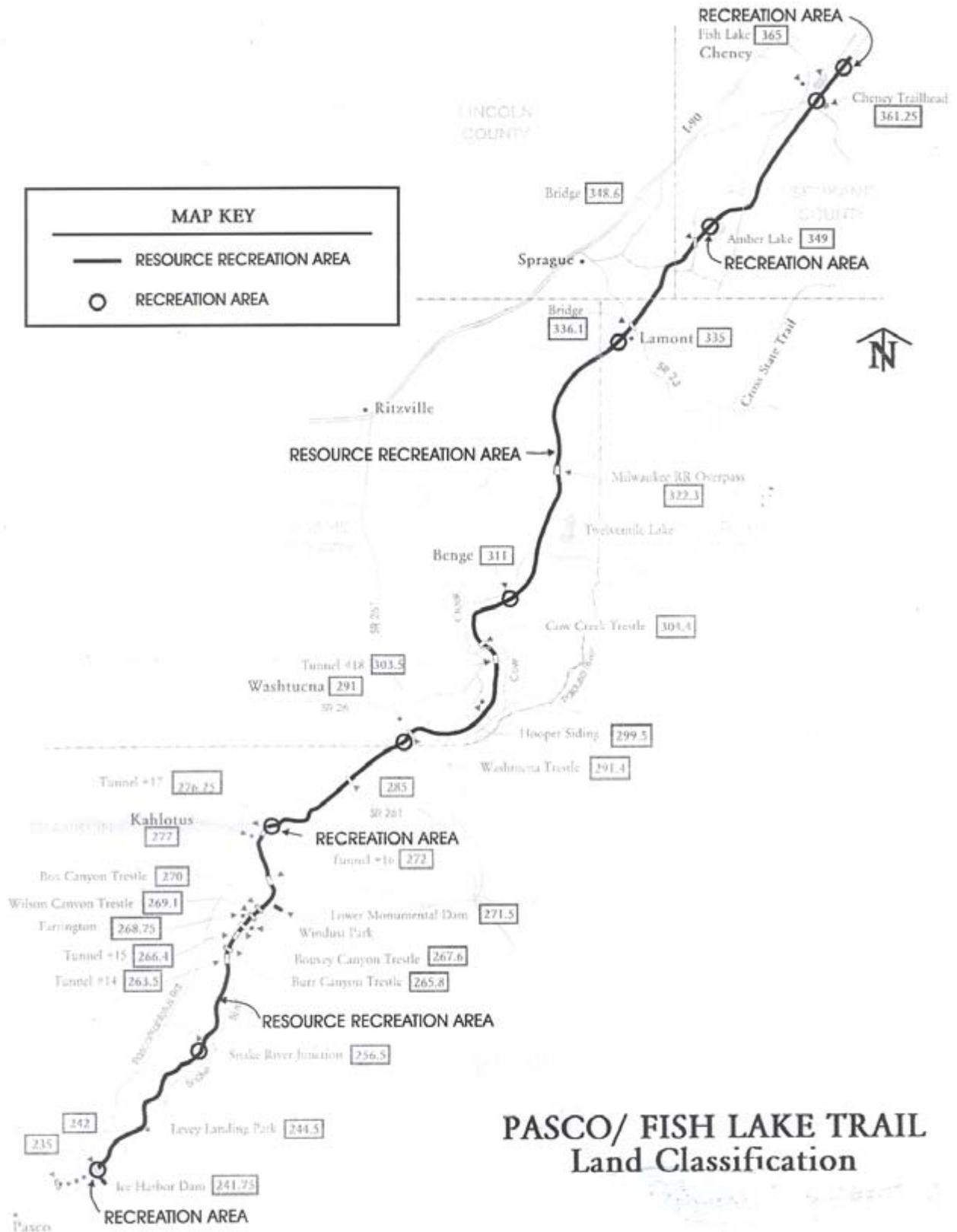
Long-Term Boundary

Delineation of long-term park boundaries is a relatively new and often misunderstood aspect of park planning. In short, the purpose of a long-term boundary is to take a big picture look at what lands, independent of ownership, might advance the conservation and recreation mission of the park. This process not only considers whether an adjoining property would make a suitable addition, but also considers whether agency-owned property should be retained or might appropriately be considered surplus to park needs. Including a privately owned property in a long-term boundary does not necessarily mean the agency wants to purchase it. It simply means that it would be in the park's best interest if the property were managed/maintained in condition that complements development and operation of the park. Any of the following possibilities could apply:

The agency might:

- Seek to formalize an agreement with an adjacent property owner to advance a shared property management goal.
- Solicit a conservation easement from an adjacent property owner to protect certain natural or cultural features.
- Readily accept a donation of all or part of a private property.
- Consider exchanging agency-owned property for a private property
- Consider purchase of a private property in fee.

Figure 2: Columbia Plateau Trail State Park Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary Map.



