

## **Alta Lake and Bridgeport CAMP Stage 2 – Public Comments November 26, 2019**

This is a summary of the comments received from the October 23 open house, in response to web link sent out to park visitors and others on the email database. The summary also includes comments from the Bridgeport City Council and members of the planning commission, who met on October 16, 2020 to hear about the project. At the end of the summary are the verbatim comments that were submitted.

### **Combined Open House and Web Comments**

#### **Alta Lake**

##### **Support for one or other alternative where provided:**

- Alt 1 in part because it seems to have less impact on the area
- Prefer Option 1, which expands trails and deals with lake levels and shoreline erosion; don't support Option 2 for expanding watersports. This lake is very small, and with the campers and residents, there is enough boat traffic on the lake already
- Alt #1; limits on power boating so that kayakers, row boaters and canoers have opportunities to use the lake without danger from motorboat enthusiasts
- Alternative 2: LC1 LTB1 LC8 LC3 LC5 sounds fantastic
- Drawn to Option #1 for trails and additional camping at the end of the lake
- Support alternative #2 for Alta lake restoration
- Agree with Alternative 1; like the idea of expanding the trail system and leaving the boating area as is
- In favor of Alternative 1 for Alta; would love more hiking trails and to be able to hike around Alta Lake.
- Prefer option 1 as the addition of trails and the expansion of park use in winter and Nordic activities would be wonderful.
- Like alternative 1; offers a more diverse set of recreation options with extra trails and in general more to do.
- Lean to Alt. #2 only because it has less expansion but even number 2 is excessive. If the lake is maintained at a proper level (acknowledge it may be expensive) swimming, paddle boarding, boating will continue to increase and increase attendance at the Park and increase revenue to the State.
- Prefer Alternative 1 because of the potential for Nordic ski trails and possible controls on motorized boating due to overuse and water quality issues.
- Alternative #2; feel that a lake this size cannot sustain a larger population of campers, and I've always been able to find availability at the existing camping sites.
- I am in favor of Alternative 1 and increasing diversity. I would like to see the construction of the proposed hiking trails, as well as the extended park boundaries that

will protect wildlife habitat from future development. The expansion of winter activities to include ice fishing and cross-country skiing are attractive as well; I would also be in favor of limitations on motorized boating should that be needed in the future. Alta is a small lake and should be protected if it becomes overcrowded

- As far as future planning, I would be more inclined to Alternative 1. We are not a lake sport boating family (aside from fishing); didn't care for the louder motorboats and speeds at the lake when we were enjoying standup paddle boarding and fishing from kayaks with our young kids. There seem like very few smaller lakes that restrict higher-powered motorboats now and provide more experiences straight from your campsite to explore the beauty of the area.
- Desire to preserve the current boundaries of the Alta Lake State Park while enhancing its current structure and facilities; this fits with proposed Alternative #2
- Alternative 1 is appealing, however I'm concerned about the statement that it could lead to future limits on motorized boating
- Don't favor 1 or 2 but don't feel the lake can support a big expansion. Small or no expansion would be fine. More importantly is to improve the facilities to support the existing level of campers and boaters. Alta Lake should not become a 'lake chelan'. We need to keep it small and beautiful - that is what draws people to it.
- Prefer Alternative 1 for several reasons including:
  - LBT 5 contemplates the future acquisition and development, as part of Alta Lake SP, of Whistlin' Pines Ranch's private campground. This could be a nice addition of camping opportunity if brought up to WA State Park standards.
  - Trail development around the lake and up Goat Mtn – see discussion under trails re: Lone Pine Ridge and Goat Mtn
  - The east shore needs to be protected from development for the the scenic view, wildlife habitat and for limited recreation (hiking, horseback riding and mountain bike riding) with the "Resource Recreation" designation
  - Suggest modification of LTB 1 to include less land to the east and extend further south, from the lakeshore and LC1 all the way down to Whistling Pines and up to Lone Pine Ridge, consistent with location of existing trail.
- Support Alt 1 in both cases if understanding that these include expansion of facilities including natural areas, focusing intensive use on the limited available space, family-oriented facilities, and user sanitary facilities
- Prefer option 1; especially like the idea of adding trails for day hikes and such.
- Prefer Option 1; need more shade, more natural land access, more trails, protect lake and environment.
- Like option 1 with more recreational areas for campers and day users; more shade, better trails to get from the camping area to the water and other areas
- Option 2 is more in line with the current and future use needs including strong emphasis on creating more waterfront camping opportunities
- Like alternatives that keep these parks/facilities as more of camping and day use picnic/swimming/boating type parks; not what would be found at motels and city parks; no cabins, yurts, spray pads; Fishing/Camping/Boating/Hiking/Swimming should be the

primary focus. Expansion to include larger RV/tent spaces, more shade trees, electrical hook-ups would be ideal in these areas prone to excessive summer heat. Mini-museums at parks highlighted history would be a nice feature

### **Motorized Boating**

- Do not support shutting down motorized boating
- Motorized boating a big draw
- Ban motorized boats
- The Columbia River is so close for boating that it seems more important to develop Alta Lake as a serene habitat rather than a boating lake
- Land based recreation our preference
- Don't believe the lake is congested as bad as many others and it is a great ski lake. Do believe limiting boats with ballast tanks that make a huge wake for surfing or wake boarding should be banned
- Encourage future planning and usage on enhanced nature activities and limiting higher speed sport boating because of the smaller size of the lake and other types of water recreation on the lake, as well as that there are many surrounding water bodies that would allow for activities such as water skiing and the like.
- In the 60s, in front of the campground, out into the lake some 100+ ft was a log boom the park had. That boom protected shore swimmers from speeding boats. There was an opening in/out for boats. Water skiing was done either from the far end of the boom opposite the beach or from the store shoreline across from the swim area.
- Current limits of 9:00 am to 6:00 pm seem to be a good balance for watersports and fisherman; not in favor of further restrictions to motorized boating.
- Preference for human powered activities.
- Ok with limiting boat use if needed.
- Don't think lake size can support a significant increase in boating, water skiing, jet skiing, etc. Would hate to see the lake closed to water skiing and jet skiing; a new dock at the boat ramp and repairs to the boat ramp surface below the water level; boat ramp parking and turn around area are fine as is. Place signage about boating rules at boat ramp (no-wake zone, time period water skiing/jet skiing is allowed, etc.)
- Expand boat ramp and boat ramp parking

### **Lake Levels**

- Lake levels are a priority
- Need pumping system to keep lake level the same all the time
- Highest priority of the State is to maintain a reasonable lake level
- Rising water levels have limited access in the past
- Yes, study to understand the lake level fluctuation  $\sqrt{\sqrt{\quad}}$
- About 3-4 years ago the water level increased significantly eliminating the sandy beach that once existing just north east of the swim area. This reduced the number of boaters at the lake as it eliminated a place to beach your boat and a place to relax on a sand beach away from the swim area. I would like to see the lake level lowered to bring back

this sandy beach area to some extent. Or as an alternate the area just south of the swim area could be improved (remove bushes, bring in sand) to create a new area for boaters. Again, my hope is not to significantly draw more boater/jet skiers to the lake but to provide adequate beach area for the current level of boaters.

### **Camping, Cabins and other Overnight Accommodations**

- Cabins are not a bad idea (especially if they can be used in winter), but not very many and where would they fit. Perhaps taking over the Whistling Pines campground?
- Since Whistling Pines is so run down, I wonder if the state can buy it and put some close-to-the water spaces for camping trailers as there aren't any spaces for trailers along the water in the main camping area
- Eager to see more family friendly accommodations be implemented
- Introducing cabins makes camping year-round easier for a lot of people and also helps people who are not that used to camping or don't have camping gear
- Winter camping (RV?) potential is exciting
- Would not opt for building cabins around the lake because it takes away from the natural beauty as you look out over the lake. Increased cabins would increase visitor traffic which just seems to lead to increased pollution of waters.
- Addition of RV sites with full hookups
- Oppose expanding the campground and day use areas; don't think the lake could accommodate more boat traffic

### **Trails**

- Bike trails for kids, enjoy dual-sport motorcycle too so if there are trails or park is base for that
- Trails where dogs are allowed
- Like trail development √√√
- Expanding hiking/biking trails and possibility of Nordic trails in winter
- Either maintain the trail up the mountain from the group campsite or close it – liability
- Difficult and expensive to build trails and keep slides and access controlled
- Nordic tracks/cross country skiing snow shoeing is equally useful as a hiking/biking trail
- Partnership with golf course
- Disappointed by the lack of trails currently
- Trail around the lake appealing for seeing the terrain
- Disappointed with lack of access to most of the lake
- Walking/biking trails around the lake would be great but opposed to having them open to motorized vehicles
- Don't see hiking trails being feasible around the golf course and thru the Varrelmans property; am a property owner on the golf course and do not want the public on private road and don't believe neighbors are interested either
- Prefer a more nature-based experience when we go camping and the idea of hiking from a campsite around the lake would be amazing

