

Moran

- If 900,000 people visit Orcas Island parks each year, and each one spends a dollar or two at stores, restaurants, farmers market and so on; that will pump money into the local economy & some of which will be used to support schools, library, park and rec and so on. Property taxes from private land won't draw visitors to the island in such numbers.
- I like the idea of Moran and Obstruction Pass parks expanding their boundaries thru purchase of smaller properties contiguous with park land currently in use. The Youngren property where flat and usable is several miles from other parts of Moran that are frequently used today. That sounds like a lot more driving for park staff.
- Youngren. I would like to see the state prioritize the unique opportunity to partner with the Lummi and Long Live the Kings (Hatchery). The salmon run and watershed could be employed for more environmental education. If the property sells to a developer there could be 10+ home sites adjoining the park.
- What is the timeframe for approval of the plan, acquiring the funding necessary to acquire the park, and building/development of the park? (Youngren)
- Moran-How will the wildland – urban interface with Orcas Highlands HOA be maintained for both land use and wildfire considerations?
- If the Youngren property is purchased, how will parks and the Lummi Nation be able to ensure the future of the hatchery?
- I am already concerned about the reduction in tax base by the amount of Park, Land Bank, SJPT, as well as valuation reduction from current use agriculture, forestry and conservation easements. This reduction in valuation and taxed property (at highest best use) reduces taxes for infrastructure and services like roads, schools, EMS, Fire, etc. Removing additional property from the tax base exacerbates this issue that no PILT will fix.
- All 3. The roads to Moran + Obstruction Pass may not be safely able to handle the increased traffic + parks pays nothing towards maintaining/improving the roads.
- We purchased a view property overlooking a serene area – If this goes in not only does the view become crowded, loud + commercialized but the park (and subsequent public activity) is adjacent to our lot line. Additionally a huge section of public road will be impacted by thousands of vehicles every summer. How will you preserve the serenity of the area? (Youngren Farm) What happens to our property value?
- What will be done to ensure easy access – via Olga Road – to personal property – Cascade Lake “crawl”?
- Moran. I am concerned that the park's acquisition of the Youngren property would prevent the Lummi's from operating the fish hatchery – It is a sacred site for them + placing a campground in that area would not be compatible.
- Please map the watershed that contributes to the hatchery, in such a way as to provide maximum protected status to the waters that flow in. EG., mapping should follow contours.
- Wilcox sounds great – especially back country campsites.

- My biggest concern is related to fire hazard in the forest. Please include management for fuel reduction in any future plans.
- -Will State Park resources (i.e. # of rangers, funds for operation/maintenance etc.) increase along with expansion? -What are other ways for the local community to have input in State Park development, usage etc.
- Some folks have questions on noise, ATV use and traffic impacts.
- My comment would be I see far more value (knowing all 3 properties) that the funds for Wilcox should be channeled to the purchase of Spring Bay or Youngrens. Both would be amazing assets for Moran.
- Additional study is needed for use classification. Some very steep slopes and watershed issues need addition. study.
- If you are going to build or develop a project that will be close to the boundary line of the park and a residential neighborhood, please consult the residents of the neighborhood first.
- Wilcox. -Backpack campsite would be a great addition. -Water access a great addition.
- Wilcox -Add! Opportunity to expand wilderness trails + backpacking positives: Forest Buffer, Protected Shoreline.
- I am very excited about the prospects of these acquisitions! I appreciate Robert Moran's foresight and dedication to conservation. I think we are in a unique position to continue his legacy and provide the incredible natural beauty of these spaces to recreational users and those seeking to simply experience nature. I think a couple (limited) backcountry sites at the Wilcox property would be a great asset to the park and bring a wilderness "camping" experience it is lacking. Concerns I have are bringing a significant amount of visitors to visit the parks' limited and aging infrastructure water availability and septic, overcrowding at already maxed areas (think Cascade Lake July – August) and stressing the ferry system.
- Youngren Add. Great opportunity to 1. Protect a vital watershed 2. Add forest buffer 3. Protect Historic Farmstead.
- Youngren's -protect watershed above salmon hatchery.

