

APRIL COMMISSION MEETING RECAP

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



The Commission visited Yakima to enjoy the spring weather and tackle a packed agenda. Here's an overview of topics covered.

COMMISSION MEETING

Item E-1: 2025-27 Capital budget development

This item asked the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to approve budgeting assumptions, structure and the magnitude of capital funding to help guide development of the agency's 2025-27 capital budget request. This budget drives many parks projects for the agency, and the proposal represents a lot of great work by staff in the Capital Budget Program, the wider Parks Development Division and Administrative Services. This request was approved.

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Item E-2: Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 352-12-030 Annual Moorage Permit

This item asked the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to adopt revisions of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 352-12-030 Annual Moorage Permit. Changes include clarifying where permits may be obtained, that they are for personal and not commercial use, and can only be used at non-reservable sites. These changes were approved.

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124
PARKS



120,000
ACRES



1,300 miles
OF TRAILS



45 million
ANNUAL VISITS



7
COMMISSIONERS



The Commission tours Ginkgo State Park

Item E-3: Financial update

Administrative Services Director Laura Holmes presented on the agency's budget, revenue and spending. She also shared information about the 2024 Supplemental Operating and Capital Budgets, and progress on the 2025-27 budget. Fun fact: Discover Pass sales account for the highest source of earned revenue for the agency, at about 35%, followed closely by camping at 34%.

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Item E-4: Legislative update and planning for the 2025 Legislative Session

Policy and Governmental Affairs Director Owen Rowe updated the Commission on post-session legislative work and provided an overview of the development of agency request legislation for next session. A requested action during the July Commission meeting will request direction on policy legislation and delegation of authority to the Legislative Committee and the Director to submit request legislation to the Governor's office by the deadline in September 2024.

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Pre-arranged speaker: Jim van Loben Sels, General Manager, Mt. Spokane Ski & Snowboard Park

General Manager Jim van Loben Sels presented to the Commission, saying due to sub-optimal snow conditions this year, visitation to Mt. Spokane was down and this impacted revenue. However, van Loben Sels says they still anticipate breaking even this year. They are additionally looking to increase summer programs to supplement revenue. A request for consideration was put forward to look at adding a \$2 million capital budget request for a chairlift project.

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Pre-arranged speaker: Mayor Ed Welter, City of Westport

Mayor Welter shared concerns with the Commission about shoreline erosion, limited parking, increased law enforcement needs, beach access and wildfire danger at Westport Light State Park. He asked for the Commission to partner with the City to collaboratively address these issues. He also invited the Commission to visit and go on a ride along with the local fire department to get a better sense of the City's concerns.

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WORK SESSION PRESENTATIONS

Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park CAMP update

Dr. Andrea Thorpe, Natural Resources Program Manager, Lauren Bromley, Parks Planner, and John Ernster, Central Cascades Area Manager, presented an overview of the park's resources, an update on the CAMP process and a summary of current management approaches. Ginkgo is an ecological, cultural and geological treasure. Unfortunately, there are numerous issues Parks staff are working hard to mitigate by visitors not respecting the rules and sensitivity of the area. Fun fact: The oxymoronic plant called the "Snowball cactus" is a special species found at Ginkgo.

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Scenic bikeways program update

Lisa Anderson, Trails Program Manager and Bry Osmonson, Scenic Bikeways Coordinator, provided a progress update on the [Scenic Bikeways Program](#) development. This new program includes input and feedback from many internal and external partners, including an incredible community-based task force. This program is not about creating new bikeways as much as helping identify routes throughout Washington that are good for biking - whether or not they are in a state park.

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Update on revisions to stay limits

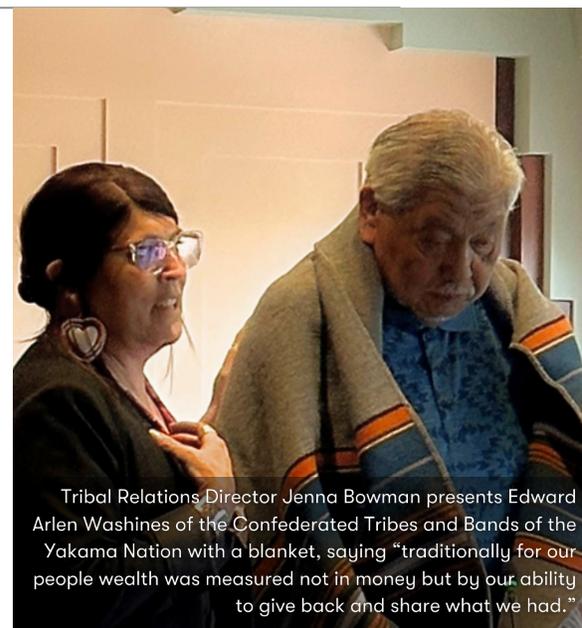
Chris Holm, Operations Manager, shared an update on work being done to revise WAC 352-32-030 (Camping Stay Limits) to provide consistency throughout the year, to align with proposed changes specific to the Discount Pass Program and the use of discount rates, and to address operational concerns related to extended overnight stays within parks.

