



Washington State Parks is excited to host the 2025 Association of Western State Parks Conference (AWSPC) May 12 – 16. This year’s conference, formally known as RMSPEC, will be held on the iconic Columbia River George in Vancouver, Washington.

Given our location we have decided to center our conference theme around the mighty Columbia with: *A River Runs Through It*. We have woven our topics and field trips around this theme and are excited for you to join us on this adventure.

Learn more about what to expect at this year’s conference on our website, <https://parks.wa.gov/AWSPC>

Here is some of what we’ve got planned for this year’s conference:

Day 1 Monday, May 12

- General registration, 3 – 6 p.m.
- Director’s meeting, 4 – 6 p.m.

Day 2 Tuesday, May 13

Morning sessions include:

- Welcome from Washington State Parks Director, Diana Dupuis
- Keynotes with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Park Commissioner Sophia Danenberg – first African American to Summit Everest
- Vendor introductions and break
- Tribal relations and interpretation topic sessions

Afternoon field trip to:

- Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Mt. St. Helens Visitor Center
- Battleground State Park

Afternoon topics and themes:

- Tribal partnerships
- Interpretation and modernizing how we tell our stories
- Urban development and the challenges our parks are facing

Parks will host a dinner at Battleground Lake State Park

Day 3 Wednesday, May 14

Morning sessions include:

- Climate change, sustainability, historic preservation, maintenance and ADA topic sessions

Afternoon field trip:

- Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

Day 4 Thursday, May 15

All-day tour along the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area with stops at:

- Multnomah Falls State Park (OR)
- Bridge of the Gods
- Beacon Rock State Park
- Columbia Gorge Discovery Center
- Columbia Hills State Park
- Lyle Trailhead

Themes include:

- Timed Entry
- Recreation Impacts
- Partnerships
- Projects and Safety
- Park Operations

Closing ceremony at McMenamins Edgefield Hotel, Troutdale, OR

Day 5 Friday, May 16

Travel home or stay and enjoy more of what the Columbia Gorge has to offer!