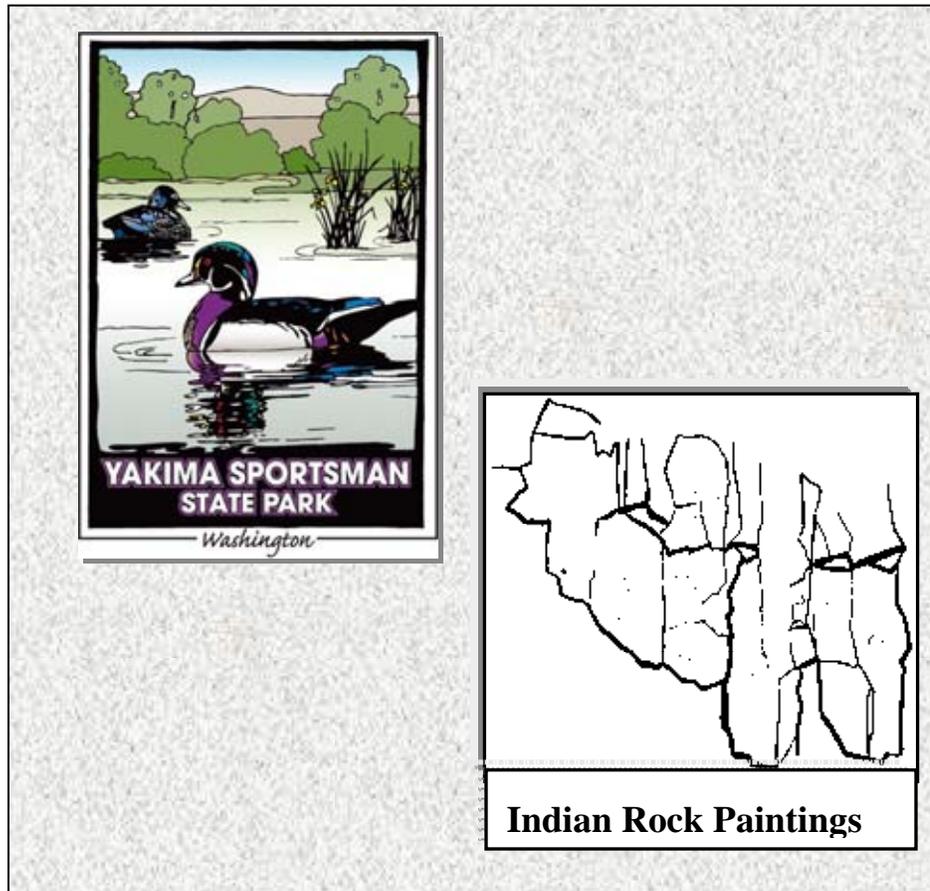


# Yakima Area State Parks Management Plan



## Washington State Parks 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.

## 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 the state park who participated in public workshops, reviewed voluminous materials, and because of it, made this a better plan.

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Rex Derr, Director

**YAKIMA AREA LAND CLASSIFICATIONS, LONGTERM BOUNDARY,  
ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT APPROACHES**

**CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION**

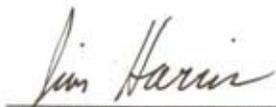
The signatures below certify the adoption of this document by Washington State Parks  
for the continued management of the Yakima Area state parks.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Thomas, Area Manager

12-13-2007  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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12/13/07  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Harris, Region Manager

12-13-07  
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12/18/07  
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 parks protect the best of Washington's natural and human heritage; provide access to the great outdoors and offer learning and inspiration.

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. Together we can work toward a parks system all can celebrate as it turns 100 years old and prepares for a second century of service.

Priority No. 1 in the Centennial 2013 Plan "Our Commitment" is fixing up the state parks and recreation services you enjoy today, while looking towards the future. We pursue a vision so that each park will be Premier destinations of uncommon quality . . . outstanding for the experience, health, enjoyment and learning of all people. Our goal is have a land-use plan for all 120 parks by Centennial 2013.

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. One of the most important elements of CAMP 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. Through a public process staff and public participants identify resource management issues, look at alternative approaches for addressing them and make final recommendations. The outcome is this plan that will help focus all our efforts to balance resource protection with recreational opportunities. For State Parks' staff, this document represents policy approval and a means to create a state park that meets the Centennial 2013 Vision.

## **SUMMARY**

The Yakima Area state parks provide a wide-range of outdoor recreational pursuits, while preserving valued natural resources. This plan will describe the park land classification, long-term boundary, and prescribe management objectives.

## **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.
3. Provide initial direction to park staff (suggested management approaches) to address park 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.

This 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 the public process that led to the CAMP.

Section 3: Outlines management objectives established for the park.

Section 4: Describes land classifications (management zoning) and long-term park boundary

Section 5: Lists natural, cultural, and recreational/facility resource issues identified through the public planning and the management approaches for resolving them.

Section 6: Facility Concept Plans.

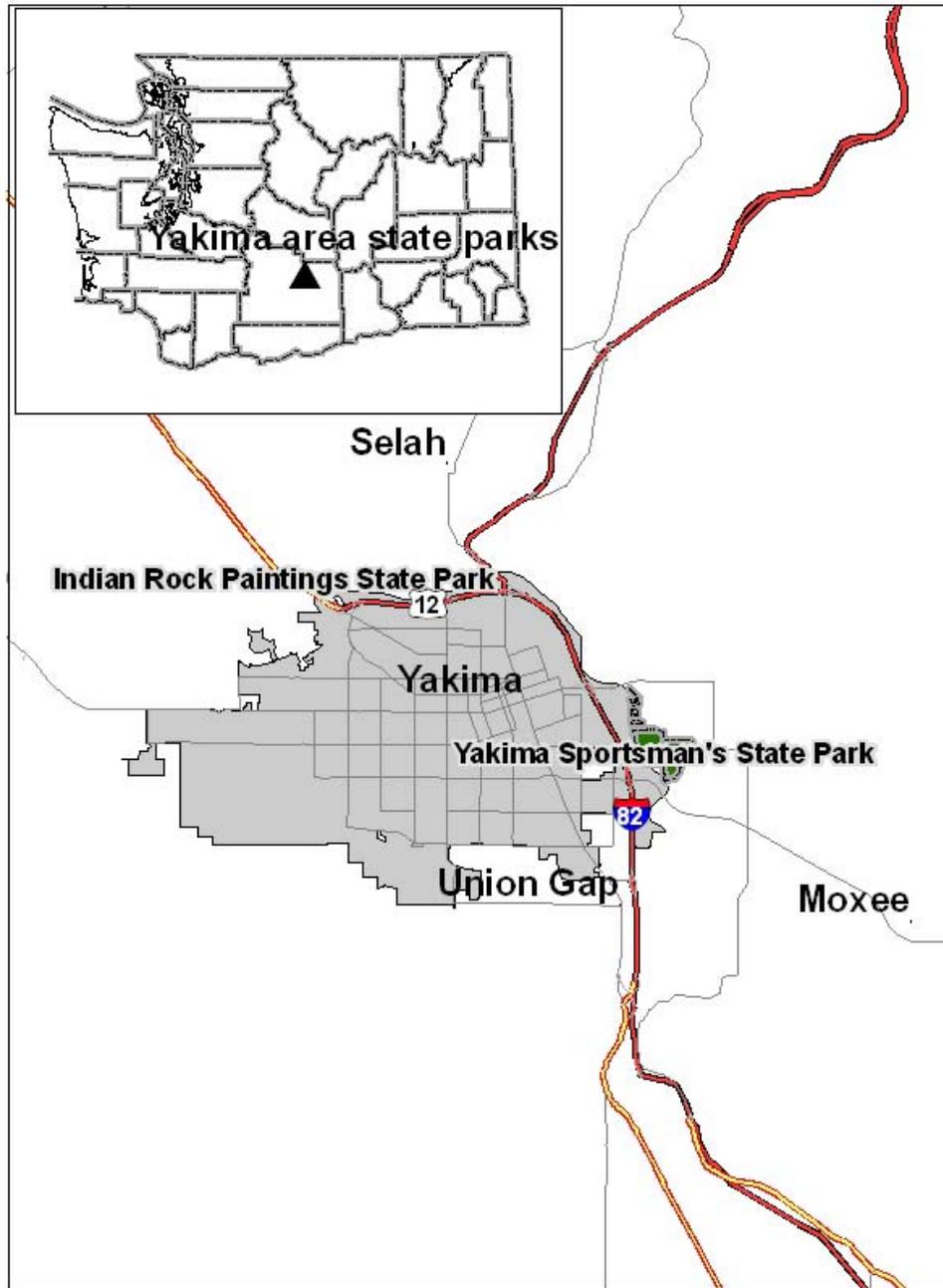


Figure 1: Yakima Area state parks vicinity map

## SECTION 1: AREA DESCRIPTION

Yakima Sportsman and Indian Rock Paintings state parks are located in Central Washington in Yakima County. The topics below describe some of the factors that affect both parks.

