



Commission Work Session
Parks Development Division

Item #3

Mount Spokane State Park Master Plan

Draft Preferred Recommendation

Melinda Wolfman, Parks Planner

Paul Knowles, Trails Program Manager

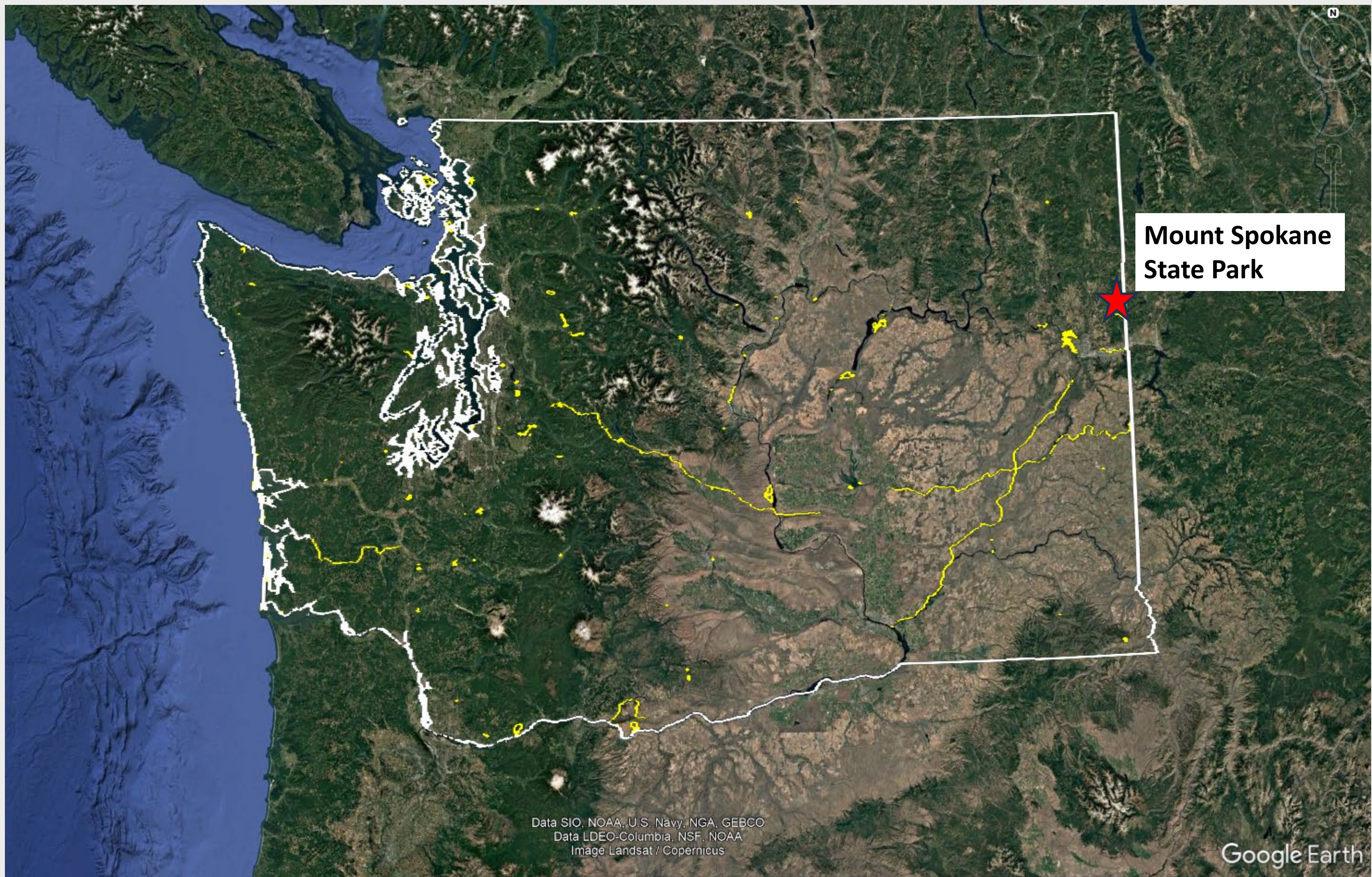
November 19, 2025

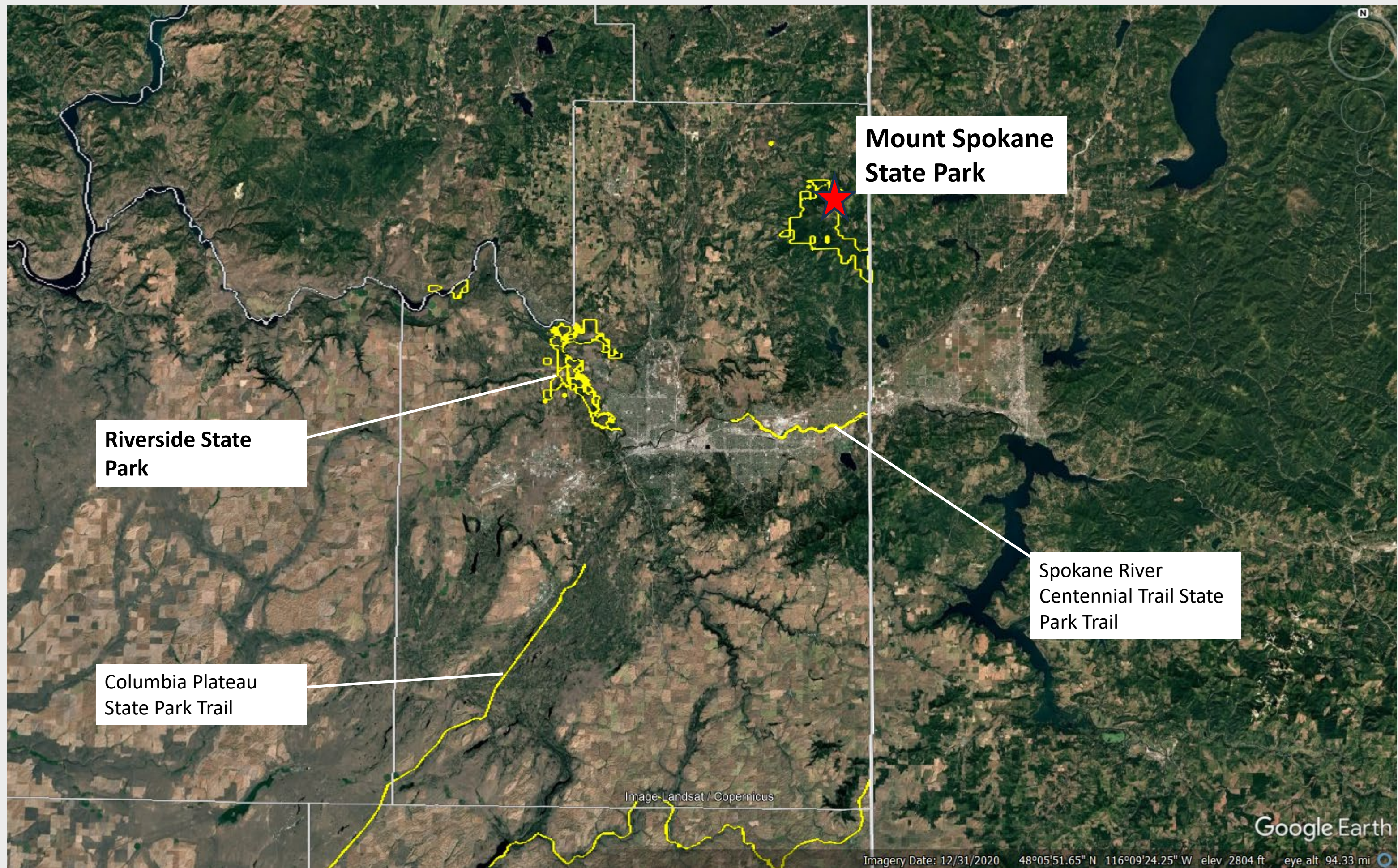


Agenda

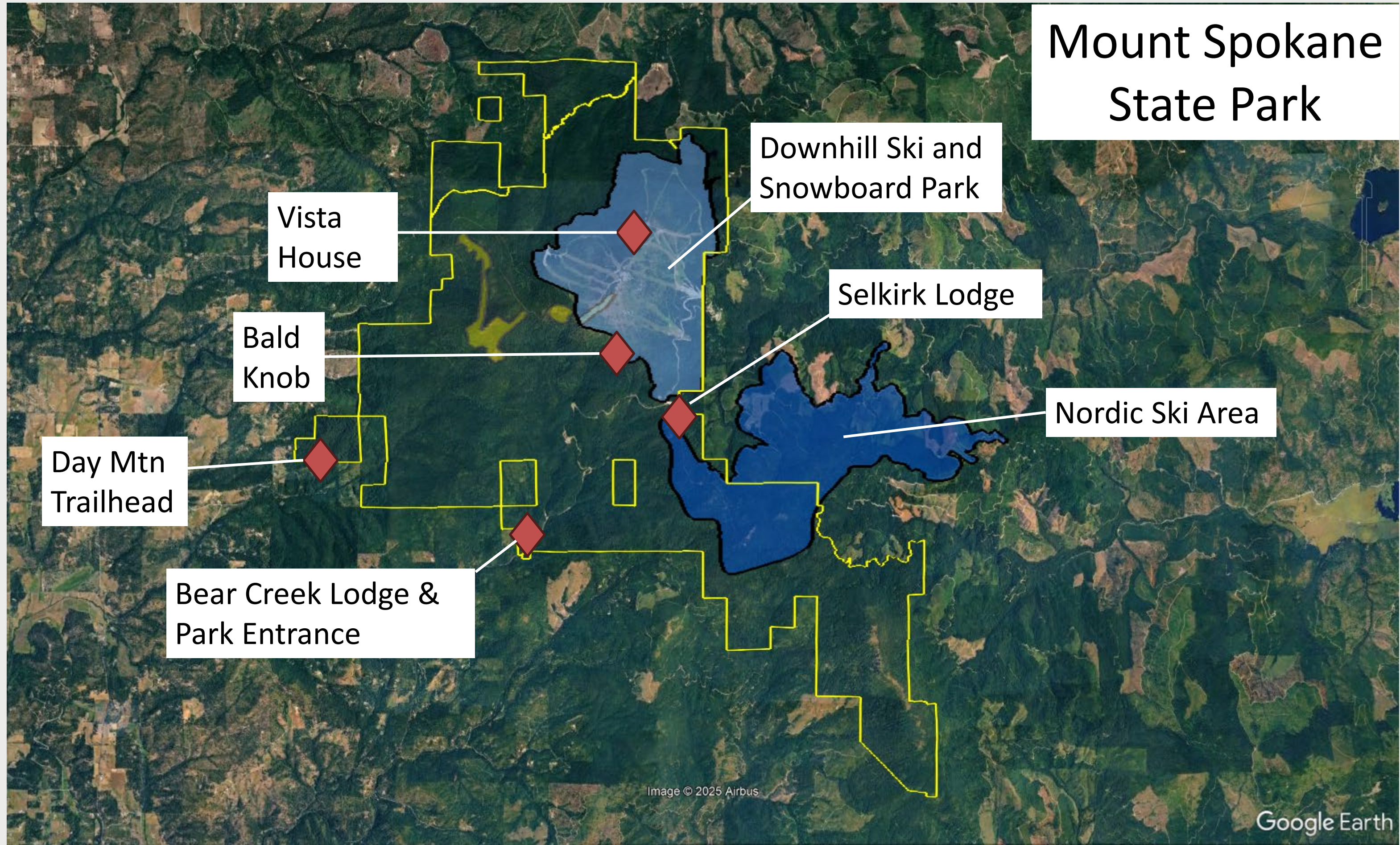
- Introduction to Mount Spokane State Park
- Master Plan Process
- Draft Recommendation
- Next steps







Mount Spokane State Park



Mount Spokane State Park

- Washington's largest state park – 12,444 acres*
- 2024 Annual Visitation – 550,921
- 5,887' Mount Spokane
- 100 miles of trails
- Historic Vista House and CCC Heritage area
- Heavy winter recreation
- Large areas of rare and high-quality ecosystems
- Downhill ski concession

**Acreage reflects ownership only and excludes areas under Winter Recreation Use Agreements*



WELCOME TO MOUNT SPOKANE STATE PARK

Mount Spokane State Park is located 15 miles east of US Highway 2 at the end of State Road 206 in northeast Spokane County. Mount Spokane is a 14,000-acre park with an incredible variety of wildlife, such as moose, cougars, coyotes, deer and black bear. The mixed varietal forest provides tremendous year-round scenery.

