

Camano Island State Park

Stage Four Final

Land Classification and Management Plan



WASHINGTON STATE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



CAMP
Washington State Parks
Classification and Management Planning Project

November 2013

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The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission gratefully acknowledges the many stakeholders who live and recreate on Camano Island, Friends of Camano Island Parks, and the Washington State Parks staff who participated in public meetings, reviewed materials, and made this a better plan because of it.

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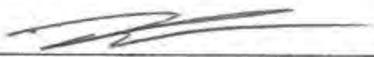
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CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

The signatures below certify the adoption of this management document by the Washington State Parks for the continued management of Camano Island State Park. The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission adoption of Camano Island State Park's Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary occurred at the Commission's November 14, 2013 Commission meeting, held at Gig Harbor City Hall.



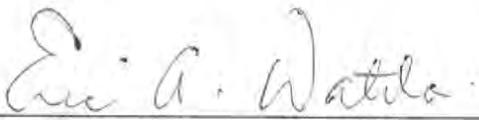
Camano Island State Park Ranger

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Date



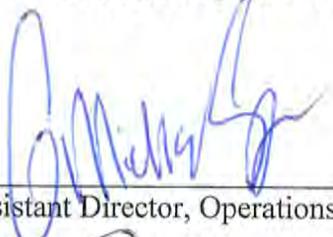
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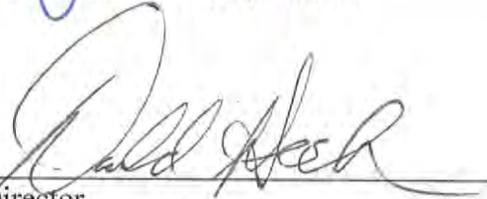
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11/25/13
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Assistant Director, Operations

1/21/14
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Director

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Date



Vicinity map of Camano Island State Park

Introduction

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) manages a diverse system of 117 parks located throughout the state. In order to establish park land uses consistent with the agency's mission and to continuing to provide memorable recreational opportunities to the public, Washington State Parks reaches out to the public to help us determine how park lands should be protected and used in the future.

This report represents the final recommendations that will be presented to the Parks Commission from a four-stage public community planning process to help us to develop a Classification and Management Plan (CAMP) for Camano Island State Park.

Through our CAMP process we have worked hard to listen and maximize outreach to park users and surrounding community members by:

- Sending approximately 600 e-mails and mailing post cards to park users, park neighbors and interested parties.
- Distributing a news release to local newspapers and outreach to publications.

Two public workshops were held at the Cama Center during the first two planning stages in order to provide information about the CAMP process and specific information about Camano Island State Park and its existing and future potential land uses. After each meeting a public comment period was extended for a month to allow for additional comments to be received about the planning process and future ideas for the park. Each comment was documented and helped to inform the planning process. Over 100 comments have been received and summarized in tables found in Appendices C, D and E.

The Planning Team for this work was instrumental in providing their knowledge and guidance throughout the planning process. Members of the team include: Christine Parsons, AICP, Project Manager; Eric Watilo, Northwest Region Manager; Derek Gustafson, Parks Planner; Tom Riggs, Camano Island Park Ranger; Jeffrey Wheeler, Cama Beach Park Ranger; Andrew Fielding, Environmental Planner; and Daniel Meatte, Cultural Resources Specialist. We want to thank the public for providing their comments on the preliminary recommendations from earlier drafts and for sharing their ideas, concerns and vision for the future of this special State Park. This park area is well loved by all and with this management plan it will be around for family fun and hours of solitude experiences with nature for many years to come.

The Process

The CAMP planning process involves four sequential stages and people were encouraged to participate in all stages. The process reflects the standards set out in the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and information collected through the planning effort was used to satisfy SEPA requirements.

Stage One – Identify issues and concerns

The purpose of this stage is to understand what is important to the park community and customer, what to change or save in these State Parks. This helps get a sense of the range and type of issues that need to be considered through the planning process.

Public workshop was held from 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM on November 15, 2012 at the Cama Center, 1880 SW Camano Drive, Camano Island, WA. Public comment was extended until December 31, 2012. The workshop goal was to identify issues to resolve in the planning process.

Stage Two – Exploring alternative approaches

At this stage, the planning team suggests potential alternative approaches to address the various issues and concerns raised by people in stage one. No preferred alternative is established; rather this is an opportunity to examine and understand the range of possibilities.

A public workshop was held from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM on April 18, 2013 at the Cama Center, 1880 SW Camano Drive, Camano Island, WA. Public comment was extended until May 20, 2013. The workshop goals were to present alternatives approaches to resolve natural resource issues and potential future recreational activities identified at the previous workshop and receive public comment.

Stage Three – Preparing preliminary recommendations

The best ideas from the alternative approaches developed in stage two are combined into a preliminary plan in this stage. The plan includes recommendations for use and development of land, changes to property boundaries, and ways to address issues that rose during the process. Another important document completed at this stage is the SEPA checklist that describes environmental impacts of the recommendations.

The Stage Three public comment was extended until August 30, 2013 to allow for input as we prepared the final recommendations and management plan elements.

Stage Four – Preparing final recommendations

At stage four, final adjustments were made to recommendations and are to be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their approval. The public is encouraged to attend the Commission meeting and provide testimony or to provide written comment. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 14, 2013 at Gig Harbor City Hall. Please vvisit the planning website for any updates to this schedule.

Planning Project website: <http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/camanoIsland/>

Long-Term Park Boundary

One of the products of the CAMP is a long-term boundary for each State Park. The purpose of a long-term boundary is to take a big picture look at what lands, independent of ownership, might advance the conservation and recreation mission of the park. The planning team considers whether an adjoining property would make a good addition. It 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 State Parks' staff the authority to have discussions that might lead to land transactions. If the landowner is not interested, then it is unlikely those land transactions will ever occur. Sometimes, when property changes hands, the new owner is more interested and transactions can take place. Being in a State Park long-term boundary gives property owners one more option when planning for their property.

If the land owner is interested and the property is within a long-term boundary, there are actions available besides land purchase. Amongst those actions might be one or a combination of the following:

- Seek to formalize an agreement to advance a shared property management goal, such as screening of houses to protect privacy.
- Help establish a conservation easement to protect features that are important to the park visitor's experience and to the landowners' privacy. Conservation easements can decrease a property owner's taxes.
- Accept a donation of all or part of a landowner's property. About 40 percent of the current Washington State Park system is made up of donated properties. Sometimes, this can be of benefit to a person's estate and create a lasting legacy.
- Consider exchanging agency-owned property for private property, either in the area or somewhere else in the state.

Altogether a total of eight land parcels were initially identified and the affected landowners were notified in writing about their identified undeveloped parcels contiguous to Camano Island State Park. One parcel was removed from consideration because of the lack of proximity of the parcel to existing park property. State Parks received a positive response from half of the identified landowners.

