

Cama Beach Planning Project
March 18, 2024 – July 8, 2024

I attended the meeting at the annex on Camano at 5pm. Thank you for providing some clarification and direct communication. You mentioned stakeholders several times and I desire to know exactly what date you believe news of impending changes at the park was available to us? Because I certainly would NOT have given my quilt under the pretense it would be part of the display collection had I known of the imminent closure. I feel I have been deceived and my sense of trust and good faith is completely destroyed at this point in time. Today I went to the park to retrieve my quilt at the predetermined time and no one was there at the welcome center. This particular quilt is one for which I personally performed all aspects of the craftsmanship including patchwork, and quilting, binding, and finishing then I entered it in the fair for judging and it received a champion award. I hesitantly allowed the park to have it because I understood I would still be able to see it displayed and could bring my family and friends to Cama Lodge to see it. The fair was mid August, after which time I gave it over per X's request to be part of an archival collection. I never would have given it if I knew what was in the works. Never in my imagination did I expect to be treated with such utter disregard as to be told I can come in and pay for it, then I go to get it and nobody is there at the appointed time. The park should have thanked me for graciously allowing my work to be displayed and return it to me for the cost of the batting inside which is the ONLY expense paid by the park. Instead I had to listen to a cockeyed explanation about how I have to pay for the time staff prepared and cleaned the lodge on behalf of quilter's. Really? And to think all this time I thought I was a volunteer. Since when do volunteers pay for being there to do the work? X is now holding my quilt like a hostage until she hears from "Jessica and Jon" who I am sure have bigger fish to fry. My career as a volunteer for state parks is officially over. However I am a citizen and I vote. You can bet I will keep an eye on how the park evolves. ¹

This is for Jason, the temporary ranger at Cama who attended the quilter's meeting yesterday. Thank you for your clarification of how our quilts might be valued, displayed, stored, and sold. I appreciate that our group may continue to meet twice a month in the lodge. Your example of being a good listener and respect shown to us yesterday could be a good example for the staff member who was not either of those things last week. I have attached 3 photos showing some of the quilts I have made for the benefit of Cama Park since 2013. My estimate is at least 10 large quilts and smaller items too numerous to count. Thank you for allowing me to have my Salmon Run quilt back in my possession since we can not be certain what future it would have if it remained with the park. The ONLY part of it not provided by me was, as you mentioned, the batting which is the least expensive element. I would be happy to pay for that except the money I would use was spent on gasoline when I drove to the park last Thursday at 10 to retrieve my quilt and found no one at the welcome center at the appointed time. So let's call it even at this point. I will try to finalize the Cama

projects I still have in the works. My hope is that you can continue the traditions of stewardship and relationship building on Camano Island.²

I just read an article about the septic system failing at the Cama Beach Cabins. I found a system called EcoJohn.com that has an electric system that incinerates waste. I think you can get a really large system that would work for the cabins. I don't think they are very cheap but they seem to be able to be installed in places that septic systems can't. They can be put in a building that would blend into the other cabins.

I just thought I would send you an idea for something that could be looked at. I don't have anything to do with them. I would have gotten this system for my house I'm building now but I wasn't feasible for my situation.

They have an EcoJohn toilet also but they have a bigger system that processes all the waste and water.³

I am sending a comment regarding the project for Cama Beach State Park, Camano Island. I am unable to attend the Special Commission public meeting at Stanwood High School 7/15/24. I am very appreciative of the work effort that the State Parks has put into this whole closing and managing the future plans for Cama Beach State Park. I, along with many others on this island love and enjoy the park. The significant climate changes, increasing tides in storms all encourage the idea that cabins, boat houses and shoreline development are not sustainable in the future. The importance of keeping a beautiful natural park should not mean spending large amounts of money to make it "unnatural" and waste resources that could be better utilized. We should be respectful of the tribal inherent interests and their long history with that land. We could still enjoy the beautiful land, the hiking trails and beach without the need to develop. It can be a natural area [existing in or caused by nature, not made or caused by humankind]. I hope that our community will appreciate the work and words being made by educated scientists, State Park staff and environmentalists - we have a beautiful park that can be quietly enjoyed without development.⁴

I support taking the time for a thorough evaluation of various options for Cama Beach.⁵

Cama Beach provides an opportunity unlike any other in Washington state. It does so at a price point that most families can afford. When the state bought the property at a discount to run as a state park, my understanding is that it was making a commitment to provide for ongoing access to the cabins and beach. This property has provided an annual summer getaway for my family for 10 consecutive years, ending in 2023. I am in favor of completing the work necessary for Cama to continue to provide these same opportunities in perpetuity. If you need to move to a composting bath house, that would be fine. If you need to put the cabins on elevated decks, that would be fine. What would NOT be fine is closing Cama Beach or its cabins. I could say more. You've heard a lot, I'm sure. Keep Cama and the Cama Cabins open! (And maybe plant a few shade trees.)⁶

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments electronically.