TRAILS

All trails are multi-use during the summer season, except where signed. Stop by the Ranger Station at the park entrance for maps and current trail conditions. Maps are also located at each of the parking area kiosks. Wonderful hikes are available from each of our parking areas. A Discover Pass is required to park.



SUMMER RECREATION

During the summer, drive the Summit Road to enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding area. Make sure to check out the historic Vista House while at the summit. If an overnight stay interests you, backpackers can rent the Quartz Mountain Fire Lookout. If backpacking isn't your style, you can still enjoy the Bald Knob Campground (no RV hook-ups), which is open from July 1 to September.

Hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders may use all park trails except where signed. Trails may be closed temporarily due to erosion or wildlife concerns. The Natural Area Preserve on Ragged Ridge is open for pedestrian use only. Remember to stay on the designated trail to preserve the area.

WINTER RECREATION

During winter, driving can be challenging, so be sure to be prepared with good traction tires and tire chains. A Sno-Park Permit is required in the winter for park use. Parking at the Alpine area is included with the purchase of a lift ticket.

Alpine Skiing

The Mt Spokane Ski & Snowboard Park features over 1,700 acres with 52 trails, six chair lifts and a vertical drop of 2065 feet. For the most current snow reports and conditions, visit mtspokane.com or call 509-238-2220.

Backcountry and uphill skiing are allowed in the park; visit mtspokane.com for current uphill travel policy within the Alpine area.

Nordic Skiing

Trails begin at the Selkirk Lodge and include close to 40 miles of professionally groomed trails. Warming huts at Selkirk Lodge and the Nova Hut provide picnic tables, a wood stove and restrooms. Snowshoeing, snowmobiles, hiking and pets are not allowed on these trails. Nordic trails are groomed Thursdays through Mondays, weather permitting.

Snowshoeing

The popularity of snowshoeing has exploded in recent years, and there are a variety of ungroomed trails to explore. Snowshoeing is prohibited in the Alpine and Nordic areas.

Snowmobiling

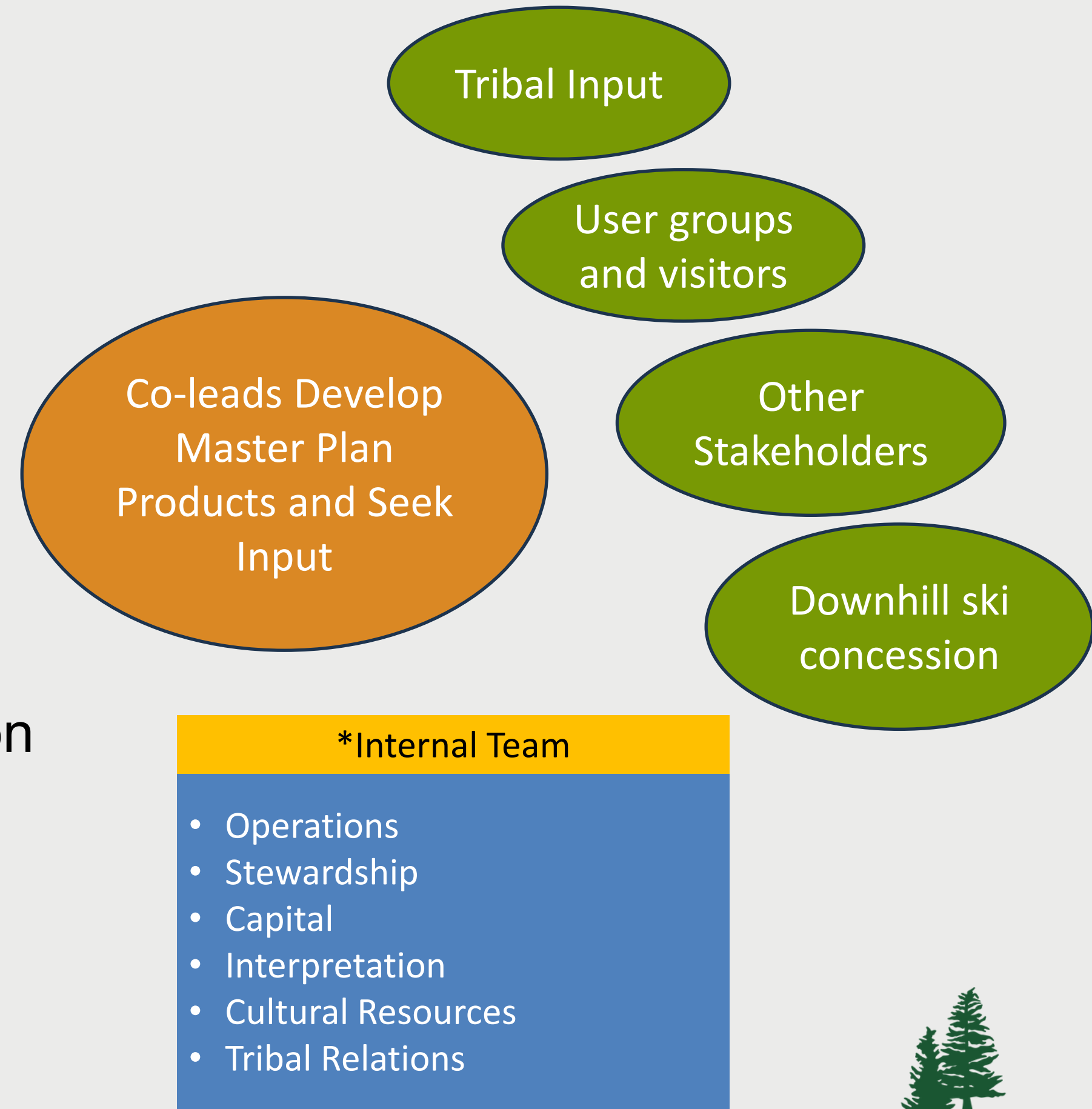
An approximate 17-mile groomed trail is available for touring in the park, as well as a play area that reaches the summit. Take a break and get warm at the historic civilian conservation corps cabin. Snowmobiles are only allowed in designated areas of the park. Snowmobiles, snow bikes and tracked all-terrain vehicles must be registered.