SECTION 5: PARK ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

This section of the document outlines the principle natural, cultural, recreation, and facility resource issues identified by the public and staff during the CAMP and master planning processes, and suggested management approaches to address them (see tables below). 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 also anticipated, and may include (but not be limited to): HQ service centers, sister natural resources agencies (including the Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Ecology, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation), local government institutions (weed control boards, permitting), non-profit organizations (Washington Native Plant Society, The Nature Conservancy, Audubon), the tribes, institutions of higher education, and adjacent land-owners and interested citizens. All management actions will be consistent with the laws and policies¹ 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. The issues should be seen as a "to do" list where items will be prioritized as staff and financial resources permit.

Columbia Plateau Trail – Natural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Protection of natural plant and animal communities	<p>Park staff will ensure that all park management activities comply with regulations and policies related to the protection of natural plant and animal communities including <i>RCW 79A.05.035: Additional powers and duties</i> and <i>Chapter 352-28 WAC: Tree, plant, and fungi cutting, removal and/or disposal</i>.</p> <p>The general purpose of the park's natural resource management program will be to identify additional research needs and to develop and implement additional management policies and prescriptions for: 1) general protection of important plant and animal communities; 2) specific protection of identified threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant and animal species/associations/communities; 3) management of non-native species; 4)</p>

¹ Specifically, for natural resources: Protecting Washington State Parks' Natural Resources – A Comprehensive Natural Resource Management Policy (Commission Agenda Item F-11, December 2004); and for cultural resources: Cultural Resources Management Policy (Commission Agenda Item E-1, October 1998 + three amendments).

	<p>protection of wetlands and riparian areas; and 5) prevention of wildfires.</p> <p>To protect and preserve valuable and sensitive natural resources within the park, staff should: 1) identify and map sensitive resources within the park; 2) manage the trail to limit impacts to sensitive resources; 3) support local stewardship programs sponsored by adopt-a-trail groups; and 4) develop mechanisms/tools to prevent non-compatible impacts through development or landscape modification that degrade the viewshed.</p> <p>Campsites and trailheads will be constructed within previously disturbed areas, or areas with low habitat value. However, development plans in disturbed sites with documented historical railroad significance will be carefully evaluated. All trailheads and trailhead campsites will be classified as Recreation Areas, with all other lands and primitive campsites being classified as Resource Recreation Areas.</p> <p>As part of any re-vegetation (following facilities construction or renovation), landscaping, or prescriptive planting projects, first consideration should be given to the use of native plants and avoiding the proliferation of noxious weeds.</p>
<p>Protection of wetlands and riparian areas- Benge and Cheney areas</p>	<p>Streams, springs, and wetland areas classified as Resource Recreation Areas should generally be managed as de-facto Natural Areas. Designated stream crossings (both existing and planned) should be managed in a manner that seeks to minimize impacts to water quality.</p> <p>As part of the park master facilities planning process and other park development projects, all trails, trailheads, campgrounds, and roadways should be routed away from steep slopes and riparian areas, or be constructed in a manner that does not increase sedimentation or otherwise cause a net detriment to fish habitat. No net loss to the functional value of park wetlands is tolerated as a result of facilities development or day-to-day park operations. Additionally, park staff</p>

	<p>will ensure that facilities maintenance and day-to-day park operation complies with provisions of environmental permits. Wetlands and riparian areas should be protected from livestock and equestrian grazing.</p> <p>Park staff should coordinate with region and headquarters Environmental and Resource Stewardship staff, and actively solicit technical expertise and cooperation from USFS, WDFW, DOE, and other interested organizations and individuals to formulate and implement management policies and prescriptions designed to restore and enhance wetlands, streams, and riparian areas.</p> <p>Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) Monitoring and Adaptive Management: As part of the park's natural resource management program, any number of non-designated trail spurs in wetland and riparian areas should be monitored as a general indication of visitor impacts on wetlands and riparian areas.</p> <p>In areas that are not designated wetlands, park staff should also continue to keep cattails under control and ditches maintained to avoid flooding on the trail. Some areas that may need attention include the Lamont to Benge, Minnie Creek, and Amber Lake areas.</p>
Control of noxious weeds/exotic plant species	<p>As part of the parks natural resource management program, control of noxious weeds should follow an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach including the use of biological, chemical, and mechanical control prescriptions. The least toxic, yet effective, overall approach consistent with State and Franklin, Adams, and Lincoln, Whitman, and Spokane County Weed Board requirements should be favored whenever possible. All activities associated with IPM will be in accordance with chapter <i>17.15 RCW: Integrated Pest Management</i>, and the agency's <i>Operations Directive O-99-3: Integrated Pest Management Policy</i>. Refer to the park's Integrated Pest Management Plan (see Appendix D).</p> <p>Park staff should actively solicit technical expertise and cooperation of the Franklin, Adams, Lincoln, Whitman, and Spokane</p>

