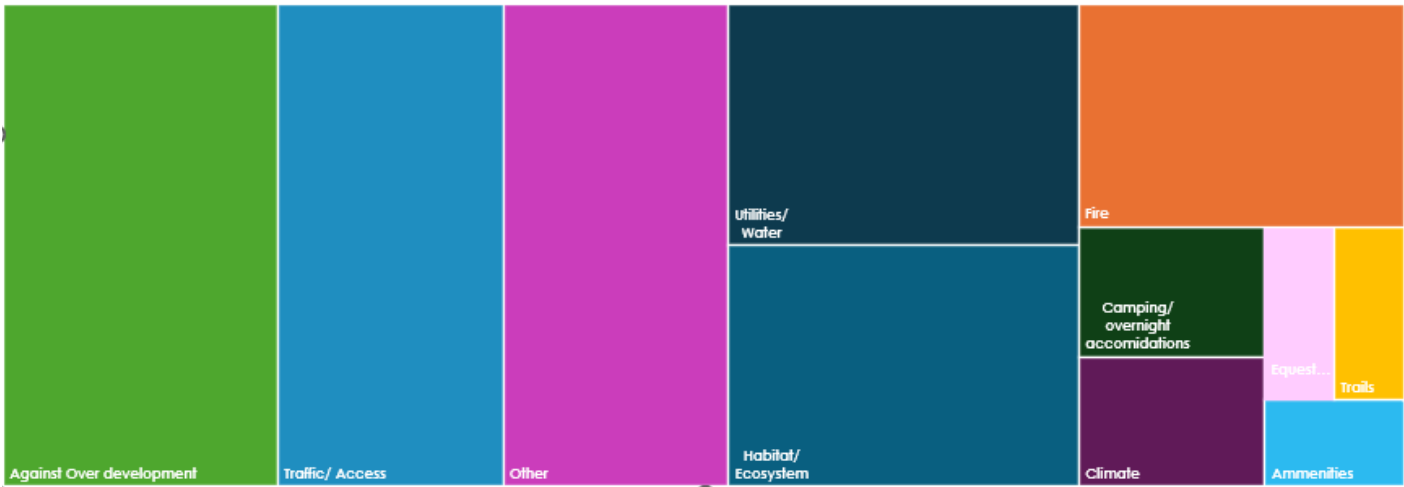


Email Comments from 2022 - March 2024



Email Comments from 2022

Hello;

I live on the Miller Peninsula, specifically *address*. Cassie-Boyce Rd. is my north property line. I did not sign the petition opposing expansion of Miller Peninsula Park. I know the state must find ways to expand access to our parks. That does not mean I do not share many of the concerns raised in the petition.

I am particularly concerned that the trail head on East Sequim Bay Road might be expanded. Anything that would encourage more traffic is extremely unwise. The road is narrow and has no shoulders. It's already unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists. RVs would be especially problematic. Also, more parking, and the addition of garbage containers and restrooms, would encourage camping whatever signage prohibiting such use might say.

Most importantly, E. Sequim Bay is the only road access for emergency responders. In the event of a forest fire _ more likely with more park users _ firefighters might be impeded, as would residents trying to evacuate. That is unacceptable!

Parenthetically, I oppose the mapping of Whitetail, Cassie-Boyce and Raintree roads without marking them as private. Without the appropriate labeling on maps, non-residents will not understand that they will not be permitted to use these roads. We already have that problem with Cassie-Boyce, and neighbors had to put up a sign advising park users they are not allowed to park at the end of the road.

Please take these concerns to heart. I am strongly opposed to anything that compromises the safety of my family.

I await assurances that an expanded park will not be such a threat.

Dear Senator VanDeWege,

I am writing you about the proposed "Destination Campground" Development at Miller Peninsula State Park.

Have you ever hiked through the entire park as it is today? It's amazing. Nature at its best! As you get further into the park the forest gets deeper, the trees get bigger the canopy gets denser and it becomes a rainforest of vibrant greens. Huge ferns of many varieties cover the forest floor. In the Spring the wild rhododendrons bloom, if you look closely, you can spot wild orchids, along with the Foxglove and other wild flowers that come alive. The wildlife is abundant. This is their home. The birds, the deer, the bob cats....