Mount Spokane State Park, 25211 N. Mount Spokane Park Dr., Mead, WA 99021



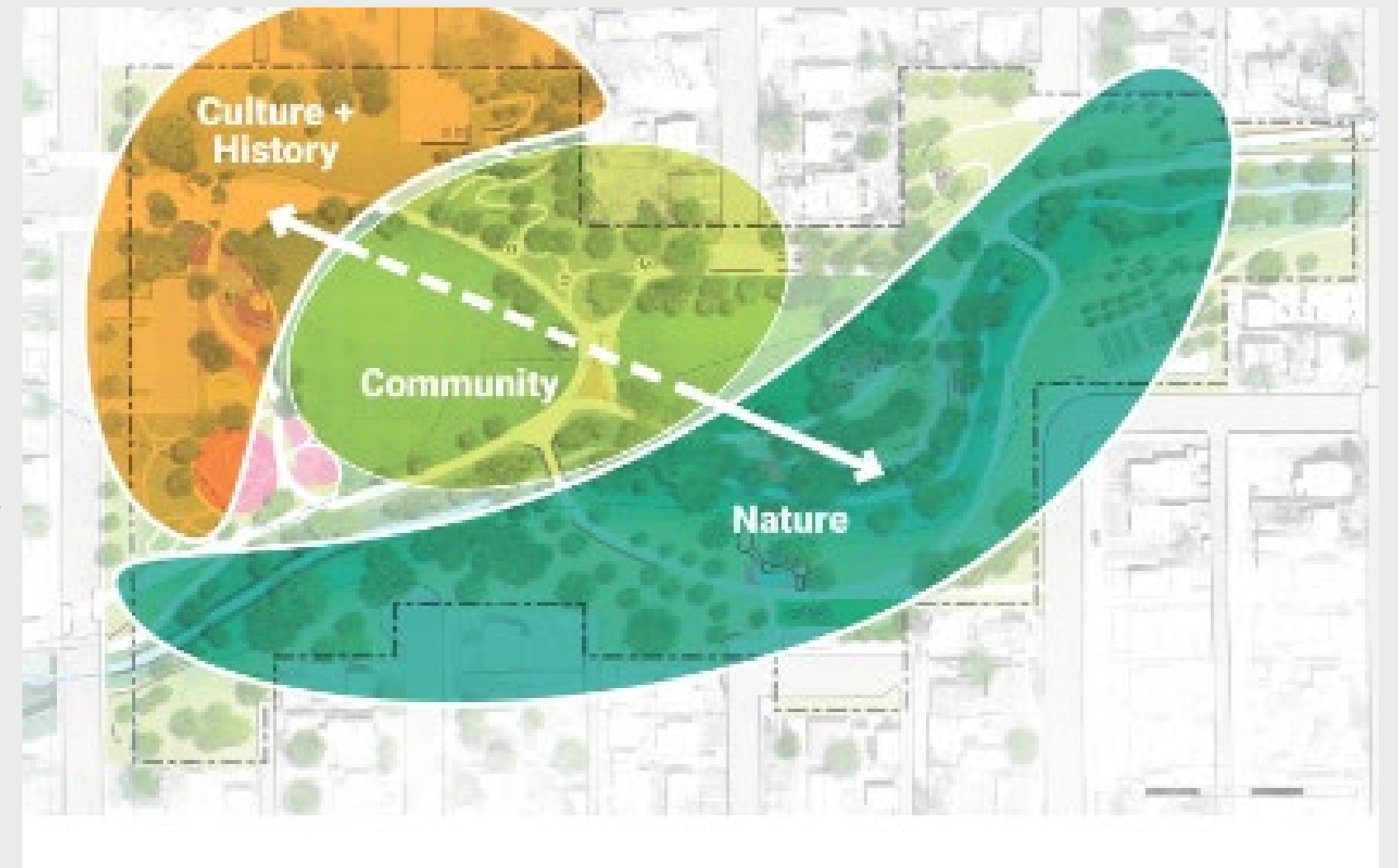
Master Plan Process

- Identify issues
- Envision the future
- Bring together internal team*
- Engage Tribes, users and stakeholders
- Develop alternatives
- Develop Draft Preferred Recommendation
- Finalize Recommendation
- Write Master Plan
- Commission Approval



Master Plan Deliverables

- 20-year vision for the park
 - Bear Creek Lodge
 - Downhill Ski Concession Area
- Trail Plan
- Facility Plan
- Land classification and long-term boundary
- Management and Implementation Plan
 - Phasing
 - Funding program
 - Program implementation



Identify Issues

Natural
resource
protection

Inclusivity and
access for entry-
level

Climate

Infrastructure
Limitations &
Capacity

Bear Creek
Lodge

Land
Classifications

Long-term
Boundary

Concession
Agreements & Other
Contracts

Downhill Ski
Area

Trails – Summer
Use

Trails – Winter
Use

Overnight
Accommodations

Trailheads

Snowmobiling

Mountain Biking

Nordic Ski Area



Where We've Been

Date	Review Step
June 2024	Open House at Wonder Building
Sept 2024	Planning Workshop at Bear Creek Lodge
June 2025	Alternatives Open House at Argonne Library
<i>October 22 2025</i>	<i>Preferred Recommendation Public Meeting Shadle Park Library</i>



Alternative A: Community Mountain

Projects & Features

- Conservation buffer
- Selkirk Lodge expansion
- Continue heavy winter use
- Demolish Bear Creek Lodge
- Trails and downhill ski concession area projects

Vision descriptors		
Rustic	Family-oriented	Restorative
Conservation + Preservation	Historic	Approachable
Education	Proximity	Quality
Wildlife	Wilderness	Resilient
Views	Variety of experiences	Low-key
Heritage	Accessible (Financially)	Community-supported
Inclusive	Accessible (Physically)	Passive recreation



Alternative B: Recreation Destination

Projects & Features

- Expand long-term boundary for new recreation areas
- Expand trail system to grow summer park visitation
- Renovate Bear Creek Lodge and seek concessionaire to operate it.
- Add lift-served MTB options to downhill ski concession area

Vision descriptors		
More summer options	Family-oriented	Resilient
“Go bigger”	Historic	Future growth
Overnight	Events	Transportation
Mountain biking	Vibrant	Conservation
Variety of experiences	Diverse	Expansive
Quantity	Single-use	
Active recreation	Branding / Marketing	