	<p>County Noxious Weed Boards, DNR Natural Heritage Program, local chapters of the Native Plant Society, and other interested individuals/organizations to identify concentrations of non-native plants and noxious weeds in Columbia Plateau Trail State Park.</p> <p>Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) Monitoring and Adaptive Management: As part of the park's natural resource management program, the number and size of established populations of noxious weeds/exotic plants should be monitored as a general indication of the impact of these plants on native plant species.</p>
Rattlesnakes	<p>Park staff will post information about rattlesnakes, including identification, behavior, and avoidance; as well as how to respond when bitten (first aid and EMS contacts). Staff will contact WSD&W to get tips on safe handling of snakes in critical incidents.</p>
Protection and interpretation of geologic features	<p>Any development/construction will minimize impacts to significant geologic features. Park staff should coordinate with region and headquarters Resource Stewardship staff to: 1) evaluate adequacy of protection currently afforded to significant geologic features; 2) if necessary, propose additional policies and prescriptions for their long-term protection; 3) design interpretive programs on geologic resources for park visitors.</p>
Rockfalls and slides	<p>The railbed passes through areas with steep side slopes and near vertical rock cuts. Rock fall in the rock cuts can occur at any time, and is common during periods of freeze and thaw. The areas of concern are generally classified as Resource Recreation. Users will be advised to remain on the designated trail, and to avoid walking on sides of rock cuts. Trail users will also be requested to contact park staff if trail access is impaired or impassable because of rock fall.</p> <p>Park staff will assess rock fall safety hazards and maintenance needs during regular trail patrols and coordinate heavy equipment needs with region Maintenance and Preservation Manager.</p>

<p>Wildfire prevention/ suppression</p>	<p>Wildfire prevention and suppression activities conducted by park staff should continue to be guided by the fire element of the park's Emergency Plan, until a comprehensive wildfire prevention and suppression plan is prepared. Open fires will be prohibited on the trail corridor except in designated campsites. Park staff should consult local fire districts and DNR and institute temporary burning bans as recommended. Park staff may institute temporary burning bans based on consultation with local fire districts and DNR, and consideration of localized fuel and climatic conditions.</p> <p>At the park level, as CQ's are updated, consideration should be given to requiring that Park Rangers be "Red Carded" for wildland firefighting.</p> <p>The park wildfire management program will be focused on providing adequate protection to park visitors, neighbors, facilities, and vegetative communities.</p> <p>During fire season, State Park patrol vehicles will be equipped with a fire pumper to control spot fires. Local Fire Districts have authorized trail access to control fires on and near State Parks property. Mileage markers will aid fire fighters in locating a fire.</p> <p>Park staff should coordinate with region and headquarters Stewardship Program staff and solicit cooperation from Regional DNR Office, local fire district officials, and other park neighbors to develop and implement a "Park Wildfire Management Plan". This plan should consolidate any existing wildfire management plans and be expanded to include: 1) Specific fire hazard reduction policies, protection measures and prescriptions consistent with the park's natural resource management program. 2) Fire suppression policies. 3) Fire suppression equipment inventory and needs assessment. 4) Human resources inventory for fire suppression (i.e. Wildland firefighter red card holders and other properly trained staff), and needs assessment. 5) Communications and response plans. The presence of threatened and endangered plant (and animal)</p>
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	species may influence fire management tactics and activities and should be given careful consideration when developing the Park Wildfire Management Plan. The impact on exotic plant species and the possible opportunity to create or improve wildlife habitat should also be considered.
Sanitation facilities and littering	Vault toilets or restroom facilities will be located at trailheads and at primitive camp areas. State Parks personnel will remove litter during routine patrol activities. Camping on the trail corridor will be restricted to designated camp areas. A pack it in/pack it out program will be promoted on the trail, and trail users in violation of the litter law may be cited. Facilities will be regularly maintained.
Lake Sacajawea Bar Gravel Deposit	At the June 10, 2005 meeting, the Commission authorized the Director to auction the rights to State Parks' portion (approximately 90 acres) of the sand and gravel deposits at the Lake Sacajawea Bar. The estimated value of the materials (35 to 60 million dollars over 20 years) will be used for development of Commission managed rail-trails and ice age flood interpretive materials. The trail will remain open to public use during excavation activity. To the extent possible, scientific information pertaining to ice age flood event(s) and the formation of the bar will be collected during the dismantling (excavation) of the deposit. At the March 16, 2006 meeting, the Commission heard a report on two failed attempts at auctioning the rights to State Parks' portion of the sand and gravel deposits and directed that any further staff effort on the Lake Sacajawea Gravel Bar project be deferred to a future date when the project is determined to be viable. Park staff will continue to work with agency personnel and the public as this project proceeds.