The final long-term property parcels were chosen for their connectivity with park property and for their ecological and future potential recreational values. There is a desire to extend park trails in the future to these areas, but no new camping or facilities are identified for development on a majority of these properties. The properties provide an important visual buffer between the park and future residential development and would continue to provide important drainage protection from future impervious land development. Appendix A provides a map of the proposed LTB properties totaling 68 acres.



Camano Island State Park boundaries and facilities (outlined in white border)

192 total acres of land and 50 acres of water area

Land Classification

Another CAMP product is land classification. Land classification is used by staff to determine what kinds of uses and activities are suitable for different parts of the State Park. Land classifications are regulated by WAC 352-16-020, which reads:

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.

Additional information about land classification types, including activities allowed under each may be found on the State Parks web page or Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 352-16-020 Land classification system.

Camano Island State Park

Recreational, Natural and Cultural Resources

Recreational Resources

Camano Island State Park receives over 230,000 visitors a year to its popular beaches, forested trails and camping areas. The public comments we received during the CAMP planning process recognize the natural beauty and feel of the park and a need to continue with this recreational theme.

The park currently features 88 standard campsites and no utility sites. The upper camping loop (sites 43-88) features pull-through sites that are better suited for RVs of up to 40 feet. The lower camping area offers 42 tent sites and some sites for RVs. All campsites are first come, first served and no reservation system is currently provided for campsites. There are two comfort stations with showers provided for the campsite occupants. Most of the current campers appreciate the first-come first-served arrangement for being able to plan a camping trip on short notice, but some people believe that the campsites should be placed on the reservation system, as the park is located in a remote area of the island and a camp ground reservation would be more reliable than reaching the park and finding the campground full.

There are five rustic cabins at Camano Island State Park located in a mature forest area. . Each cabin is 12-by-20 feet in size and furnished to sleep up to five people. Each cabin provides a fire ring, an upright pedestal grill, picnic table and an 8-foot covered porch. A comfort station with showers is located close by for the cabin visitors. Reservations are required for use of the cabins. Public comments suggest increasing the number of cabins in the future to increase visitation and revenue to the park.

One primitive campsite is reserved for water trail camping, located at the southern point of the Lowell Point park area. This is the first water trail campground that was developed for the Cascadia Marine Water Trail (<http://www.wwta.org/trails/CMT/>). Two hiker/biker camp sites are located near the campground.

There are over 6 miles of trails that are maintained through the stewardship activities of the Friends of Camano Island Parks (FOCIP) volunteers and park staff. This Friends group provides over 5,000 hours a year in volunteer efforts at the park.

The park offers two day use shelters, one of which can be reserved and an overnight group camp that accommodates a maximum of 100 people. The group camping area has a comfort station with showers. Fees vary with the size of the group and reservations are required by calling Cama Beach State Park.

The park is served by a 10,000 gallon reservoir. In addition, there is a maintenance shop, ranger housing and office. Current capital improvements planned for the park include the design and

permitting of a new comfort station/shower facility at Lowell Point and utility upgrades to the electrical and water systems.

The public helped to identify potential future expanded or new recreational opportunities for the park including the addition of more trails into expanded long-term boundary properties; additional camping including electrical service campsites; an off-leash dog walking park; a Frisbee Disc Golf Course; more picnic shelters; and the creation of a future scuba diving marine park if suitable diving conditions and interest allow. Additionally, it was suggested that more planned entertainment would help attract new visitors to the park.

These potential future recreational uses were identified in Stage One and presented during the Stage Two second public meeting for the public to respond. Stage One comments were received and summarized in Appendix C and Stage Two comments summarized in Appendix D. Generally, the public comments received during Stage Two supported existing park recreational uses with an emphasis on recreational activities that offer natural resource protection over new developed recreational opportunities, with the exception of adding additional cabins.

Shellfish Harvesting

When shellfish season is open there are hundreds of park visitors wanting to take advantage of the harvest. In the past problems have occurred from over-crowded parking and overharvesting of the shellfish resource. Public concern over the fragile beach environment and the detrimental impact of large crowds digging for shellfish, especially during low-tide was expressed by many people during Stage One. Currently, due to an unexplained die off of clams in the Port Susan/Saratoga Passage area, Washington State Parks, in cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has closed clam harvesting until further notice. This is a temporary measure to assure recovery of the clam population and future recreational harvest.

Natural & Cultural Resources Inventory and Geological Conditions

In helping to determine the recommended land classifications for Camano Island State Park, we researched existing data about the park's natural resources and consulted with a professional Coastal Geologist to better understand the geology of the park. Park acreage was re-calculated using current geographic information survey maps. Originally thought to contain 134 acres of land, the actual land base for this park is 192 acres total.

Camano Island Cultural and Historical Resources

The park has an interesting history. Earliest inhabitants of these lands indicate the park lands were used for camping, fishing, and shellfish harvesting, primarily during the summer when seafood and berries were plentiful. This area is traditionally associated with Northern Lushootseed language speakers (Suttles and Land 1990:486). Lushootseed and Twana-speaking groups in the region are presently referred to as the Southern Coast Salish. Southern Coast Salish subsistence depended on vegetable foods and land game, as well as fish.

One of the earliest historical maps shows “Point Lowell” in 1841 produced by the United States Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842, led by Charles Wilkes (1849). This expedition produced a number of important maps of Puget Sound and Lowell Point can be found on the Holmes Harbor map, which illustrates much of south Camano Island, Saratoga Passage and portions of south Whidbey Island.

A detailed aerial topographic map on file indicates the day-use area on Lowell Point still undeveloped in 1956. The contours shown on the map clearly delineate the footprint of a former marine lagoon as well as the entire lowland area where the boat ramp and parking exist today. Facilities were constructed on this lower bench area by 1966. This information supports the need to more fully evaluate the feasibility to construct a nearshore salt marsh habitat restoration project at this location. Much public support for this idea was expressed during both public meetings and in written comments from the public.

In July 1949, members of the South Camano Grange organized a “park improvement” project for the newly acquired Camano Island State Park. In an effort to win first prize in a national competition sponsored by the National Grange and Sears Roebuck Foundation, the Grange recruited nearly 900 volunteers to help develop this park in a single day in the North Beach area. In just a day and with an investment of \$575, they constructed a half mile of road, a mile and a half of scenic trails, fire lanes along part of the park border, provided clearing and parking of six acres and a quarter of a mile of waterfront development, the placement of rustic signage, small camp stoves and tables. Letters were sent from the Director of State Parks, Samuel J. Clarke and the Governor Arthur B. Langlie to Master Cecil Bruer and members of the South Camano Grange thanking them for their efforts.