- Support new or refreshed trail from camping area to swim area; question the trails suggested on Alternative #1 – primarily due to presence and number of rattle snakes, both inside and outside park boundaries
- Most interested in having more or longer trails for walking and hiking; like the idea of a loop trail around Alta lake, and it would be cool if it had a safe viewing area or platform at the top since people will make their own trails to look over the edge at the lake anyway.
- Love the idea of an around the lake trail at Alta and the extension of the mountain trail.
- Improve trail from boat launch to picnic area.
- Maybe an easy hike for kids.
- Wide trails for bikes
- Trail development to east area in Alternative 1 would be great. This past summer the Boys & Girls Club did 4 field trips. One was to Alta Lake Cliff trail; another was to water park. By far, the Alta Lake hike was the best – all parents, staff and kid participants agreed – they did an interpretive thing too
- We like idea of developing new hiking trails around the golf course along the base of the mountain and around the south end of the lake in cooperation with Whistlin' Pine Ranch. A good trail already exists along the top of Lone Pine Ridge and is used by the ranch for horseback trail rides. Many times I have rowed my boat across the lake and climbed to the ridge trail and Lone Pine Peak...fantastic views and photos. I have also climbed to the top of Goat Mt. once starting from the existing [west] ridge trail that starts in the group campsite. Your Alt. 1 map should extend the dotted red line (potential trail partnership) from LC9 to the south and up the "wishbone" ridge line to the top of Goat Mt...a strenuous hike with no spring water, but with fantastic views all the way to Brewster.

### **Facilities, Activities and Other Amenities**

- Somewhat lacking in kid activities (compared to other State Parks – e.g. Steamboat); like splash park, multi age playground ideas
- Need fish cleaning station
- Like dog swim area
- Like hiking and fishing
- LTB1 (east area): could be a screening area for outdoor movies and local concerts, for entire family
- Create dock options in the swim area and playground facility
- Add more docks
- Add a fishing dock, a tube /floating area away from the launch. Boat launch was congested with swimmers and fisherman all summer, making it dangerous to launch. Dog swim area would be fabulous, hard to keep the pets cool.
- Playground enhancements, develop beach and day use area
- Shade is a priority √√√
- More handicapped accessibility

- Not interested in a playground for kids. Instead of a playground there could be more hiking trails.
- More toys – swings, slide, monkey bars
- More day-use activities, for range of kids ages
- There's not a lot to do here
- Alta Lake feels very small, busy in summer, more areas to allow more space for people
- Need to upgrade facilities; no showers or flush toilet for group camp
- Restroom facilities in the Alta Lake Campground are definitely in need of updating
- Lacking toilet paper in bathrooms
- Appreciate the clean facilities, access to the lake, and friendly management staff
- Improve and expand the bathroom/shower facilities at Loop 1 (forest loop); consider building a separate shower/bathroom facility for the group camping area and shower/bathroom facility for camping loop across the road from the main park area.

### **Resource Protection and Natural Areas**

- Keep as natural as possible; preserve wetlands, address drainage and shade
- Address shoreline erosion
- Noticed high concentration of fish on the south end; cleaner water and better to swim in even though the area is marshy
- Both options should have regular water monitoring and if the water quality decreases, limits should be applied. Water monitoring should also be a policy with pollution due to human activity. Trail systems should be developed in sustainable way
- Water was really dirty last visit
- Unique park because of the lake-based recreation (warm, safe swimming; boating, and fishing) and the very high scenic values. The geological setting with the lake surrounded by cliffs, the east shore talus slope, and Goat Mt. (a mile high above sea level) is unmatched in any other WA state park that we are aware of or visited. The natural vegetation is also unique and the mature ponderosa pines are extremely important for shade in the summer and add to the ambiance when the Alta Lake "afternoon breeze" comes up...the cooling wind whistling through the pines is enjoyed by campers and day-use visitors. A key concern for us is the preservation/restoration of the pines that make Alta Lake SP enjoyable/bearable during the hot summer months (June-Aug).
- LTB 2, 3 and 4 and the associated proposed land classifications look good and make sense...we support these. However, LTB 1 extends too far to the east and not far enough south along the east shore of the lake. We are not sure about the ownership along the east shore extending south from the existing park parcel designated "LC1" to Alta Coulee Meadow at Whistlin' Pine Ranch. However, we think LTB 1 / LC 1 should encompass the entire undeveloped east shore from the lake edge to the existing trail at the top of [Lone Pine] ridge. We call the east ridge line "Lone Pine Ridge" because of the large pine that once dominated the high point at the south end until recently (struck by lightning and burned)

### **Education & Public Safety**

- Need education about boating rules

- Need informative signs which indicate park trails
- Public safety concerns re: fishing and other motorized boating
- Sediment movement (slides) are risks to hikers and homeowners on east and west sides
- Would like more opportunities with the rangers – maybe a regular time that they are available to talk with visitors about what’s at the park
- Interpretive information including photos about what’s at the park – fish, wildlife, habitat, plants – what can I touch?
- Trail maps

**Other**

- We use Chelan for winter recreation – walking, etc., lots more to do there; we’d prefer to spend our money locally but not a lot of options
- Some unfriendly staff

## Bridgeport State Park

### Support for one or other alternative where provided:

- Prefer option #1: adding more recreation land and improving what is already there; don't reduce usable area
- Alt 2 – natural resources protected, more walking and hiking, biking
- Alt 1 – like adding more kid-oriented stuff; more large RV sites – only 4 sites we can use
- Love small intimate setting, variety of old trees that someone with vision planted many years ago, uncrowded swimming area, feeling that you were in an oasis! Prefer minimal impact alt; like the balance b/w tent camper and large RV campers; more shade on the west side; more bathrooms including second bath/shower
- Never been to Bridgeport, but think Alternative 2 is the better choice in preserving the natural areas
- Not familiar with Bridgeport park but liked option 2 as it seemed to protect more of the natural habitat.
- Resident of Bridgeport in favor of Alternative 1; extended trail options would be wonderful
- Alternative 2; demand will continue to grow; challenge will be to preserve the elements that make it special including: natural beauty in a coulee setting; feeling of remoteness, intimate camping experience, the relative lack of disruptive motorized activity; and recent improvements in maintenance and hospitality
- Alt #1; sad about golf course closing, makes for a dreary entrance; can it be turned into trails? And the clubhouse into a visitor center, or museum, or ranger station? Love the idea of off season (non-summer) use of the parks, cross country skiing, winter camping.
- Support alternative 1; would like to see further development of the park providing more campsites and recreation opportunities.
- Prefer Alternative 1 for the possible connection to a more extensive bike trail network.
- Support Alternative 1 – the creation of more recreation areas with an emphasis on the either restoring the golf course or in my opinion, designing that land as a campground with concession stand and water park, dare I ask for a swimming pool? Alternative 2 presents some unique challenges, the area to the north of the existing group camp gets to be real snake habitat, and last year we saw a black bear walking through that area on its way to orchards.
- Like the bigger developed area for Alt 1 vs. Alt 2
- Support Alt 1 in both cases if understanding that these include expansion of facilities including natural areas, focusing intensive use on the limited available space, family-oriented facilities, and user sanitary facilities
- Like alternatives that keep these parks/facilities as more of camping and day use picnic/swimming/boating type parks; not what would be found at motels and city parks; no cabins, yurts, spray pads; Fishing/Camping/Boating/Hiking/Swimming should be the primary focus. Expansion to include larger RV/tent spaces, more shade trees, electrical hook-ups would be ideal in these areas prone to excessive summer heat. Mini-museums at parks highlighted history would be a nice feature

- Prefer option 1; especially like the idea of adding trails for day hikes and such.
- Prefer Option 1; need more shade, more natural land access, more trails, protect lake and environment.
- Like option 1 with more recreational areas for campers and day users; more shade, better trails to get from the camping area to the water and other areas
- Option #2 is more in line with the current and future use needs including strong emphasis on creating more waterfront camping opportunities

### **Boating**

- Use boat on lake every day; maybe more moorage spots
- Add kayak access
- Boat launch is in good shape and parking lot is a good size; doesn't need improvement

