

Wallace Falls State Park

Classification and Management Planning

Stage 2 - Exploring Alternative Approaches

March 21, 2018 Sultan City Hall

Thanks for coming!

Use this document as a way to prompt your ideas and suggestions for land classification, long-term boundary, and management language suggestions. The comments received at this March 21 public meeting and written comments received following the meeting will be used to develop preliminary recommendations for the next phase of the planning process. Please submit your comments at the meeting tonight or by April 21, 2018. Comment can be submitted to Randy Kline, Project Manager, at randy.kline@parks.wa.gov.

For more information visit our Wallace Falls Planning web page at <http://bit.ly/WallacePlan>

Planning Process

The CAMP planning process involves four sequential stages. Each stage typically includes a public workshop and an opportunity to provide follow-up comments in writing by mail or e-mail. The process does not conclude until the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission; the agency's seven-member governing board; formally adopts land classifications and long-term park boundaries and the Director approves a finalized park management plan. Standard planning stages include:

Stage One – Identify issues and concerns

The purpose of this stage is to understand what is important to the park community and identify issues to address through the planning process. The issues public meeting was held on November 15, 2017 at the Sultan City Hall.

Stage Two – Exploring alternative approaches

At this stage, the planning team suggests potential thematic alternative approaches to address the various issues and concerns raised in stage one. No preferred alternative is established; rather this is an opportunity to examine and understand the range of possibilities. *We are currently at this stage. The alternatives public meeting was held on March 21 at the Sultan City Hall.*

Stage Three – Preparing preliminary recommendations

The best ideas from the alternative approaches in stage two are combined into a preliminary plan in this stage. The preliminary plan includes recommendations for use and development of park lands and ways to address issues identified during the planning process. A third public meeting is held at this stage to receive input on the preliminary recommendations.

Stage Four – Preparing final recommendations

At stage four, final adjustments are made to recommendations and submitted to the seven-member Parks and Recreation Commission for approval. The public is encouraged to attend the Commission meeting and provide testimony or written comment.

Planning Products

The CAMP planning process produces three main products for each park: land classifications, long-term boundary, and a park management plan. The combination of these deliverables constitutes a land use plan. At Stage Two the focus is on potential alternatives for land classification and long-term boundaries.

Land Classification

A central part of CAMP involves zoning, or classification, of park lands. State Parks has developed a system of six land classifications: *Recreation Areas*, *Resource Recreation Areas*, *Natural Areas*, *Heritage Areas*, *Natural Forest Areas* and *Natural Area Preserves*. When assigned to a specific area within a park, each classification sets an appropriate intensity for recreational activity and development of facilities. Classifications align along a spectrum, ranging from low to high-intensity land uses. By classifying park lands, the agency is able to consciously achieve a balance between protecting park resources and providing a variety of recreational opportunities for park visitors.

State Parks' land classifications are defined in Chapter 352-16 in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), which reads in part:

State park areas are of state-wide natural, cultural, and/or recreational significance and/or outstanding scenic beauty. They provide varied facilities serving low-intensity, medium intensity, and high intensity outdoor recreation activities, areas reserved for preservation, scientific research, education, public assembly, and/or environmental interpretation, and support facilities.

They may be classified in whole or part as follows:

- (1) Recreational areas are suited and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use, conference, cultural and/or educational centers, or other uses serving large numbers of people.*
- (2) Resource recreation areas are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use.*
- (3) Natural areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological value while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses.*
- (4) Heritage areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features, and traditional cultural properties, which are of state-wide or national significance.*
- (5) Natural forest areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses, and which contain:*
 - (a) Old-growth forest communities that have developed for one hundred fifty years or longer and have the following structural characteristics: Large old-growth trees, large snags, large logs on land, and large logs in streams; or*
 - (b) Mature forest communities that have developed for ninety years or longer; or*
 - (c) Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.*
- (6) Natural area preserves are designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are registered and committed as a natural area preserve through a cooperative agreement*

with an appropriate natural resource agency pursuant to chapter 79.70 RCW and chapter 332-60 WAC.

For each land classification, the agency Director has developed detailed management guidelines and a use matrix. These guidelines identify specific activities and facilities permitted in each designation. A copy of the land classification matrix can be found on the Wallace Falls Planning web page at <http://parks.state.wa.us/1074/Wallace-Falls-Planning>.