It is truly an amazing place. If you just stop and listen you hear the birds and the breeze through the trees. If you hike down to the water or take the bluff trail you can hear the water and the Rhinoceros Auklets over at Protection Island. Just take the time to breath deep and smell the fresh salt air.

In these trying times, in the middle of a climate crisis, developing this land into a huge destination campground and lodging facility is a tragedy! This park is a natural treasure that hugely contributes to the natural diversity you almost never see anymore.

I've been hiking and riding my horses on these trails for years. It more than breaks my heart to see the WA State Parks whom I thought were all about our State's Natural Resources destroy this park by developing it. I sat in on one of the internet meetings the Parks Department held and came away with the knowledge that they are adamant on building this Huge campground/lodge/recreation area, and nothing else really matters. There were some very valid public comments that were pretty much shunned by the presenters. Have these State Parks people ever spent time in this park? Do they not see the natural beauty it has to offer just as it is? Why do they want to destroy it? Is everything a business opportunity? It truly makes no sense!! I did take note that the State Parks Department is headquartered in Eastern WA. Is there no representation here on the Olympic Peninsula?

It would save millions of dollars to just leave this park alone and let all who go there, soak in the true natural beauty it has to offer just the way it is. Let it stay a day use park for everyone to enjoy and the wildlife to live in peacefully.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Hope you can take a break and get out to enjoy this enchanting natural treasure.

Park Commissioners.

Please accept the enclosed Petition to Stop Development of Miller Peninsula State Park. As residents of the East Sequim Bay and Panorama Boulevard areas and visitors to Miller Peninsula State Park and the Panorama County Park, we believe the development of this beloved, undeveloped, natural parkland and adjacent coastal beach is unwarranted. This is a unique park area and deserves to be used and enjoyed by Washingtonians in its natural state. Current development plans are short sighted, excessive and are not in alignment with planning and actions which must be taken to ensure WA State Parks reflect the changing dynamics of our natural ecosystems.

Access: Diamond Point and East Sequim Bay are residential communities, located on the Miller Peninsula along the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Discovery Bay and Sequim Bay. The communities on Diamond Point consist of approximately 650 homes with equal numbers around Sequim Bay.

Both

communities have 3-5 miles of two lane, narrow roads as the only access available for residences. Both

roads intersect State Highway 101 and wind through forested areas to the communities and beaches. The access roads as well as Highway 101 continue to see increased usage. The Diamond Point Road

intersection at Hwy 101 is already dangerous and difficult to transit with the current traffic load and it is compounded during high season. Increased usage to the state park property, including large RV's, will add significantly more traffic on this small roadway and busy intersection. A current study including

alternative access proposals, total financial costs and solutions must be conducted and made public before the planned park development is adopted.

Water: The reliable supply of potable water is crucial to the future of the Diamond Point and East Sequim Bay communities. The Miller Peninsula is surrounded by salt water on three sides. The aquifers

underlying the peninsula which currently provide drinking water to the existing communities are approximately the same depth as mean sea level, inviting the possibility of seawater intrusion.

Our

communities consider it irresponsible to add additional large water consumption such as a developed

state park to this already limited resource without a current and comprehensive study of the long term

viability of the aquifer before development plans are decided. Waste water treatment and storm water

management are also of significant concern to this community due to potential to damage the environment and groundwater. Proceeding with park development plans and proposals without a detailed water study of current and projected future use up front is rash and potentially a waste of taxpayers' funds.

Fire: It cannot be overstated that the risk of fire danger has increased over the last few years.

Diamond

Point has a volunteer fire department with over 700 homes to protect. The firewater system in the community is already inadequate, and in many areas, non-existent, meaning no fire hydrants.

Water

needed to fight any fires must be trucked in. Adding developed camping sites and campfires to the forest system surrounding local communities is too risky. The potential of fire disaster to residents increases

and is exacerbated due to the limited, single route egress for the communities to reach safety.

Wind

direction in the dry season is generally from the west, placing the established communities in the path of fires that originate in the park property. Evacuation of people from homes would be exponentially more dangerous if the road is full of large RVs and a high volume of extra vehicles.

