

**Moran LTB Emailed Public Comments**

**November 2017**

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|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Date    | 11/30/2017  |
| City    | Orcas   |
| State   | WA  |
| Zip     | 98280   |
| Comment | As a citizen of Orcas Island I fully support the expansion of Moran State Park. It is the gem of the San Juan Islands, and needs expansion to protect sensitive ecology and provide more opportunity for people to observe and enjoy truly natural open space in this unique ecosystem. |

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**Moran LTB Emailed Public Comments**

**December 2017**

**Sent:** Thursday, December 7, 2017 7:13 AM  
**To:** Washington State Parks Planning <[Planning@PARKS.WA.GOV](mailto:Planning@PARKS.WA.GOV)>  
**Subject:** Moran addition

Hello-

I am a resident of Orcas Island, and interested in the proposed additions to Moran State Park. I am sorry I was unable to attend the information meeting, but have been reading through information on your website.  
Is there a deadline for comments?

One question I have concerns the concept of the creation of RV campsites with utilities. Is this really the idea? If so, where would these campsites be created?

I will be filing an official comment when I get further information from you. But I suggest that this concept be thoroughly considered. As a long time resident, and a bike commuter, I can tell you that our roads are already over-stressed, and the addition of RVs to the mix will not only tax our roads, but also the ferry system.

Thank you,

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Date 12/8/2017

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Planning Project

Moran Long Term Boundary Line Revision

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Comment I enthusiastically support the acquisition of additional public land on Orcas. Of the two properties, my first priority would be Youngren's, assuming that the hatchery can be maintained by the Lummi. Real estate development of the Youngren property would destroy one the last untouched hill vistas on Orcas and take a valuable ecosystem out of the public domain forever. As a park, the parcel would extend the reach of the Moran trails while offering water views and educational opportunities. I also support the acquisition of the Burger-Playa property, which should be preserved and could add additional trails and water access to the Obstruction Pass park. However I do have a concern that it not be developed at the highest, 'recreational' level. The east part of the island cannot and should not be expected to support that level of use--both in terms of traffic and of damage to a fragile environment. At a lower level of development, with trails, limited camping, and an extension of the beach area, the property could become one of the gems of the state park system.

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Date

12/8/2017

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Planning Project

Moran Long Term Boundary Line Revision

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First Name

Lorna

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Comment I enthusiastically support the acquisition of additional public land on Orcas. Of the two properties, my first priority would be Youngren's, assuming that the hatchery can be maintained by the Lummi. Real estate development of the Youngren property would destroy one the last untouched hill vistas on Orcas and take a valuable ecosystem out of the public domain forever. As a park, the parcel would extend the reach of the Moran trails while offering water views and educational opportunities. I also support the acquisition of the Burger-Playa property, which should be preserved and could add additional trails and water access to the Obstruction Pass park. However I do have a concern that it not be developed at the highest, 'recreational' level. The east part of the island cannot and should not be expected to support that level of use--both in terms of traffic and of damage to a fragile environment. At a lower level of development, with trails, limited camping, and an extension of the beach area, the property could become one of the gems of the state park system.

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Date

12/9/2017

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City

Olga

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State

Washington

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Zip

98279

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## Comment

Hello, and thank you for considering public input. I am a year round resident of Orcas Island and I visit both Moran and Obstruction Pass Parks on a weekly basis. I'm lucky to live near these parks, and they were one of the critical factors in my family's decision to move to Washington. I support the Youngren acquisition, in particular as the recreational land use designation could allow significant parking and camping to take some strain off of the overwhelmed Cascade Lake parking area. Trail access to the rest of the park from Youngren would be a marvelous addition. Cascade Lake currently serves as the primary jumping off point for both lake users and trail users. A trail network originating on the Youngren property and tying into the rest of the park could help to alleviate some of the massive summer congestion at Cascade Lake. And, as many other comments have noted, the property is a gem, a spectacularly scenic spot. The Wilcox property would likewise be a fine expansion in one of the wildest areas of Moran, and I believe you have the land use designations planned perfectly for that scenic and remote area of the park. The Spring Bay addition to Obstruction Pass has the potential to be a spectacular addition to an otherwise small park, but I have concerns about the proposed land use. It seems to me that the amount of Recreation land is too high. Yes, it would be nice to add additional parking and, perhaps, make the primary park access come from the county road on the east side instead of continuing to use Trailhead Road. Other comments have been correct that the road is poorly maintained and insufficient to the demands of summertime traffic. However, the character of the land proposed for acquisition is entirely similar to land now designated only as Natural Forest and Resource Recreation. This is a small park, and I fear that designating a large portion as Recreation will change the character of the entire park. Visitors arriving by car must pass through Moran (the vastly larger park) in order to reach Obstruction Pass. The only reason to come to Obstruction Pass is to find something you cannot find at Moran. Right now, that means relative solitude and beach access. Adding car camping or other recreation will detract from the solitude of Obstruction Pass while simply adding uses that are better placed in Moran. I would much prefer to see the proposed Recreation land use cut to roughly a quarter of