Long-Term Park Boundary

A second product of CAMP is adoption of a long-term park boundary. This is a frequently misunderstood aspect of park planning. One of the purposes of delineating a long-term boundary is to take a big picture look at lands surrounding the park that, independent of ownership, may advance the conservation and recreation mission of a park. Additionally, the long-term park boundary is used to identify surrounding lands with which State Parks would like to advance shared management goals. The long-term park boundary also considers whether agency-owned property should be retained or be considered surplus to park needs.

Including privately owned property in a long-term boundary gives Commission direction to staff to work with nearby landowners on cooperative management or potential land transactions. Transactions may range from simple agreements, to recreation and conservation easements, and sometimes even to agency purchase of property if there is a willing seller. If a landowner is not interested in participating, State Parks is unlikely to pursue the matter further. If you have questions please contact Randy Kline, Project Manager, at 360.902.8632 or randy.kline@parks.wa.gov.

Since land frequently changes hands, the agency uses delineation of a long-term boundary to set its long-term property planning goals. Including private land within a long-term boundary can sometimes alarm property owners. The planning team makes every effort to contact affected landowners and explain implications of this process. Property owners should be assured that long-term boundary and land classification decisions are for Commission policy direction only and should not affect private property values, be used as an indication of their willingness to sell, or be used as a basis for making state or local government regulatory, permitting, or zoning decisions.

For properties included within a long-term boundary, any of a number of possibilities may apply. State Parks may:

- Seek to formalize an agreement with an adjacent property owner to advance a shared property management goal
- Solicit a conservation easement from an adjacent property owner to protect certain natural or cultural features
- Accept a donation of all or part of a private property
- Consider exchanging agency-owned property for a private property
- Consider purchase of a private property in fee if there is a willing seller

Management Approaches

The third product of the CAMP process are narrative management approaches that provide direction to staff and the public for addressing the issues identified through the planning process. The draft management approaches at the end of this document were developed to support the land classification and long-term boundary maps you see in this report.

Exploring Alternative Approaches

During the first stage of planning, public and staff participants identified a multitude of issues at Wallace Falls State Park. For the second stage alternative land classification, long-term boundary and management language are presented and intended to respond to these issues in different ways.

By addressing management and development issues through the lens of a particular aspect of the agency's mission, new possibilities often emerge as to the park's ultimate potential. Then, assuming no single aspect is universally desirable throughout the park, the next step is to determine which ideas in each alternative are most appropriate. This allows us to emphasize resource protection to address some issues, recreational opportunity for others, and so on. Ultimately, the right mix should emerge.

Two thematic alternatives have been developed for Wallace Falls State Park

- Current operations emphasis
- Enhanced recreation emphasis

We ask that you study the alternative land classification and long-term boundary maps below - not to choose one alternative - but to find individual elements in each that appeal to you. Then let us know what you think. We are also interested in hearing new ideas we have not yet considered. Comments can be submitted to Randy Kline, Project Manager, at randy.kline@parks.wa.gov.

Current Operations Emphasis

Key Features

- Supports the functional needs of the park as it is today
- Allow for facilities that support existing uses within the park footprint (i.e. restrooms, parking, recreation)
- Potential parking options only include land within the park footprint
- Camp Huston is included in the long-term boundary
- Recreation provided at current levels
- Focus placed on maintenance and repair of the existing trail system
- Trails remain hiking only
- Camping and cabins remain as they are today, no additional cabins or camping proposed

Land Classification

In general the mapped alternative below focuses on facilities that support current park operation and result in an improved experience for park users. Under this scenario the *Recreation* land classification is used to encourage and focus on parking opportunities within the park. The land classifications proposed also support the addition of facilities such as restrooms and picnic areas.

The Wallace River, North Fork of the Wallace River and Wallace, Jay and Shaw Lakes receive a higher level of resource protection through the use of the *Natural* land classification.

The *Resource Recreation* classification used for the majority of the park provides a balance between resource protection and the opportunity to provide recreation opportunities.

The *Recreation* classification is for the existing shop facilities, parking area, and cabins in the more intensively developed portion of the park. It is also used for the Camp Huston property.