Columbia Plateau Trail – Cultural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Protection of cultural and historic properties	Throughout the park, any treatments applied to historic properties including rehabilitation or enhancement of existing historic structures or new facility construction in historically significant areas must conform to <i>Commission Policy 12-98-01: Cultural Resource</i>

Management Policy (see agency Policy and Procedure Handbook).

No culturally significant historic properties, either formally or informally identified through previous agency inventory efforts or local park knowledge, will be disturbed as the result of park operation, maintenance, or development prior to a determination of treatment as part of the park's cultural resource management plan. The cultural resources plan will be updated as new information and techniques become available to park staff.

A cultural resource management plan should be developed. This plan must be consistent with the agency's cultural resource management policy and at a minimum include: 1) a description of the park's cultural resources, 2) evaluation and conclusions about their significance, 3) outline of the park's goals and objectives in managing these resources, 4) description and evaluation of current cultural resource management activities, and 5) prescription for an action program to meet the most urgent needs.

Park staff will consult with the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP), Parks' region Resource Stewardship staff, Historic Preservation section, Interpretive Program Manager, Archaeologist, and local historical societies when appropriate, for assistance in protection and management of historic railroad sites and structures, archaeological sites, and Native American cultural sites.

An initial archaeological survey for the trail corridor has been performed under contract with Eastern Washington University's Archaeological and Historic Services Department to identify cultural and historic resources and provide management recommendations (see [Appendix C](#)). Significant resources (such as the rock shelters) will be protected using methods such as public education, fencing, removal, and avoiding drawing attention to the site. A programmatic agreement with the Corps, OAHP, and USFWS will be developed to

	identify appropriate mitigation measures.
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Columbia Plateau Trail – Recreational Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
Natural / Cultural resource interpretation / environmental education	<p>The Columbia Plateau Trail interpretive program should provide for and encourage opportunities for education, interpretation, and understanding of natural, cultural, and historic resources related to the trail and past uses of the trail corridor by: 1) supporting the production of websites, maps, brochures, and other interpretive products by private partners when they are consistent with the park's goals and policies; 2) providing interpretive signage and viewpoints at appropriate locations to identify and explain resources in the trail corridor; and 3) working cooperatively with local school districts to provide for and enhance resource education opportunities. Also refer to the park Interpretive Plan.</p> <p>University geology departments have expressed interest in working with park staff to identify geologic features along the trail. Park staff should continue to coordinate with region staff, Parks Interpretive Supervisor, and Parks Planning Program to implement the elements of the park Interpretive Plan. Park staff should also solicit volunteer participation, grants, and other non-traditional funding sources to accomplish interpretive projects. Oral interviews with former railroad employees could be used to gather historical information. The trail also has tremendous potential for interpreting the ice age floods.</p>
Trailhead facilities	<p>Trailheads will be established at Ice Harbor Dam (mile 242), Levey Landing (mile 244.5), Snake River Junction (mile 256.5), Farrington Railhead (mile 269), Kahlotus (mile 277), Wahtucna (mile 291), Bengé (mile 311), Lamont (mile 335), Martin Road (mile 342), Amber Lake (mile 349), Cheney (mile 351), and Fish Lake (mile 365). Each will consist of a parking area for 10-20 vehicles, potable and/or stock water (if available), vault toilets and/or comfort stations, signage, picnic tables and/or picnic shelter, a hitching post, and a bulletin board/interpretive kiosk. Camping (by</p>

	<p>permit only) will be allowed upon completion of facility development at the following trailheads: Snake River Junction, Farrington, Kahlotus, Washtucna, Bengé, Lamont, and Amber Lake.</p> <p>Park staff should work with Resource Stewardship and planning staff to prepare a trail signing plan for Columbia Plateau Trail State Park. All trail signing activities should be guided by this plan and, if necessary, the plan should be revised to reflect new trailhead construction or any changes to existing trail facilities and/or policy.</p> <p>Park staff will work with WDFW to clarify terms of agreement to share costs of maintaining Amber Lake trailhead. For maintenance of the trailhead road, refer to the Dry Falls road agreement.</p>
<p>Campsite facilities (other than trailheads)</p>	<p>Primitive camping areas, each having designated tent sites and a vault toilet, will be located at feasible areas between the Farrington and Kahlotus trailheads (M272.8+/-), Kahlotus and Washtucna trailheads (M284.5+/-), Washtucna and Bengé trailheads (M301+/-), Bengé and Lamont trailheads (M319+/- and M327+/-), and Lamont and Amber Lake trailheads (M342+/-). As a general guideline, spacing of camp areas should be 5-8 miles from trailheads and 8-10 miles apart from each other. In addition to convenience, the sites will be chosen for availability of water, scenic views, and shade. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provide primitive camp areas along the Snake River and adjacent to the State Parks' facility. The COE primitive camp areas generally are located between mile 244 and mile 269. State Parks will explore the possibility of locating primitive camp areas on adjacent public lands. The exact locations of camp areas will be identified in the future.</p> <p>Park staff should continue to work with the COE to identify potential primitive camping areas along the Snake River, and with region and headquarters staff to identify other potential primitive camping areas along the rest of the trail.</p>