### **Physical Factors**

**Land area:** The following information comes from State Parks' land inventory:

Name	Acreage	Freshwater Shoreline (feet)
Yakima Sportsman State Park	247	19,116
Indian Rock Paintings State Park	.01	0

**Air quality:** Yakima is currently in attainment of air quality standards. Development projects must be coordinated with the Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority to reduce fine particle releases.

**Transportation:** Regional access to the Yakima area is by:

- Interstate highways 82 and 97
- U.S. highway 12
- State highways 22, 24, 821 and 410

Public transportation in the area is provided by Yakima Transit. No bus routes connect with the state parks.

There is no passenger rail. Air service is provided by the Yakima Air Terminal – McAllister Terminal.

**Political Factors**

**Legislative District:** The Yakima area state parks are within the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, and as of plan adoption, represented by the elected officials below.

14 <sup>th</sup> Legislative District		
Senator Jim Clements	Representative Mary Skinner	Representative Charles Ross

**Jurisdiction:** The parks are under the jurisdiction of Yakima County. Yakima Sportsman State Park is within the Urban Growth Area for the City of Yakima.

Yakima County Board of Commissioners		
Commissioner Mike Leita District 1	Commissioner Ronald Gamache District 2	Commissioner Rand Elliott District 3

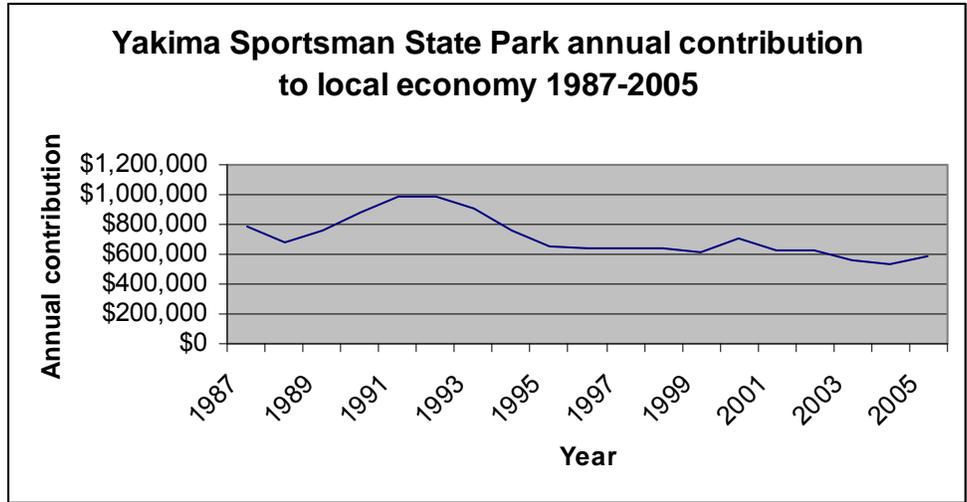
City of Yakima		
Mayor Dave Edler District 2	Assistant Mayor Neil McClure District 1	Council Member Ron Bonlender District 3
Council Member Susan Whitman District 4	Council Member Norm Johnson At large	Council Member Michael Cawley At large
Council Member Bill Lover At large		

**Community factors**

**Contribution to local economies:** The total amount of annual taxes (sales tax, local tax, Hotel/Motel tax) contributed by Yakima Sportsman State Park to the Department of Revenue from July 2003 to November 2006 was \$28,500. None came from Indian Rock Paintings State Park. Much of that money was returned to the local governments.

Based on overnight visitors<sup>1</sup>, the estimated contribution to the local economy of Yakima County is \$13.68 million between 1987 and 2005. On average the state park contributes \$714 thousand per year.

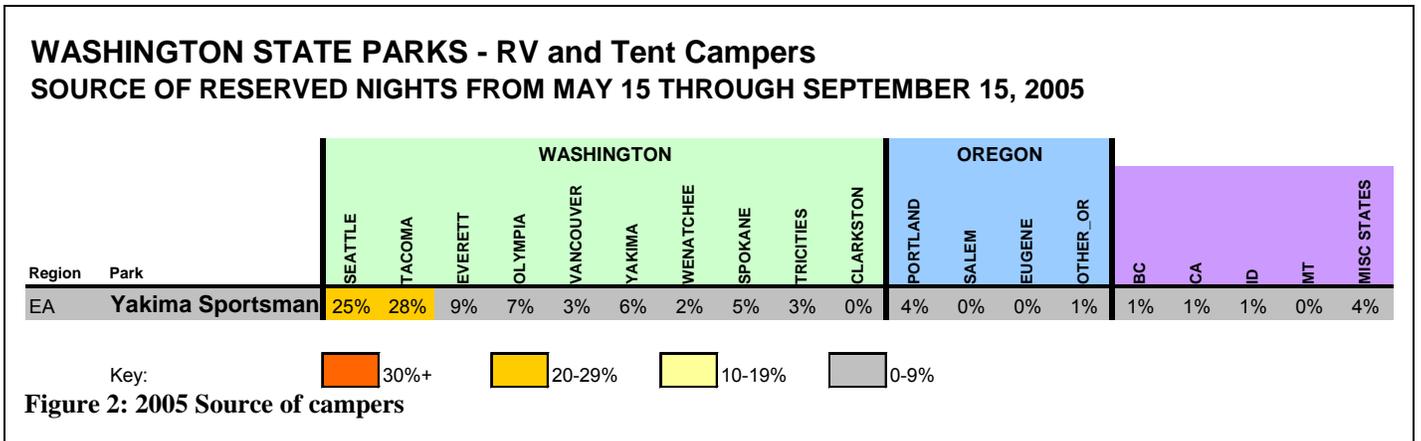
<sup>1</sup> The estimated daily spending per person for overnight state park campers is \$29.80. Dean Runyan and Associates, "Economic Impacts of Visitors to Washington State Parks, 2002."



It is important to note that State Parks are important to local economies in other ways, besides bringing overnight and day visitors to the area. Following are some examples:

- Employees usually live close to the parks and are part of local economies
- Materials for construction projects in the parks are mainly purchased locally
- Materials and supplies for normal operations are often purchased locally

Based on 2005 data, the majority of overnight visitors come from Seattle and Tacoma.



## **Recreational factors**

There are numerous recreational opportunities in the area, including sports fields, swimming pools, open space and indoor recreation space. A wonderful trail system exists and appears to be expanding.

Besides Yakima Sportsman State Park, at least four developed campgrounds provide direct access to Yakima, including:

- Circle H RV Ranch
- KOA Yakima
- Trailer Inn RV Park
- Sun Tides RV Park

In addition, the Yakama Nation RV Resort in Toppenish, Washington provides camping for visitors to the resort and access to the lower Yakima Valley. Mobile Home Parks in the area also provide some overnight RV accommodations.

## **Park specific factors**

The following section describes the physical, operational, political and regulatory factors affecting the individual parks within the area. Mike Thomas is the Yakima Area manager and his office is at Yakima Sportsman State Park.