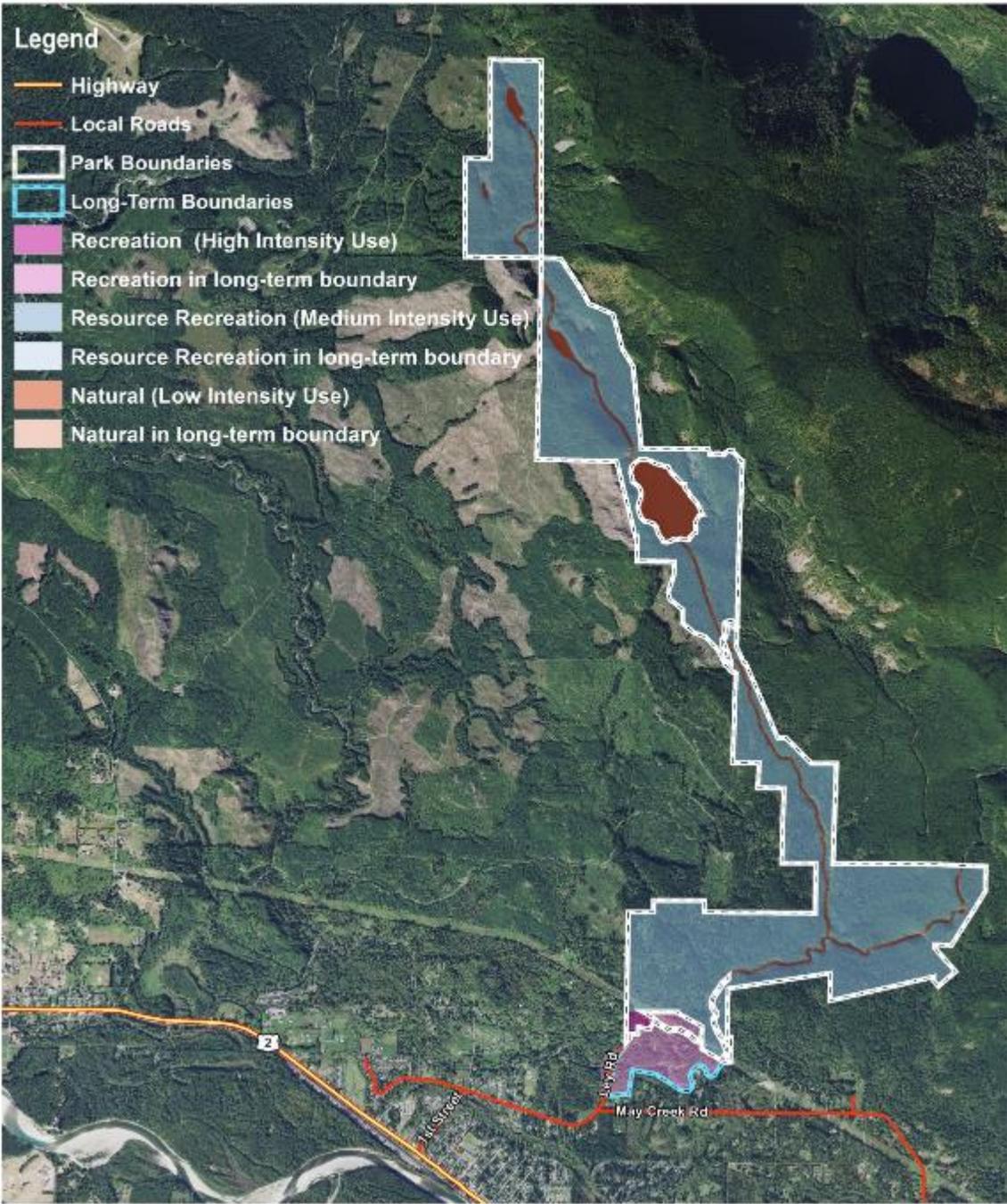
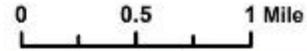


Long-term boundary

In this alternative the long-term boundary (LTB) is used to identify parcels that can support current park operations. This includes the Camp Huston inholding under the powerlines at the start of the Woody trail. In this alternative all of the parcels included in the LTB are classified as *Recreation* to provide potential parking to meet current operational needs for the park.