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its current size. Allow for additional parking and an improved access road to the park. Perhaps use the existing cabins as rentals overlooking Spring Bay. Otherwise, Resource Recreation would be a more appropriate designation for most or even all of the proposed acquisition. Trails and primitive camping would be appropriate uses, and tremendous additions to the park. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

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|--------------|---|
| Date         | 12/11/2017  |
| Organization | Whidbey Environmental Action Network  |
| City         | Langley   |
| State        | WA  |
| Zip          | 98260   |
| Comment      | Whidbey Environmental Action Network wholeheartedly supports expansion of the future boundaries of Moran State Park to include shore access. This is precisely what we were talking about at the May 2017 meeting of the State Parks Commission and we are delighted to see that State Parks is moving in that direction - namely, the acquisition of shore associated parcels as and when they become available. There is no doubt that acquisition of any or all of these parcels will greatly enhance Moran State Park. We hope to see State Parks evaluate its other park holdings for just this sort of expansion. |

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|--------------|---|
| Date         | 12/12/2017  |
| Organization | San Juan County Land Bank Commission (Chair)  |
| City         | Eastsound   |
| State        | WA  |
| Zip          | 98245   |
| Comment      | I unfortunately missed the November meeting. The SJC Land Bank Commission has been very interested in the purchase and preservation of the historic Youngren property and Glenwood Springs hatchery, but is unable to act unilaterally and would be |

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very supportive of State Parks' acquisition. Please put me on the notification list for future meetings and don't hesitate to contact me about partnership opportunities or local support. Thank you.

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January 30, 2018

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission  
PO Box 42650  
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

Attention: Sanh Ho, Project Lead

Reference: Proposed Obstruction Pass State Park Expansion

Dear Sanh Ho,

As an adjacent property owner for over 65 years, and as an advocate and user of the State Park system, I wish to respond to your request for public input on the addition of the Burger Property to the existing Obstruction Pass State Park and have several concerns:

1. Even with the current boundaries of Obstruction Pass Park, we experience trespassers from the park onto our private property at the end of Point of View Lane. Park users occasionally attempt to walk the shoreline at low tide from the park to as far as Lieberhaven or they explore their way overland through several neighbors' properties.
2. Even with the signs that we and our neighbors have posted, people in autos attempt to reach the park by way of Point of View Lane and destroy our steep little private road in the process. Apparently GPS sometimes guides them to this road. They eventually turn around, but the damage to our road is already done, resulting in costly repairs.
3. We are extremely concerned that increased park use, in closer proximity to our private, residential property, will greatly increase the amount of trespassing and the potential for theft, vandalism, and fire.

In order to mitigate the harmful effects of park expansion to private, adjacent property, I ask that you consider the following in any planning:

1. Employ a buffer zone of several hundred feet, to be left wild and without trails, between developed park property and adjacent private property. Decommission and obliterate any existing trails within this buffer zone.

2. Substantially improve access to the park by way of Trailhead Road and permanently and substantially fence off any access to the private Point of View Lane.
3. Erect substantial fencing and signage at park boundaries in order to hinder any trespassing onto private property.
4. Install a telephone at a convenient, marked park location, for use in emergencies.

Sincerely,

Date 3/12/2018

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City Eastsound

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State WA

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Zip 98245

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Comment

Regarding the potential acquisition of the Youngren property, please consider the following: It appears that the common boundary between the Youngren property and Moran State Park is in an inaccessible, very steep area. I am not sure how the two could be connected, except by hiking trail. Secondly, visitors approaching the park, heading south on Olga Road towards the lake, campsites and Mt. Constitution could be confused by signage indicating "Moran State Park" prematurely. Third and most importantly, the Youngren property is surrounded by residential neighborhoods that currently have a beautiful view of pastoral lands. To replace it with a commercial venture, campsites and more traffic would be a nuisance and would most probably adversely affect property values. I would highly suggest an Environmental Impact Study before proceeding and, please consider any existing zoning restrictions before developing this land. Thank you.