## Yakima Sportsman State Park

**Soils:** Weirman sandy loam (channeled) with some pockets of Weirman gravelly fine sandy loam are the soils.

**Water:** The park is adjacent to the Yakima River. Type 1, 2 and 3 Palustrine wetlands are present, primarily forested. Wetlands are mostly adjacent to the river, although open and intermittent water are present on the eastern boundary.

**Water quality:** No water studies have been found for this section of the Yakima River.

**Plants:** A rare plant and vegetation survey for Yakima Sportsman State Park in 2007 did not locate any rare, threatened, or sensitive plant taxa. The survey did locate scattered occurrences of two state listed “watch” species: slender flatsedge (*Cyperus bipartitus*) and yellowseed false pimpernel (*Lindernia dubia* var. *anagallidea*). Both species were restricted to the inner flood channel margins of the Yakima River in the few locations where the area was not infested with reed canary grass.

The Natural Heritage Program<sup>2</sup> database administered by the Washington Department of Natural Resources does not list rare plant species populations and endangered ecosystems.

<b>Staffing:</b>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Staff Months</u>
	Ranger 3	12.00
	Ranger 2	12.00
	Ranger 1 (Ranger Safety)	12.00
	Park Aide (3)	16.50
	Sr. Park Aide	07.50
	C&M Specialist	12.00 (Shared)

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<sup>2</sup> Based on a January 2007 review.

## Yakima Sportsman State Park (Continued)

**Animals:** A 2007 search of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Priority Habitats and Species Program (PHS) listed the following threatened or endangered species and/or habitats within a 1.5 mile vicinity of the parks:

Urban Natural Open Space	Riparian zones
Cavity nesting ducks	Mountain sucker ( <i>Catostomus platyrhynchus</i> ) (State Species of Concern/Candidate)
Leopard dace ( <i>Rhinichthys falcatus</i> ) (State Species of Concern/Candidate)	Bald Eagle Communal Roosts

A 2007 search of the Salmon and Steelhead Stock Inventory (SASSI) listed the following threatened or endangered species within the Yakima River and adjacent tributary channels including Blue Slough.

Fall and spring Chinook salmon ( <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> )	Summer steelhead ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )
--------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------

In addition, herpetological surveys have found Sharp-tailed Snake (*Contia tenuis*) at Yakima Sportsman's State Park. The snake is a Washington State Candidate Species for the threatened and endangered list.

**Environmental health:** The Facilities Site Atlas administered by the Washington Department of Ecology does not list potential hazardous materials sites, nor wellhead protection zones near the park.

### Facilities in park:

67 campsites (37 utility and 30 standard sites)	3 picnic shelters (one with outdoor fireplace)	Two residences
Shop/service building	2 bathrooms with showers	1 trailer dump station

A facilities condition assessment about five years ago found that park structures were in need major upgrades. Some could be expected to fail before the Centennial 2013 celebration.

**Zoning:** The park is zoned as a Suburban Residential District under the Yakima Urban Area Zoning ordinances (Title 15A).

**Comprehensive plan designation:** Recreational Residential.

## **Yakima Sportsman State Park (Continued)**

**Shoreline master program designation:** About half of the shoreline is designated as Urban and the other half is Rural. The shoreline designation extends approximately 150 feet east of the levee and 200 feet on either side of the Blue Slough.

**Activities:** Camping, bird watching, trail hiking and interpretation, volleyball, horseshoes, playground activities, bird watching, and fishing may be enjoyed in the park.

**Historical and cultural preservation:** No sites are registered for the national or state local preservation registers.

**Public services:** The park is served by the Yakima County Sheriff and Yakima County Fire District 4.

**Utilities:** The state park is connected to the Terrace Heights Sewer District. Water is provided by well, and electricity supplied by Puget Power.

**Business development:** No concession operates at the park.

**Nearby public land:** Yakima County owns property along the Yakima River levees near park property.

## **Indian Rock Paintings State Park**

**Soils:** Starbuck-Rock outcrop complex with 45-60 percent slopes.

**Water:** The Congdon Canal traverses the park. No wetlands are present.

The park is outside of the 100 year flood plain.

**Plants:** No plant association surveys have been completed.

The Natural Heritage Program does not list any species of concern nearby.

**Staffing:** The park is maintained by Yakima Sportsman State Park staff.

**Animals:** The following animals may be found at or near the parks:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife lists the Cowiche Canyon Riparian Zone and Urban Natural Open space as priority habitats.

**Environmental health:** No wellhead protection zones exist near the park. The Department of Ecology database does not list potential hazardous facilities near the park.

**Structures and facilities:** No structures exist in the park. The park does have a concrete stairway with hand rail and walkway.

**Zoning:** The park is zoned Agricultural.

**Comprehensive plan designation:** Agricultural Resource.

**Shoreline master program designation:** Portions of the park lie within shoreline designated as Conservancy Area.

**Recreation:** Picnicking and cultural area interpretation exists.

**Historical and cultural preservation:** The park is an archaeological site.

**Public services:** The Sheriff and Fire District 5 support the park.

**Utilities:** No utilities exist.

**Business development:** There are no concessions operating at the park.

**Nearby public state or federal land:** The park is on Yakima County and the Yakima Valley Canal Company property.

## SECTION 2: PARK PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process began with a series of public workshops and ended when the Commission provided its policy direction. The workshops were designed to be open-ended forums to allow the public to actively participate in the future plans for the state parks.



**Figure 3 Public Workshop, February 7, 2007**

The planning team took all concerns into consideration and responded to any issues that arose during the planning process.

*Stage 1. Identify hopes and concerns of the community and park customers*

To gather hopes and concerns, the planning team held a public workshop on February 7, 2007 at the Yakima Arboretum. The team sent invitations to a mailing list of 1,200 people, including customers, and landowners. The Yakima Herald

Republic published information about the workshop. Responses from workshop attendees and others were posted on State Parks' planning Webpage.

*Stage 2. Explore alternative approaches to address community and customer issues*

In response to comments from the first stage, the planning team developed alternative approaches that might meet peoples' needs. In order to gather comments on the alternatives, the team sent another notice inviting people to a second workshop. The second workshop took place on April 18, 2007, at the same location. Responses were posted on State Parks' planning webpage.

*Stage 3. Prepare preliminary recommendations to address issues*

The planning team considered the comments received and developed preliminary staff recommendations. Staff shared its preliminary recommendations with the public at a third workshop on July 19, 2007.

*Stage 4. Propose final recommendations for formal agency and Commission adoption*

After hearing from the public, the planning team made its final recommendations to the Commission. The Commission meeting was open to the public and in Bellingham, Washington on November 15, 2007. Public testimony was allowed, and those who could not be present for the meeting, were encouraged to provide written comments to the Commission.

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 must be consistent with laws, policy and the mission statement of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission that reads:

*The Washington State Parks And Recreation Commission Acquires, Operates, Enhances, And Protects A Diverse System Of Recreational, Cultural, Historical, 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.*

Likewise, the Centennial 2013 Vision gives guidance to what state parks should be as the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission begins its second century of service.

*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.*

### **Management Objectives:**

#### **Recreational resources:**

- ❖ Provide and develop an array of compatible and quality overnight, day-use facilities and recreational opportunities that are inspired by and in harmony with the parks' natural and cultural resources.
- ❖ Offer opportunities for solitude.
- ❖ Develop a loop trail system within the park.
- ❖ Connect the park and its trails to a regional trail system through the Yakima Valley Greenway trail.

#### **Interpretation and programs:**

- ❖ Provide memorable experiences through interpretive services and park programs.
- ❖ Connect park visitors with outside tours that interpret regional features of the Yakima Valley landscape, including the Ice Age floods story and their influence on regional agriculture.

**Natural resources:** Maintain and enhance a broad range of plant and animal habitat.

**Partnership:** Provide park visitor services through public and private partnerships and other entrepreneurial programs that are compatible with other park management objectives.

- ❖ The park should work with the Yakima Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau and seek opportunities/partnerships with tourism related events and tours.
- ❖ The park should seek to develop partnerships with other Yakima Valley park systems to enhance recreational and educational programs.