Alternatives Stage Feedback

Alternatives Report Online Survey	284 responses
Open House Event	108 attendees
Bear Creek Lodge Alternatives Survey	248 responses
MS 2000 Written Comments	
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance Written Comments	
WA Natural Heritage Program	
Tribal Feedback – Kalispel Tribe	



Proposed Action (Top 10)	Combined Score	Preferred Alternative
Develop a new, bi-directional mountain biking-only trail generally paralleling the park road from Entrance Trailhead to Lower Selkirk Trailhead	84	Yes
Modernize Selkirk Lodge	73	Yes
Develop a Forest Management Plan for SW portion of the park	70	Yes
Develop new multi-use trail on the northside of park road between Bear Creek Lodge and Entrance Trailhead the connects the lodge, Trail 140, Trail 110, and Entrance Trailhead.	69	Yes
Expand LTB to include portion of Nordic Ski Area currently outside of the LTB	66	Yes
Expand Recreation around Bear Creek Lodge	60	Yes
Designate a “conservation buffer” around Mount Spokane State Park	46	Yes
On-mountain Water Storage* (MS2000)	44	Yes
Update and upgrade kiosks to include more information about trail experiences and potentially customize zoom extent to include areas together (e.g. Bald Knob and CCC Heritage Area) as one “unit”	40	Yes
Selectively thin trees at Bald Knob Day Use Area to re-establish historic viewpoint from the picnic shelter.	36	Yes

Proposed Action (Bottom 10)	Combined Score	Preferred Alternative
Modernize Vista House	-25	No
Develop unique park branding for marketing purposes that includes both the park and downhill ski area	-26	No
Skijoring	-27	No
Phase out winter-dependent activities in climate-impacted areas.	-29	No
Redesignate Trail 130 east of Bald Knob to KC Loop from “Trail 130” to “Fire Road.”	-31	No
Facilitate hang gliding use	-34	No
Rename Bear Creek Lodge to Linder Lodge	-35	No
Ropes Course	-37	No
Trail Management Objective for Trail 100 East to change from multi-use to hiker-only	-54	No
Demolish Bear Creek Lodge	-77	Yes

Bear Creek Lodge Public Feedback

Mixed Public Opinion

Alternatives Report Online Survey & Open House

- Demo and reno options ranked very low

Bear Creek Lodge Alternatives Online Survey

- 53% supported renovation
- 47% supported some form of demolition



Additional Considerations

Bear Creek Lodge

- Building assessment findings
- Building size
- Deficient utilities (septic, water, etc.)
- Long-term operational expenses
- Concessionaire concept supported with turn-key operation



Draft Recommendation Overview

- Staff recommendation considers external feedback and agency priorities
- Most closely aligns with “Community Mountain”
- Recognizes and protects the rare and high-quality ecosystems
- Retains wild and remote character
- Projects start at park entrance and move up the mountain

