

Diana Dupuis
Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

1111 Israel Road S.W. • P.O. Box 42650 • Olympia, WA 98504-2650 • (360) 902-8500
TDD Telecommunications Device for the Deaf: 800-833-6388
www.parks.wa.gov

August 27, 2025

Item E-3: Agency Request Legislation for the 2026 Session – Requested Action

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: All new agency request legislation is due to the Governor’s Office by Friday, September 12, 2025. This item requests the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission approval of potential agency request legislation and delegation of authority to the Director’s Office and the Legislative Committee to finalize agency bills prior to submission to the Governor’s Office for review and approval. This item advances the Commission’s goal in the strategic plan: “Obtain and effectively manage resources needed to create and sustain an exceptional parks system”.

SIGNIFICANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Every September, state agencies are required to submit agency sponsored legislation, known as “agency request legislation”, to the Governor’s Office. Each bill is evaluated and approved by the Governor’s Office. If approved, the agency will then need to secure a legislative sponsor(s) prior to filing the bill for consideration during the 2026 session.

Attached are the requirements from the Governor’s Office for each agency request legislation the agency submits for consideration. Agency bills must meet these requirements to be considered for approval by the Governor’s Office. The Governor’s Office reviews all proposals and usually issues approvals or denials in the fall after they’ve had the opportunity to review each agency proposal.

Staff recommends two 2026 agency request legislation proposals for your consideration. The following options have been approved by the Executive Management Team:

- 1) Seashore Conservation Area Jurisdiction Consistency
 - The [Seashore Conservation Area](#) (SCA) was established in 1969. The SCA parameters covers most of the State’s Western shoreline and it [specifies this jurisdiction](#) as “between Cape Disappointment and Leadbetter Point; between Toke Point and the South jetty on Point Chehalis; and between Damon Point and the Makah Indian Reservation and occupying the area between the line of ordinary high tide and the line of extreme low tide.” The SCA does not apply to Tribal reservations.
 - The SCA conveys jurisdiction to State Parks in [RCW 79A.05.610](#).
 - The North and South directional points of the SCA have changed since 1969 and it would be helpful to update it to a more modern and predictable standard for the jurisdiction. More importantly, the standard of “line of ordinary high tide and the line of extreme low tide” is ever-changing and does not provide a consistent and predictable standard for State Parks’ jurisdiction along the

coast. It would be helpful to establish a more static and predictable standard that does not change with the tides.

2) Ski Lift Regulations Technical Clean-up

- State Parks is responsible for regulation and enforcement of ski area facilities and equipment found in [RCW 79A.40](#) and [RCW 79A.45](#).
- The goal for this legislation will be a technical clean-up of removing/replacing outdated terminology with updated language related to current equipment and technology being used at this time.

Work on bill drafts, fiscal notes, stakeholder and Tribal outreach is begun and will continue until one or both of these proposals are submitted to the Governor's Office by the September 12, 2025 submission deadline. Based on this timeline, and the potential need to make draft bill changes that align with feedback from our stakeholder and/or Tribal outreach, staff requests delegation to the Director's Office and the Legislative Committee to develop and refine potential policy proposals submitted to the Governor's Office prior to the 2026 Legislative Session.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: RCW 79A.05.030

REQUESTED ACTION OF COMMISSION:

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

1. Staff will present draft agency request legislation packets to the Commission for review and request the Commission to delegate to the Director the authority to pursue the development of two proposed agency request legislation for the 2026 session and submit one or both proposals for Governor's Office review for the 2026 session.
2. Authorize the Director and designees to work with the Legislative Committee, the Governor's policy and fiscal staff, and other interested parties, to further develop any Governor approved legislative request, as needed, prior to filing the bill for the 2026 session and as the agency works any bill during the 2026 session.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

None

Author/Contact(s): Brian Considine, Director, Legislative Relations and Public Affairs Brian.Comsidine@parks.wa.gov (360) 701-5326

Reviewer(s):

Chris Gourley, SEPA Review: Following review, staff has determined that the action proposed for the Commission by staff is exempt from the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) pursuant to WAC 197-11-800 (14)(h).

Van Church, Fiscal Impact: No fiscal impacts at this time. Future fiscal impacts may occur and will be reflected in an operating budget request or analyzed as a part of a future commission action item.

Andy Woo, Assistant Attorney General: 8/11/25

Approved for Transmittal to Commission



Diana Dupuis, Director