Current Operations Emphasis Wallace Falls State Park Land Classification & Long-Term Boundary - Draft Work Product



DRAFT WORK PRODUCT – SUBJECT TO CHANGE OVER TIME



Enhanced Recreation Emphasis

Key Features

- Looks to provide additional recreation opportunities
- Work collaboratively with DNR to provide additional trail connections
- DNR continues to manage adjacent lands as working forest under the multiple use concept described in RCW 79.10.110
- Potential parking options are expanded to include land outside the current park boundaries
- Considers a dispersed parking scenario to spread out park access points and reduce trail impacts
- Camp Huston is included in the long-term boundary
- Recreation provided at increased levels
- Potential horse and bike access

Land Classification

In general the mapped alternative below focuses on increasing recreation opportunities by working with adjacent public land ownerships. Under this approach potential parking outside the park footprint is considered. Under this alternative State Parks would encourage trails and trail connections with adjacent public landowners including the Department of Natural Resources. State Parks would also work with adjacent private timber holdings to promote recreation connections and consider acquisition to prevent conversion.

Under this approach the Wallace River, North Fork of the Wallace River and Wallace, Jay and Shaw Lakes receive the same higher level of resource protection through the use of the *Natural* land classification.

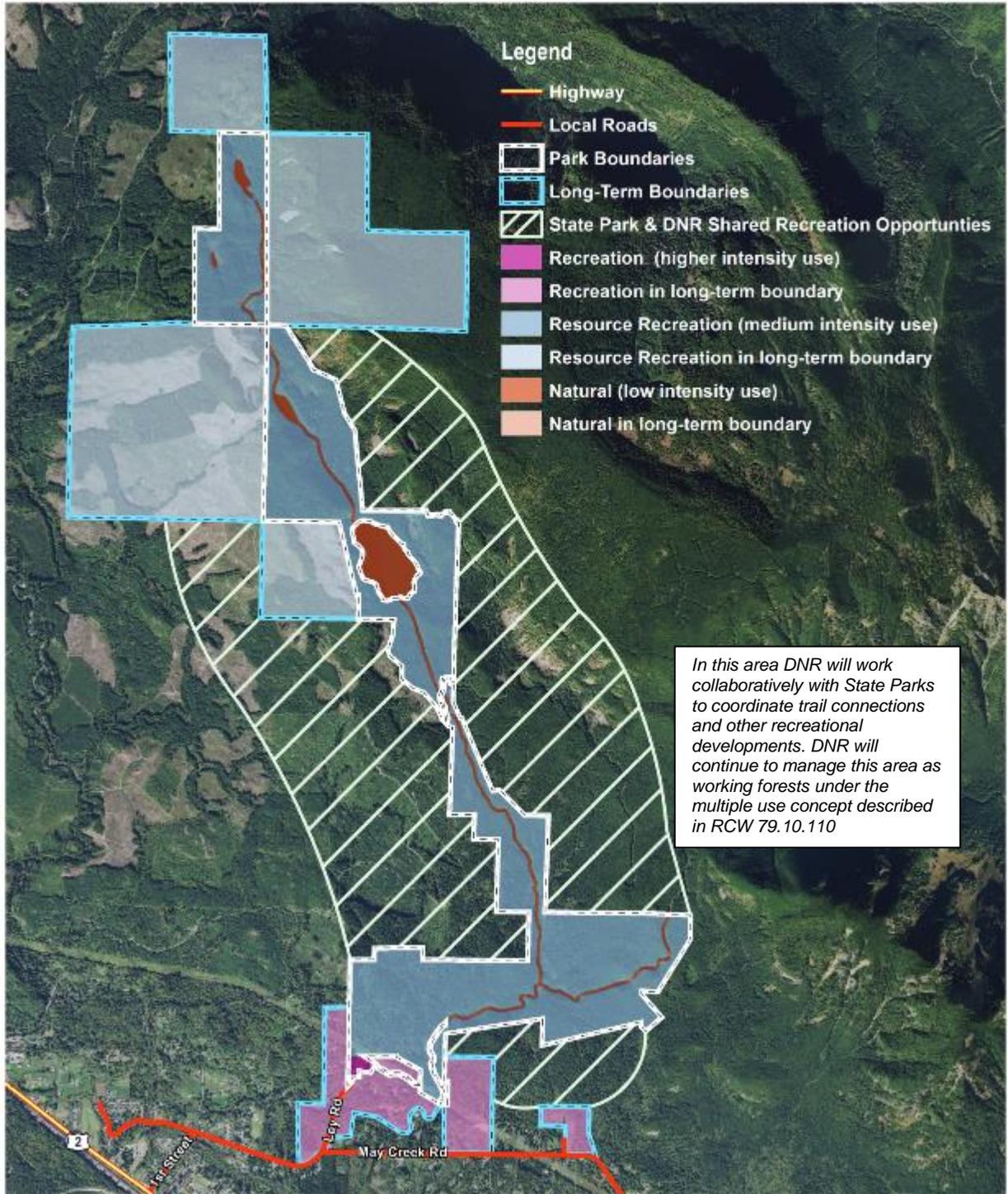
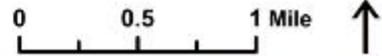
The *Resource Recreation* classification is used for the majority of the park to provide balance between resource protection and the opportunity to provide medium intensity recreation facilities.