**Cultural Resources:** Protect and provide interpretation.

## **SECTION 4: LONG-TERM BOUNDARY AND PARK LAND CLASSIFICATIONS**

### ***Discussion of the long-term park boundary***

One of the products of the CAMP is a long-term boundary for each state park. Determining long-term park boundaries is an often misunderstood aspect of park planning. 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. The planning team considers whether an adjoining property would make a good addition. It also considers whether agency-owned property should be retained or be considered surplus to park needs.

Including privately owned property in a long-term boundary gives State Parks' staff the authority to have discussions that might lead to several types land transactions. If the landowner is not interested, then it is unlikely those land transactions will ever occur. Sometimes, when property changes hands, the new owner is more interested and transactions can take place. Being in a state park long-term boundary gives property owners one more option when planning for their property.

If the land owner is interested and the property is within a long-term boundary, there are actions available besides land purchase. Amongst those actions might be one or a combination of the following:

- Seek to formalize an agreement to advance a shared property management goal, such as screening of houses to protect privacy.
- Help establish a conservation easement to protect features that are important to the park visitor's experience and to the landowners' privacy. Conservation easements can decrease a property owner's taxes.
- Accept a donation of all or part of a landowner's property. About 40 percent of the current Washington State Park system is made up of donated properties. Sometimes, this can be of benefit to a person's estate and create a lasting legacy.
- Consider exchanging agency-owned property for private property, either in the area or somewhere else in the state.

### ***Discussion of land classification***

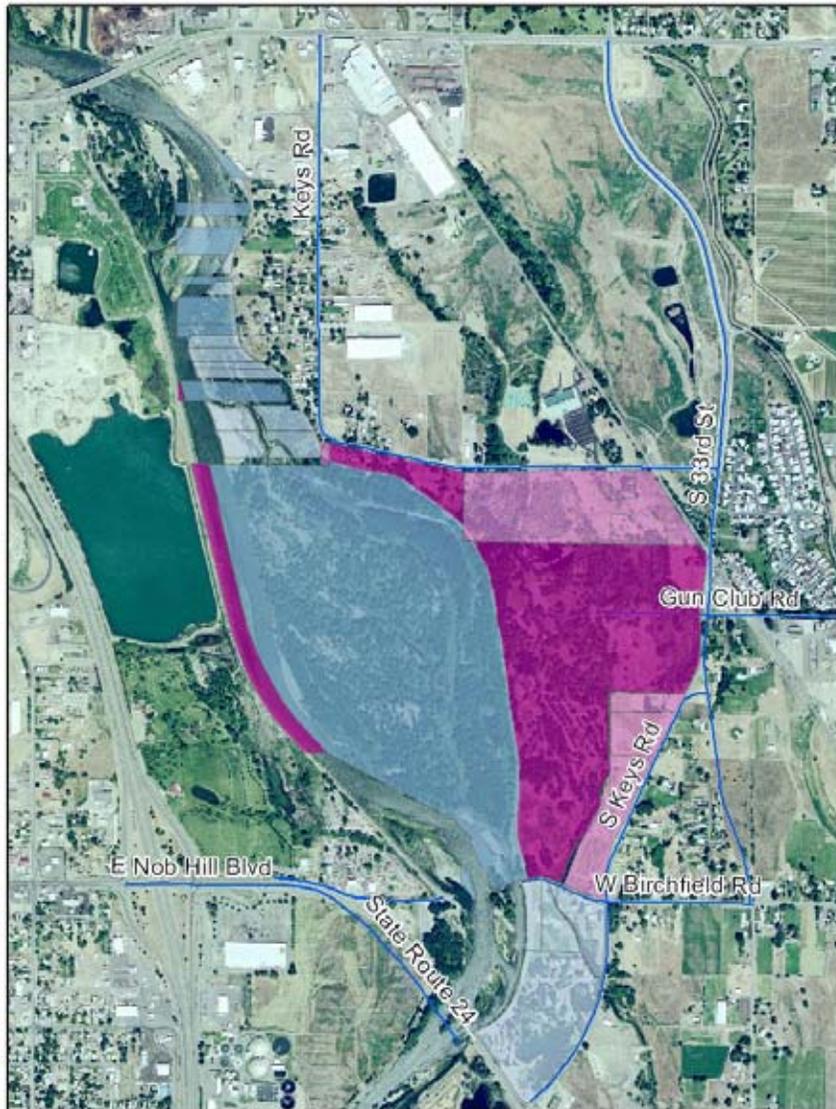
Within the *long-term* boundary, staff developed recommendation for classifications. Land classification is like internal zoning for the park (see Appendix A) and is regulated by WAC 352-16-020, which reads:

*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.*

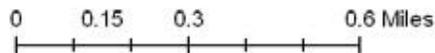
The land classification that is a combination of Recreational (red,) Resource Recreation (blue) and Natural (orange) Areas. The lighter shades of blue, red and orange indicate that the property is not currently owned by State Parks, but is in the long-term boundary.

Maps for the long-term boundary and land classification are provided below and a written description included in the management tables below.

# Yakima Sportsman State Park Final Recommendations Long-term boundary and land classification



September 4, 2007



### Legend

#### Final Recommendations

#### Land Classification Types

- Recreation
- Recreation Included in Long-Term Boundary
- Resource Recreation
- Resource Recreation Included in Long-Term Boundary



NAD83 HARN Washington State Plane South

Data in these maps were compiled for cartographic purposes. Due to the variability of the source information, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions, and, therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this material.

## **SECTION 5: PARK ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT APPROACHES**

The tables below are a listing of park management issues identified through the public planning process. There is a table for each state park or property and the issues are divided into natural, cultural and recreational related issues when applicable. The left column describes the issue and the right describes the planning team's final recommendation for a management approach. These tables will be used to guide future management decisions for the area.

Readers should note that the sum of all of the management approaches represents a significant staff workload and may also create very high expectations among agency staff and park stakeholders. Clearly, completing or even beginning all approaches in the short-term is not feasible with existing resources. This plan should be seen as a "to do" list where items will be prioritized as staff and financial resources permit.

**Yakima Sportsman State Park**

Yakima Sportsman State Park – Natural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Long-term boundary and land classification</b></p> <p>Flood plain management, environmental education and additional outdoor recreation are key issues.</p>	<p>The long-term boundary would include the existing state park and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Properties starting at a point north of the new State Route 24 bridge between Keys Road (or where Keys Rd. becomes South 33<sup>rd</sup> Street) and the east side of the Yakima River. The area east of the levee would be Recreation Area and west of the levee would be Resource Recreation Area.</li> <li>❖ At the point where Keys Road makes a sharp turn to the north, properties on the levee and west of the levee would be added. This area would be Resource Recreation Area.</li> </ul> <p>Park lands that extend to the west side of the river and that are being used for the Yakima Greenway will remain Recreation Area.</p>
<p><b>Sharp-tailed Snake (<i>Contia tenuis</i>)</b></p> <p>The Sharp-tailed Snake is a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife candidate species for the state endangered species list. The snakes have been found at two sites in forested area areas of the park.</p>	<p>State Parks will follow recommendations from the “Herpetological Surveys at Washington State Parks 2006-2007, including leaving down woody debris. Development in the area will consider impact to the Sharp-tailed snake.</p>

**Yakima Sportsman State Park – Natural Resource Issues**

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Threatened and endangered – Blue Slough</b></p> <p>The Blue Slough passes through the park and was used mostly for irrigation. Since removal of fish screens, the Blue Slough has become an important acclimation site for juvenile salmon and other fish. There are threatened and endangered salmon species that would benefit from habitat enhancement in the slough.</p>	<p>Participate in an enhancement project for Blue Slough. State Parks would develop a plan with WDFW biologists and other conservation agencies to enhance the habitat along Blue Slough in the park. Interpretive trails may also exist along the slough.</p> <p>Environmental education providers in the area will be encouraged to propose projects that can include local school groups with enhancement projects for the slough.</p>
<p><b>Environmental education at the park</b></p> <p>The park already hosts local school groups for environmental education.</p> <p>Initial discussions with environmental educators suggest that a more formal program may be forthcoming from Yakima school groups and others.</p>	<p>As per the Commission’s Natural Resource Management Policy (65-95-1):</p> <p><i>It is the policy of the Washington State Parks &amp; Recreation Commission to establish an environmental interpretation program that includes services, materials, publications and facilities . . . This program will help park visitors, school students, groups and other citizens gain and improve their understanding and appreciation of the state’s natural and cultural heritage.</i></p> <p>State Parks welcomes environmental education proposals from environmental educators.</p>