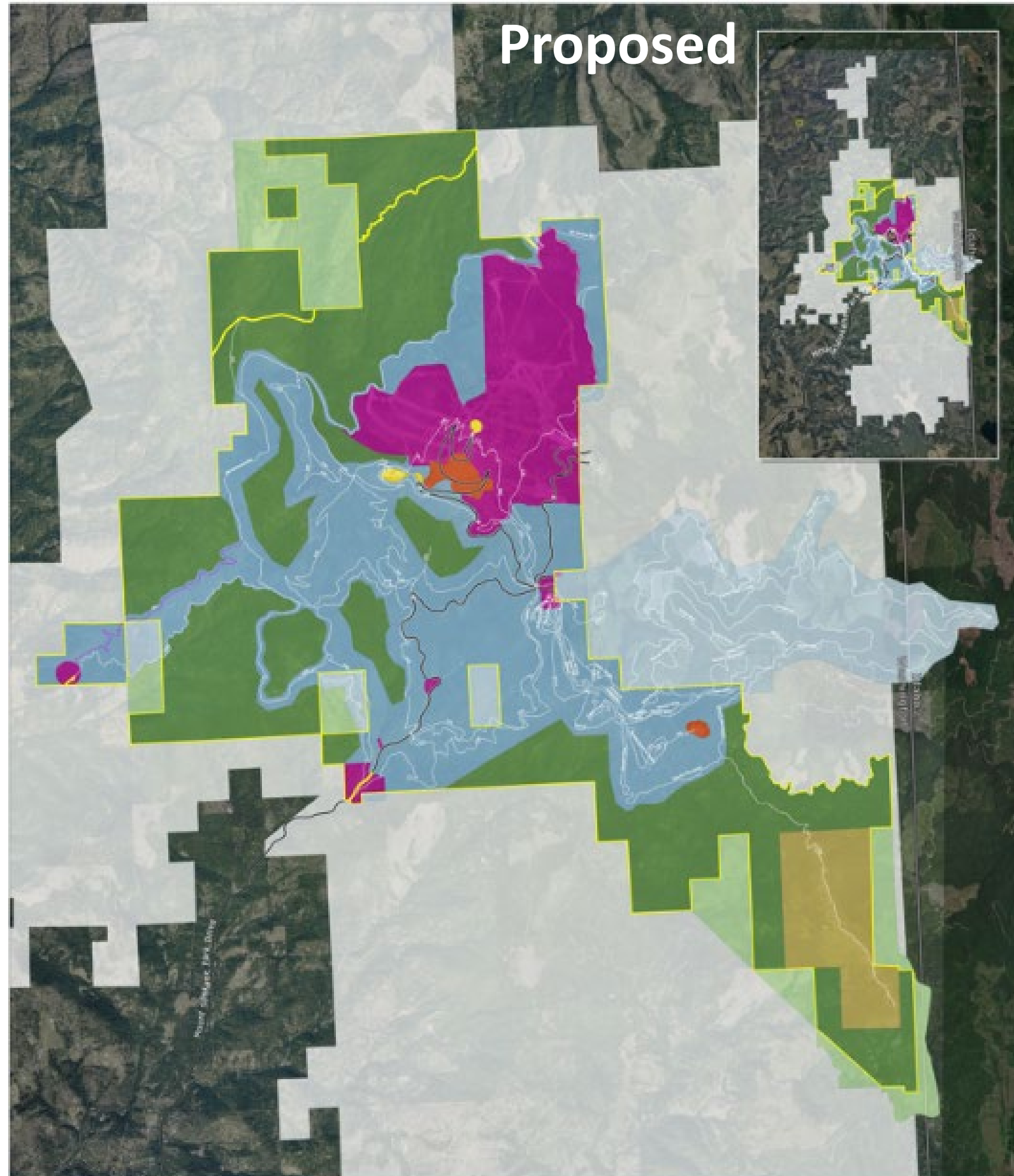


Preferred Recommendation Feedback

- Bear Creek Lodge
- Selkirk Lodge
- Snowmobiling



Proposed



Draft Preferred Alternative

Mount Spokane Master Plan Alternatives Open House

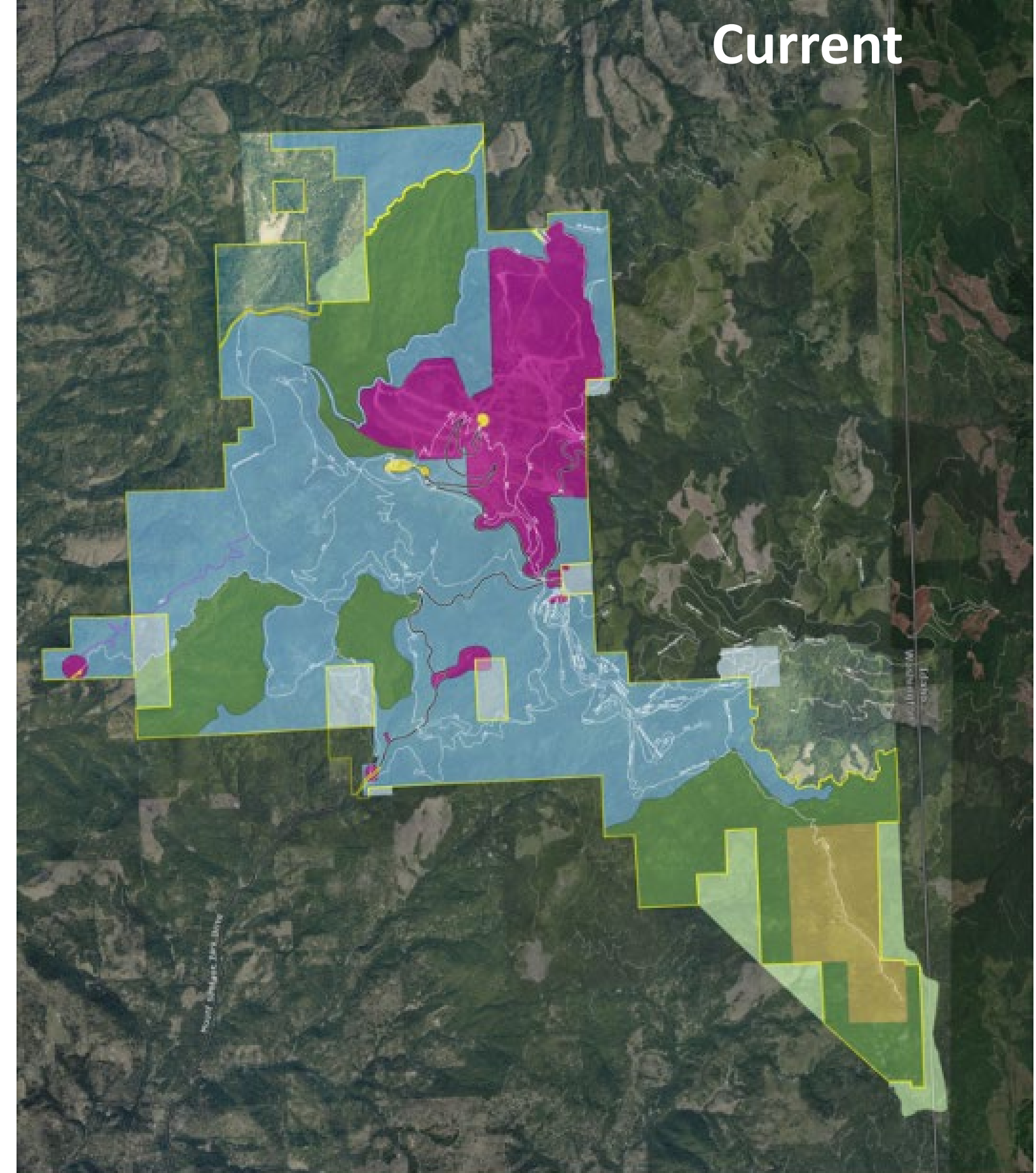
- Heritage
- Recreation
- Recreation in Long-Term Boundary
- Resource Recreation
- Resource Recreation in Long-Term Boundary
- Natural Forest
- Natural Forest in Long-Term Boundary
- Natural Area Preserve
- Natural
- Unclassified in Long-Term Boundary

0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles

Date Printed: September 12, 2025



Current



Existing Land Classification

Mount Spokane Master Plan Alternatives Open House

- Heritage
- Recreation
- Recreation included in Long-Term Boundary
- Resource Recreation
- Resource Recreation included in Long-Term Boundary
- Resource Recreation Appropriate for Surplus / Exchange
- Resource Recreation Appropriate for Acquisition through Exchange only
- Natural Forest
- Natural Forest included in Long-Term Boundary
- Natural Area Preserve