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Glen Tana CAMP update

Gen Dial, Parks Planner, gave an update on the unique partnerships and process involved in amending the Riverside State Park CAMP to include Glen Tana. Project partners from Inland Northwest Land Conservancy and the Spokane Tribe of Indians also presented updates on their role in the acquisition and future management of Glen Tana. Parks planner, Andrew Fielding, summed up the significance of this project well by having said, "This is likely the last opportunity for us to protect a piece of land this large, this close to an urban center, ever again in the State of Washington."

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Tribal Relations Director Jenna Bowman presents Edward Arlen Washines of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation with a blanket, saying "traditionally for our people wealth was measured not in money but by our ability to give back and share what we had."

WORK SESSION PRESENTATIONS

Fee schedule adjustment updates

Clare DeLong, Communications Director, and Darleen Simkins, Business Insights Analyst, shared an update about planned fee schedule adjustments for camping and moorage. Fees for camping have not been adjusted since the onset of the pandemic, and moorage fees have not been updated since 2015. With costs having risen significantly since then, these modest increases starting in the 2025 peak season will help fill the gap in funding left by inflation.

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Capital budget update

Andy Rose, Parks Development Deputy Director, and Kyle Murphy, Capital Program Manager, provided a general program update, including ongoing process improvements, the current status of the 2025-27 biennial capital budget development process, and next steps. This is a very complex program and the team has worked to achieve great strides in efficiency and meeting the agencies strategic goals.

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Open Public Meeting Act training

Assistant Attorney General, Andy Woo, provided a training on the Open Public Meetings Act and the Public Records Act. These laws are critical to upholding the duty public agencies have to ensuring transparency.

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Director update

Parks Director Diana Dupuis provided a brief update about the complex situation at Cama Beach State Park, what has been done so far and some expectations for the process moving forward.

SERVICE PINS



MEET OUR COMMISSIONERS & DIRECTOR



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**SCOTT
MERRIMAN**
COMMISSIONER



**ALI
RAAD**
COMMISSIONER



**DIANA
DUPUIS**
DIRECTOR

SERVICE PINS

Denis Felton: 30 years

Denis has served our public lands for the majority of his career. He began his career as a park aide and seasonal employee. After becoming a full-time member of the Parks team, Denis worked at our sno-parks, at Riverside State Park and finally at Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park. Eastern Region Superintendent Scott Griffith said Denis is dedicated to the betterment of his park, his community and his staff.

Andy Kallinen: 30 years

Andrew has always been dedicated to service. He began his career with the military, serving in the Washington National Guard. After learning about law enforcement opportunities in state parks, Andrew knew he wanted to join the team. Andrew has spent the bulk of his career on the east side of the state and has provided tremendous service to his community and to the lands he has helped steward.

David McWalter: 25 years

David has always been a dedicated steward of public lands. He began his career as a park aide in California and went on to earn his degree in Forest Recreation Resources with a minor in education interpreting — paving the way for a stellar career as an interpretive ranger for Washington State Parks at Sun Lakes-Dry Falls. David exudes enthusiasm for his work and is always finding new and creative ways to share with the public.

GOLD STAR AWARDS

Steve Sabine

Thank you for being a great team player and maintaining a positive attitude. We especially appreciated the hard work you did on the day-use roof!

Brandon Baxter

Thank you for your excellent work at Dash Point during the influx of unregistered campers and for discovering and removing a registered offender. Your ability to maintain composure and ensure safety for all parties is recognized. We appreciate you, your work, and the way you handled a stressful situation.

Raven Blanhik

Thank you for stepping up during our staffing shortage to make sure that the campground was ready for opening all while taking the lead on hiring our seasonal staff.