### **Camping, Cabins and other Overnight Accommodations**

- More group camping and shade trees
- Would love to see more FULL hookups or at least POWER with more SHADE
- Cabins are a great idea; love to see continued use and an upgrade
- Could use additional camping availability but preserve size of current sites; golf course property provides opportunity for additional camping units without raising the commercialism of the camping
- Improved camping/RV facilities would be nice
- Need more sites to accommodate 5<sup>th</sup> wheel, it's 27.5' long and there are only a few sites (just two really) that are long enough, have the right angles and are on even ground. We sign up as soon as we can to get the #29 and/or #30; adding new sites would be good, as well as adding or expanding existing sites to make them bigger and better (even); it would be nice to bring our boat to the lake but if we're driving the 5<sup>th</sup> wheeler and camping, we don't want to tow the boat. If there were cabins, I would leave the 5<sup>th</sup> wheeler at home and tow the boat. The 5<sup>th</sup> wheeler can tow the boat but awkward to tow and then launching the boat at the boat ramp is a problem too.
- Need larger RV sites; would be great along the water, in old golf course area
- Enlarge camp sites for new rigs – consider 40' trailer + 20' towing vehicle = 60'; and provide better angles – very awkward to park 27' 5<sup>th</sup> wheel – only a few sites at Bridgeport will accommodate due to small size and also uneven sites
- Like the idea of camping at the old golf course
- Like the idea of cabins along the water -in old golf course area
- For Alternative 2, consider cabins in northeast area of the park – northeast of swim area – this is really beautiful and would be great for cabins
- People want full hookups – would be great in area of old golf course
- Is there any way to provide housing for summer employees? For example, combined with the hatchery housing at Bridgeport or other?
- Group camp costs are high
- Canadians who visit think they need the Discover Pass when they pay for camping

## **Trails**

- Ranger discouraged walking through the haystack rock area due to snakes; would be nice to have a walking trail through part of the haystack rock area that joins to other trails for longer walks – 2 -8 miles and off-road are much appreciated.
- This is a beautiful area for trails; some of it is rough terrain but could probably work trails around it
- Everyone uses the existing trails – walking, biking
- If you add more trails, make sure you add bathrooms; my little kids need to stop along the way; seems there is only one at Bridgeport, near the swim area
- Yes for trails

## **Facilities, Activities and Other Amenities**

- More recreational activities for children
- We like that it's small, quiet and great for families
- Something more for kids. Spray park, bike trails, bike course; concession to provide things we don't have to drive into town for
- Spray park or other things to keep cool while we're there
- In favor of a "spray park"/ splash pad for the children, especially when there are toxic slime signs up during the hottest parts of the summer.
- Keep Bridgeport the way it is – small and quiet
- Add concession at the old clubhouse, with large seating area and selling things that people need to drive to town for
- Frisbee golf?
- Like the open area and green grass
- Unless campers have a boat there are limited recreational opportunities especially since the golf course is closed; another frequent request we've heard (camp hosts) is a place to allow dogs to run off leash and access to the water for their dogs to swim
- Consider electric bike or scooter concession
- Add more water features – e.g. wading pool for little kids
- 3-D archery
- Trap/skeet range

## **Resource Protection and Natural Areas**

- Keep all developed areas with green grass vs. leave as natural
- Deer, coyote, bear - lots of wildlife in this area
- Like retaining some of the shrub-steppe

## **Both Parks and/or Either Park**

## **Camping, Cabins and Other Overnight Accommodations**

- RV sites in natural wooded areas that have hookup sites, plus level area for tents
- More camping units of the nature of the currently existing campground would be welcomed.

- Found some RV sites difficult to park a 26' 5th wheel due to the extreme slope encountered. That said, expanding the campgrounds to provide larger, level, serviced sites would encourage me to visit more often; privacy between sites should be a greater planning parameter from the start, simple low water-dependent shrubs could beautify the campground and provide a degree of separation in a space saving format.
- Camping facilities can be improved/renovated. Adding cabins seems like a decent idea; locate in existing campgrounds so they enjoy in the same experience as everyone else, instead of being located off in their own area.
- Like ALL Washington State campgrounds, there is one and only one criteria in my opinion that distinguishes excellent camping and just ok camping. That is ON THE WATER campsites; cannot stress enough how important it is to the quality of camping to be able to camp directly on the water's edge; immense opportunity at both parks to build many new on the water campsites.
- We like to travel within the state in a large motorhome (45') I would like to see the parks continue to upgrade to accommodate coaches such as ours. Banks Lake state park has a new loop that did a great job on building sites. They have 50-amp power and are spaced out with lots of room in between so one does not have feel cramped; don't mind paying more for that

### **Trails**

- Trails need to be more elderly person-friendly and handicap accessible
- I am for enhanced trails systems for biking and hiking
- More hiking trails that families can go and get into nature
- Bike trails are nice to introduce other recreation and users to the areas
- Recently camped with our grandmother and she wanted to go swimming but it was very hard for her to get to the water area, hill is too steep and long
- Would like to see and would use more trails
- Develop trails and keep the natural landscape; like to leave the city behind and not see houses and other development

### **Resource Protection and Natural Areas**

- More trees always good
- Preservation of natural buffers around both areas is very important; increase trail access into non-sensitive areas giving the using public a better appreciation of the true recreational gems the parks hold
- Interested primarily in enjoying the natural setting of parks and in keeping the noise level at a minimum to hear natural sounds
- Like the shade & restoration ideas which includes planting more trees throughout the whole park. Also, expanding the park boundaries would be great. A large portion of the expansion should be set aside for light use only

### **Other**

- Bear-safe garbage cans; address geese problem at swim area
- Rentals and concessions and high-density overnights are not needed.
- A dog friendly swim area

- Like multiple activities that all family members can do – we walk, swim, play on playground
- Some type of improvement of the swimming areas would be nice

### **Bridgeport City Council/Planning Commission Comments – October 16, 2019**

- At one time in the past, the schools made regular field trips to Bridgeport State Park. It would be good for that to happen again.
- When the Discover Pass fee requirements went into effect, it had an impact on those with limited income. There are less visitors to the park as a result.
- The cost of a pass is prohibitive considering the income of many residents in Bridgeport.
- Bridgeport Library will offer the Discover Pass Backpack Checkout program in the future. The Friends of the Library will purchase two backpacks. These are equipped with binoculars, nature viewing, and other interpretive information and a Discover Pass that will allow borrowers to visit Bridgeport State Park at no cost. This will help get more kids and others who don't visit the park due to the cost of a day-use or annual pass.

- Alta Lake and Bridgeport State Parks Comments      October 23, 2019 – November 24, 2019

I would love to see more recreational activities for my children at Bridgeport State Park. They loved the playground that is already there, but that can only keep them occupied for so long. I thoroughly enjoyed my stay there this last summer and I'm excited to see what kind of changes are made to this location. <sup>1</sup>

Please understand that any attempts to undermine motorized boating on Alta Lake will be met with fierce opposition by every private property owner on Alta Lake! We will not put up with your outrageous threats. We live on Alta Lake because it is a motorized boat lake. If you want to make your Park more attractive, then clean it up and treat the campers better. Update the facilities – the group facility often has 150+ people staying in it and doesn't have a flush toilet or a shower – that's the obvious reason you continue to lose campers - it's a subpar campground.

The boating issue is not the problem. There are very few instances if any, per year, of boating accidents. The only time any incidents appear close to occurring are when (typically drunk) Park campers are going the wrong way on the water at crazy speeds. This could easily be resolved by having anyone registering to camp at the Park with a motorized boat/jet ski read a flyer on the rules of the Lake. It has been understood for the over 50 years I have been skiing and boating on Alta that because it is a small lake that counter clockwise is the way to use the lake. I cannot remember a boating accident on Alta that was caused while using these simple rules.

Your second option is obviously your only option. As little as twenty years ago there were about 400,000 visitors a year to Alta – now you have less than 100,000. Do you think it might be because in 2020 campers paying a lot of money for a camp space would like to have the use of a flush toilet and a shower; or a clean beach front or a shade tree?

At your meeting in Pateros at the fire hall, it was brought up that the pumping system could be made to work in either direction and keep the lake at a normal height (1175 ft). This would insure more campers over time, as they know what to expect each year. As private homeowners we would be more than willing to work towards this goal.

I am sorry I missed the last meeting. I am now at my winter home in Surprise, AZ. As a kid I was lucky enough to spend most of my summers at Alta Lake, although I grew up in Seattle. When I retired (early) several years ago (after living in the Midwest and California) I was lucky enough to buy a home on Alta Lake and have lived there the past 14 years. I care about Alta immensely and will work hard to protect what it is. Realize that sometimes you don't have to change everything to just for the sake of change. Just improve what you have with better facilities, etc. <sup>2</sup>

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Hi (name redacted) – thank you for your comments. I've passed them on to our team and they will be duly considered in developing a final recommendation.