Camano Island State Park Geology

The geology of the park can be identified as three distinctive areas: the southern marine bluff, Lowell Point and the north day-use area. Hugh Shipman, a professional Coastal Geologist with the Washington Department of Ecology has been studying land formations on Camano Island for several years and provided the following observations:

Southern Marine Bluff

This is an eroding marine bluff area and there is no data on what long-term erosion rates are. They may be slow, but not negligible. This is a classic “feeder bluff” which means that its natural erosion is an important source of sediment for beaches to the north, both in the park and ultimately, to the drift cell that extends along the northwest side of the island.

The road down to the beach and the boat ramp was cut into the top of this bluff, so it runs along its upper edge. Fortunately, the roadway is wide and there is also a wide shoulder, so small failures shouldn’t jeopardize access, at least for a decade or two, but it could be sooner.



Marine bluff erosion, February 2010



Roadway at top edge of bluff, November 2012

Lowell Point

The low area of Lowell Point began as a large wetland and/or lagoon behind a long curving spit. Because it is low-lying, portions are subject to flooding during unusually high tides. This area was very likely a tidal marsh and lagoon prior to development. There appears to have been a tidal inlet at the north end. The details aren't completely clear, but this is consistent with observations of the current landscape and with similar features around the Sound. This area has been identified by the Skagit Rivers System Cooperative for a potential area for habitat restoration project to help in the recovery of wild Skagit Chinook salmon populations.

The boat ramp is located at the more sheltered northern end. Because sediment transport on the beach is from south to north, sediment accumulates on the ramp and has to be removed by parks staff. This may become a bigger problem with time. In the future, there might be ways to modify the ramp in order to minimize the amount of maintenance or relocate the boat ramp and dock to another location if a redevelopment opportunity arises.



Lowell Point (spit, wetland, boat ramp)



Flooding of historic lagoon, February 2010

North Day-Use Area

This portion of the site is located on an old deep-seated landslide. This explains the distinct bench on which the picnic area and the parking lot are located. It is not uncommon for portions of such sites to reactivate, particularly during unusually wet years.

One lane of the access road has been lost due to slide movement. In addition, portions of the parking lot have shifted over time. Additional movement can and should be expected. These

slides are pretty susceptible to drainage problems and maintaining good drainage is also the most cost-effective way to prevent larger problems. One of the biggest challenges may be managing water coming from upslope or adjacent areas. The park should investigate all culverts draining into this area and replace broken culverts as needed. The lower bluff continues to erode, but the stair access appears to be in pretty good shape and the erosion doesn't pose any immediate threat to park development at this time.



Access road and slide, November 2012



Picnic area, November 2012

Park Soils and Vegetation

Camano Island is the second largest of the five islands that comprise Island County. Situated near the northern end of Puget Sound in the Puget Trough Province, Camano Island extends in a north-south direction for approximately 24 km (15 mi) and measures about 11 km (7 mi) in maximum width. The island's primary landforms are undulating or rolling wooded upland, county soils are mostly developed in glacial drift. During the early twentieth century, soils were

identified as Miami stony sand (Carr and Mangum 1906: Soil Map). In the present day, sediment is designated Alderwood gravelly sandy loam, a hilly and moderately steep, well-drained soil underlain by cemented gravelly till (Ness et. Al. 1958: Map Sheet 8, Soil Legend).

A vegetation survey and report was completed in March 2009 for Camano Island State Park titled *Camano Island State Park Vegetation Survey Report* by URS. This vegetation survey provides an analysis of the plant communities in the park and delineates the approximate boundary of distinct plant associations, survey and document rare plant populations and survey noxious weed locations. As a result of this survey, a list of all 184 observed vascular plant species within the park was prepared. Based on the results of this survey, management recommendations include weed control and habitat restoration.

Large parts of Camano Island State Park have plant associations ranked high for their rarity and vegetation complexity. The Washington Natural Heritage Program uses a ranking system to facilitate a quick assessment of plant community rarity. Each ecosystem is assigned both a global (G) and state (S) rank on a scale of 1 (critically imperiled) to 5 (demonstrably widespread, abundant and secure). Camano Island State Park's forest has a general ranking of S2 (state imperiled) and G3 (globally vulnerable to extirpation or extinction). The most imperiled forest type is Douglas fir- western redcedar/salal- dwarf Oregon grape/ sword fern forest (status G1S1) and represents 11 percent of the forests in the park. Douglas-fir - Pacific Madrone / Salal forests received a G3S2 status (state imperiled) that represents 24 percent of the forested area. As a result of this survey and analysis, the currently undeveloped forest areas should be managed for preservation and non-intense recreational uses, such as passive-use hiking trails, where the forest acreage can be left intact and wildlife habitat preserved.

Several weed species are observed in Camano Island State Park, with those in undeveloped areas noted in the vegetation survey. Common weeds were viewed, including several species along trails and in developed areas of the park. It is recommended that those weeds be hand or mechanically pulled during regular trail maintenance. Weed species located in the forested area should be eradicated by hand and monitoring over time for future removal.

Wildlife Habitat

The park supports a wide range of wildlife associated with a rocky beach, coastal bluff, and coniferous forest habitats. The value of this habitat relates to its connectivity to the wider landscape and as an ecosystem that has been reduced greatly by population expansion. The saltwater area around the park is known as a Gray Whale feeding location. Eelgrass meadows stabilize submerged tide flats and are known to be present off-shore, an important habitat for forage fish and all marine life.

Bald Eagle Nesting Issue

The park has had a bald eagle management plan that they have used to help manage the public's use of the park during breeding season for several years that involved closing several campsites in the vicinity of a known nest. The eagles are currently nesting elsewhere in the park and park staff is monitoring these sites for any change in status.

Salmon Habitat Potential

Efforts are underway throughout Puget Sound to develop and implement actions in the nearshore marine waters that will benefit enhancing or restoring nearshore ecosystems that support salmon recovery efforts. Lowell Point has been identified by the Skagit River System Cooperative as a potential location for a Chinook salmon habitat restoration project for up to 4.4 acres. A brief analysis of the potential has been undertaken and more detailed studies are needed to assess if landscape and land use conditions could support the development of a small historic pocket estuary to saltwater and tidal influence while concurrently maintaining the existing land use. An evaluation of this proposal is occurring and if feasible, habitat will be created through the construction of estuary features in this location. Conducting a feasibility analysis for this project has been supported through many public comments during this planning process. Some members of the public oppose this potential future land-use for this area as well.

Park Issues and Management Recommendations

The purpose of this section is to present the planning team's management recommendations, which are based on comments received in the previous planning stages and from the public at-large.