My family and I have been coming to Cama Beach yearly with my family since 2015, As a family of five (3 kids) it's something everyone in my family looks forward to each summer. We love waking up and falling asleep hearing the water. We love the beach, trails, and the cafe. We love spending time with old friends and making new friends. There is nothing like Cama Beach State Park in Washington, possibly anywhere in this world. Please do everything possible to keep the park and cabins open for families to enjoy. We have been so lucky to have 9 summers we hope for many more. Thank you so much.⁷

We have been coming to the cabins at cama beach for over 10 years. This has been a favorite family tradition. We come every year with 10- 20 other families. Cama is a very special place. We really hope the cabins and area are restored.⁸

We strongly encourage whatever steps are required to reopen Cama Beach's cabins to public use. In our family, like many others, Cama is a treasured place where generations have convened annually to renew and deepen connections. Thank you!⁹

Park should be reopened and restored ASAP

it's a great park¹⁰

Restoration of Cama Beach would be money well spent

We know several people who make a few day stay at the park a large part of their summer activities. The park is well used all summer long.¹¹

Commissioners:

The Cama Beach cabins, store, Wooden Boat Center, lodge and associated amenities are a jewel of the state park system and should be reopened after necessary repairs.

We have been annual Cama Beach cabin renters since the park opened. The experience that my children had throughout their childhood, since the first year the cabins were opened, is incomparable and cannot be matched by any other park experience. At Cama Beach, my children participated in daily crafts and nature lessons; rode their bikes and explored; swam in the cold northwest water; explored the beach; and had the once-in-a-lifetime experience of witnessing orcas just 50 feet from the shoreline one gray morning. Our family was honored one year to watch tribal members beach their wooden canoes on a stop during their Paddle to Swinomish. We treasure the park staff who diligently oversee children's crafts, give lessons on mollusks and birds of prey, and manage the Cama Beach Store. This raw and natural beach-side experience is not one that can be replicated at another site.

I urge the Commission to honor the purpose of the Cama Beach gift and allow future generations from our state to have the same experience my family and especially my children have had. It would be a huge loss to the park system and to the public not to maintain the cabins, store and lodge as they have been. Of all the places money might be spent, this is a

place to invest and safeguard.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.¹²

I love Cama Beach!!¹³

I have been coming to this park since 1971. Shutting down the park should not be an option. The park has way too much historical significance for it just to go away. I pity the Risk Family who donated the land to see this happen. Permitting and negotiation had to of taken place to allow the septic infrastructure? Why do we not want, to talk about that? The contractor and engineers who designed this should be help accountable to the taxpayers who funded this. They should report out now on how they are going to solve the problemâ€¦ | IE Liabilityâ€¦|. Also if this park is closed it is closed to all, Including Tribal entities who are allowed to clam, while clamming is off limits to the rest of the public. Just work for a solution!¹⁴

Hello,

I want to show my support for reopening Cama Beach Historic cabins. Those cabins are not only a lovely place to vacation and tradition for my family and friends but an important part of history and wonderful place to keep for the future. ¹⁵

Good evening. I would like to emphasize that Cama Beach Cabins are a wonderful place to vacation and get away from the world. It's an amazing retreat and it would be very sad to see them close. Even if the solution is porta-potties instead of running water that would be great. We haven't ever needed a shower there, so I would be ok with no showers available. Please save the retreat that is Cama Beach Cabins for future generations.¹⁶

My family and family friends have been going for years. Its been part of a traditi9n to go every year. I personally have many of my happiest memories there with my friends and family and the games we play together and the time spent. It's been one of the most looked for vacations every years and I really hope to keep going with the next generation such as going with my own kids later. ¹⁷

Hello,

Our family has had many happy visits to the Cama Beach cabins - both the general and CWB cabins. I greatly encourage you to work on repairing this historically significant cabin destination to its full use.

Thank you,¹⁸

The Cama Beach cabins are an essential part of life in the PNW with its unique setting. The cabins should at least be rebuilt on higher ground and maintain the very spartan and pioneer charm.