Long-term boundary

In this alternative the long-term boundary (LTB) is also used to promote trail connections outside the park. The LTB for this alternative takes in all adjacent private commercial forest parcels on the north end of the park to address the potential for conversion from resource use and allow for cooperative agreements with these landowners to encourage additional recreation connections. The northernmost parcel in the LTB also serves to protect natural features including the ponds that support the watershed for Jay, Shaw and Wallace Lakes.



**Enhanced Recreation Emphasis
Wallace Falls State Park Land Classification
& Long-Term Boundary - Draft Work Product**



DRAFT WORK PRODUCT – SUBJECT TO CHANGE OVER TIME

Alternatives Phase - Management Approaches

Management approaches provide direction to staff and the public for addressing the issues identified by you through the planning process. The management recommendations below were developed based on feedback received at our first public meeting.

At this stage the management concepts below are intended to prompt comments and will be refined based on input at this stage of the planning process.

Issues and Preliminary Management Approaches

Natural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approaches
Forest Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage park resources consistent with Natural Resources Management Policy 73-04-1 <i>Protecting Washington State Parks Natural Resources</i>. Coordinate with agency forestry specialists to develop a forest health plan that includes regular tree assessment and considers removal of hazard trees in areas where the public congregates, including day use and parking areas.
Protecting natural plant and animal communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before development, conduct plant inventories to verify the absence of sensitive and rare plant species in areas planned for development. Work with local plant experts to develop a rare plant protection plan to identify, monitor, and establish protective prescriptions.
Invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with weed boards, the local native plant society, and volunteers to develop and implement an invasive plant species management plan. Work to remove Holly and Ivy, especially along the railroad grade. Remove invasive species as part of development projects.
Working with adjacent public landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with DNR to address issues related to vandalism and illegal park use. Work with DNR to address shooting issues near the Sultan Basin Road and the gated Road to Shaw Lake. Work with DNR to maintain trail corridors that traverse both DNR and State Parks land. Work with DNR to facilitate non-motorized recreation in the areas surrounding Wallace Falls State Park including joint trail development efforts.
Water system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to identify a potable water source as an alternative to the current use of

Natural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approaches
	water from Camp Huston.

Cultural Resource Issues	
Issue	Management Approaches
Protecting cultural and historic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a cultural resources management plan to determine appropriate treatments for all cultural features.
Protecting cultural and archaeological resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete site-specific cultural resource surveys for areas that will be disturbed due to development. • In all development actions, comply with direction from the Commission’s Cultural Resources Policy 12-98-1 and Governor’s Executive Order 05-05 regarding consultation with tribal entities.

Recreational Resource Issues		
Issue	Current Operations Emphasis	Enhanced Recreation Emphasis
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When determining trail needs within the park consider the use and seasonality of other trail systems in the area including near Skykomish and at the Stevens Pass Ski Area. • Conduct a trail assessment for both the Greg Ball trail and the Woody trail. • Consider and work to address any potential impacts to visitor experience that may be caused by an increase in parking capacity. • Consider providing a restroom facility at the start of the Woody Trail. • Install trail counters as a method to better understand trail use at the park. • Continue to work with the community and volunteer groups to assist with maintaining trails. • Build trails that connect with neighboring properties and allow visitors to access the park from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider a “Sunshine Coast” type trail system connecting area landscapes and features such as Mt. Stickney and Mt. Index including facilities such as huts and three sided shelters for multi-day hikers. • Look to provide trail connections to Stickney Lake and Mt. Stickney east of Wallace Falls State Park. • Work to provide an improved trail connection from Jay Lake to Shaw Lake. Work with adjacent forest land owners to enable this trail connection. • Consider providing a trail connection from the park to Lake Isabell. • Investigate the potential for a trail connection between Wallace Falls and Forks of the Sky State Parks. • Work with adjacent public land