Management objectives serve to define the vision and purpose of each state park. They must be consistent with laws, policy and the mission and vision statements of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

Washington State Park's Mission Statement:

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission cares for Washington's most treasured lands, waters and historic places. State parks connect all Washingtonians to their diverse natural and cultural heritage and provide memorable recreational and educational experiences that enhance their lives.

The Commission's Vision Statement:

Washington's state parks will be cherished destinations with natural, cultural, recreational, artistic and interpretive experiences that all Washingtonians enjoy, appreciate and proudly support.

Camano Island State Park Park Management Objectives

Natural Resources

- Protecting, preserving, and interpreting key natural resources of the park, including high quality examples of forested areas and vegetative communities, associations and species, important fish and wildlife areas.
- Support of a feasibility analysis of developing estuary features at Lowell Point to support nearshore habitat for endangered salmon species needs.
- Monitoring and protecting critical geologic formations related to slope stability and influences of area streams and shorelines.
- Ensuring that park use does not adversely affect the park's water quality and hydrology.

Cultural Resources

- Protecting, preserving and interpreting where appropriate, the key cultural resources of the park, including Native American, archaeological, cultural sites and historic properties.

Recreation

- Provide for a wide range of diverse outdoor recreational experiences and recreational land uses that preserve the natural character of the park and are compatible with cultural resource management objectives.
- Provide trails for hiking and orienteering, areas for picnicking, interpretive activities, group activities, beach access for boating, scuba diving, kayaking, fishing, and wildlife viewing.
- Develop and maintain effective orientation information through trail signage, rules and conditions. Identify and maintain safe trail standards and conditions for all users.
- Upgrade and maintain park infrastructure and comfort stations in beach areas using sustainable building methods.

Volunteers and Community Partnerships

- Actively engage community participation and partner with stakeholder groups including the hiking and diving communities to implement park management objectives.
- Continue to support and work with the Friends of Camano Island State Park on recruitment and management of a volunteer corps of park neighbors, park users, and resource stewards to assist park staff in service and maintenance needs.

Park Enterprise

- Enhancing public services via revenue generating programs and projects that heighten the park experience for visitors and increase park-generated.
- Expansion of cabin development and seasonal concerts and programs should be considered to increase park visitation.

Park Boundary

- Identify a long-term boundary and property management plan that establishes priorities for land acquisition, surplus, easements and a variety of cooperative management approaches with nearby park neighbors.

Relationship to Regional Community

- Recognizing the park's importance in the economic and social life of Camano Island, continue to work actively with local government and other community-based organizations and interested parties to meet the needs of the local community, as well as the citizens of the State of Washington and visitors from around the world.

Proposed Land Classification and Permitted Activities

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 352-16-030 provides guidance for management activities within the land classifications. A Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix provide a list of land use activities for each of the land classifications. The guidelines include permitted, conditionally permitted or no permitted facilities and activities within the land classifications. Appendix B provides the proposed land classifications for this park.

The following three land classifications and activities are proposed for adoption by the State Parks and Recreation Commission:

Recreation Areas

Proposed **Recreation Areas** (*colored pink on map*) are suited and or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational uses serving large numbers of people, recreational activities such as overnight accommodations, camping and administrative facilities.

The public emphasized recreational uses that fit in with the natural character of the existing Recreation Areas include:

- North Beach day-use area offers picnicking and beach recreational uses
- Areas where park housing, maintenance shop and office is located
- Areas on Lowell Point where boating, restrooms and a picnic shelter are located.
- Permitted activities in these areas include:
 - camping (water trail, tent, RV, cabins, group)
 - boating (boat launch ramp, mooring buoys)
 - vehicle and boat trailer parking
 - trails for hiking
 - interpretive trails

No conditionally permitted activities listed in the Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix are requested to be included in the proposed Recreation Areas.

Resource Recreation Areas

Proposed **Resource Recreation Areas** (*colored blue on the map*) provide for medium to low-intensity recreational activities that are generally natural and or cultural resource based.

Activities *permitted* in Resource Recreation Areas, by land classification include:

- Filming/Special Events
- Harvesting (fruits, mushrooms, algae, fish, and shellfish)
- Metal Detecting*
- Water: Kayaking/Canoeing
- Water: Sailing
- Water: Swimming
- Water: Wind Surfing

*A metal detecting map depicting areas where metal detecting is allowed is still under review by park staff.

Staff recommends the Commission conditionally permit Children's play area, Fields-~~Informal~~ play/mowed, Water: Power Boating, and Water Skiing in Resource Recreation Areas.

Natural Areas

Natural Areas (*colored Orange/Light Orange long term boundary properties on map*) are designated for protecting, preserving, and interpreting key natural resources of the park, including high quality examples of forested areas and vegetative communities, associations and species, important fish and wildlife areas, while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses.

Identified through the Washington Natural Heritage Program ranking system vegetation survey (*Camano Island State Park Vegetation Survey Report. URS, 2009*) Camano Island State Parks' forested landscape has been ranked "state imperiled and globally vulnerable to extirpation or extinction".

Activities *permitted* in the proposed Natural Areas classification include:

- Outdoor recreation on designated trails
- Harvesting (edible fruits, mushrooms)
- Off-trail use for nature observation
- Photography
- Scientific research

Staff recommends the Commission conditionally approve adding Interpretive kiosks and Filming/Special events in the Natural Areas classification.

Camano Island State Park CAMP Issues & Final Recommendations

Issue	Recommendations & Management Objectives
<p>Protection of Natural Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and with trained volunteers on managing impacts from large groups of the public clamming on the fragile shoreline area during clamming season. • Encourage school groups to make plans with park staff when visiting the beaches to ensure staffing and volunteers are available to assist with interpretation and protection of fragile shoreline areas. • Maintain existing shoreline field areas hydric soils and existing emerging vegetation that has adapted to saltwater flooding. • Address unstable marine feeder bluffs and access route improvements to the beach areas by consulting with a geologist and developing a monitoring protocol to determine when unstable areas will need to be restricted to public use until stable or alternative access is developed. • Implement agency critical areas policy 73-03-1, where agency response to landslides or coastal erosion shall be to retreat from that threat rather than construction of protective measures. • Continue implementing the bald eagle management plan to ensure protection of nesting sites and times. • Develop and implement a forest health management plan for all forested areas. • Research how sea level rise or extreme storm conditions will impact the park’s shoreline and built features and develop mitigation measures that will lessen storm surges impacts on the park’s marine and beach facilities.
<p>Protection of Archaeological Sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classify known archaeological sites and provide protection from development, if warranted. • Interpretation of cultural resources through developing a park interpretive master plan using primarily park staff and volunteers to complete. • State Parks will comply with direction from within the Commission’s Cultural Resources Policy 12-98-1.