Please advise if I can volunteer to help in this rebuild/relocation. I am able to volunteer in both time (boots on the ground) and funds.¹⁹

You can't close Cama Beach that place is very special to me. I have been going there ever since I was a baby. Every year my family and family friends, go down to Cama during the summer and have lots of fun. Some of my best memories are from that place. I love paddle

boarding, crabbing, fishing, and playing games with my family. If you close down Cama Beach, our tradition of going there will end and so will all the fun memories. Please don't close Cama Beach.²⁰

We strongly urge the prompt completion of any necessary work to reopen the cabins at Cama Beach State Park. These cabins are vital not only for the local economy and businesses but also for the overall tourism appeal of Camano Island. The recent closures due to significant failures in the septic system and damage to the seawall have disrupted a beloved destination. The environmental and cultural complexities of the area are well understood, but swift and efficient action is crucial.

The impact on local businesses and the community is significant, especially considering the park's popularity and cultural significance. The extended closure through 2024 and the ongoing uncertainty about reopening timelines are deeply concerning. This situation calls for immediate attention and a transparent, expedited process to address the necessary repairs and assessments.

We appreciate the efforts to involve public input and the consultations with impacted Tribal Nations. However, the prolonged closure is adversely affecting local tourism and the economy.

For the sake of Camano Island, its residents, local businesses, and the broader community, we urge all parties involved to prioritize reopening the cabins at Cama Beach State Park. Ensuring these facilities are up and operational as soon as possible is essential for our community's growth and prosperity.²¹

I hope there is a way to save the cabins. If not I hope there is public access to the beach. ²²

I am writing today about my concern for the future of the Cama Beach cabins. It's my understanding that the reason for the closure is due to sewer issues that are fixable. While I do not know the cost of the fix I would like to encourage the possibility of fixing the issues so rentals of the beloved cabins continue.

We went to rent them around Jan/Feb and by then the system didn't allow us. Our family was heart broken because we were finally going to be able to rent the cabins with our young kids instead of just walking by then when visiting the park.

As a public school employee I understand trying to find ways of saving money where feasible. However these cabins are a part of our community. I encourage out of the box thinking to preserve them, maybe even getting the public involved with how we can help.

I can see organizations creating events to help with donations for a plan to fix them. Even if in the end the choice is to remove the cabins. It should still come from the community as a whole. ²³

<p>Cama Beach cabins and boat house are a unique Washington State Park feature that needs to be preserved for historical and community enrichment. The revenue from the cabins makes this project a win win²⁴</p>
<p>Cama Beach is an important part of the community. The beach itself is easily accessible, but can be combined with a hike for a more exhilarating time. The cabins are so central to memories of camping. The combination of the cabins, trails, beach and restaurant is something not offered by every park and should be continued. ²⁵</p>
<p>Interested in the development²⁶</p>
<p>The Cama beach cabins should be saved. They are historic and a huge revenue for State Parks and the local community. Please fix the sea wall and the septic system. This park is a treasure!²⁷</p>
<p>I think the Cama beach cabins should remain in place and that the septic system should be replaced as soon as possible . The cabins make A Lot of money each year which would help to cover the cost ! ²⁸</p>
<p>Am very opposed to closing Cama Beach cabins. Ive attended and listened to original presentations in gifting this historic resort to the Parks system. It was proved there was no Indigineous village here only shell middens where passing tribes harvested their catches. The public interest in maintaining access to the cabins, store, boat center and beaches is of enormous consequence to so many who seek memory making times with family and friends. Volunteer opportunities build well functioning local community bonds. Fix the septic system and re-open the cabin and facilities access!²⁹</p>
<p>Greetings, Our family strongly supported Washington State Parks original acquisition of the Cama Beach site in the early 1990s. We were delighted that this rare and valuable site was developed into one of the best and most unique parks in the state. It is strongly supported by the citizens of Island, Snohomish and Skagit counties with hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. State Parks should recognize its tremendous environmental, recreational and educational value. The State park agency seems to be overwhelmed by maintenance issues. It is worth repairing the septic system and the seawall. The cabins can be lifted, if necessary. If the parks department is unable to repair it, a qualified outside contractor should be hired. A group of volunteer citizens of Camano Island and Stanwood build a state park in a day in 1949. Certainly the State of Washington can muster enough competence and creativity to fix Cama Beach. Please do not use global warming as an excuse to dither, delay and destroy it. Cama Beach can and should be saved in its current form. Let's roll!</p>
<p>Thank you. ³⁰</p>
<p>I would like to see Cama Beach State Park stay as it is, with the cabins, store, Center for Wooden Boats and cafe. These are the things that make the park so unique and popular! The obstacles seem like they can be overcome if there is the will to do so.³¹</p>