0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles

Date Printed: September 12, 2025



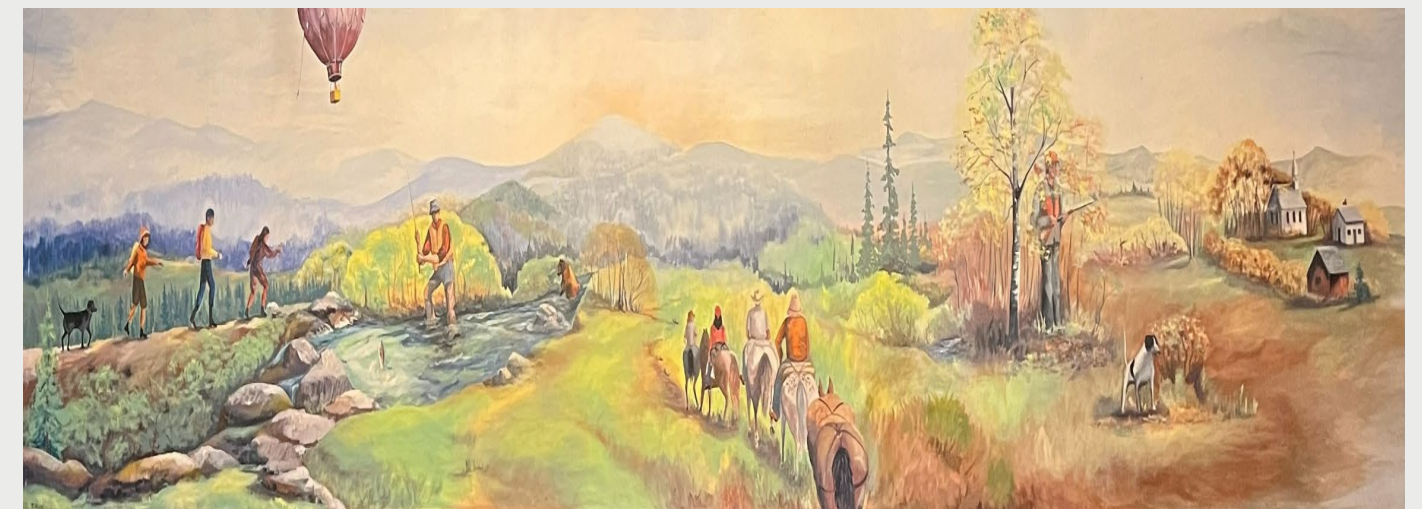
Draft Preferred Alternative Phase 1–6+ years

Proposed Action	Program	Cost Estimate
Gateway Development (Phase 1)	Capital	\$2,000,000
Modernization & Enhancement of Selkirk Lodge	Capital	\$975,000
Forest Health Strategy	Stewardship	\$150,000
Emergency Evacuation Plan	Operations	N/A
Demolish and remove existing maintenance shop	Capital	\$285,000
Trails Package	Trails Operations	\$175,000
Wayfinding Enhancement Package	Communications Operations Trails	\$95,000



Phase 1 Project Highlight Gateway Development

- Complete site design, including future visitor center footprint
- Demolish existing buildings
- New utilities including water, septic, etc.
- Passive snow play area
- Comfort facilities / shelters
- Landscaping and new gateway feature
- Pathway and trail improvements
- Parking improvements / trailhead



Phase 1 Project Highlight Selkirk Lodge

- Expand parking
- Upgrade electrical
- Renovate restrooms
- Expand building
 - Added classroom space
- Accessibility improvements
- Interpretive elements



Draft Recommendation Phase 2: 17 years

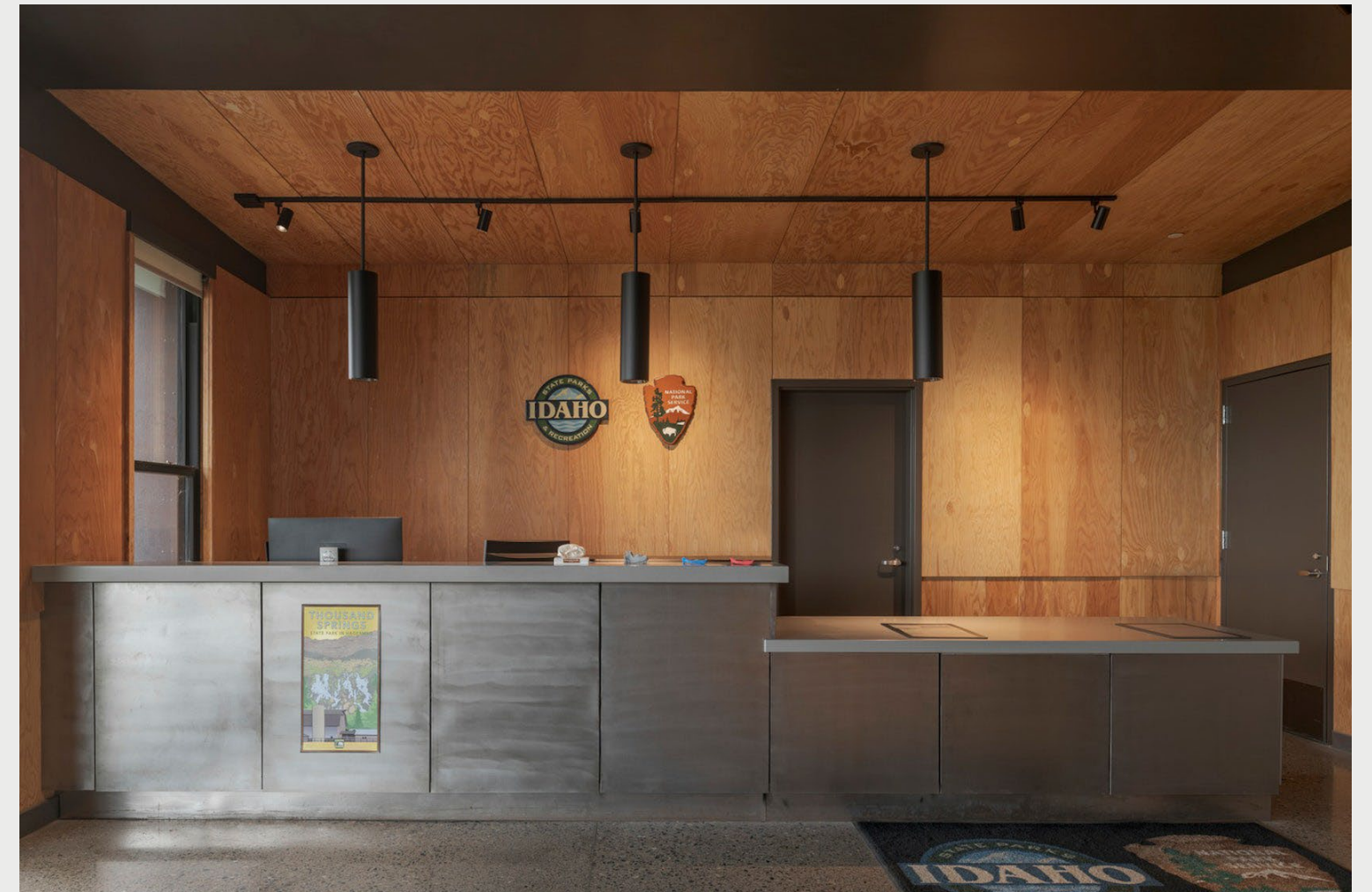
Proposed Action	Program	Cost Estimate
Gateway Development (Phase 2) <i>Visitor Center</i>	Capital	\$2,000,000
Develop Day Road Trailhead	Capital Operations	\$575,000
Trails Package	Trails Operations	\$235,000
Wayfinding Enhancement Package	Communications Operations Trails	\$115,000