Environmental Considerations: The forest ecosystem within Miller Peninsula State Park is a rich environment of healthy second growth trees, providing carbon absorption and critical wildlife habitat.

This year the State Legislature produced several bills addressing the need for Washington State to directly address many climate change issues we face. Governor Inslee and Public Lands Commissioner Franz

have specifically said our state needs to look to the future when proposing any new development

including forests. Miller Park is the largest intact forest/ coastal ecosystem on the mid Olympic Peninsula. Plans to develop both the forest and high bank coastal ecosystems without detailed, scientific considerations of the potential wide ranging, destructive effects this development will have on the existing ecosystem and its related components is irresponsible. Data collected in 2005/6, apparently the basis for current development plans, is lacking in any specificity or scientific rigor and is woefully incomplete by any standards we would expect WA State Parks to use for a project of this magnitude.

SEPA: The seriousness of the park development concerns to our community are confirmed by over 600 petition signatures from residents of Diamond Point, East Sequim Bay, Panorama Boulevard and current users of the MPSP and Panorama County Park. It is critical to produce a full, comprehensive State Environmental Policy Act document, including an Environmental Impact Statement prior to the planning process proceeding and/or being decided and to make the documents public as the law requires. Our community expectations are for an objective consideration by the Commission of a lower impact development alternative, such as the State Park Natural Forest area designation, as well as the required "no action" alternative {WAC 197-11-440(5)(b)(ii)}. There should not be any short cutting of the park development process, including use of a 20+ year old planning document or waiving of any of the SEPA requirements, which require identification and evaluation of probable impacts on all elements of the environment. We do not believe that this project should qualify for a Declaration on Non Significance (DNS) or Mitigated DNS due to the large number of impacts that are anticipated. Climate related concerns have changed in the last 20 years and we believe State Park development should specifically address these realities. This is not the year 2005. Our world, country, state and county are facing dire ecological changes. You have the power to ensure Washington State Parks are in alignment with and doing all they can to move into a new framework of planning, building and maintenance of our state park areas. Please step forward and make the commitment to do your part in preserving ecosystem integrity in Miller Peninsula State Park.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commissioners,
We are writing to you as a coalition of concerned citizens of Clallam and Jefferson Counties regarding State Parks plans for developing the Miller Peninsula State Park (MPSP). As your research into the components affecting park designation and development go forward, we are certain you will listen the concerns of residents of the east and west side of the park, Clallam and Jefferson County residents and park visitors. Previously we have sent to you petition signatures (Diamond Point, Gardiner Beach and East Sequim Bay Concerned Citizens) against the development plans for MPSP. We have formed a larger coalition, Preserve Miller Peninsula State Park Coalition, which includes the concerned citizens groups as well as park visitors and local user groups. Our issues and concerns with development include road access, fire danger, groundwater, forest systems, wildlife habitats, high bank cliff erosion, coastal environment and wildlife.

As citizens of the Olympic Peninsula we are fortunate to be able to enjoy the park as a conservatory of natural beauty including its wildlife and plant habitats, forest and coastal environments. MPSP is also an integral part of the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge and Protection Island ecosystem.

We are concerned about the intersection of climate issues and MPSP development and are asking you to put into practice the policies and strategies around climate, seashore and forest policies about which you have been outspoken and stated to be strategic goals going forward through 2031.

We ask that as guardians of the state park system, you consider creating a park site that is unique among WA State Parks. We are lucky in Washington to have so many wonderful recreational opportunities. With this unique and roughly unspoiled ecosystem on the Olympic Peninsula and the Miller Peninsula, you have a chance to broaden the scope of opportunities that Washingtonians have to enjoy our natural parklands and to allow this space to be a unique park environment, a natural forest/coastal area. The uniqueness of this property is what makes it a draw for visitors. Washington State Parks are dominated by developed parkland properties. Visitors who choose to come to the Olympic Peninsula are drawn here because it is different, its wildness and sense of being outside of city environments are the attraction. If Washington State Parks are to be developed and maintained "for all Washingtonians", then respect what is here and allow MPSP to offer a different experience for visitors.