Loved going here the last few years with my teenager and his friends and other parents. There just aren't enough places where teenagers can hang out and enjoy old fashioned non-screen time. Our families coordinated meals and shared food. The girls and boys ran around loosely supervised, exploring the water & the forest, playing games. Calm morning water for paddle boards and beautiful sunsets. Irreplaceable!³²

My hubby and I have seven kids, and two grandkids and we are currently live in Camano area. We've been here for just over 20 years and would love to see the Camano cabins continue to be available. We understand that things need to be updated but we'd love to keep the rustic feel as it feels like entering a bit of history when you go down there.³³

Please do whatever it takes to repair the situation in regards to the water situation and maintenance of the Cama Beach cabins. We cannot afford to lose our history!³⁴

Please keep the Cama Beach cabins open! They are such a special part of the island and the park won't be the same without them! I have very fond treasured memories of this place and want to see this gem preserved and available for years to come.³⁵

Ridiculous that state is even considering moving the cabins and all other buildings from this one-of-a-kind site. Do your respective job and fix what is needed.³⁶

I strongly vote for keeping the Cabins at Cama Beach OPEN for public use and enjoyment. They are a state treasure that should be preserved and enjoyed. They fit in perfectly with the State Parks mission of making nature accessible and enjoyable for the public. They meet a very unique niche of our state history that is being preserved and perpetuated by staying open for the public to appreciate. Closing Cama Beach to cabin camping is a huge step backwards! Whatever the challenges are, please figure out creative ways to solve them other than closing the use of the camp.³⁷

I wish to comment that as a resident, I have not been lucky enough to find an opening to stay there.

It appears that these cabins could be elevated or relocated with a robust Unintended Discovery Plan and an expanded septic system in higher elevations.³⁸

I would love to see the Cama Beach Cabins remain open for camping and recreation. The site means alot to our family. My brother and sister in law got married in the Boat House and we all stayed in the cabins as a family. The space was sweet, fun and comfortable. We all created so many memories there. It has such a charm from it's historical significance to it's current use as a family get away. We stay in the cabins as often as we can mostly because there is no other place like it. A place where the cabins are close to the water, away from cars, the food at the restaurant is always good. And there are activities for the kids during the summer put on by the Parks Dept. Our whole family would be so sad if the cabins did not continue to be open for rental during the summer. I know it would be alot of work, but I think the payout would be worth it as I know many other families who stay at the cabins and would love to be able to keep doing so. We would even pay more to stay in them if it meant more funds to help keep them in operation. Please think about all the families and future generations you will be letting down if the cabins can not be rented. What would you do with them if they

were not rented? Would they just sit there and rot? That sounds like a worse idea than trying to fix them and continue using them as a place for families to get away and create memories.

Thanks so much.³⁹

I will deeply miss the Cama Beach cabins, but I do not believe they should be rebuilt, at least not in the same location. The seawall and septic system was damaged by storms, and there are important cultural considerations to disrupting the space with reconstruction and repair. But let's not ignore rising sea levels, increases in storm frequency and intensity, and other environmental shifts either active or predicted in the not-that-distant future. The long term consequences of replacing the cabins in the same place saddles a younger generation with another costly endeavor resulting from short-range planning. Perhaps primitive camping options could be offered, using the land more lightly, offering it to a wider variety of consumers as the cost would drop without the cabins, and increasing awareness around environmental changes rather than ignoring them would be more in line with the state park system in the first place.⁴⁰

My family has visited Cama cabins several times and it is such a special place. Regardless of cost I strongly feel we should repair and reopen the cabins. If there is a way they can be lifted or protected from rising sea levels I would want to do so to make it available to my kids and their future families. There are so few public places that is a reasonable cost that is manageable for Washington families that cama should be repaired and protected for many years to come. Thank you.⁴¹

Please continue to make repairs and improvements to Cama Beach State Park. It is such a vital part of our community. With the visitors the park brings it makes for many family friendly programs that would not be feasible without the number visitors who come through our area. They number of visitors brought in by the cabins at Cama Beach is huge to our area. We love supporting and participating in the activities at the park. The wooden boat center, the festivals, the music, the ranger talks and classes, Cama Beach Cafe is a treasure. I volunteer at the park and have seen 1st hand how it changes so many lives.