Phase 2 Project Highlight

Visitor Center Development

- 4000 ft² visitor center building
- Front desk / visitor information
- Park offices
- Interpretive space / elements
- “Grab and go” food and beverage
- Gift shop
- Incorporating of Bear Creek Lodge elements into design



Draft Preferred Alternative Phase 3– 12+ years

Proposed Action	Program	Cost Estimate
Bald Knob Day Use & Campground Renovation	Stewardship Capital	\$1,950,000
Develop overnight accommodations at “Jerry’s House”	Capital	\$2,075,000
Expand and reconfigure Upper Kit Carson Trailhead	Operations	\$375,000
Trails Package	Trails Operations	1,750,000



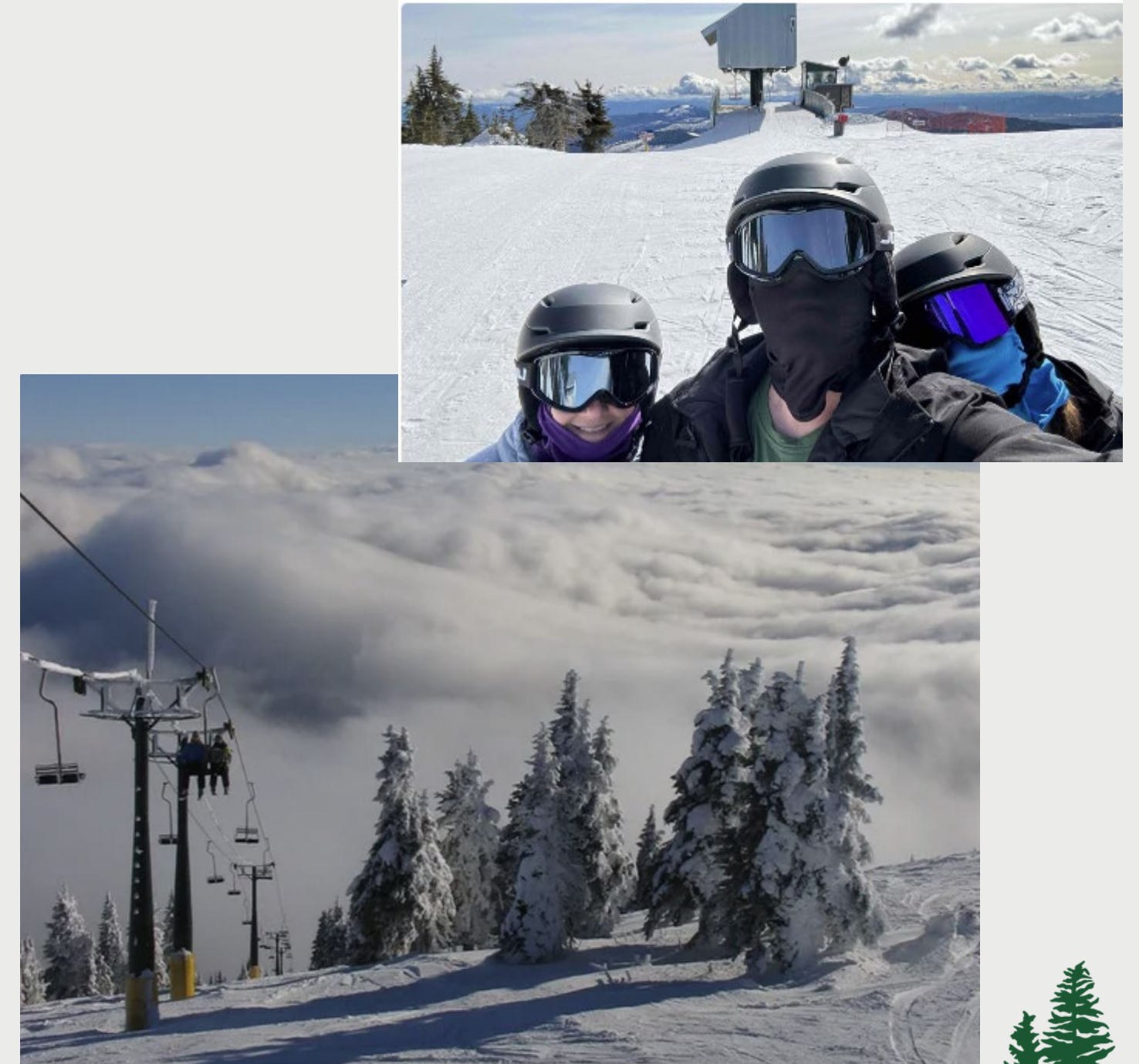
Phase 3 Project Highlight Bald Knob

- Restore historic viewpoint
- Historic restoration of shelter
- New hiker/biker camp sites in historic camp site locations with views to the south
- Reconfigure parking and circulation
- Updated signage
- Improved visitor experience



Downhill Ski and Snowboard Park

- Concession area projects organized in phases
- Priority projects identified through concessionaire, public feedback, and staff input
- Concession area projects will be funded by concessionaire
- Consistent with overall 20-year park vision



Downhill Ski and Snowboard Park Project Actions

Phase 1 (1-6+ yrs)	Phase 2 (7-12+ yrs)	Phase 3 (12+ yrs)
• Replace Vista Cruiser and add limited summer operation	• Expand parking capacity	• New vehicle maintenance building and cat storage
• Develop water storage capacity	• Replace Parkway Express	• Replace Hidden Treasure Chairlift (non-summer operable)
• Downhill Ski and Snowboard Park signage	• Expand Learning center	• Replace Beginner's Luck chairlift (summer operable)
• Expand parking capacity	• Remodel and expand Lodge 2	



Further Refinement

- Trails – EMBA, WTA
- Snowmobilers
- Downhill ski and snowboard park project phasing
- Summit road options
- Hang gliding



Next Steps

Finalize Preferred Recommendation	Dec 2025
Write Master Plan	Dec-Feb
SEPA, Tribal and public review	Feb 2026
Commission Work Session	Spring 2026
Commission Requested Action	July 2026





Thank you!