**Yakima Sportsman State Park – Natural Resource Issues**

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Mosquitoes</b></p> <p>Some park visitors complained about the mosquitoes. There is lots of standing water in the area that favors the mosquito population.</p>	<p>State Parks has a contract for mosquito control and monitoring, which will be periodically evaluated for best practices. In addition, habitat enhancement projects along Blue Slough may increase natural predation of mosquito larvae by fish and amphibians. Bat boxes are already in place and may be added when opportunities arise.</p>
<p><b>Sustainability</b></p> <p>At its August 10, 2007 meeting, the Commission directed staff to develop a plan to make Washington’s state parks the leading system in the country for sustainability and being green.</p>	<p>Park facilities and operations will incorporate relevant elements of forthcoming agency plans for creating “green” state parks.</p>

**Yakima Sportsman State Park – Natural Resource Issues**

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Native plants in the state park</b></p> <p>The public suggested that parks should landscape using drought resistant native plants or the creation of shrub steppe habitat.</p> <p>A recent plant survey identified two species of plants (i.e., slender flatsedge and yellowseed false pimpernel) in the park are on the state’s watch list for rare plants. These plants exist along inner flood channel margins and are excluded by reed canarygrass and other streamside vegetation.</p> <p>The survey also found disturbed areas that contain noxious weeds.</p>	<p>Use native plants whenever feasible for landscaping. Enhance existing vegetative communities with help from resource agencies and others.</p> <p>Update the park plan for controlling noxious weeds.</p> <p>Develop plans that will lead to conservation of sensitive species, including slender flatsedge and yellowseed false pimpernel.</p>

**Yakima Sportsman State Park – Natural Resource Issues**

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Tree replanting</b></p> <p>A large number of the trees in the park are aging and very mature.</p>	<p>The key to maintaining a healthy, sustainable forest within the park is the implementation of an annual tree planting schedule.</p> <p>A large amount of planting is not as important as a consistent, annual, addition of trees to the park. This action is critical to maintaining a perpetual canopy as trees naturally reach their age limit and/or become hazardous requiring removal to protect park staff and visitors.</p> <p>State Parks will complete a tree planting map showing designated planting sites, recommended species and proper planting and maintenance procedures.</p>
<p><b>Assessment of animals and plants within the state park</b></p> <p>Collection of additional natural resource data was urged at during the planning process. Several groups volunteered to help.</p>	<p>State Parks has some natural resource data and is gathering more. In 2006 a plant survey was completed that included looking for rare plants. A herpetological study was completed in 2007.</p> <p>As per the Commission’s Natural Resource Management Policy (73-04-1):</p> <p><i>State Parks has an interest in and will encourage scientific investigations of the natural resources in its care, to better understand natural resource processes and features, and to best determine and assess appropriate management actions. All studies conducted by outside students and researchers will be subject to a “peer-review” scientific application permit process and require that the findings of the study be shared with agency staff in the form of a report, data, and / or a presentation.</i></p>

**Yakima Sportsman State Park – Natural Resource Issues**

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Air quality impacts</b></p> <p>Yakima is currently in attainment for air quality standards. The federal government is considering more stringent standards for fine particulates.</p> <p>The Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority has authority over operation and development of the state park.</p>	<p>The state park will help with air quality attainment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No outdoor burning of trash.</li> <li>▪ During building or demolition, State Parks will file appropriate plans with Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority, such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ dust control plans.</li> <li>○ asbestos abatement plan, if any is found.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Development in sensitive areas</b></p> <p>Sometimes in the planning processes people get concerned about over-development. Please know that the Washington State Park Commission has policies in place that restrict development in sensitive areas, like wetlands. In addition, any plans for development would need to comply with environmental regulations.</p>	<p>As per the Commission’s Natural Resource Management Policy (73-03-1), which says in part:</p> <p><i>New park facility developments shall not be built in critical areas except where the theme, character, quality or other park planning provides overriding justification for development in such areas, and appropriate mitigation can be provided.</i></p>

## Yakima Sportsman State Park – Recreational Resource Issues

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Trails within the state park (not including levee trail – see regional trail connections below)</b></p> <p>The state park is divided by the levee. Land west of the levee is further divided by river channels, creating an island.</p> <p>Trails must comply with the “Upper Yakima River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan”.</p>	<p>Develop additional trails within the park on both sides of the levee.</p> <p>East side of the levee: there would be a loop trail with interpretive stations that connects with trailheads outside the main park and a regional trail system.</p> <p>West side of the levee: there would be primitive hiking and equestrian trails. Facilities would be limited and designed appropriately for a flood plain area. Access to the island may be seasonal.</p> <p>Please see Facilities Concept Plan in the appendices to see a map of an expanded trail system within the park.</p>

## Yakima Sportsman State Park – Recreational Resource Issues

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Regional trail connections</b></p> <p>The state park is on the opposite side of the Yakima River from the Yakima Greenway that provides miles of non-motorized trail. The Yakima Greenway is expanding and potential connections exist with the Cowiche Canyon, and the William O Douglas trails.</p> <p>Possible connections exist between the state park and the Yakima Greenway. The Terrace Heights and new State Highway 24 bridges both have pedestrian and bike lanes. A natural trail on top of the eastern river levee leads to the bridges.</p> <p>The levees are owned by the Army Corps of Engineers and managed by Yakima County. If the levee trail was available for public use and hardened to better provide access, the state park could be connected to the Yakima Greenway.</p> <p>All trails and facilities will be consistent with the “Upper Yakima River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan”</p>	<p>Develop a multi-use trail for pedestrians, bicycles and horses on the levee. The levee trail will connect with the Yakima Greenway for pedestrian and bicycle riders.</p> <p>Please see Facility Concept Plans (Appendix D) to see a map of how a levee trail could connect the state park to the Yakima Greenway.</p>

## Yakima Sportsman State Park – Recreational Resource Issues

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Yakima River flood hazard management</b></p> <p>The “Upper Yakima River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan<sup>3</sup>” (CFHMP) affects the state park. Among highest priority actions in the plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demolition of the Old Moxee Bridge.</li> <li>▪ Levee relocation.</li> <li>▪ Guidelines for development in the flood plain.</li> </ul> <p>Additional river channel work on the east bank may be necessary to reduce constriction of the river flow.</p>	<p>The guidelines for development in the flood plain need to be followed if State Parks constructs new facilities.</p> <p>Levee relocation will depend upon subsequent environmental analysis and actual proposals. At this time it does not appear that the park will be affected very much. Please see Facility Concept Plans in the appendices to see a map of the anticipated levee relocation. State Park will proceed cautiously with development in the area near the levee in the southern part of the park.</p>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.co.yakima.wa.us/publicservices/SW\\_UVCFMP\\_Home.htm](http://www.co.yakima.wa.us/publicservices/SW_UVCFMP_Home.htm)