Your comments about specific features of the park that need improvement are very helpful; some of which we also have identified for improvement (e.g. outdated facilities). As far as one alternative vs. another, we're not looking for folks to tell us they prefer one over the other,

wholesale. The purpose of this exercise is to explore the range of features and operational/management options and integrate them into one alternative, ideally. Our staff agrees that motorized boating is not an issue on the lake currently.

If you have additional thoughts about other features in the alternatives, we'd like to hear more. For example, what are your thoughts about expanded trail development and expansion of the boundary to the east that would protect the viewshed? Feel free to email me directly or provide comments through the website. I'm also available by phone if you want to set a time to discuss.

Again, we appreciate your attention and time for this. We've not heard a lot from the public in general, and are hoping to also reach campers who come from outside the area.

Thank you.

Melinda

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Melinda,

I guess that my point is times have changed a bit over the years from when Jake Bossart sat in the registration booth from 5 to 8 p.m. every night collecting the \$1.75 it cost to camp at the state park. The bathrooms have not changed – they are the same (now 60+ years old) and it costs 20 times more per night to camp. The brush around the park is sadly worse and the shade from the trees is gone in many areas. You would think a bunch of people with degrees could figure out how to plant some trees that won't die from bugs???? The only improvements that I can see have been made around employee based needs rather than the campers.

My thoughts are that people come to Alta to enjoy a beautiful Lake, go swimming and play in the water. It seems Parks is always twisting peoples motivation into hiking and trails.

I can tell you that in my opinion most nature trail/hiking people are pigs. If you want to see what hikers do, just take a horse ride up through the Methow; go over Horsehead Pass to Boiling Lake, Cub Lake, Surprise Lake, Upper & Lower Eagle Lakes, etc. you will never see a horseman – or a dirt bike person not take out their garbage and mess, or abuse the most dynamic country in America – but hikers leave there garbage behind all the time.

Alta is a place for tent campers (middle class, working people) to come and relax amid a gorgeous water view setting on a well deserved vacation that is affordable.

In my career I had 100's of employees, some made big money and considered the Holiday Inn camping out, but the majority, the office workers, warehouse workers etc. just wanted an affordable place they could relax at during their well earned vacation.

Let Alta be that place. It was for my parents. It can remain that way for years and years to come. Change is not always the answer. Maintaining the unique setting at Alta will bring people back.

After years of declining water levels and a real asshole before Sharon as Park Ranger definitely did its damage, but give it a chance and give some money back to repair and enhance what is already there. <sup>56</sup>

I can only speak to the Alta Lake CAMP, but my vote is Alternative 2. The lake recreation is a huge draw and to improve this would be great! Adding in parks for kids and enhancing recreation is exciting to hear about! <sup>3</sup>

I really appreciate the thoroughness of the presentation and the effort to include the Public in the development of the Alta Lake and Bridgeport via CAMP.

As a father of two young girls, 5 and 3 years olds, my wife and I always look for kid friendly activities where ever we camp. As a result we typically camp and Steamboat Rock State Park twice a year. This year we tried Alta lake. We were pleasantly surprised with the State Park. However found it to be somewhat lacking in kid activities (compared to other State Parks). We would certainly take advantage of a splash park, multi age playground, and informative signs which indicate park trails. In addition my girls are at the age at which they are learning how to ride bikes. Having a safe and kid friendly bike trail system from the campsites to the lake would be a wonderful way to encourage our girls to ride their bikes without the danger of vehicle traffic. In addition I personally enjoy dual-sport motorcycling. I look forward to exploring WA State motorcycle friendly trail systems. Using Alta Lake or Bridgeport as a base camp to execute a ride from is a ideal. Providing more motorcycle trails would be fantastic.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate. <sup>4</sup>

Fishing can be excellent there but fish processing is difficult, needs a cleaning station. <sup>5</sup>

I viewed the recommendations that are proposed for both parks on the video. I personally mostly like the alternatives that keep these parks/facilities as more of camping & day use picnic/swimming/boating type parks. I frown on the development of cabins & “spray pads”, swimming POOLS (like natural swim beaches). These are not the expected uses at state parks but are more in line with motels & city parks. Ugh.

Fishing/Camping/Boating/Hiking/Swimming should be the primary focus. When you throw cabins, yurts, spray pads in the mix – you are overdeveloping. People come to state parks for unique experiences, not same as you would see in a municipal park. Expansion to include larger RV/tent spaces, more shade trees, electrical hook-ups would be ideal in these areas prone to excessive summer heat. Keeping space between sites should be a priority. No one likes to camp in a “parking lot” with minimal space between sites. That would smack of the overdeveloped KOA type parks and would lower the recreational value. Wifi at these parks should be discouraged. People need places to get away from being “connected” all the time. Mini-museums at parks highlighted history would be a nice feature. <sup>6</sup>

I support Alternative 2 for Alta Lake and Alternative 1 for Bridgeport.

We enjoy camping with our dogs in our travel trailer. We would love trails where dogs are allowed to hike with us. We would also like to camp where our dogs can have swim areas. It is very hard to find RV Camping Sites that are in more natural wooded areas but also have hookups. We like camping in the natural wooded areas but would like to have hookup sites when we are camping for more than 2 days. Sites that have RV Hookups but also have a level area for a tent are our first choice. <sup>7</sup>

My family and I have been enjoying summertime camping at Bridgeport State Park for over 30 years. The park is lovely and we continue to go there because we like it the way it is, small, quiet and great for families. It was sad to see the golf course closed last summer and I would like to see the proposed expansion plans in more detail before giving a qualified opinion on the changes. <sup>8</sup>

As an out of country resident, but a history of over forty years of camping at Alta Lake , I thought to respond to thie parks request.

I think that proposal one would be my choice, in part because it seems to me to have less impact on the area. I like the idea of trail development as we hike hike there now and I would think the development would probably just improve the existing paths.

Limited diversity is fine ,but these areas should be kept as natural as possible. We can access organized activities at lakes and communities that are larger and more capable of handling the noise and pollution.

The idea of preserving the wetlands and addressing drainage is appealing to me.

Addressing the shade issue is another important area. The Carleton fire damage decimated the beach and areas between the camping sites. Beetle damaged trees on the grass area will have to be dealt with, which will leave virtually no shade down by the beach., on a sweltering sunny day.

The facilities have already been improved, but I think still more handicapped accessibility should be looked at.

Looking at lake fluctuation might be helpful, though it has been relatively stable for a number of years. My understanding is that a system for minimizing this is in place, though I am not positive.

We love this little lake. It is my “happy place” where I go to rest from life’s cares, listen to the birds and wind in the pines, feel the warm breezes and smell the desert scents. I would love to see that quality stay. All of us need more of nature, not less. <sup>9</sup>

Thank you for reaching out to park users for our input on the planning for Alta Lake. We have been camping at Alta Lake for 15 years, and absolutely love it, and there are many others who do the same. We were there for the Carlton Complex fire (evacuated), and we continue to return every year, often twice each summer. This is our "happy place", and our absolute favorite camping spot. Nothing else compares to the beauty and serenity of Alta Lake. After viewing your video, we prefer Option 1, which expands trails and deals with lake levels and shoreline erosion. We do not support Option 2 for expanding watersports. This lake is very small, and with the campers and residents, there is enough boat traffic on the lake already. It is a great lake for swimming, kayaks and paddle boards, and more boats and jet skis only make it more dangerous and noisy. Let more boats and boating events use places like Lake Chelan which is much bigger and can accommodate more boat traffic, or even the river which has little boat traffic.

Priorities for us at Alta Lake are:

Shoreline erosion

Lake levels

More shade (especially in the Mountain camping areas that lost trees in the fire)

Expanding hiking/biking trails and possibility of nordic trails in winter

Cabins are not a bad idea (especially if they can be used in winter), but not very many. Perhaps taking over the Whistling Pines campground for cabins might be a good use of that space. I can't see where cabins would fit into the current layout.

I'm not sure why there was mention of a shorter route to town. It's only a few minutes to drive to Pateros and Brewster, and I would hate to see another road built to cut off a couple of minutes. The most important thing for us is that Alta Lake remain a serene family destination, and not be turned into a motorized boat haven. Please don't ruin this gem of a campground, where so many people return year after year, because they love it the way it is. Thank you. <sup>10</sup>

I prefer option #1 for Bridgeport State Park. Adding more recreation land and improving what is already there. Please do not reduce the usable area.