Washington State Parks Commission has outlined updated goals for state parks in the recent Climate Change Resilience Plans and Implementation document. We believe, using your definitions of strategies for the future, this area represents "relatively unspoiled coastline and inherent wildlife populations and forest community" "an area which can provide a variety of recreation" which will "provide for a quality of life" that can support healthy communities" Another outlined strategy is to "educate people about the benefits of natural resources like clean air, clean water, native habitat, carbon sequestration, water filtration, storage and flood protection". MPSP already accommodates schools, outdoor organizations and a variety of users for educational, recreational and natural use purposes.

MPSP is currently an intact ecosystem and the coastal area is an integral part of the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge and Protection Island ecosystem. It is an intact, second (with possible old)growth forests with all the wetland, species, habitats and environments associated with natural areas. If you are indeed taking the need for climate change decisions seriously, deforestation, cliff erosion, habitat disruption, water, fire and infrastructure concerns all present issues for alarm when considering development at MPSP. We believe the state parks system should prioritize these issues and consider the disruption that altering these forest, wetland and coastal ecosystems will create.

The plans for shoreline access and development are misplaced. This area is an integral part of the Strait of Juan De Fuca ecosystem incorporating the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge and Protection Island. The cliffs on the shore are extremely vulnerable to erosion. As residents and visitors, we witness every year the rapidly accelerating erosion along this coastline beyond projected levels. Trails to the beach and more human encroachment will only exacerbate this issue, no matter the care that is taken in construction of a beach trail/dock area. An established Peregrine Falcon nesting site is less than 30 feet from the proposed trail access. Eagle nests (protected sites) are found all along the shoreline and have been shifting in the last few years with increased visitation to the beach area. Marbled Murrelets (listed as threatened/endangered by federal and state agencies), Tufted Puffins, Blue Herons and a myriad of birds species are regularly seen in this area. River Otter dens are dotted along the coastline. This is a unique and delicate part of the entire ecosystem along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. We expect complete adherence to EPA and state regulatory laws regarding the surveys of these species and habitat areas will occur. We expect the surveys, documents and decision making will be made public.

Groundwater issues on the peninsula are already of great concern for residents on the Olympic Peninsula and have an impact on the overall health of the Miller Peninsula ecosystem. These existing issues will be exacerbated as both residential and commercial development continue to increase and climate change issues accelerate. Infrastructure and water use for an over developed state park will further exacerbate these water concerns. Access and use of -6.5million gallons of ground water per year must be extrapolated to numbers anticipating continued residential and commercial growth on the peninsula through 2050 and of a drying climate. Fire danger as it relates to climate change and residential danger is major concern. Campers allowed to have fires are a ticking time bomb for the entire peninsula. Concerns over fire safety and evacuation protocols for residents must be a high priority in development planning. The east and west sides of the park are accessible only along narrow, two lane roads, creating a dangerous situation for residents and park visitors. Response times from fire fighters must also be an integrated factor in the equation.

Traffic issues associated with park overdevelopment cannot be understated. The physical limitations of the area with regard to increased traffic, large RV traffic and quality of life concerns for residents of Diamond Point Road and East Sequim Bay Road must be considered. All Clallam county residents will be affected by the alterations at the Highway 101 interchange as we all use the highway on a regular basis.

We ask that you take a moment to consider creating an alternate park experience for visitors. It can a unique kind of park experience with relatively easy access to unspoiled forest and coastline environments. Bears, cougars, Western Toad, deer, coyote, rabbits, falcon, eagle, otter, puffins, swallows, geese, owls, pileated woodpeckers, blue herons all currently inhabit this ecosystem. MPSP is a prime example of your strategic planning considerations to offer diverse park experiences within the state parks system. It is a natural, beautiful environment beloved by a wide variety of users. We are requesting MPSP be designated within the state lands classification as a State Park Natural Area. Please allow MPSP to remain a unique park environment which will attract users because of its uniqueness. As stated in the Commissions' guidelines for the future, state parks should "protect and conserve park system resources for the future", and "state park lands" should "reflect the amazing diversity of Washington's natural heritage". By choosing to not over develop MPSP, you will be adhering to your own stated goals of addressing climate change issues, enhancing species protections, seashore and forest diversity, and allowing people to appreciate nature by actually experiencing a natural area and importantly, allowing a natural landscape to exist within itself for Washingtonians now and in the future.