## Yakima Sportsman State Park – Recreational Resource Issues

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Shelters</b></p> <p>Currently the park has open covered shelters that are very popular during the summer. School groups, families and clubs reserve the shelters. They are also very small, and in need of some repair.</p> <p>An enclosed shelter with a kitchen would allow more year-round use of the park and maybe encourage additional park visitation, particularly during the winter.</p>	<p>The existing three shelters will be demolished and replaced with the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Two group shelters (around 10-20 tables)</li> <li>▪ One family shelter (around 4-8 tables)</li> </ul> <p>When designing the shelters park staff will consider multi-use. Shelters should have electricity, water and might be designed to include projection screens so that school groups and others could use the shelters. Gas cooking units should also be considered when replacing shelters.</p> <p>An enclosed shelter or meeting hall type building would be available for overnight customers or community rental, depending upon the outcome of a business plan.</p>
<p><b>Park name</b></p> <p>The Yakima Sportsman Association was instrumental in the acquisition and development of the park. Over the years, the state park has been called by several names, including Yakima Sportsmen's and Yakima Sportsmans. It is Yakima Sportsman State Park on current maps, brochures, and signs.</p>	<p>In order to clarify the name of the state park, staff will ask the Commission to officially name the state park, Yakima Sportsman State Park.</p>

## Yakima Sportsman State Park – Recreational Resource Issues

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Programs and tours for visitors</b></p> <p>In the 2006 Centennial 2013 statewide survey, 68 percent of overnight visitors to state parks said they would be interested or very interested in an activity package that included two to four hour tours.</p> <p>According to the Yakima Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau most of the tourism in the Yakima area is linked with wine production. Wine tours from Yakima hotels already exist.</p> <p>There are also potential activity packages in the area including the Toppenish Murals, historical sites like Fort Simcoe State Park and others that could be coordinated between tour operators and Yakima Sportsman State Park.</p> <p>The park is a member of the Yakima Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau.</p>	<p>Work with the Yakima Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau to develop tours for park customers. Depending upon evaluation of the pilot project, additional activity packages could be made available.</p>

## Yakima Sportsman State Park – Recreational Resource Issues

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>River access and paddler pull-out</b></p> <p>The river has changed directions and many of the river access and sites for paddlers (e.g., canoes and kayaks) are not usable. The river reach between the Terrace Heights and the State Route 24 bridge is mostly inaccessible.</p> <p>The levee relocation and elimination of the Old Moxee Bridge abutments provides opportunities for additional river access and a better experience for paddlers.</p>	<p>Work with Yakima County, Yakima City, recreation groups and other agencies to evaluate the feasibility of a paddler pull-out somewhere near the state park on the east side of the river. This could be part of a larger cooperative effort to develop boater access on the Yakima River that would connect to the state park.</p> <p>As much as possible, a paddler pull-out should be located on or adjacent to the side of the existing levee, using existing features or structures to limit impacts to the natural flow characteristics of the river.</p>
<p><b>Highway signing</b></p> <p>Because of the recent highway construction in the area, directional signs to Yakima Sportsman State Park have been missing.</p>	<p>Signs have been developed to direct park visitors along South 33<sup>rd</sup> Street from the SR 24 exit. Signs are or will be in place or soon.</p> <p>State Park will work with Yakima County and the Washington Department of Transportation so that park visitors can easily find the park.</p>

## Yakima Sportsman State Park – Recreational Resource Issues

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Crossing 33rd Street</b></p> <p>Neighbors to the park often visit to view wildlife or for moments of solitude. Some neighbors have complained about the difficulty of crossing 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and have requested a crosswalk.</p>	<p>The planning team discussed the issue with Yakima County Transportation staff. Public safety is the most important factor and a cross-walk may not be the best solution. County staff shared a study that shows crosswalks give a false sense of security to pedestrians. Accidents can actually increase.</p> <p>County staff will review the situation.</p>

## Yakima Sportsman State Park – Recreational Resource Issues

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Overnight camping facilities</b></p> <p>Overnight camping has changed over the years. Most camping customers now come in recreational vehicles (RV). Another group that do not own camping equipment enjoy the rustic yurts and cabins at state parks<sup>4</sup>.</p> <p>Yakima Sportsman State Park has many tent campsites that are not used during much of the year. At the same time, customers have requested more RV sites and cabins or yurts.</p> <p>Customers complain about the distance between campsites and the restroom buildings.</p>	<p>Convert some of the existing tent campsites to RV sites and cabins as a pilot.</p> <p>Depending upon demand, build additional RV sites and cabins. Adding RV sites and cabins must be balanced with the expense of adding a new restroom building.</p> <p>Please see Facility Concept Plans (Appendix D) to see a map of how overnight camping facilities may be located.</p>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.parks.wa.gov/yurtsandcabins/default.asp>

## Yakima Sportsman State Park – Recreational Resource Issues

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>New shop and administrative area</b></p> <p>Adjacent property was acquired to provide for a park shop that has been needed for some time. That property may be suitable to move administrative facilities, which would provide room for overnight and day-use facilities in the main park.</p>	<p>Move administrative facilities and the ranger residence<sup>5</sup> outside the main park.</p>
<p><b>Group camp facilities</b></p> <p>Often times overnight customers like to camp in groups. Sometimes these are large family events, RV rallies, bike groups or others that want to camp together.</p> <p>Currently the park has an informal area where groups can camp, but it is small and lacks bathroom facilities.</p>	<p>After business planning, designate and develop an appropriately sized group camp.</p>

<sup>5</sup> The existing ranger residence would be demolished.

## Yakima Sportsman State Park – Recreational Resource Issues

Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Recreational facilities within the park</b></p> <p>During the planning process there were suggestions for a wide range of recreational facilities, including a petting zoo, cableskiing, a spray park, and other recreational facilities.</p> <p>Other folks wanted areas for wildlife viewing, and quiet contemplation. Considering the potential future growth near the park, large areas in a natural setting may be valuable.</p>	<p>Add a mixture of recreational facilities that can be supported either by concessionaires or park staff. Besides trails, new recreational facilities could include:</p> <p>Within a playground area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Spray park.</li> <li>▪ Replace the existing play structure with a larger one.</li> <li>▪ Boulder wall play structure.</li> </ul> <p>In other areas within the park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ampitheater</li> <li>▪ ADA Fishing pier</li> </ul> <p>Open space will also maintained in the park design.</p> <p>Please see Facility Concept Plans in the appendices to see a map of how recreational facilities may be located.</p>
<p><b>Enterprise services within the state park</b></p> <p>Some customers have asked for a small store within the state park. If the park becomes connected to the regional trail system, there may be opportunities for bicycle rentals.</p>	<p>The planning team will evaluate this idea in terms of the park business plan. In accordance with the Centennial 2013 Plan, all 120 state parks will have a business plan.</p>

## Indian Rock Paintings State Park

Indian Rock Paintings State Park – Cultural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approach
<p><b>Continuing operation of Indian Rock Paintings State Park.</b></p> <p>Several issues arose during the planning process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The site is not owned by State Parks. Yakima County and the Yakima Valley Canal Company are the landowners.</li> <li>▪ Damage to the rock paintings has occurred over the years. Spray painting graffiti on the rocks and the subsequent attempts to remove the paint degraded the cultural resource. Rock climbing has also been a problem.</li> <li>▪ The Yakama Nation and the Yakima Valley Canal Company have expressed concerns about continuing public access.</li> <li>▪ Rocks sometimes fall from the cliff face.</li> <li>▪ Future development in the area may jeopardize the rock paintings.</li> </ul>	<p>Protection of the Native American cultural resource was the most important value for the planning team, as it formed its recommendation. The planning team recommends the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assist landowners in removing access to the site. At this time it seems most practical to remove parts of the existing staircases and fracture the walkway. The area would be seeded with plants that discourage trespass. Whatever method that is used will be reviewed by the Yakama Nation and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.</li> <li>▪ Assist with interpretation of the rock paintings. If in the future Yakima County proceeds with a nearby parking area, State Parks could assist with the design, production, and installation of interpretive panels about the rock paintings.</li> <li>▪ Decommission the state park. State Parks would have no future involvement in the management of this property.</li> <li>▪ Work with the Department of Transportation and Washington State Historical Society to remove the current historic marker.</li> <li>▪ The planning team believes that a practical and cost-efficient project is in the best interest of the rock paintings. Graffiti at the site continues and the sooner access is restricted the more protected the rock art will be.</li> </ul> <p>For a graphic representation of recommended site modifications, please see the Facility Concept Plan (Appendix D).</p>

## **SECTION 6: FACILITY CONCEPT PLANS**

The Facilities Concept plan (see Appendix D) for Yakima Sportsman State Park will provide additional detail for the management approaches described above.