Camano Island State Park CAMP Issues and Final Recommendations

Issue	Recommendations & Management Objectives
<p>Recreational Shellfish Harvest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At this time, the subtidal and intertidal zones of the park are not open for recreational shellfish harvest. Concern with overharvesting and shoreline impacts to the intertidal zone from recreational shellfish harvest will need to be addressed with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to determine if a limit on harvest permits can be implemented. • Work with the WDFW and with trained volunteers on managing impacts from large groups of the public clamming on the fragile shoreline area during clamming season.
<p>Water Access and Water Area Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the development of a marine park for scuba diving at Lowell Point marine area. Consult with DNR and WDFW about any concerns their agencies may have about the placement of a sunken structure to attract wildlife and to provide interests for scuba diving. • Maintain the boat ramp and boat dock in its existing location, making periodic repairs and maintenance. • Provide boat launch signage directing trailer parking and ramp uses. • Provide updated restroom with showers, utilizing solar power for heating water and the structure. • Assess the feasibility of constructing habitat features (pocket estuary) within the Lowell Point beach area important for fisheries habitat enhancement and public education. • Research how sea level rise or extreme storm conditions will impact the park’s shoreline and built features and develop mitigation measures that will lessen storm surges impacts on the park’s marine and beach facilities.

Camano Island State Park CAMP Issues and Final Recommendations

Issue	Recommendations & Management Objectives
<p>Recreational Facilities Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for diverse recreational experiences and recreational land uses that preserve the natural character and cultural resource management objectives. • Provide continuing beach and boating public access to the Puget Sound shoreline. • Expand the Long Term Boundaries (LTB) to include lands that buffer development from the park’s viewshed and that can be used for passive trail recreation. • If appropriate underwater features exist and are desirable, develop an underwater park and recreational facilities for scuba diving activities. Consult with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) about any issues of concern, then partner with the Scuba Diving Alliance on funding, design, permitting and construction of the underwater park. • Improve boat launch signage and provide a new restroom with showers at Lowell Point to accommodate recreational uses there. • Maintain boat ramp and boat dock by making periodic repairs and maintenance.
<p>Trails</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing hiking trails within park for non-wheeled trail activities. • Provide trail signage directing people to Lowell Point trail near the narrow roadway to ensure safe access to the beach. • Provide trail locational signage to assist people with trail locations and routes. • Continue to maintain the hiking trail system with volunteers, and if long-term boundary properties are acquired, allow for some expanded hiking trails if maintenance capacity is provided. • Maintain and enhance the trail system linkage between Cama Beach State Park with Camano Island State Park.

Camano Island State Park CAMP Issues and Final Recommendations

Issue	Recommendations & Management Objectives
Park Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize interpretation as a tool to enhance visitor experience, understanding and stewardship of natural, historical, and cultural resources. • Provide year round, interpretive and outdoor learning programming and opportunities paying attention to the protection of fragile nearshore beach ecology. • Develop a park interpretive master plan using primarily park staff and volunteers to complete. • Design and construct a modest interpretive network for the park utilizing at most interpretive kiosks, signs and non-facilities oriented programming (brochures). • Have hours of operation identified on website and at the park office to ensure visitors have timely contact information. Offer reservation of Camano Island State Park campsites through Cama Beach State Park reservation system. • Identify partners to bring scheduled events or lectures to the park during the summer and shoulder seasons to increase park visitation and day use.
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to use solar power for existing and future developments. • Identify and implement green practices and actions that protect the environment and meet the needs of the present park users benefiting the needs of future generations. • Promote and demonstrate the responsible and wise use of public resources.
Community Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively engage community participation and partner with stakeholder groups as they arise to implement park management objectives. • Continue to support and work with the Friends of Camano Island State Park on recruitment and management of a volunteer corps of park neighbors, park users, and resource stewards to assist park staff in service and maintenance needs.
Park Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore alternatives to increase overnight occupancy during non-peak use periods by providing additional cabins. • Recognize that Cama Beach State Park is the parent park that offers public services not provided at this park and encourage visitors to utilize that park's store, restaurant and other public facilities while visiting Camano Island State Park.
Land Classification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus management to maintain the park experience as a natural setting with access to the Puget Sound shoreline for boating and beach access. • Classify currently developed office and maintenance facilities, campsites, and the group camp and amphitheater areas as Recreational Areas, suitable for serving large numbers of people within the existing infrastructure.

Camano Island State Park CAMP Issues and Final Recommendations

Issue	Recommendations & Management Objectives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classify currently developed recreational areas along the beaches and the forested areas of the park as Resource Recreation Areas, suited and developed for natural and cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use. (See Land Classification Map Appendix B) • The vegetation survey report (URS, March 2009) indicates that forest lands located north of the main road are vulnerable to extirpation, imperiled or critically imperiled either globally or within Washington State. Classify these areas and Long-term Boundary properties as Natural Areas. Development within this forested area should be for passive recreational uses, specifically trails dedicated to hiking or low-impact recreational uses that avoid forest fragmentation. Future utility expansion should consider low impact development and minimal disturbances to the forest area.
<p>Long-term Boundary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On a willing basis, work with identified long-term boundary property owners to seek management agreements, easements, or acquisition of properties that compliment recreational opportunities and increase or maintain undeveloped land/open space surrounding the park (see Appendix A for map identifying long-term boundary properties). Specific areas of interest/concern include: • Seek cooperative management or acquisition of undeveloped lands located north of existing park boundary. • Desire to work with local jurisdictions and interested property owners to coordinate the conservation or low-impact development of undeveloped lands, open space, and rural properties located within the park’s watershed, but not found adjacent or nearly adjacent to park lands.

Appendix A: Long Term Boundary Map



Long Term Boundary properties in yellow: 68 acres

Appendix B: Camano Island State Park -- Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary Map



Existing:

Natural (orange)	69 acres
Recreation (pink)	59 acres
Resource Recreation (blue)	64 acres
Unclassified (gray)	50 acres (water)

Proposed Long Term Boundary:

Natural (light orange)	68 acres
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Appendix C:

Phase 1 Camano Island State Park CAMP Public Meeting Comments November 15, 2012- December 31, 2012

State Parks staff received the following input from the public in response the question: What are the key natural, cultural, long term boundaries, and recreational resource issues you think this planning process should address? This information will form the basis of the land use planning process currently underway for the park.