I would like to express my concern regarding water supply and traffic congestion for the proposed expansion of MPSP.

Also, I would like to know the reasons for expansion, vs. keeping natural the land which the Peninsula is known for, and why the State feels the need to destroy the ecology, and grounds where native inhabitants are. They have no where to go.

Email Comments from 2023

Dear Ms. Dupuis,

I am a resident of Clallam County for almost 40 years and I have recreated on the Miller Peninsula State Park property for at least 25 years. I am horrified and angry that you all are going forward with the "Valley Center Alternative Concept" for that property despite the high opposition to it. If you remember correctly, last October, there were 300 concerned citizens—your constituents (voters!)—at a public meeting at the hotel at the end of Sequim Bay who voiced real concerns that were not addressed adequately, and who opposed your radical development.

The Parks Commission reps said they wanted to open the property to ALL Washingtonians. Well, last I looked, it is open to anyone who wants to hike, bike or ride a horse there. It would make an ideal "Day Use ONLY" park, because it is a unique and very special place, but you all want to spend millions of dollars to Disneyfy it and destroy its wild and natural character.

You will also increase fire hazards for Diamond Point and accidents on Highway 101, as well as threaten the Miller Peninsula's water supply, let alone with wildlife and forests of the park. If you can't leave the park alone, or development it minimally, i.e., a small campground on the outer edge of the property, you do not deserve anyone's support in the next election because you are ignoring and manipulating your constituents.

Do you have a target date for when Parks' MPSP vision will be released for public comment?

Parks, as you know, received funding this year to develop its vision and report to the Legislature in 2024.

Has Parks determined which of its visions its wants to move forward with?

What is the timeline for bringing it to the public for review?

According to a Legal in our local paper, Parks wants to start checking wells on the Miller Peninsula.

They have asked for any "protests."

It is good that Parks wants to check the wells. I would like to better understand what Parks will check for.

Was some of the \$600K awarded Parks this year for doing well water testing?

Do you know exactly how many and where these wells are located that will be tested?

Are any outside parkland?

Will they be testing just a shallow/superficial aquifer(s) or looking deeper?

Will they check the water quality?

Will the findings account for all residential use, the Pacific industry, the RV park and the entire Miller Peninsula?

Dear MPSP Lead Planner Bromley,

I'd like to share my perspective on the development of Miller Peninsula State Park. I hope that you'll help stop this inappropriate and short-sighted development.

Washington State Parks is planning to turn Miller Peninsula into a "destination park." The Miller Peninsula property is covered in forest, is bordered by waterfront, includes an extensive network of year-round multi-use trails, and protects the aquifer for local residents. The current plan is to replace large sections of forest with a 100-room lodge, a pool/sauna, 90 RV and tent campsites, 20 cabins, concessions, an amphitheater, and paved roads. I understand that camping is in high demand, but Miller Peninsula is an inappropriate place to build campsites and cabins, and building a lodge is completely out of character for our state parks in general and for this state park specifically. There are numerous reasons why Miller Peninsula should not be developed this way.

Development Would Destroy Peaceful Trails

First, on a personal note, I bought my house on Miller Peninsula several years ago. I chose this area because I love its peaceful, out-of-the-way character, and because I can literally walk from my front door to miles and miles of hiking trails. I chose the Olympic Peninsula as my home specifically in order to enjoy its wealth of hiking trails. Many of those trails are inaccessible in winter, but Miller Peninsula's low elevation means its trails are open year-round. I walk these trails weekly for my physical and mental health, enjoying the beautiful woodland and scenic waterfront. I've encountered numerous barred owls, deer, coyotes, and even one flying squirrel. My neighbors have seen black bear and cougar here. This is all to say that Miller Peninsula's trails are important to my quality of life. Miller Peninsula is a special place whose character would be destroyed by development and the addition of hundreds of visitors.

Development Would Strain Water Supply

As a resident of Diamond Point, a neighborhood adjacent to the park, I'm also concerned about the development's impact on my water supply. Climate change is making summer heat waves and droughts longer and more frequent. Asking our local aquifer to support hundreds more people in summers could strain its supply.