Something more for the kids to do would also be great. Spray park would be incredible. Maybe even some more bike trails. Or a kids bike course. I know many kids were riding their bikes at the park while we camped there.

A small concession would be nice so we wouldn't have to drive into town for small things.

We brought a boat and used the lake every day. Perhaps if the park is crowded more moorage spots would be appropriate.

Would love to see more group camping areas and more shade trees. <sup>11</sup>

Planting new foliage is an excellent idea. I enjoyed camping at Lake Alta this past summer but shade was a concern. I was fortunate to obtain a campsite that had trees that made it comfortable during the heated afternoons. When making reservations, I avoid many spots due to lack of shade.

I would enjoy additional trails for hiking. A trail system would be a nice addition.

My biggest concern is motorized boats on Lake Alta. I do have a motorized boat that I use for fishing. The use of the lake for water skiing and jet skis is very dangerous. They have often come close to my boat. I troll at a very slow speed so it is difficult to get out of their way. A speed limit on the lake would help with safety for all and help control the erosion along the banks of the lake. It would also reduce noise so that everyone could enjoy the nature around us.

I enjoy our state parks for camping, hiking and fishing. Any improvements would be appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the survey. <sup>12</sup>

Having been a camper and camp host at Alta Lake, I recommend proposal #1. The limitation of power boating so that kayakers, row boaters and canoers have opportunities to use the lake without danger from motor boat enthusiasts is the more preferable option. I'm very happy to

see that Alta Lake will receive the resources that it deserves. Thank you for your concern for one of our favorite parks. <sup>13</sup>

Ban motorized boats from Alta. It is too small and also they spoil the pristine environment.

Also either maintain the trail up the mountain from the group campsite or close it, I have been coming to Alta Lake since the 60,s and have observed the slow deterioration of that trail. My kids are adults but if they were like 10 years old I would never send them up there by themselves. I think the state could be opening it self up to a potential lawsuit by calling that a trail.

I would be in favor of leaving Bridgeport the way it is. I have stayed there and have talked with campground hosts at other state parks and Bridgeport is one they and look forward to their coming stay there. I also like the fact that it is small and quiet.

Why create a carnival out of it? <sup>14</sup>

I received your emailed request for comment re Bridgeport State Park

I listened to the video and frankly find it so sparse on information as to be unable to provide meaningful comment. Clearly you have documents for the planning you have done - why don't you include a link to them on the website for comment? If you REALLY want comment and are not just 'checking the box' that you asked for comment, please provide the public with access to the documents that help us help you.

Thank you. <sup>15</sup>

Good Morning,

As requested here is some feed back on two wonderful ideas for future beautification of Alta Lake as we are not familiar with Bridge Port.

1st , is taking into consideration the erosion impact in and around Alta Lake itself, by far I will not claim to be an expert, however having the proposed trail system around the lake is wonderful, slides from the west face are constant and extremely dangerous. Rock movement and sediment movent on the mountain is constantly moving down. This poses a risk to the hikers and home owners. With the best intentions in mind there is still a large possibility of serious injury or fatality. We have boated and stayed at Alta every weekend and during the week in 2017 from May – late Sept, we have seen both the east and west mountains sliding. The east mountain/hill which on the other side is the highway came down on a Saturday while we were swimming in the middle of the lake.

Therefore for human interaction would be extremely difficult and costly to construct safety barriers and other slide control measures. I would like to give alternatives to this design however it is extremely difficult with the terrain you are working with at Alta Lake. LTB5 itself has its own difficulties with the flood plane and marshy conditions created by the run off from the valley. Keep in mind the design red dotted line is probably not exact if it where to be that near the lake the infrastructure would need to be built up at a considerable cost not only to the environment but financially as well and the fact that I believe this is a (stocked lake) therefore it would not be certain where the fish species are getting the food source. However, we have noticed on many occasions the there is a high concentration of fish on the south end of the lake. Which in fact is cleaner water and better to swim in even though the area is marshy.

I am sorry that I have no alternatives for you on alternative 1,

Alternative 2 given what the video explained and was very informative with other limited information sounds like a wonderful inclusion as well, and by what the terrain near the golf course looks like and LC1 LTB1 LC8 LC3 LC5 sounds fantastic. There would be minimal impact to public safety other than the normal bumps and bruises of daily life in the outdoors. Keeping in mind the terrain and having a sound designer team a Nordic track would be fantastic for the area. Grooming the paths are not a priority and would better serve the biodiversity that calls the ground layer home. As a bonus Nordic tracks/cross country skiing snow shoeing is equally use full as a hiking/biking trail with the latter contributing to soil compaction and not as good for biodiversity. However, products like wood chips from pre fallen limbs and trees within the are could be used as a base to limit the pressure impact. Personally I would love to ski with the family around Alta just for the sheer beauty of what the environment has to offer. Further with LTB1 a Beautiful screening area for out door movies through out the warm months would be another fantastic inclusion, shows like National geographic environment learning directions and other nature related and sometimes Disney nature and children's movies. Example would be Bambi, planet earth and so on and also could have local concerts attend. This is what makes the entire family happy and yes I know there are four shows at Alta right now through the summer and they are priceless for the family, I have more ideas and suggestions but I'm sure you already get enough. I haven't even touched on a partnership with the Golf course which I am sure they would embrace 100%. As we have mentioned in the past to the staff and to the Rangers there, there work there is fantastic and the nicest we have been around, they are truly wonderful people as is your whole area of Pateros.

If you would like further discussion please feel free to email us, <sup>16</sup>

I support WA Parks efforts to plan for the future of both parks, and the associated alternatives that include expansion of facilities including natural areas, focusing intensive use on the limited available space, family oriented facilities, and user sanitary facilities. If I understood the video correctly Alternative 1 in both cases best meet these objectives. I was disappointed to see the golf course at Bridgeport go under, and think that integrating both golf courses at each location into long term plans would be good for future demand for developed and dispersed recreation. I'll leave it up to you, the professionals, to figure out how and what will be the best approaches to meet the increase demand while protecting the natural experience outdoor recreationists are seeking. <sup>17</sup>

Hello,

I watched the informational video about Alta Lake and Bridgeport State Park renovations. My comments will only focus on Alta Lake as I have never been to Bridgeport.

I was most definitely drawn to Option #1 with Alta Lake for the trails and additional camping at the end of the lake. The video mentioned that this could bring more boating to the lake but I actually wonder if the opposite would happen because you are providing more opportunities for other activities leaving more people without boats wanting to visit and camp at the park. When my family went to Alta Lake we actually didn't have a boat and were disappointed by the lack of trails that were more family friendly. While I think any trail system would be pretty steep, the option for more routes is very appealing.

In the end if boating was restricted on the lake, is that such a bad thing? I am not convinced that option 1 would pollute the lake more than option 2. Both options should have regular water monitoring and if the water quality decreases, limits should be applied. Water monitoring should also be a policy with pollution due to human activity. I understand that can be very controversial but with a mission of “State parks connect all Washingtonians to their diverse natural and cultural heritage and provide memorable recreational and educational experiences that enhance their lives” it seems like providing more options for recreation away from boating with the ability to see more environment aligns with the mission. Hopefully trail systems don’t degrade the land but rather provide the opportunity to experience it. The Columbia River is so close for boating that it seems more important to develop Alta Lake as a serene habitat rather than a boating lake.

My family does actually have a boat but we didn’t bring it to this lake and instead used our paddle boards which was so nice on a calm lake. I guess you pick your poison with these options. Do you allow for more recreation opportunities and could bring more people and perhaps more land usage or do you allow for more boating and water usage? I know what I vote for but I also believe I am a steward of the land and would always be respectful but understand that other people would not.

Hopefully you find something in here helpful. <sup>18</sup>

I like the Alta Lake plan 1 providing the round the lake trail which would provide people the chance to see the different terrain around the park. We just camped and do not have a boat, so the land based recreation is our preference. Also, since we were there in mid-September with cooler than usual temperatures, there was no swimming at that point so we were limited in the park options. But even with cooler temps and rain during our stay it was a pleasant experience.

I have never been to the Bridgeport park, so do not have a good feeling for what is needed at that location. Although from the presentation it sounds like more shade trees are needed which is also a nice environmental component. More trees are always a great addition to any area.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the proposals. <sup>19</sup>

Prefer option 1 for Alta Lake and option 2 for Bridgeport. <sup>20</sup>

Alta Lake: Alternative 2

Bridgeport: Alternatilve 2 <sup>21</sup>

Bridgeport State Park: Create bear safe garbage cans not the flimsy one now there. I had a black bear uncouncted by the playground across the road from the garbage cans.