Natural Resource Issues

- Clamming is too big an impact to this small beach area and is incompatible for other recreational uses. Don't open to clamming!
- Maintain opportunity for dispersed recreation by preserving natural features.
- Invite more school groups to explore and experience the forest.
- Concern over conflict between recreation and preservation if we have a clam season.
- Concern about over use of the beach during low tides and 4 school buses come at the same time with no park supervision. Solution: Prepare kids ahead of time and have adequate supervision.
- Good feasibility study/EIS for wetland restoration. Would that involve archeological study too?
- Several bald eagles nest at this park. Develop a Bald Eagle Management Plan that protects them during nesting.
- Thank you for having Hugh Shipman talk on the geology and Dan Meatte speak about the archeology. Educational signage is important.
- I am very interested in the educational opportunities of an estuary project.
- Keep BIG trees, keep trails, and keep picnic tables.
- Noxious weeds and invasive plants, a current serious problem and getting worse.
- Maintenance of natural processes throughout the park.
- Maintain undeveloped habitat throughout the park.
- The natural environment is the most important feature, any increase in the built environment should be very carefully considered.
- Love salmon habitat preservation. I love the idea that salmon use the state park shorelines as they grow up before they go to the ocean.
- We already have a salmon habitat on Leque Island so I don't see the need to spend money on this at the State Park. I like the natural feel of that area even if it is flooded

with puddles after heavy rains and snows. Would like to see it fenced off for a protected habitat.

- A habitat restoration project that would restore 4.4 acres of salmon habitat would be very important for juvenile salmon, leading to increased growth and survival rates of Chinook salmon.
- Reconfigure the parking lot to allow for improved parking and access to the boat launch and improve habitat as one project.
- The historic lagoon area is soggy and wet for much of the year, so re-graded recreation areas could lead to an increase in the number of usable days for these activities.
- Increase wildlife viewing opportunities through restoration of habitat for salmon. An easily accessible restoration site allows for many educational opportunities centered on salmon habitat, birds, or other wildlife species that are expected to use the restored habitat.
- Restoration of habitat at this park has the potential for great benefits to both salmon and park users. A restoration project will bring together historic and current uses in a manner that improves the visitor experience for all users.

Cultural Resource Issues

- Too far to come for a night meeting. Contact the tribes individually.

Public/Recreation Issues

- A recreation issue is the management of increasing recreational demand with increasing population.
- Maintain opportunity for dispersed recreation and natural systems.
- A possible play area within the camp grounds (swings, etc.)
- Love the existing recreational amenities, the variety of camping, and cabin opportunities.
- This park is a part of the water trail and provides camping. Look at other links to water trails that are possibly closer together.
- Trails: Sign a loop trail from the north to the south end.
- Love educational opportunities and the amphitheater talks.
- This park gives a great “bang for the buck” and love the historical feel and features
- Provide interpretive birding information in the park.
- Create appeal to underwater scuba diving crowd to draw in users/\$ from added recreational uses. Divers love to dive in the winter.
- Plan for hikers and foot traffic on the road to Lowell Point (too narrow).
- Like the Cascadia Marine Trail. Should be promoted. This is the first site in the system.

Park Built Structures

- The beach picnic shelter needs to have the water fixed and electricity provided. Go solar! This would likely generate more revenue for the park if the space is rented.
- Solar electricity for kitchen shelter.
- Solar hot water, wind and batteries at the beach rather than electric lines.
- Solar at Lowell Point.
- Dock repairs, maintenance and improvement of breakwater and moorage.
- The dock is aging, not gracefully. Look in the future to expand and protect/maintain the dock.
- Don't overdevelop the beach area. Nice to have a place that is just natural.
- Boat launch signage for how to launch, which way to go, what to do.
- Keep bathrooms open in winter at least on weekends.
- Solar powered restroom would be a great solution.
- Maintain the boat dock. Add new layer of bumpers on sides to protect boats, it does match what boats need.
- Concerns with boat trailer width on road to the boat ramp.
- Widening the main road through the park.
- The roads are too narrow, insufficient capacity. Main road (could be) widened but protect beautiful trees.
- Short term road solution could be painting a center stripe.
- Plumbing and sewage at the north beach needs evaluation for solutions that will work better with existing and continuing landslides.
- Need more educational signage, like names of mountains in the distance and the fact that salmon use these shores.
- Provide funding to maintain park as it currently exists: 1) roads 2) water systems 3) docks at boat launch.
- Utilities: Water, sewer, power to serve the Pt. Lowell beach area. Can existing septic system handle current and future uses?
- Don't provide electricity and water down to Lowell Beach area; keep it low impact and natural.
- Would Parks consider third party maintenance of utilities?
- Any desire for water conservation measures, like installing high-efficiency plumbing fixtures, waterless urinals, low-flow toilets, showers, etc.?
- Maintain the dock. It was sad to see the pier at Fort Flagler deteriorated beyond repair.

- Much has been made of kite flying or Frisbee in the lagoon area. These are non-water dependent uses in a shoreline area that could be accommodated at Cama Beach to allow for the additional education and trail uses if an estuary is restored.
- If other properties are purchased, could think about providing a field in an appropriate location.
- If the area north of the beach picnic shelter and west of the bathrooms was moved, it can make a level play area and help to keep kids of sensitive areas and makes the shelter rental more attractive.
- The picnic shelter is great; make it even more user friendly for cooking.
- Need water to the south beach area.
- Consider adding the campground to the reservations system memorial day through Labor Day, perhaps for upper loop only.
- I love to come to the park for hiking, especially since I get a really good workout on the hills and what a beautiful reward to get to the beach. Consider expanding the trails so longer hikes can be done. At least I wouldn't have to drive to Chuckanut and burn fossil fuels.

Park Programs

- Outreach to schools so that information about coordinating their trip so better management of kids use.
- Love the ranger programs. We who live on the island come to them even when not camping.
- Expanding educational experiences.
- Encourage school groups to visit the park, particularly the forested area.
- Build an Educational Center down on the beach.
- Turn Camano State Park into an Education Center along the lines of Padilla Bay Education Center operated by Ecology.
- Shakespeare in the Park! They have this in the Seattle area, Greenlake, Redmond, Lynnwood, why not at Camano Island State Park? [Seattle Shakespeare.org](http://SeattleShakespeare.org)
-

Long Term Boundary

- If possible, look at acquisitions that would disperse uses and allow for other picnicking.
- Great idea to expand the park boundaries. Annex cove waters behind Elger Bay Beach that are not buildable. Who owns it?
- Improve the trail from Cama to Camano by acquiring easements and land.
- Examine opportunity to expand park boundary through acquisition or conservation easements.
- Please explore any possible expansion possibilities for Camano Island State Parks.
- Check out the four parcels north of the office for possible expansion of the park.

- Consider acquiring the original Ranger's old house and thereby re-establish access to North Beach by the original park entrance road.

Other/Ideas to Consider

- Off leash dog area. There are no public off leash areas on Camano. The off leash areas at Shilshole and Green Lake are always well attended and kept natural (no trees removed) Also love the off leash area at Edmonds waterfront and so do the dogs. Volunteer parties maintain them.
- New income somewhere?
- Have specific hours of operation at the office.
- Offer great healthy snacks for sale or encourage campers to go to Cama for good food.
- What about sea level rise due to climate change?
- Include Climate scenarios into park planning.
- User groups (schools, scouts and other groups) aren't scheduling ahead of time and may overwhelm the beach area with too many people at one time.
- Concern with the impact of school groups on the beach without adequate (stewardship) education and supervision.