Development Would Increase Wildfire Risk

Increased heat waves and droughts have also meant higher wildfire risk in our area in summers. Most campers associate camping with campfires, and adding hundreds of campers (along with their campfires) to the park would increase the risk of wildfire unacceptably and put a disproportionate burden on our neighborhood's firefighters.

Development Would Increase Traffic

Increased visitorship at the park would greatly increase traffic along Highway 101 and especially at its intersection with Diamond Point Road. This intersection is already so busy that, on weekends, it's almost impossible to turn left from Diamond Point Road onto the highway. More traffic will inevitably lead to more traffic accidents. I understand that there are plans to build a roundabout at this intersection, but a roundabout will slow traffic along our region's only highway, aggravating drivers. All of this would impact local drivers unduly.

Development is Inappropriate Here

I love camping at state parks, but Miller Peninsula is not an appropriate place to build a destination park. My family went camping frequently when I was growing up, and I've continued to enjoy camping, often at state parks. The nearby Sequim Bay State Park often has no vacancy for campers throughout the summer, so I understand that State Parks perceives a need for more campgrounds in our area. However, it's not appropriate to destroy an already beloved property, increase the strain on the adjacent neighborhood's water supply, increase

that neighborhood's wildfire risk, and burden that neighborhood with increased traffic. This development is entirely detrimental to local residents.

Thank you for considering this point of view. I hope you'll help us prevent the development of Miller Peninsula State Park into an inappropriate destination park.

It is very disappointing and frustrating that the community's desire to see the park property stay in its natural state is going to be ignored. Your letter indicates to me that you all have decided that the property will be developed and you may jump through the hoops but in the end the people who live here will have to swallow whatever your "plans" are. Your comment that "it's a park, not a nature preserve" is particularly disingenuous given that it will end up being what YOU want it to be rather than what is best for the community and the land itself. There are several state parks in Washington that are day-use only, without all the Disney trappings you have planned for Miller Peninsula. There's no reason this can't be one of them.

So Parks has more recently done some testing and not relying on Peninsula Partners/Mitsubishi 30+ old records, is this correct?

Are you able to send me a map of where the wells are - the one you tested and the others intending to be tested?

"Our pump test addressed [past tense] how our well will interact with other water users, and the methodology for that evaluation includes reviewing {future?} distances between wells relative to drawdown in the aquifer."

You all ready have information on how your well will interact with other water users?

You know, or do not yet know, the distance from your well to others?

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Thank you for considering this point of view. I hope you'll help us prevent the development of Miller Peninsula State Park into an inappropriate destination park.

Email Comments from 2024

I am a resident of Sequim and there is a group that is planning to meet and discuss the Miller Peninsula State Park and this is the flyer being sent out. I have searched the State website to see if I can find information to verify the claims being listed in their announcement, however I can not find where there is any plan for a hotel, swimming pool and shops unless this is the lodge that I saw on the Village Center Alternative Conceptual Site Plan.

I am wondering where the State is in the planning phase of the park and if a preferred alternative has been chosen?

Is there a schedule of the planning phase with State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) work and final alternative selection? Has funding been committed for the project?

I know it may be a bit early in the process but I would like to encourage you to classify the park lands as Recreation or Resource Recreation. I think that may provide the most future flexibility opportunity should demands warrant it. We stock users can not support any Natural zones such as natural forest or natural area preserve. They sound great but, as you well know, they omit stock use/enjoyment.

Wells - I am just curious if Parks assessed all 5 wells or just the one. It won't serve me in any way other than to just satisfy my curiosity. If needed, I can send you a map of where the 5 wells are located.

Clallam County Parks Community Opinion Survey for 2024 was just sent to me in a huge pdf along with other Parks Advisory Board content. I will send you a copy when I figure out how to isolate it from all the other materials.