Also I advocate for a goose season on these pesky buggers at the swim area <sup>22</sup>

As a frequent camper at Bridgeport I vote for Alternative 2. I’d like to see the natural resources retained in the park as much as possible. We loved the golf course and see that as an opportunity for more trails, walking or biking. Thanks for the opportunity to comment, <sup>23</sup>

Preferer Option #1. Like the idea of adding more kid oriented stuff. Also really needs more large RV sites. I go there with a pickup camper and 17' boat and there is only 4 sites that I can park in comfortably and be all the way in the site. <sup>24</sup>

Dear Melinda,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these projects. Alta Lake in not a campground that we visit BUT we stayed at Bridgeport State Park this past summer and it is without a doubt, one of my all time favorite campgrounds...and we have stayed at many in Washington State. These are the things that we loved:

~ the small intimate setting.

~the variety of old trees that someone with vision had planted many years ago.

~the uncrowded swimming area.

~the feeling that you were in an oasis!

I would love to see the minimal impact option selected at Bridgeport. So many campgrounds today are massive and don't really serve the tent camper or small RV camper (we have a teardrop, like Twin Harbors!). It was so refreshing to find one where a healthy balance between the Greyhound Bus type RVs and the tenters was achieved. I will say that more shade on the west side (we were in site 4...very sunny for most of the day!) would be great. Also, there is only one bathroom in the campground, I believe and we had folks walking very near us to get to it from the other side of the campground, which was okay but sometimes not. Perhaps a second bath/shower would be helpful.

In closing, please keep it very close to how it is. I understand demand is great but if it is expanded too much, the whole feeling at Bridgeport will be lost. <sup>25</sup>

We visited both parks last spring, camping at Alta and visiting Bridgeport for a short time. We like the first proposal in both cases. We really love the idea of an around the lake trail at Alta and the extension of the mountain trail. <sup>26</sup>

I am in support of alternative #2 for Alta lake restoration. As frequent visitors of the Alta lake camp ground, my family and I are eager to see some more family friendly accommodations be implemented. Creating Dock options in the swim area and a play ground facility would be ideal. <sup>27</sup>

Hello,

My family loved Alta Lake but you are correct about the fire damage - it would be wonderful to have more shade. My biggest disappointment was the lack of access to most of the lake. I wish we could have accessed the north, east and south sides. The camp sites were wonderful and the staff was the best ever. I liked the facilities too, as well as the beach. Really hoping I can fish and hike on the east side someday. It seems like a "boaters only" place. <sup>28</sup>

I love Alta Lake and would agree with Alternative 1. I like the idea of expanding the trail system and leaving the boating area as is.

I've never been to Bridgeport, but think Alternative 2 is the better choice in preserving the natural areas.

Thank you. <sup>29</sup>

We camp every year at BridgePort and would love to see more FULL hookups or at least POWER with more SHADE! The video mentioned a spray park, not sure what that is but anything to keep cool while were there:) <sup>30</sup>

Thank you for your video presentation.

I am a resident of Bridgeport and I am in favor of alternative 1 for Bridgeport State Park. I think that extended trail options would be wonderful. I am also in favor of a "spray park"/ splash pad for the children, especially when there are toxic slime signs up during the hottest parts of the summer. We have a lovely community full of children and I would love to see them enjoying that water feature. Cabins are also a great idea.

We use this part a lot in the summer and would love to see it get continued use and an upgrade.

Thank you for your time and effort on the behalf of those of us who love this park. <sup>31</sup>

After viewing your 10 minute video on the future plans for Alta Lake and Bridgeport state parks, my wife and I would vote for Alternative 1 for Alta Lake and Alternative 2 for Bridgeport parks. We have been recreating at Bridgeport nearly every year for the past 35 years and are intimately familiar with its attributes and shortcomings.

- In both cases the preservation of natural buffers around the areas is very important.
- Increase trail access into non-sensitive areas would be supported giving the using public a better appreciation of the true recreational gems the parks hold.
- Bridgeport could use additional camping availability but must preserve the relatively generous campsite real estate for each camper. Crowding more sites into the existing footprint is unacceptable.
- The property freed up by the closing of Lake of the Woods golf course provides an opportunity for additional camping units without raising the commercialism of the camping experience. Rentals and concessions and high density overnights are not needed. More camping units of the nature of the currently existing campground would be welcomed.

Bridgeport has been our go-to park annually for many years. This year, during our five day stay, we encountered a number of campers who were there for the first time ever. They were impressed to the point where they vowed to return in the future. Demand will continue to grow. The challenge will be to preserve the elements that make it so special:

- its natural beauty in a coulee setting,
- the feeling of remoteness,

- the intimate camping experience and,
- the relative lack of disruptive motorized activity
- the recent improvements in maintenance and hospitality

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute. <sup>32</sup>

I am in favor of Alternative 1 for both Alta and Bridgeport. I would love more hiking trails and to be able to hike around Alta Lake. So sad about golf course closing, makes for a dreary entrance to Bridgeport State Park. Can it be turned into trails? and the building into a visitor center, or museum, or ranger station? so it is kept up and used. I love the idea of off season (non-summer) use of the parks, cross country skiing, winter camping. <sup>33</sup>

We like option #1 with regard to the Alta Lake Campground. <sup>34</sup>

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

For Alta Lake , I prefer option 1 as the addition of trails and the expansion of park use to winter and Nordic activities would be wonderful.

I am not familiar with Bridgeport park but liked option 2 as it seemed to protect more of the.natural habitat. <sup>35</sup>

I have camped at both parks and enjoy them. I did however find some RV sites to be difficult to park a 26' 5th wheel due to the extreme slope encountered. That said, expanding the campground to provide larger, level, serviced sites would encourage me to visit more often. Privacy between sites should be a greater planning parameter from the start, simple low water dependant shrubs could beautify the campground and provide a degree of separation in a space saving format. Thanks for giving me an opportunity to provide some input to the planning process! <sup>36</sup>

Hello,

Looking at the alternatives, I prefer option 1. I especially like the idea of adding trails for day hikes and such. The facilities for camping could also be improved/renovated. Adding cabins seems like a decent idea. I think cabins should be located in the existing campgrounds so they enjoy in the same experience as everyone else, instead of being located off in their own area. <sup>37</sup>

I am interested, primarily, in enjoying the natural setting of parks and in keeping the noise level at a minimum to hear natural sounds. The following are my choices:

Alta Lake: Alternative 1

Bridgeport: Alternative 2 <sup>38</sup>

I prefer Option 1 for each of the proposed changes. Need to provide more shade, more natural land access, more trails, protect lake and environment. Have not stayed at Bridgeport. Thx. <sup>39</sup>

I like option 1 for both parks with more recreational areas for campers and day users. I would also like to see more shade in the camping areas and better trails to get from the camping area

to the water and other areas. The trails need to be more elderly person friendly and handicap accessible. We recently camped there with our grandmother and she wanted to go swimming but it was very hard for her to get to the water area, hill is too steep and long. Also a dog friendly swim area would be great. <sup>40</sup>

Option one sounds best for both did you consider frees bee golf for Bridgeport <sup>41</sup>

I like alternative 1 for Alta lake. It offers a more diverse set of recreation options with extra trails and just in general more to do. An element mentioned in alternative 2: Introducing cabins makes camping year round easier for a lot of people and also helps people who are not that used to camping or don't have camping gear. <sup>42</sup>

My wife and I would like to see further development of the park providing more campsites and recreation opportunities, therefore we support alternative 1. We have been camping at the park for over 20 years and really enjoy the campground and boating opportunities it provides. While we hesitate to encourage more development and like it the way it is, we fear the time is coming soon where it will be very hard to reserve a campsite at Bridgeport without additional sites. <sup>43</sup>

The greatest asset of Alta Lake State is the Lake. Therefore I believe the highest priority of the State is to maintain a reasonable lake level, not too high or not too low. As proven by attendance at the Park during the early 2000's when the lake was very low so was attendance as the boat ramp and dock were not usable.

As to the two alternatives I lean to Alt. #2 only because it has less expansion but even number 2 I believe is excessive. If the Lake is maintained at a proper level (and I understand this may be expensive) swimming, paddle boarding, boating will continue to increase and increase attendance at the Park and increase revenue to the State. <sup>44</sup>

For Alta, I prefer Alternative 1 because of the potential for nordic skiing trails and possible controls on motorized boating due to over use and water quality issues. My preference is from human powered activities. Also, winter camping (RV?) potential is exciting.

For Bridgeport, I prefer Alternative 1 for the possible connection to a more extensive bike trail network. Also improved camping/RV facilities would be nice. The potential for kayak access should be included.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment! <sup>45</sup>

Hello,

First, thank you for providing this background & information regarding the proposed developments to Alta Lake State Park as well as providing this mechanism to provide feedback.