Public Comments Received After Workshop via email or letters

- The greed of government for expansion has long been out of control. Our parks are large enough now. They are hardly inundated with people as is and there is more than ample room for everyone to enjoy an outdoor experience in peace and quiet. Leave public lands alone. The public has enough on their hands as it is with all the taxes coming down on our heads to support more property acquisition and employees on the public payroll. Let the people tell you when they need more park land.
- Understand why people visit state parks. We chose to recreate through the natural environment and our heritage through interconnections with one another.
- Our access roads throughout the park are narrow especially in light of excessive speed. I would recommend that starting with the North Beach access, where it is and has been, that all asphalt roadway surfacing be removed and convert this area entirely to gravel. This maintains access to those facilities. Maintaining this access with natural materials and following the erosion with heavy equipment can be done until other properties along the shoreline directly to the north can be acquired. Our antiquated and poorly constructed primary water system has caused much lost revenue, lost staffing time, lost guest good will.
- Please get our Camano Island State Park (CISP) ready for the future by upgrading the water system and campground power system.
- Look at adding facilities for those who pedal, walk or paddle to the park. Consider accessed from our existing trail system. We have older restroom facilities including two that are unpowered, without lighting for safety. No amount of cleaning can remove the odor of rotting building. Restrooms should be a place of safety and openness.

- We have the best boat launch on the island. It requires tremendous effort to maintain.
- At the field level, we have leaned ever heavier on volunteer efforts to keep facilities that the public use open, maintained, and accessed; our trail system is just one example. Perhaps it is time for non-field level parks entities to seek out volunteer efforts from retired and willing professionals to help fill their gaps. If not, then send the projects back to the field level at the specific parks to let staffing there seek to find, with help from friends groups to assist in project planning, evaluation and development at cost levels that let the work move ahead.
- As an invited property owner, I want the properties between me and the park to become part of the park. However, I honestly don't believe that that is best for CISP and the parks mission. Shorelands and their contiguous connection to off shore sensitive areas responsible for most of the planets oxygen production is by far the most sensible acquisition to be made by CISP as an intentional buffer for and steward of nature and heritage. If CISP builds for a future intentionally inclusive of those not heard from at our first CAMP meeting, CISP will have a future. I hope to see that.
- Other important topics: forest management. What type of forest ware we seeking to build? Fuel load levels and their growth are very important to neighbors.
- Expand marine use possibilities, such as moorage facilities, boat rentals, training in boat operation, scuba clubs and schools needs.
- Broadening park use demographic may result in diversified and expanded use fee incomes.
- Staying engaged with education at all levels may bring research opportunities adding another ally in stewardship while helping to define how to best steward.
- Add septic holding tanks to the shower and toilet facilities
- Parking area needs study for more organized parking with trailers
- The 14 foot high shore berm could be realigned by a foot or two above sea level.
- Have more activities and more visitors served by more staff and volunteers.
- The boat launch is another important asset.
- Make the park come alive and attract more visitors and campers over all seasons by providing more education and entertainment. Recommend partnerships with non-profit organizations like the Center for Wooden Boats, Friends of Camano Island Parks, WSU Beach Watchers, and Stanwood Historic Society.
- Desire to see only the changes necessary to maintain the current access and uses.
- People do not want to see the loss of land in exchange for an estuary in the park area and they understand that the State Law (?) does not require the restoration of land to pre-European settlement era. They also question the cost-benefit of the consideration of such an idea.
- They (people) don't want to see an expansion of park boundaries because they understand that our State Parks system is taxed as it is to maintain the current land that we have.
- Consider including a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of each of the alternatives.

Appendix D:

Phase 2 Camano Island State Park CAMP Public Meeting Comments April 18, 2013- May 20, 2013

Public comments received:

- “Recent research has shown that pocket estuaries are vital for survival of the juvenile Chinook salmon that pursue the life strategy of going into salt water sooner than those that rear in river margins or deltas. Apparently quite a large percentage of the Chinook population attempts this life strategy, and apparently all of them die if they cannot find a pocket estuary to enter after a brief migration through salt water. Thus restoration of the historic estuary with tidal inlet and salt marsh is very important for recovery of this Threatened species. As Watershed Steward of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife I strongly advise and request that full restoration of the historic lagoon be accomplished. Recreation opportunities at the Camano Island State Park should adapt to fit in around the changes necessary to accomplish what is needed to restore ESA listed Endangered and Threatened species. Each pocket estuary counts and the one restorable at Camano State Park is an important one due to its location and size. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I regret that I will be out of town on April 18th and thus not able to participate in the public workshop. Please present my views at the workshop, and advocate that preventing extinction of salmon in our region is a high enough goal to justify us changing our recreational habits, if such is necessary for restoring vital estuarine functions.”

Doug Hennick, WDFW, Watershed Steward for the Snohomish, Stillaguamish, and Island County watersheds

- Long Term Boundary: “Being able to incorporate these 8 parcels as protection of our park boundaries to prevent the development of these properties would be great even if the park gets conservation easements. They can work with the Whidbey Camano Land Trust who has great success in this area.”
- “Upgrade faculties: bathroom. Provide electrical hookups for RVs for year around use.”
- “More cabins because they produce revenue.”
- “Let off-leash Dog Park be taken up by the Island County Parks Department.
- “No disk golf, no open space for that.
- “Trails: There are plenty now any more would impact the natural landscape of the park. Bicycles in winter cause issues.”
- “Still interested in the estuary project.”
- “Still interested in more buffer acquisitions.”
- “I would oppose the off-leash dog park idea. This should not be something that the state park should endorse due to potential issues of space.”
- “Oppose Frisbee Golf due to the space issues and trampling of grassy area.”
- “We need to be careful if considering additional trails in the park. Most if not all of the potential areas for creating trails have already been developed. Those trails require a lot of man power to build and maintain. If we find additional trails to create, we must first make sure that they don’t destroy our areas for wildlife or create unstable land areas leading to erosion and eventual slides.”

- “Consider a Natural Forest areas classification system for the old growth sections of the forest. “
- “Frisbee Disc Golf: Oppose. Trampling down of land and destroying plantings.”