Please do whatever it takes to reopen the park areas that are currently closed. ⁴²

I suggest that since the parking lots at Cama Beach State Park are not needed for guests to stay in the cabins, that you open up the parking lots to camping trailers and self contained motor homes. With self-contained vehicle with their own restroom, they would not need for the Park to provide restrooms. The Park would receive the revenue from the campers who can enjoy the park while its future is being decided. It is a shame to see the Park not utilized. It is such a beautiful park with lots of trails.⁴³

I strongly object to the closure of Cama Beach cabins. I am appalled that there is a plan for this to be permanent- what a travesty! The septic system is FIXABLE, and current as well as future generations deserve to enjoy this magical and beautiful place. How dare you decide otherwise? Do better!!!⁴⁴

While we are saddened by the potential loss of this amazing parks facility; we are very understanding of the budgetary and environmental considerations and trade-offs. Part of the reason we love these cabins is the family, and kid friendly nature of the site---we LOVE that no cars are allowed, and our 2-10 year olds can wander (relatively) freely. All we ask is that if this facility is not continued, that Parks look for a new opportunity to provide something similar elsewhere in the vicinity. ⁴⁵

I wish to continue receiving information on the Cama Beach Planning Project, ⁴⁶

Cama Beach is a place that is accessible to all walks of life and where we have shared many wonderful times with 8 other families since our kids were in pre school for over 15 years. It is rare to have a place where regular people can gather at the beach and kids can be in a protected environment to enjoy nature and experience the many benefits of spending time outdoors. It would be a huge loss if CB state park closed permanently and the damages were not repaired. ⁴⁷

Hi-

I am in support of re-opening the cabins wt Cama Beach State Park. Can we use ports potties? Showers are not needed and we'd be willing to bring our own water in. This is a special place and, as someone who frequents this park multiple times a year- I support reopening them. ⁴⁸

My family has been coming to Cama Beach every year for well over a decade. We treasure the unique opportunity this beautiful park offers; recharging and reconnecting with dear friends next to the water, sharing a grilled meal, stretching our legs on a wooded hike, or spotting the amazing wildlife all around us. Our annual cabin stays make these rich experiences possible. I sincerely hope there is a way forward in repairing and preserving the Cama Beach cabin experience for all of us, and for the younger folks yet to come. ⁴⁹

Add to email list⁵⁰

My hope is that you are able to reopen with the cabins right where they are. ⁵¹

Please consider repairing the septic system near the cabins at Cama Beach. It is such a unique place and has a special place in the heart of my family; my child is heartbroken that we may never be able stay there again. ⁵²

We have been staying at Cama Beach every summer for 14 years. If you ask my kids what their favorite summer vacation activity is, it would be going to stay at Cama. Cama is a special place. It gives us a chance to unplug and enjoy nature together and go back in time staying in the historic cabins. When we are there each summer we enjoy fishing, crabbing, hiking, playing group games in the field, gathering together to share meals with the other families, and enjoying the beach and beautiful views. We have so many wonderful memories there we hope we can have the opportunity to continue to make special memories there with our family and friends. ⁵³

You need to do what makes the most ecological sense. Cama beach state park is wonderful and my family has years of amazing memories there, but I would hate to be the family that got held up in a disaster because something failed or wasn't properly rebuilt or installed. If

it's possible to rebuild without major disturbance to the sounds, do it. The money will come. But do it correctly, thinking about the future and safety of families wanting to enjoy the place.⁵⁴

My kids and I have been staying at Cama beach cabins for years and these trips have been a highlight of the year. We can't afford a house or even an Airb@b rental on a beach, so staying at Cama has been a wonderful experience. We definitely don't want to endanger ecosystem of the park, but if safe restoration of the cabins in the current location is possible we definitely vouch for that. I am thinking one can start a fundraiser if money is an issue, and we will definitely contribute something towards this goal.⁵⁵

Cama Beach cabins provide an affordable and beautiful group vacation spot like no other in Washington State, and our family has many happy memories there and hoped to return every year long into the future. It would be a shame to close them permanently. Please do your best to complete the complex project around the septic system and water levels in a way that allows the cabins to reopen on the beach in the future. It is such a special place!

Also consider planting some trees or more shrubs for a little protection and shade on the waterfront!⁵⁶