I've enjoyed camping at Alta Lake for over 20 years and I've appreciated the clean facilities, access to the lake, and friendly management staff. Although recently, I have noticed negative changes to each - lacking toilet paper in bathrooms, rising water levels limiting access, and some unfriendly staff -- I am glad that there is this consideration for improving the park.

In-short, I would like to voice my opinion towards supporting Alternative #2 as stated in the CAMP video. I feel that a lake this size cannot sustain a larger population of campers, and I've always been able to find availability at the existing camping sites.

Thank you for your time in reading this feedback. <sup>46</sup>

1. The restroom facilities in the Alta Lake Campground are definitely in need of updating.
2. Walking/biking trails around the lake would be great but I would oppose having them open to motorized vehicles.
3. A study to investigate the water level of the lake, as mentioned in the video, would be a good use of funds...as much of the beach area previously open to the public is now gone because of the rise in water level over the last couple of years.
4. I would oppose expanding the campground and day use areas, as I don't think the size of the lake could accommodate more boat traffic.

Thank you for the opportunity to hear public comment on this issue! <sup>47</sup>

I'm in favor of option 1 for both Alta Lake and Bridgeport State park. I am for enhanced trails systems for biking and hiking. <sup>48</sup>

My comments after watching the video presentation:

I have camped at nearly every Washington State campground (at least all of the most popular ones), pretty much all of my life (50 years). Bridgeport and Alta have both been regular camping destinations for my family, although we have avoided Alta in recent years due to the fire damage. Like ALL Washington State campgrounds, there is one and only one criteria in my opinion that distinguishes excellent camping and just ok camping. That is ON THE WATER campsites. I cannot stress enough how important it is to the quality of camping to be able to camp directly on the water's edge. You simply cannot build enough campsites with this criteria to meet the overwhelming demand for these kinds of sites in this state. These are the sites that get booked 9 months to the second in advance. The competition to get a reservation for one of these highly sought after sites is absolutely brutal all summer long. With that being said, I see an immense opportunity here at both Alta and Bridgeport to build many new on the water campsites. If nothing else was done to these campgrounds except add waterfront campsites, revenue would significantly increase for the park and many more people would get to enjoy that magic of camping on the water.

Regarding the proposed options, I think option #2 in both cases is more in line with the current and future use needs for these locations. That is though, with a strong emphasis on creating more waterfront camping opportunities. <sup>49</sup>

Hi Melinda. I would like to offer my comments regarding the proposed upgrades for Alta Lake. I do not visit Bridgeport and will not comment on that proposal.

I am in favor of Alternative 1 and increasing diversity. I would like to see the construction of the proposed hiking trails, as well as the extended park boundaries that will protect wildlife habitat from future development. The expansion of winter activities to include ice fishing and cross country skiing are attractive as well.

I would also be in favor of limitations on motorized boating should that be needed in the future. Alta is a small lake and should be protected if it becomes overcrowded.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts. <sup>50</sup>

These were very interesting. We absolutely love camping at Alta lake!

As far as future planning, I would be more inclined to Alternative 1. We are not a lake sport boating family (aside from fishing) and I didn't care for the louder motorboats and speeds at the lake when we were enjoying standup paddle boarding and fishing from kayaks with our young kids. There seem like very few smaller lakes that restrict higher-powered motorboats now and yet provide more experiences straight from your campsite to explore the beauty of the area. We prefer a more nature-based experience when we go camping and the idea of hiking from a campsite around the lake would be amazing. We live in Tacoma, WA and go camping to have the experience of being away from the speeds and things of the city. I would encourage to base future planning and usage on enhancing nature activities and limiting higher speed sport boating because of the smaller size of the lake and other types of water recreation that is participated in that lake, as well as that there are many surrounding water bodies that would allow for activities such as water skiing and the like. I would also not opt for building cabins around the lake because it takes away from the natural beauty as you look out over the lake. Increased cabins would increase visitor traffic which just seems to lead to increased pollution of waters.

I greatly appreciate being able to voice my opinions on future land use. <sup>51</sup>

Hi, I saw that the state is looking for input for these two state parks for future planning. We like to travel within the state in a large motorhome (45') I would like to see the parks continue to upgrade to accommodate coaches such as ours. Banks Lake state park has a new loop that did a great job on building sites. They have 50 amp power and are spaced out with lots of room in between so one does not have feel cramped. Hopefully the state can continue to design these parks where we don't feel like camping on top of one another it makes for a much more enjoyable experience and I don't mind paying more for that. Thank you <sup>52</sup>

*(This comment is summarized from a voicemail left with Melinda Posner)*

Grew up at Alta Lake

Camps here every summer for 2-3 weeks

Supports Alternative #2

Really supports a new or refreshed trail from camping area to swim area – used to be there and it was really good and now have to go to top of hill and back down...

Thanks for doing the replanting of trees since the forest fire

The wifi is very nice; appreciate that

He questions all the trails suggested on Alternative #1 – primarily due to presence and number of rattle snakes, both inside and outside park boundaries; not sure how good that will be; doesn't think the public will like that much <sup>53</sup>

Again in the 60s, in front of the campground, out into the lake some 100+ ft was a log boom the park had. That boom protected shore swimmers from speeding boats. There was an opening in/out for boats. Water skiing was done either from the far end of the boom opposite the beach or from the store shoreline across from the swim area.

Good luck with your redesign. <sup>54</sup>

Never been to Alta Lake but I've been to Bridgeport. The hardest thing there is with a 5th wheel, it's 27.5' long and there are only a few sites (just two really) that are long enough, have the right angles and are on even ground. We sign up as soon as we can to get the #29 and/or #30.

So, adding new sites would be good, as well as adding or expanding existing sites to make them bigger and better (even)

Love the park; it's really nice but tough to get a site. We got lucky last year and got the site we wanted. We often go to Brandt's Landing where we fish from the shore but stay overnight at site #29 if possible

Rufus Woods is a big lake; it would be nice to bring our boat to the lake but if we're driving the 5th wheeler and camping, we don't want to tow the boat. If there were cabins, I would leave the 5th wheeler at home and tow the boat. The 5th wheeler can tow the boat but awkward to tow and then launching the boat at the boat ramp is a problem too. <sup>55</sup>

I love the parks, I do not see the hiking trails being feasible around the golf course and thru the Varrelmans property

I am a property owner on the coarse and I do not want the public go around on our private road and I do not believe my neighbors either are interested. As for boating I do not believe the lake is congested as bad as many others I have been on and it is a great ski lake. I do believe that limiting the boats with ballast tanks that make a huge wake for surfing or wake boarding should be banned do to the huge wake that is dangerous to the other boats docked, Moored, running, floating, beaches and docks.

Adding a fishing dock, a tube /floating area away from the launch would be nice. The launch at alta was congested with swimmers and fisherman all summer make it dangerous to launch. Also a dog swimming area would be fabulous, hard to keep the pets cool.

Bridgeport I like the Idea of making camping at the old golf course. Some type of improvement of the swimming areas would be nice. It is a awesome park that we stay at 5 days a year. What makes it so nice for our group is all the open area and green grass. <sup>57</sup>

I would desire to preserve the current boundaries of the Alta Lake State Park while enhancing its current structure and facilities. This fits in with the proposed Alternative #2 plan that is described in the "CAMP" video that is on your web sight. This includes playground enhancements, develop beach and day use area, along with a study to understand the lake level fluctuation. <sup>58</sup>

I like alternative 1 on both. More hiking trails that families can go and get into nature. Additionally bike trails are nice to introduce other recreation and users to the areas. <sup>59</sup>

Hi Melinda,

(Redacted) and I have camped at Bridgeport a number of times but perhaps have a better perspective because we have volunteered as hosts there the last three Aprils.

It is a beautiful park. Suggestions about improved access to the park and day use area befuddle us. Its' pretty much a moot point because existing access is direct and along the most accessible route possible.

We have talked to a number of campers who are disappointed that the golf course is closed as that was a major factor in their camping at BP.

Unless campers have a boat there are limited recreational opportunities other than the golf course.

Another frequent request is a place to allow their dogs to run off leash and access to the water for their dogs to swim.

Thanks for your time. <sup>60</sup>

Alternative 1 is appealing, however I'm concerned about the statement that it could lead to future limits on motorized boating. The current limits of 9:00 am to 6:00 pm seem to be a good balance for watersports and fisherman. I am not in favor of further restrictions to motorized boating. <sup>61</sup>

I support Alternative 1 for both Alta Lake and Bridgeport State Parks. Thanks for giving us the chance to give input! <sup>62</sup>

Dear Ms.Posner,

Thank you for your work in getting this information out, it's good to know that the commission has a plan and is interested in the public opinion.