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**Subject:** Orcas Island Park Bounderies  
**Date:** Friday, March 16, 2018 6:14:04 PM

**What a brilliant suggestion!**

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**Go For It!!!**

Date 3/16/2018

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City Eastsound

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State WA

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Zip 98245

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Comment Adding the Youngren's property to Moran state park, as wonderful as it sounds, scares those of us of the Orcas Highlands residential area who border this natural land. A trail up the mountain and a few parking spots along the road to access such a trail could be fine. But the moment there is a parking lot, camping or any recreational usage, our quality of life and propertyies' value will go down dramatically. No one wants to add to their gorgeous nature view the sight of parked cars, the sound of starting engines and the pollutions, lights, and noise or smoke from fires... that come with campers. We are also worried about hikers ending up in our backyards making it less secluded and less safe. Enlarging the park is always wonderful, but, please no parking lot and no campsites; just a trail and parking along the road.

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Date 3/16/2018

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Organization Eagle Lake Community Association

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City Seattle

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State WA

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Zip 98115

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Comment Eagle Lake Community Association PO Box 1420 Eastsound, WA 98245 [eaglelakesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:eaglelakesecretary@gmail.com) March 16, 2018  
Sanh Ho, Park Planner Project Lead e-mail: [planning@parks.wa.gov](mailto:planning@parks.wa.gov) Phone: (360) 902-8645 Fax: (360) 586-0207 Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

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PO Box 42650 Olympia WA 98504-2650 Re: Moran State Park Proposed Boundary Line Revision and Land Classification We submit the following public comment on behalf of the 44 lot owners that make up the Eagle Lake Community ("Eagle Lake") on the eastern shores of Orcas Island. Our unique community consisting of nearly 300 acres is positioned between the public lands at Point Lawrence, other surrounding large private lots and Moran State Park. The county road ends at the boundary of Eagle Lake and there are no through roads on this most eastern end of Orcas Island. The land and character of Eagle Lake is very special containing large conservation easements, habitat areas and strict development restrictions preserving all of the surrounding common areas in their natural undeveloped state. The Wilcox lands identified in this potential action, around the time of the development of the Eagle Lake Community were also intended to be developed into home sites and existing land easements reflect this intended use. The current land owner has decided to not develop this land but rather has long held a strong intention to get this land to Washington State Parks to expand the Moran State Park trail system and access the saltwater coastline to th. Furthermore, it is our understanding that the park is interested in developing remote campsites on adjacent land that is currently held by the the park. These potential public uses are materially different than the limited residential development previously contemplated and current natural state in which the land exists today. The Eagle Lake Community is supportive of the acquisition by State Parks of this land with the intention of creating a remote trail system and we support the designation of the Wilcox land as Natural Forest. We do have concerns about the potential for remote camping (Resource Recreation designation) but believe if it is well planned and executed it could be a compatible use and not negatively affect the fire safety or potential access concerns of our community. Therefore, it is the Eagle Lake Community's intent to work with the land owner and the Washington State Parks to achieve the following objectives while addressing potential negative consequences: 1.) Clarify and revise the legal easements through the Eagle Lake road system and the subject Wilcox parcels to allow only maintenance or emergency access by Washington State Parks and limiting such access to the existing logging road right of way. 2.) To create a buffer of conservation easement land by way of a potential purchase of approximately 14 acres or greater that would be between the

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communities to the south including Eagle Lake and the subject parcels but would not impede the park's objectives. The intent of the buffer would be to forever create natural undeveloped habitat and to buffer the park users from the neighboring community and vice versa. This will enhance the remote experience for park users and maintain the existing character of the surrounding communities while defraying the costs that the State has to bear in the purchase. This buffer would be subject to a strict conservation easement with the primary purpose to maintain this land in its natural state. 3.) To allow for signage on both the park and community side of the buffer land stating no public access or similar. 4.) To clarify that any planned camping would be hike in only with limited development 5.) To require that that the State Parks, if remote camping is an intended future use, always maintain appropriate fire risk reduction of such activities by creating fire breaks or other fire mitigation techniques to protect the Park's land and the surrounding community. We appreciate your review of our written public comment and look forward to engaging with the Washington State Parks and the land owner as the project moves through the process. Respectfully Submitted, Jim Johnson, President Eagle Lake Community Association Board of Directors Orcas Island, Washington

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**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2018 1:42 PM

**To:** Washington State Parks Planning <[Planning@PARKS.WA.GOV](mailto:Planning@PARKS.WA.GOV)>

**Subject:** Moran and Obstruction boundary expansions

Sanh Ho,

I am a resident of Orcas Island and I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the expansion of both the Moran State Park and the Obstruction State Park boundaries. These are excellent opportunities to provide additional lands that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors in many ways. Please do everything you can to achieve these expansions.

Thank you very much!