It is important to understand that, although schematic drawings (showing approximate locations of roads, trails, campgrounds, etc.) are provided, the drawings are for discussion purposes only. The exact size, location and configuration of facilities depend upon studies that will be completed later.

## APPENDIX A: WASHINGTON STATE PARKS 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	<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.	<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.	<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.	<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.	<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.	<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.

## 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 B: LISTING OF RESOURCE INVENTORIES AND OTHER DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION



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

Title	Author	Date	Location
"Rare Plant and Vegetation Survey of Yakima Sportsman State Park"	LYRA Biological	2007	The report is posted at N:/Stewardship. GIS files are posted at W:/data. In addition copies of the report may be found at park and region offices.
Yakima CAMP SEPA Checklist	State Parks planning team	2007	The SEPA Checklist will be posted on the State Parks' planning webpage for the Yakima Area, N:/Park Information/CAMP. Copies may also be found at park and region offices.
"Herpetological Surveys at Washington State Parks 2006-2007"	Washington Natural Heritage Program	2007	The report may be found at region and park offices. Copies may also be found in Central Files.
Various environmental maps produced for the CAMP	Staff	Throughout CAMP project	The maps and documents may be found at region and park offices. Copies may also be found in Central Files.

"Upper Yakima River Comprehensive Flood Management Plan".	Yakima County	2007	The plan may be found at region and park offices. Copies may also be found in Central Files.
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## **APPENDIX C: LIST OF PLANS FOR YAKIMA AREA**

Previously prepared plans provide additional guidance for the management of specific resources or activities in a park. Examples of these types of plans include threatened or endangered species management plans, cultural resource 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. A list of inventory materials is included as Appendix C.

No single plan should be vested with ultimate authority, but rather, the on-going process of creating new plans and revising existing plans should be seen as forming an increasingly comprehensive base of policy direction. The role of this document is to serve as an 'umbrella' under which all park-related plans are referenced.



**Under Construction! List of all known plans to be inserted here..**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Location</b>
Yakima CAMP	2007	Deputy Director, Region Manager, Assistant Region Manager and Area Manager	Park and Region Offices.
Business Plan	2007	Region Manager, Assistant Region Manager, Area Manager, and Region PDSC Manager	Park and Region Offices; N drive.
Facilities Design Guidelines	2007	Region Manager, Assistant Region Manager, Area Manager, and Region PDSC Manager	Park and Region Offices
Interpretive plan	2007	Region Manager, Assistant Region Manager, Area Manager, Region PDSC Manager, and Interpretive Program Manager	Park and Region Offices.

## **APPENDIX D: FACILITIES CONCEPT PLAN**

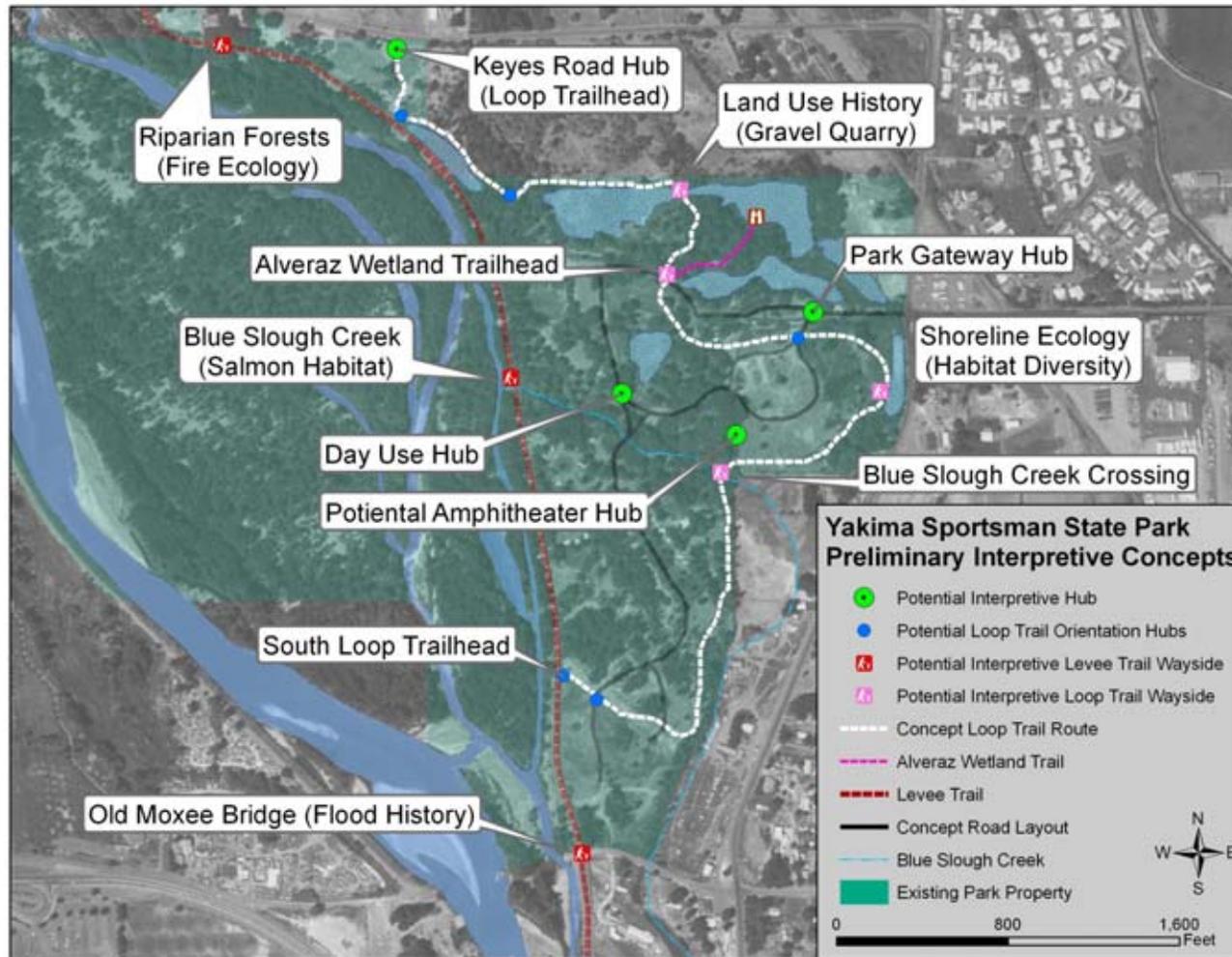
It is important to understand that, although schematic drawings (showing approximate locations of roads, trails, campgrounds, etc.) are provided, the drawings are for discussion purposes only. The exact size, location and configuration of facilities depend upon studies that will be completed later.