Potable water	<p>If feasible, existing wells may be redeveloped or several small wells may be drilled to provide water at trailheads and primitive camp areas.</p> <p>Potable and/or stock water availability will be posted at each trailhead and other access points. Trailheads are spaced to accommodate day-long trips, but potable and/or stock water may not always be available, so park staff will recommend that users bring water for their entire length of stay.</p>
Recreational uses	<p>Currently, 23 miles of the trail between Lincoln County and Cheney is developed and open to public use. The trailheads are classified as Recreation and the rest of the trail is classified as Resource Recreation. Hiking is permitted in both classifications (in the developed area). Bicycling is permitted in the Recreation classification and conditionally permitted in the Resource Recreation classification (in the developed area). Equestrian use is conditionally permitted in both classifications (in the developed area).</p> <p>Motorized vehicles are prohibited on the trail (except motorized wheelchairs), and horses are not permitted on the asphalt trail between Cheney and Fish Lake.</p> <p>Potential conflict and safety problems between users (bicyclists, hikers, equestrians, etc) will be minimized by developing and promoting trail user regulations and "trail etiquette". State Parks will actively promote responsible trail behavior through educational materials and positive interaction among user groups.</p>
Access to adjacent property	<p>Currently authorized access for farming, business, and living operations will continue. Existing "grandfathered crossings", easement, and leases between adjacent landowners and Burlington Northern will be honored by State Parks. Requests for new access will be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>
Hunter access and firearm control	<p>Hunters can utilize the trail corridor to access legally established hunting areas and areas where permission to hunt has been granted by private landowners. However, no firearms can be discharged into, from, or across park property (WAC 352-32-120). County Sheriffs and Deputies and state Wildlife Agents are authorized to access the trail with motorized</p>

	<p>vehicles. Also refer to agency Directive 73-10.</p> <p>Commissioned Park Rangers will patrol the trail during hunting season (and year-round) to enforce hunting laws (and also state laws and park rules) and will have communication capabilities with Wildlife Agents, County Sheriff offices, and the State Patrol. “No hunting” signs should be clearly posted at all designated public vehicle access points, especially during annual hunting seasons. Segments of the trail may be closed to public use during specific seasons of hunting, following a public meeting to obtain input from adjacent land owners, recreational users, other government agencies, and local elected officials. This action will be initiated following a request from adjacent land owners. This does not preclude temporary emergency closures, prior to a public meeting.</p>
<p>Trespassing by trail users on private property and property boundary identification</p>	<p>Park staff will provide trail users with informational materials indicating park boundaries and restrictions. Trail users will be encouraged, by educational efforts and signage, to remain on the designated trail. Vandalism to adjacent private property (and park facilities) will be discouraged by the same educational efforts (and law enforcement). Gates and bollards will be installed to prevent unauthorized use of the trail corridor. Also see fencing for more details.</p>
<p>Fencing</p>	<p>Statewide fencing policy 72-98-1 outlines where the responsibility lies for constructing and maintaining fence on State Parks property. RCW 16.24.010 Open and Closed Range Responsibilities outlines the authority and limitations of counties to designate stock restricted areas and range areas. Also refer to RCW 16.60.010 Lawful fence defined. Any new boundary fences will be erected along the State Parks boundary line. Fences that are currently not on park boundary lines will be moved to the boundary line where feasible and practical. (There are some fences that are too close to the trail, where the true boundary is actually further away from the trail, allowing unauthorized grazing on State Parks’ land).</p>

	<p>Park and Resource Stewardship staff will need to explore the issue of moving misplaced fence lines vs. selling or leasing pieces of State Parks property that is not enclosed by fence. Park staff will continue to work with adjacent landowners to resolve fencing issues such as determining whether fencing improvements in various areas should be the state's responsibility (e.g. to keep trail users from trespassing on private property) or the responsibility of the private landowner (e.g. to keep cows off of the trail), or a shared responsibility in some cases. Some instances may not be clear cut and will require some creative problem solving.</p>
<p>Tunnel safety</p>	<p>If needed, double reflectors, spaced 120' apart at a 4' height, will be installed in tunnels. Staff will recommend that users carry flashlights, especially when using the longest tunnels. Informational materials/signage will indicated the length of tunnels. Falling rock and ice may be a hazard in the unlined tunnels. In 1997, one gate (7' tall by 10' wide) was installed in Tunnel #1 and two gates were installed in Tunnel #17 to allow bats to pass through the holes in the concrete lining, but prevent children from getting between the lining and the rock walls.</p> <p>In 1997, State Parks contracted with CES, Inc. to produce a Structural Assessment Report on the CPT bridges and tunnels (see Appendix C). The report deemed the tunnels structurally sound, but section 5.2 advised that the potential for falling rock or concrete in the tunnels is a maintenance and safety issue that requires further evaluation. Park staff will document size and location of fallen rocks and concrete removed from the trail in the vicinity of tunnels to better assess the location of unstable zones and need for corrective action. An annual walk-through inspection of the tunnels is also recommended.</p>
<p>Trestle safety</p>	<p>Trestles will be redecked with concrete slabs. Safety fencing (4 ½' high minimum) will be installed on the sides of the trestles. Staff will encourage equestrians, through educational efforts and/or signing, to dismount and lead horses across the trestles. Whidbey NAS will provide dates (but not times) of their low altitude flights over Washtucna and Cow</p>