Obstruction Pass

- Berger Property – Our concern is the road access. "Trailhead Road" is a right of way over private land we own – The park has not lived up to their obligation to properly maintain the road. The excuse is lack of \$ - any expansion of Obstruction Pass park would increase traffic on a road that is not adequate for present size much less increased size.
- Obstruction Pass
 - Density map should be switched: any new trails/campsites on the west or park boundary side of the road & a buffer along residential area
 - Parking areas should be along Trailhead Rd – not next to beach or wetlands
 - East to West access from Obstruction Pass parking area via trail
 - Spring – addition would be wonderful for all the additional hiking it would afford.

- 1. Unclear about Trailhead Road access; road is privately owned, may create easement issues if OPSP is significantly expanded? Maintenance? 2. Disposition of structures? Alternative uses, e.g. visitor center/interp displays?
- Obstruction Pass Add -Ability to add publically accessible shoreline. One thought Don't make the parking too close to shore to maintain some solitude.
- Would the beach access areas allow motorboats? Noise pollution? What about boat facilities if boats are allowed?

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November 29, 2017

Sanh Ho, Park Planner
Project Lead Moran Long Term Boundary Revision
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
PO Box 42650
Olympia WA 98504-2650

Dear Ms. Ho,

Along with our attendance to this workshop regarding the Moran Long Term Boundary revision we submit the following public comment on behalf of the 44 lot owners that make up the Eagle Lake Community on the eastern shores of Orcas Island. Our unique community consisting of nearly 300 acres is positioned between the public lands at Point Lawrence, other surrounding large private lots and Moran State Park. The county road ends at the boundary of Eagle Lake and there are no through roads on this most eastern end of Orcas Island. The land and character of Eagle Lake is very special containing large conservation easements, habitat areas and strict development restrictions preserving all of the surrounding common areas in their natural undeveloped state.

The Wilcox lands identified in this potential action, around the time of the development of the Eagle Lake Community were also intended to be developed into homesites and existing land easements reflect this intended use. The current land owner has decided to not develop this land but rather has a strong intention to get this land to State Parks to expand the Moran State Park trail system and to allow potential future remote camping. This potential public use is very different than the limited residential development previously contemplated.

The Eagle Lake Community is supportive of the acquisition by State Parks of this land with the intention of creating a remote trail system. We do have concerns about the potential for remote camping but believe if it is well planned and executed it could be a compatible use and not negatively affect the fire safety or potential access concerns of our community.

Therefore, it is the Eagle Lake Community's intent to work with the land owner and State Parks to achieve the following objectives while addressing potential negative consequences.

- 1.) Clarify and revise the legal easements through the Eagle Lake road system and the subject Wilcox parcels to allow only maintenance or emergency access by the State Park and limiting such access to the existing logging road right of way.

- 2.) To create a buffer of conservation easement land of approximately 14 acres or greater that would be between the communities to the south and the subject parcels but would not impede the park's objectives. The intent of the buffer would be to forever create natural undeveloped habitat and to buffer the park users from the neighboring community and vice versa. This will enhance the remote experience for park users and maintain the existing character of the surrounding communities.
- 3.) To allow for signage on both the park and community side of the buffer land stating no public access or similar.
- 4.) To clarify that any planned camping would be hike in only with limited development
- 5.) To require that that the State Parks, if remote camping is an intended future use, always maintain appropriate fire risk reduction of such activities by creating fire breaks or other fire mitigation techniques to protect the Park's land and the surrounding community.

We appreciate your review of our written public comment and look forward to engaging with the park as the project moves through the process.

Respectfully Submitted,

Board of Directors
Eagle Lake Community Association
Orcas Island, Washington