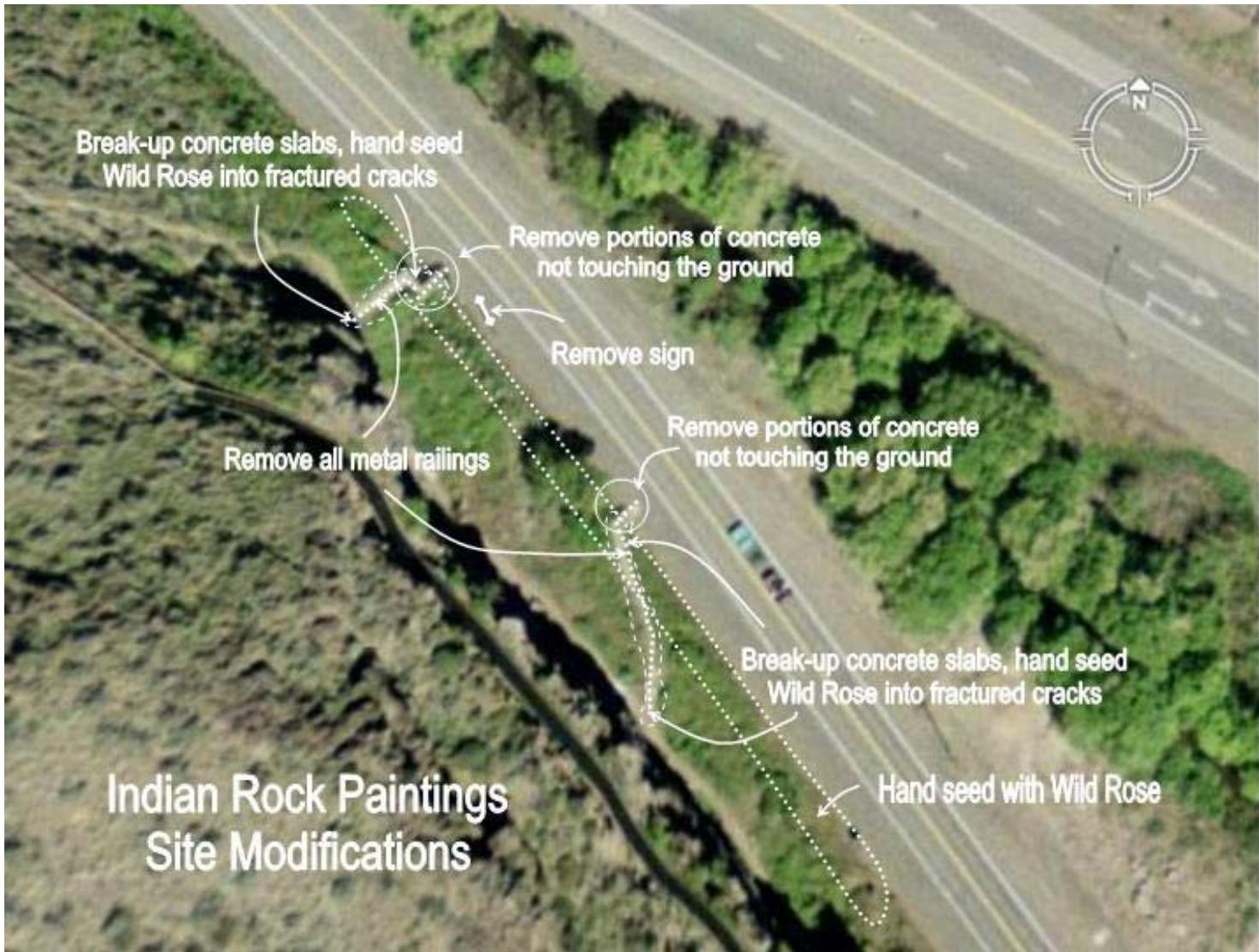












## APPENDIX E: AREAS OF LEADERSHIP

Considerable effort has gone into plan development. Between plan development and implementation is the step where most projects fail. In an effort to keep the plan from becoming “shelf-art”, the team is creating an additional step and assigning areas of leadership for plan implementation.

We must, however, add some caveats. Opportunities arise that were unexpected, such as grant funding. Projects become unnecessary because of unforeseen circumstances. The caveat mentioned in Section 5 is worth repeating here:

Readers should note that the sum of all of the management approaches represents a significant staff workload and may also create very high expectations among agency staff and park stakeholders. Clearly, completing or even beginning all approaches in the short-term is not feasible with existing resources. This plan should be seen as a “to do” list where items will be prioritized as staff and financial resources permit.

With the imperative of beginning implementation and the caveats expressed above, the planning team agrees to assign areas of leadership for the next two biennia. The issues follow the same order as Section 5. Plan implementation may be updated during annual performance evaluations.

Issue	Implementation task/ <u>leader</u>	Anticipated completion date
<b>Long-term boundary and land classification.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Clean-up GIS files and move onto agency maps. <u>Brian Hovis</u></li> <li>❖ Complete transaction on Hoech property. <u>Lands Program and Mike Thomas</u></li> </ul>	<p>Winter 2007</p> <p>Summer 2008</p>
<b>Sharp-tailed Snake (Contia tenuis)</b>	(No specific actions required at this time, but will be considered during any park improvement projects.)	
<b>Threatened and endangered – Blue Slough</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Invite Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists, other conservation agencies, and the Yakama Nation to assist with development of a plan to enhance the habitat along the slough. <u>Tom Ernsberger and Mike Thomas</u></li> </ul>	Spring 2008
<b>Environmental education at the park</b>	(No specific actions required at this time)	
<b>Mosquitoes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Evaluate best practices when contracts are continued. <u>Mike Thomas</u></li> </ul>	Ongoing

Issue	Implementation task/ <u>leader</u>	Anticipated completion date
<b>Sustainability</b>	❖ Incorporate relevant elements of the forthcoming agency policy on “green parks”, as per Commission Resolution at the August 2007 meeting.	(The task is awaiting a report to the Commission by the Stewardship Service Center during 2008.)
<b>Native plants in the state park</b>	❖ Update the park plan for controlling noxious weeds to include conservation of sensitive species. Mike thomas	Winter 2008
<b>Tree replanting</b>	❖ Complete a tree planting map showing designated planting sites, recommended species and proper planting and maintenance procedures. <u>Peter Carris, Tom Ernsberger, and Mike Thomas</u>	Winter 2008
<b>Assessment of animals and plants within the state park</b>	(No specific actions required at this time)	
<b>Air quality impacts</b>	(No specific actions required at this time)	

Issue	Implementation task/ <u>leader</u>	Anticipated completion date
<b>Development in sensitive areas</b>	(No specific actions required at this time, but will be considered during any park improvement projects.)	
<b>Trails with the state park (not including levee trail – see regional trail connections below)</b>	(No specific actions required at this time.)	
<b>Regional trail connections</b>	❖ Develop an MOU with the Yakima Greenway and submit a WWRP Trails grant in 2008. <u>Brian Hovis, Bill Fraser, and Mike Thomas</u>	Fall 2008
<b>Yakima River flood hazard management</b>	❖ Continue to follow the Gap to Gap process and coordinate with other State Parks staff as appropriate. <u>Mike Thomas and Bill Fraser</u>	Ongoing
<b>Shelters</b>	(No specific actions required at this time. Facilities may be included in future budget requests.)	

Issue	Implementation task/ <u>leader</u>	Anticipated completion date
<b>Park name</b>	(Completed at the November 2007 Commission meeting.)	
<b>Programs and tours for visitors</b>	❖ Develop a pilot project for wine tours at the park. <u>Mike Thomas, Brian Hovis, Julie Callesen, Susan Mayer, and Gary Long</u>	Fall 2008
<b>River access and paddler pull-out</b>	(No specific actions required at this time. Shelters may be included in future budget requests or as part of the Gap to Gap process.)	
<b>Highway signing</b>	❖ Work with Yakima County and the Washington Department of Transportation to improve road and highway signing to park. This project is underway. <u>Mike Thomas and Bill Fraser</u>	Spring 2008
<b>Crossing 33<sup>rd</sup> Street</b>	(No specific actions required at this time.)	

Issue	Implementation task/ <u>leader</u>	Anticipated completion date
<b>Overnight camping facilities</b>	(No specific actions required at this time. Facilities may be included in future budget requests.)	
<b>New shop and administrative area</b>	(No specific actions required at this time. Facilities may be included in future budget requests.)	
<b>Group camp facilities</b>	❖ Complete additional business planning for a group camp facility in preparation for future budget requests. (Requires research project – check with headquarters planning)	Ongoing
<b>Recreational facilities within the park</b>	(No specific actions required at this time. Facilities may be included in future budget requests.)	
<b>Enterprise services within the state park</b>	❖ Update the business plan as opportunities arise. <u>Gary Long and Mike Thomas</u>	Ongoing

Issue	Implementation task/ <u>leader</u>	Anticipated completion date
<b>Continuing operation of Indian Rock Paintings State Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Remove access to the site. <u>Tom Ernsberger and Mike Thomas</u></li> <li>❖ Coordinate decommissioning with landowners and local government. <u>Jim Harris</u></li> </ul>	Spring 2008