	<p>Creek trestles. Park staff can post this information of the agency web site and at the site.</p> <p>The Structural Assessment Report referenced in 716R10 deemed the trestles along the trail structurally sound. The report recommends that the steel bridge members need to be kept free of dirt and debris accumulation in order to prevent the possibility of section loss. A high pressure wash or compressed air cleaning is recommended on a regular basis. The likely presence of lead in the existing paint may require special precautions during cleanup operations. It is also likely that lead paint has contaminated the soil around the trestles (and also the old railroad buildings). A maintenance walk-through inspection at least every year is also recommended.</p>
Emergency response to injuries/cost of response	<p>State Parks will post appropriate contacts for emergency situations at established trailheads and other designated trail access areas. Emergency vehicles will have access to the trail and mileage markers will aid personnel in locating accident sites. Parks personnel will carry radios and cellular phones and are certified as first responders. People receiving aid from other entities may be responsible for costs incurred.</p>
Park hours of operation and closures	<p>Park hours are 8:00 am to dusk, year-round (in the developed area). Areas of developed trail may be closed temporarily due to emergencies, high fire danger, fires, flooding, rock slides, and other occurrences.</p> <p>Trail closures will be posted. Access points to undeveloped areas of the trail are gated and locked to prevent unauthorized motorized vehicle access.</p>
Law enforcement and visitor safety	<p>The welfare and safety of park visitors is of primary concern to Columbia Plateau Trail State Park staff. Park staff will strive to maintain the overall safety of the park environment. This will include prompt correction of identified unsafe conditions (facilities, work environment, etc.), continued emergency preparedness training, continued law enforcement coordination with other jurisdictions, and on-going participation by park users and neighbors. Park staff should continue to coordinate with regional staff,</p>

	<p>headquarters Employee Health and Safety Program Manager, local emergency service providers, and other interested individuals, to formulate and implement additional management policies and prescriptions to address issues related to the overall safety of park visitors and staff. The agency Health and Safety Program Manager has offered to test the soil surrounding trestles and old buildings along the trail for lead paint and other contaminants if requested by park staff.</p> <p>Park staff should ensure that at the time of any emergency closure of the trail, agency decision making and notification procedures are followed.</p> <p>Emergency closure of trail segments: When the park, or part of the park, is considered unsafe by agency staff, park staff will post signs, establish barriers, and notify trail users of closures. Notification procedures should include: 1) submission of local and state-wide press release to news organizations (both when trail is closed and when temporarily or permanently reopened); 2) addition of closures on agency information hotline and website.</p> <p>Refer to Directive 73-10, Law Enforcement Guidelines. RCW 79A.05.160, Police Powers Vested in Commission and Employees.</p>
Consumption of alcohol	<p>Park staff will continue to enforce all applicable state laws and park rules in the park.</p> <p>Refer to WAC 352.32.210 Consumption of Alcohol in State Park Areas. Consumption of alcohol is prohibited in the park except at designated camp sites and designated picnic sites.</p>
Partnerships and alternate funding sources	<p>In keeping with the agency goal of fostering more partnerships with outside organizations to assist in “holding the system together”, park staff has started to pursue the idea of forming a local Friends of Columbia Plateau State Park group that could provide financial and labor support for the park (i.e. helping to refurbish some of the trestles).</p> <p>Refer to Commission Policy 15-94-1 <i>Friends</i></p>

	<i>Agreement Policy</i> and Commission Policy 70-82-1 <i>Volunteer Policy</i> .
Connections to other trails/trail systems and recreation facilities	Encourage non-motorized trail connections to Sacajawea State Park, Milwaukee Road rail-trail, Centennial Trail, Spokane County trails, and other existing and proposed appropriate trail systems and compatible recreation activities adjacent to or near the Columbia Plateau Trail by: 1) helping to identify and mapping local/regional recreation resources; and 2) working cooperatively with local, state, and federal agencies/jurisdictions and utility providers in the development of linkages to other recreational activities and trail systems.
Trail surface	<p>The trail surface (in the developed sections that are open to the public) will be in accordance with standards set in the Columbia Plateau State Park Master Plan: 10 feet wide, crushed rock surface. The 3.75 mile asphalt section is not addressed in the Master Plan.</p> <p>Park staff will inspect trail surfaces and make funding requests when trail surfaces do not meet standards described in the park master plan.</p>
City of Cheney wastewater	By previous agreement, the City of Cheney is allowed to release treated wastewater into the trail ditch (at about mile 361) if they maintain the ditch. There is still some confusion about this agreement, especially who is responsible for the wastewater flowing into the ditch and who should maintain the ditch. Park staff will work with region resource stewardship and headquarters lands staff to settle the unresolved issues.
Enterprise programs	Park staff will identify and implement ways to enhance public services via revenue generating programs and projects that heighten the park experience for visitors. At the present time, park staff is working on setting up a program to sell CPT and Palouse Falls t-shirts and CPT water bottles. The sale of postcards is also being considered.