	<p>trailheads located on neighboring public land</p>	<p>managers including the Washington Department of Natural Resources and the US Forest Service to investigate whether a connection to the Wild Sky Wilderness Area is practical.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to diversify and provide additional trail opportunities to prevent overuse of the existing trails. • Work with DNR and other public land owners to provide trail access, including consideration of any necessary bridges, from the Snohomish County owned parcel south of the park on 429th Street to Wallace Falls State Park. • Consider providing a trail on the east side of Wallace Lake. • Work collaboratively with DNR to coordinate trail connections and other recreational developments acknowledging that DNR will continue to manage this area as working forests under the multiple use concept described in RCW 79.10.110.
<p>Camping and Cabins</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to ensure Wallace Falls State Park users are aware of the camping opportunities provided at Snohomish County Parks and US Forest Service camping areas. • Consider alternative locations for camping within nearby Forks of the Sky State Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the popularity of the 5 existing cabins consider adding additional cabins in the same or a nearby location.
<p>Community Relationships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to ensure the park serves the local community in addition to park users traveling from nearby urban centers. • Consider facilities and programming that promote local park use on week-days and during the school year such as an education center or others means to serve local schools. • Work to provide facilities and programming that support use by diverse 	

	<p>ethnicities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to enhance the relationship and connection between Wallace Falls State Park and Forks of the Sky State Park. • Continue to participate in the Sky Valley Recreation working group. 	
Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that interpretive signs, such as those located on the Small Falls Interpretive Trail, are weather protected. • Consider providing educational signage along the trail including items such as flora and fauna, weather, average rainfall and other “science” based information. • Consider providing educational signage related to timber harvest and the working forests located in proximity to Wallace Falls State Park. • Use signage to ensure that park visitors understand that dogs must be on-leash and poop bags should be disposed of in trash cans. 	
Illegal Park Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to prevent illegal hunting by monitoring use on Wallace Lake Road. 	
Trail Running	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with trail runners to better understand the condition of the trail network from their perspective and their recreational needs. 	
Mountain Biking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not currently permitted in the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with DNR to keep existing routes open and maintained. • Consult with mountain bikers to better understand the condition of the trail network from their perspective and their recreational needs.
Horseback Riding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not currently permitted in the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider providing trail connections through the park (east to west) to adjacent public landowners and recreation providers. • Consider camping opportunities for horseback riders. • Investigate the possibility of horseback riding access to Wallace Lake. • Work to with equestrians and surrounding land managers to identify horse and stock trailer parking opportunities on adjacent lands.

Special Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support events such as the Wallace Falls Trail Run.
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Parking Issues	
Issue	Management Approaches
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the use of shuttle vans through a concessionaire, volunteer group or park staff to provide a shuttle from downtown Gold Bar on the north side of the highway to avoid crossing the heavy traffic volume on State Route 2 • Use web cams or other technology to alert park users prior to arrival regarding availability of parking • Include land in the long-term boundary that supports additional parking opportunities. • Work with the City of Gold Bar and Snohomish County to investigate the possibility to improve parking and pedestrian activity along Ley Road including a path or sidewalk that takes pedestrians off the road and/or potentially widens shoulders to accommodate parking. • Work with the county to provide parking at the county-owned site south of the park on 429th Avenue. • Work with Camp Huston to improve traffic flow in the area where the Camp Huston entrance and park entrance meet. • Work with Community Transit to identify opportunities to improve alternative transportation options. • Work to identify horse and stock trailer parking opportunities on adjacent public lands that accommodate horses.
Potential Locations for Additional Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Camp Huston on the potential to use the in-holding parcel along the trail and below the powerlines. • Potential site is relocating the existing shop and office to provide parking in that area. • Potential site is the parcel owned Snohomish County south of the park. • Potential site is the property on May Creek Road at the gravel pit.
Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the City of Gold Bar and Snohomish County to improve signage along Ley and May Creek Roads to (1) limit trash on the road (2) dangers associated with walking on the road (3) car doors opening into oncoming traffic