State of Washington, State Parks Department

RE: MILLER PENINSULA STATE PARK

The project you are planning and the development of the Miller Peninsula State Park is moving in the wrong direction. I am a park user, have volunteered in many capacities for lands and parks and have a college degree in outdoor recreation resources management. I understand many of the pressures encountered in order to provide recreational opport

I, along with many residents nearby and on the Olympic Peninsula, greatly value the natural beauty and primitive landscape in these 2800 acres along with the 3 miles of waterfront. I believe there is more value in the park land just the way it is. I believe the highest and best use of this land is as a primitive area with minimal trails, just the way it is today. Honestly, I do not see opportunities in the future for the Washington State Parks Department to procure another similar 2800 contiguous areas of forest land on the Miller Peninsula including 3 miles of waterfront in a similar condition such as the state park land in question.

Individually, I believe that each person tasked with the proposed project in the State Parks Department has some appreciation for conservation, ecology and nature. You are probably skilled at park planning and assessing needs for the future of Washington State Parks and its users. I think the Miller Peninsula State Park development plan is the wrong project, at the wrong time, justified and driven by the wrong people for the wrong reasons. The persons participating in the 2020 survey provided opinions that are misinformed resulting in flawed conclusions about the park's future. In my experience, surveys such as the one done regarding the future of this park yield results that are inaccurate.

The peninsula does not need an amusement park and destination resort that is in competition with local private business. The economic development agencies, including the port district, that exist in the county are already engaged in creating business opportunities and exploring revenue producing ventures. One universal truth about state parks is that they never pay their own way and whatever future revenue expected from activities creating funds will never be sufficient to cover costs for operations and maintenance. The local people and neighbors have a better feel for the park located at their doorstep. Locals are the ones maintaining trails, brushing windfall and watching out for other park users.

I support the "OPTION 4" (no development) being considered and strongly oppose any of the 3 development options the department is considering. Those options spell disaster for the park as we now know and love it.

Respectfully submitted comments for your consideration,

Dear Ms. Bromley,

2/29/24

We are writing today to express our concerns regarding the proposed development of the Miller Peninsula State Park. We live on the peninsula and this park is such a fabulous resource exactly as it is. My husband hikes there daily and so appreciates the beautiful and quiet native forest as well as the unique diversity of plant and animal species, many of which are not found anywhere else. It would be a huge tragedy to lose large pieces of this environment to support the proposed infrastructure.

We and all of our neighbors have individual wells. We are greatly concerned at the amount of water that would be taken by the proposed structures, most notably during the driest season of the year, when most visitors would be in attendance.

During this same dry period, there would presumably also be a large number of campfires burning in the park. Given our already high risk of wildfire, this feels like a disaster waiting to happen.

Lastly I'll mention the traffic concerns. Highway 101 is a very busy roadway, especially in summer. It's often difficult to get on or off the highway during peak drive times. One can only imagine how this would be compounded by the numerous campers and their large and small vehicles and tow-behinds.

In summary, we feel that the park should continue to be a wonderful resource for hikers, dogs, horses and those wishing to study the increasingly rare native habitat. As our planet continues to heat up, it is more vital than ever to preserve our forested lands.

Thank you for your consideration

Dear State Parks & Recreation Commissioners,

Please stop the carving up of Miller Peninsula State Park for hundreds of campsites, a lodge, overnight cabins, zip lines, rock climbing, and more despite the fact that existing state parks are underfunded and in need of repair. All of these amenities will be costly and much less affordable to those with lower incomes.

Washington State Parks currently has a backlog of \$45 million in needed repairs at other State Parks.

There are already a variety of camping options in this area.

We already have an existing water shortages throughout Clallam County and rapidly melting glaciers. As is, this park is a Natural hydrological and climate solution, as forests like these infiltrate and recharge ground water and store carbon beyond compare. Development like the proposed plan will drastically reduce ground water recharge and create a high water demand on an aquifer with a limited capacity, especially during the ever increasing drought events seen for the last 3-4 years in summer and surely to come.

Please consider the future benefits in ecotourism, recreation, economically equal access and the future of the water supply to residents and visitors alike. This park has such diversity in wildlife and ecosystems and offers over 35 miles of well marked and established trails and is ideal for horseback riding, hiking and mountain biking.

The natural beauty of the Olympic Peninsula is what people come out west for.

Thank you for being the leader that your grandchildren can be proud of, and for preserving this park for our future generations.

This is my personal opinion and does not represent the Clallam Conservation District.