SECTION 6: OTHER PARK PLANS

Previously prepared plans provide additional guidance for the management of specific resources or activities in a park. Examples of these types of plans may include Cultural Resource Management plans, Integrated Pest Management plans, and Trail Use and Development plans. Park master plans are generally oriented toward capital facilities development, but also commonly provide policy direction. 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-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 exiting 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 listing and location of existing plans prepared for Columbia Plateau Trail State Park is included in Appendix E: List of plans for Columbia Plateau Trail State Park. The Glossary in Appendix F provides expanded definitions of terms used throughout this document.

APPENDIX A: CAMP PROJECT PLANNING PRINCIPALS

The seven basic principles used in the CAMP Project to ensure the long-term value of the end product to both the agency and the public stakeholders:

- 1) **Park management plans use a statewide format:** For efficiency and consistency among park management plans, State Parks has standardized management plans to include information that is applicable throughout the agency and a standard format for presenting park-specific information.
- 2) **Members of the public participate in development of park management plans.** Directly involving park stakeholders in producing and revising plans fosters better understanding of how their particular interests fit into the larger resource management context, while also giving them a stake in the plan's success. Public constituencies should be encouraged to participate in management planning both during the initial CAMP planning process and thereafter during annual open house meetings at the park.
- 3) **Park managers and park staff play an integral role in producing and revising park management plans.** Participation by park staff in planning is an essential part of ensuring that staff responsible for implementing this plan has a vested interest in making it succeed.
- 4) **Park management plans are the primary documents for communicating park resource management information.** Plans should be written to communicate clearly and concisely stewardship-related issues -- and the steps the agency should take to resolve them -- to the rest of the agency and to the public.
- 5) **Key administrative functions are incorporated into the park management planning process.** To ensure that park management plans are kept up to date, a process for proposing and justifying park capital and operating program requests has been incorporated into the management planning process.
- 6) **The Director approves park management plans.** Park management planning is an on-going process and plans should never be considered finished. Plans should however be considered "mature", ready to be published, and acted upon when they have been reviewed by the agency and approved by the Director or his/her designee.
- 7) **The review and approval process for future plan revisions will remain flexible.** After initial park management plans have been approved subsequent environmental, social, and political changes will necessitate that plans be revised. To ensure that revisions don't become mired in lengthy full agency review, a variable level approval process should be used. Staff at each level of the agency – park, region, division, and directorate -- must make a critical judgement as to whether a proposed plan revision requires review and approval at the next higher level.

APPENDIX B: WASHINGTON STATE PARKS LAND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Washington Administrative Code Establishing Land Classification System

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

- (1) Recreational areas are suited and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use, conference, cultural and/or educational centers, or other uses serving large numbers of people.
- (2) Resource recreation areas are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use.
- (3) Natural areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological value while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses.
- (4) Heritage areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features, and traditional cultural properties, which are of statewide or national significance.
- (5) Natural forest areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses, and which contain:
 - (a) Old-growth forest communities that have developed for one hundred fifty years or longer and have the following structural characteristics: Large old-growth trees, large snags, large logs on land, and large logs in streams; or
 - (b) Mature forest communities that have developed for ninety years or longer; or
 - (c) Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.
- (6) Natural area preserves are designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are registered and committed as a natural area preserve through a cooperative agreement with an appropriate natural resource agency pursuant to chapter 79.70 RCW and chapter 332-60 WAC.

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

**Land Classification Management Guidelines
Recreation Areas**

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Recreation Areas	<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	<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.	<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.	<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.	<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.	<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.	<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.

**Land Classification Management Guidelines
Natural Forest Areas**

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
<p>Washington State Parks Natural Forest Areas</p>	<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: (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 □ Unusual forest 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).

**APPENDIX C: LISTING OF COLUMBIA PLATEAU TRAIL STATE PARK
RESOURCE INVENTORIES AND OTHER DESCRIPTIVE
INFORMATION**

Listing of resource inventories and other descriptive documents will be expanded as information is gathered.