We stay at Bridgeport State Park yearly for up to 10 days at a time. I support Alternative 1(one) the creation of more recreation areas with an emphasis on the either restoring the golf course or in my opinion, designing that land as a campground with concession stand and water

park, dare I ask for a swimming pool? We really enjoy the campground and would like to see it grow and thrive.

Alternative 2(two) presents some unique challenges, the area to the north of the existing group camp gets to be real snake habitat, and just last year we saw a black bear walking through that area on it's way to orchards. Wildlife preservation is great, but interacting with humans is just not a great time for anyone.

In conclusion, keep up the good work, feel free to reach out to me at my email address and I'd be happy to discuss this, looking forward to your report. <sup>63</sup>

We like the shade & restoration ideas which includes planting more trees throughout the whole park. Also, expanding the park boundaries would be great. A large portion of the expansion should be set aside for light use only. Not interested in a playground for kids. Instead of a playground there could be more hiking trails. Maybe an easy hike for kids. Playgrounds are for the city not for outdoor recreation areas. Kids need to be enjoying the woods & lake. Addition of RV sites with full hookups. Improve trail from boat launch to picnic area. We're ok with limiting boat use if needed. <sup>64</sup>

Melinda,

First, thank you for what you are doing. Second, my background: my wife and I have been camping at Alta Lake every summer (multiple times each summer) for the last 34 years. We have three sons and each summer at Alta Lake has been a part of their childhood and today they and there wives/girlfriends enjoy camping there with us "older parents". Alta Lake has and is a big part of our lives. Ask Sharon, park ranger, she knows of me (hopefully in a good way 😊)

After reviewing the video regarding the two alternative plans following are my comments:

Generally I see pro's and con's of each alternate and can not choose one or the other. So I'd like to list my desires and concerns regarding any plans for Alta Lake

1) Improve and expand the bathroom/shower facilities at Loop 1 (forest loop). These facilities support the group camping (grassy camp areas near ranger station) as well as the campers in the loop itself. The current facility cannot support so many campers on any weekend during the summer. Please consider building a separate shower/bathroom facility for the group camping area. 1a) also I believe a shower/bathroom facility needs to be built to support the campers in the camping loop across the road from the main park area.

2) Boating and jet skiing. My family rides jet skis at Alta Lake and we pride ourselves in being respectful, law-abiding and safe in our riding. I don't believe the size of the lake can support a significant increase in boating, water skiing, jet skiing, etc. So I don't favor plans that would generate a large increase in these activities, I don't think the lake is large enough for many more boaters. I would hate to see the lake closed to water skiing and jet skiing. I feel a

new dock at the boat ramp should be in the plans and repairs to the boat ramp surface below the water level. The boat ramp parking and turn around area are fine as is. I believe large signs need to be placed right next to the boat ramp, maybe even on the dock, that state the boating rules ( no-wake zone, time period water skiing/jet skiing is allowed, etc.).

3) Beach and water level: About three-four years ago the water level of the lake was increased significantly. This eliminated the sanding beach area that once existed just north east of the swim area. This in-and-of-itself reduced the number of boaters coming to the lake as it eliminated a place to beach your boat and a place to relax on a sand beach away from the swim area. I would like to see the lake level lowered to bring back this sandy beach area to some extent. Or as an alternate the area just south of the swim area could be improved (remove bushes, bring in sand) to create a new area for boaters. Again, my hope is not to significantly draw more boater/jet skiers to the lake but to just provide adequate beach area for the current level of boaters.

4) Shad at the park: I believe more trees need to be planted for the generations to follow. I believe the "regular campers" at Alta lake know to bring pop-up canopy's to provide sun relief.

5) I really like the idea of increasing the hiking trails.

So in summary: I don't feel the lake can support a big expansion. I feel a small expansion would be fine or maybe no expansion. More importantly is to improve the facilities to support the existing level of campers and boaters. Alta Lake should not become a 'lake chelan". We need to keep it small and beautiful - that is what draws people to it.

Please let me know what else I can do to help you. I recently retired and would love to help in some way, I only wish I lived closer to the park and lake (live in Everett).<sup>65</sup>

My wife, (name redacted), and I prefer and support Alta Lake Alternative #1 (Diversify Recreation & Trails). We haven't camped at Bridgeport and have no comments for that park.

Alta Lake SP is unique because of the lake-based recreation (warm, safe swimming; boating, and fishing) and the very high scenic values. The geological setting with the lake surrounded by cliffs, the east shore talus slope, and Goat Mt. (a mile high above sea level) is unmatched in any other WA state park that we are aware of or visited. We've camped nearly a full year (well over 300 nights) at Alta Lake SP over the past 36 years (since 1983)...tent camping from 1983-2007, pop-up tent trailer from 2008-2014 and travel trailer beginning this year. The natural vegetation is also unique and the mature ponderosa pines are extremely important for providing shade in the summer and add to the ambiance when the Alta Lake "afternoon breeze" comes up...the cooling wind whistling through the pines is enjoyed by campers and day-use visitors. A key concern for us is the preservation/restoration of the pines that make Alta Lake SP enjoyable/bearable during the hot summer months (June-Aug).

LTB 2, 3 and 4 and the associated proposed land classifications look good and make sense...we support these. However, LTB 1 extends too far to the east and not far enough south

along the east shore of the lake. We are not sure about the ownership along the east shore extending south from the existing park parcel designated "LC1" to Alta Coulee Meadow at Whistlin' Pine Ranch. However, we think LTB 1 / LC 1 should encompass the entire undeveloped east shore from the lake edge to the existing trail at the top of [Lone Pine] ridge. We call the east ridge line "Lone Pine Ridge" because of the large pine that once dominated the high point at the south end until recently (struck by lightning and burned). The east shore needs to be protected from development for the scenic view, wildlife habitat and for limited recreation (hiking, horseback riding and mountain bike riding) with the "Resource Recreation" designation.

We like idea of developing new hiking trails around the golf course along the base of the mountain and around the south end of the lake in cooperation with Whistlin' Pine Ranch. A good trail already exists along the top of Lone Pine Ridge and is used by the ranch for horseback trail rides. Many times I have rowed my boat across the lake and climbed to the ridge trail and Lone Pine Peak...fantastic views and photos. I have also climbed to the top of Goat Mt. once starting from the existing [west] ridge trail that starts in the group campsite. Your Alt. 1 map should extend the dotted red line (potential trail partnership) from LC9 to the south and up the "wishbone" ridge line to the top of Goat Mt...a strenuous hike with no spring water, but with fantastic views all the way to Brewster. Not sure about ownership on the east face of Goat Mt. or legality of hiking to the top (trespass issue?).

We understand that LBT 5 contemplates the future acquisition and development, as part of Alta Lake SP, of Whistlin' Pines Ranch's private campground. This could be a nice addition of camping opportunity if brought up to WA State Park standards. We have never camped there because we prefer the quality/amenities of the state park.

We concur with all of the proposed land classifications as shown. We recommend you adopt Alt. 1 with the modifications suggested above.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Alta Lake CAMP process. <sup>66</sup>

Hi Melinda,

Thanks for your informative video. My husband and I are most interested in having more or longer trails for walking and hiking. We like the idea of a loop trail around Alta lake, and it would be cool if it had a safe viewing area or platform at the top since people will make their own trails to look over the edge at the lake anyway. Since Whistling Pines is so run down, I wonder if the state can buy it and put some close-to-the water spaces for camping trailers (that's what we have) as there aren't any spaces for trailers along the water in the main camping area.

When we were tent camping at Alta Lake this summer my husband saw a small bear go through space 66 on his way back from the water. Is there a wildlife corridor area at the end

of the park that has good lake access? Maybe there is but the bear just chose to go through space 66 anyway.

We visited Bridgeport state park but didn't stay there. We asked a ranger about walking through the haystack rock area and he suggested not to because of snakes. We think it would be nice to have a walking trail through part of the haystack rock area that joins to other trails for longer walks. We like to walk 2-8 miles, and longer trails that are off of the road are so much appreciated. <sup>67</sup>

One big improvement that would be extremely helpful to your guests, is to have a turn around & a sign on Alta Lake Rd stating that they are leaving park property. SOoooo many people with campers, end up trying to turn around in the driveways past Unger inn, mostly Gale & Sue Depriest. If it wasn't scary it would be comical. Backing up is not an option for many of those drivers. <sup>68</sup>