Title	Author	Date	Location
Washington State Parks Historic Properties Assessment, Columbia Plateau Trail State Park	Engineering Program	1998	Park Region Resource Stewardship Headquarters
Bird, animal, nesting sites assessment (Wildlife Priority Habitats and Species Program Data System Search)	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife	2/96	Park Region Environmental Specialist
Rare plant inventory and assessment	Washington State Department of Natural Resources	6/97	Park Region Environmental Specialist
Cultural Resource Survey (Fish Lake to Cheney)	Eastern Washington University	6/97	Park Region Environmental Specialist
Cultural Resources Survey (Ice Harbor Dam to Snake River Junction)	Eastern Washington University	9/97	Park Region Environmental Specialist
Cost Estimates for Safety Improvements	CES, Inc.	6/05	Park Region Resource Stewardship Headquarters

Structural Assessment of Bridges and Tunnels	CES, Inc.	2/97	Park Region Resource Stewardship Headquarters
Agreement between WSP&RC and City of Cheney (interagency cooperative agreement for development and some maintenance of approximately 4 miles of the abandoned right-of-way from Fish Lake to Cheney, including the ADA accessible 3.75 mile paved trail, parking lots, and access site).	WSP&RC	11-26-96	Park Region Resource Stewardship
Archaeological and Historical Overview	Eastern Washington University	4/98	Park Region Environmental Specialist

APPENDIX D: LIST OF PLANS FOR COLUMBIA PLATEAU TRAIL STATE PARK

List of all known plans for Columbia Plateau Trail State Park. This table will be updated as plans required by CAMP are written.

Title	Date	Approved by	Location
Pasco/Fish Lake Trail Master Plan	6/12/98	State Parks Commission	Park Eastern Region Resource Stewardship, Headquarters
Integrated Pest Management Plan	2003-2007	Region	M Drive

APPENDIX E: GLOSSARY

Agency Policy/Procedure - One-time statement of administrative rules or procedures that apply to more than one park, e.g., Commission Policy, Administrative Policy/Procedure, Directive, Memorandum of Understanding, etc. (adopted by various levels of the agency).

Agency Program - Response to an issue identified in all or most parks that requires on-going cooperation of various agency staff, other agencies, and/or members of the public that is coordinated and implemented at the headquarters level. Examples include the following agency-level programs: Resource Stewardship, Lands, Environmental, Planning, Engineering, Contracts/Concessions, Interpretation, Law Enforcement, ELC, WCC, Volunteer, Boating, Winter Recreation, Central Reservations, Park Fees, Public Affairs, etc..

Capital Agency Staff Project - Proposal for a large-scale capital project (more than approximately \$20,000) in response to an issue. Examples include, request for preparation of a park master plan, major facility renovation, and acquisition of in-holdings/additional property (may include additional staff as an "operating impact").

Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) - Response to an issue that requires on-going monitoring and adaptive management of a specific natural, cultural, or recreational resource. The LAC system monitors specific resource attributes that are indicative of the overall condition of a resource at issue and sets standards beyond which the condition of a resource is no longer acceptable. Should the condition of a resource exceed a pre-determined standard, specific management actions are prescribed in an effort to improve the condition to within the acceptable range.

Other Park Plans - Subordinate plans developed to express, in greater detail, management of specific park resources, administration, or facility development (e.g., Bald Eagle management plans, business plans, and site plans).

Park Land Classification - Zoning that sets the desired intensity and extent of recreational uses and facilities for specific areas within a park (adopted by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission).

Park Master Plan - Plan that sets policy base and guides long-term capital development of a park (adopted by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission).

Park Policy - One-time statement of a rule in response to an issue that either regulates public activities or guides future management activities.

Park Program - Response to an issue that requires on-going cooperation of various agency staff, other agencies, and/or members of the public that is coordinated and implemented at the park level. Examples include wildfire prevention/suppression, watershed management, marine resource management, cultural resource management, visitor safety/law enforcement, volunteers, court probation workers, etc.

Park Staffing Plan - Response to an issue that requires changes to the allocation of staff time or areas of staff responsibility. Additional staff allocation is *usually* requested as part of "operating impacts" associated with capital projects, property acquisition, or in response to legal mandates.

Planned Maintenance Project - Proposal for a maintenance project (less than approximately \$20,000) or an agency staff project in response to an issue. Examples include small renovation projects, regularly scheduled facilities maintenance, requests for hazard tree removal, and requests for assistance in preparation of park-level plans.

Regional Program - Response to an issue identified in several parks that requires on-going cooperation of various agency staff, other agencies, and/or members of the public that is coordinated and implemented at the region level (e.g., Eastern Region Noxious Weed Control Program).

WAC (Washington Administrative Code) - Rules and regulations developed by state agencies at the direction of the legislature, governing administration of programs for which the legislature has appropriated funds. Most WACs approved by the State Parks and Recreation Commission are codified in Title 352 WAC.

APPENDIX F: MASTER PLAN