Public Comment after meeting received by email or mail:

- I only go to the park to walk the nature trail, the trail along the cliff or occasionally the beach, although I’ve camped there in the past (before moving to Camano). I go there because it is natural, not because it is open space. I would definitely favor a nature oriented park. I think it would be a great resource for this area if you added enhancements for scuba diving such as an artificial preserve reef. Although I don’t dive anymore because of age, I believe this is a wonderful way to foster appreciation of the natural world. Camano Island is very under developed for this sort of nature activity despite being an island. This is one thing you could do that would be unique and a great addition to our region and it is unlikely to ever be done by any other government agency. I would not favor any sporting type of development, such as play fields or golf courses. I recognize that Camano is short on this kind of resource, but I think these kinds of open space facilities should be developed by the county and not by the state. The same is true for off-leash dog parks. Please don’t waste this beautiful and extraordinary natural area on a common dog exercise park. I’ve always thought that Camano State Park is pretty well balanced between nature and development. If anything, it is a little over developed for my taste, but nothing like some state parks I’ve stayed at which seem nothing more than RV parks. I think state parks play an important role in our community by giving people a semi-wilderness experience. For some, this may be their only wilderness experience and for others it may inspiration to seek out true wilderness. I hope you take this role to heart in your planning and don’t over-develop the Camano state parks. Please let the counties and cities keep that role.
- LTB property owner: I have thought about your letter every day since receiving it, and have been very excited by the prospects. The map especially was illuminating. I knew I supposedly bordered the park, but didn’t know how right in the middle of a possible park expansion the land was. Maybe as a last ditch, selling it to TNC, Audubon Society or some group like that. I am open to the idea of having the land ultimately becoming part of the park.
- Safe guarding the preserves of nature we steward is par and realizing and planning for the needs of people of all ages within those surroundings because people do not leave their needs at the entry gate is also part. The park needs water, RV hook-ups, more cabins and staff to maintain and replace what is aging and staff as ambassadors to people for whom this preserve of living things is new and interaction with is unknown. The park needs freedom to try, because to not even try is already failure.

- I support the Natural/Cultural Resource Protection emphasis alternative except where noted below. Recreation, though important to the future of the park, should be a secondary priority to natural and cultural resource protection. Development of a high quality park interpretive/environmental center should be pursued. I support the Natural/Cultural Resource Protection emphasis alternative. Do not expand current existing campground areas for additional standard and utility campsites or cabins and expand this use to new properties only if they do not impact the natural character of the park. Do not bring playground equipment into the park. Do not open any of the trails for equestrian use. Development of a marine park for scuba diving would be an appropriate and acceptable expansion for recreational use of the park. What is important is establishing a safe area for scuba divers that are protected from motorized boat traffic. Installation of mooring buoys should be considered only if they will receive regular inspection and maintenance. The risk of mooring failure is inevitable without regular inspection and maintenance. Noxious weed control is essential if the historical natural character of the park is to be maintained. A noxious weed management plan should be developed and the full spectrum of IPM techniques should be used in control efforts. Interpretive programming for cultural resources should be fully integrated into the interpretive and environmental center. Development of a Frisbee Disc Golf course is way out of character for this park and should not be considered. Berms and breakwater should not be constructed to protect the beach from tidal influences.
- It's not the responsibility of tax payers to provide off leash dog areas, Frisbee golf course or scuba diving enhancements, playground equipment, etc. I go to the park to walk the trails and enjoy the peace and quiet and wildlife. My friends who camp there do so for similar reasons. All the developments and entertainments are available elsewhere, what is not is the natural beauty of the park. It is irreplaceable. Providing open space and habitat for plants and animals should be the priority of state parks, and preserving the large trees. If there is any money left after doing this, it should be spent on expanding the boundaries, since population is increasing but land is not
- Because of the close proximity to Cama Beach State Park, there is the opportunity to maximize the strong points of both parks. Camano Island SP has several limitations because of its geology, but these same limitations provide a defining role. The feeder bluffs that make access to the beach challenging, also provide an important defining opportunity to preserve, and perhaps restore a relic spit/lagoon area and to emphasize the natural, natural forest and resource recreation aspects of the park. There is very little room for further development on the current property Cama Beach State Park already has a strong historic and prehistoric human footprint that encourages an emphasis on the higher intensity use as designated for Recreational areas, especially in the lower portions of Cama.

Commenting specifically on the April 2013 Draft Management Plan Table (April 2013 Draft):

- Page 1- I support the Natural/Cultural Protection Emphasis. However, I also support a feasibility analysis re a possible alternative to beach access in case of a landslide situation.
- Page 2- Again, I favor a Natural/Cultural Protection Emphasis, but would support further exploration of possible development for LTB properties.
- Page 3- I generally favor the Natural/Cultural Protection emphasis, but think that it would be useful to look into adding electrical hook-ups for a portion of the campsites. I seriously question whether CISP is a good location to develop a scuba diving emphasis because of strong tides and their need for shower facilities, etc. It seems that Cama Beach could possibly be a better location. The waters are more sheltered, and there might be room in the large boathouse facility for the needs of the scuba divers. I strongly oppose any bike/horse use of trails, unless they are in a separate area, and there is participation by the biking/horse community in maintenance of those trails. The bulk of current trail maintenance is by volunteers from the walking/hiking community and the bikes/horses are really incompatible!
- Page 4- I strongly support the addition of appropriate property for CISP when there is an opportunity. As much as I would love to see a robust interpretive center and program, because of the constraints of the site, I favor keeping interpretive plans for CISP modest. Again, the more developed aspect of Cama might lend itself to an interruptive center for both parks. I like the idea of adding CISP to the reservation system. That would allow everyone to plan better. CISP is a long way off the beaten track for a family to drive that far, and then discover it is full!
The result has been public camping spilling over onto private beach areas. I would also like to see a reservation system applied to the boat launch facility. If there was a known limit on boat launches for any particular day that would go a long way toward relieving the major conflict between the needs of the boat launching and boat trailer parking public, and the inherent limitations of the site.
- As the boats, trailers, and trucks get larger, traffic and parking begin to overwhelm the natural resources! A permit lottery system, such as used for major river trips such as the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon and the Rogue River, might be applied on the prime days, such as the opening of crabbing.

Appendix E:

Phase 3- Camano Island State Park Preliminary Recommendations Report Public Comments August 2013

Summary of public comments received:

1. Washington Scuba Alliance (WSA) is still very interested in putting in an artificial reef at Camano Island State Park. I have been assured that the current at the park is a non-issue and we will be doing some site surveys soon. WSA will design, do site surveys, do the permitting and work with State Parks in getting the necessary funding to make it a reality. Both teams will work closely to ensure that scuba divers will be able to use the site safely and be a draw for tourists from around the world to the park.- Jim Trask, President Washington Scuba Alliance
2. I neither support nor oppose the creation of an estuary at Lowell Point but don't agree that the report accurately reflect comments made against the creation or rebuilding of an estuary and the report indicates strong public support for expanding the park. I think this is a biased report because public feedback doesn't reflect this. You should have considered the possible changes to Camano Island State Park and Cama Beach State Park at the same time as a singular large state park and this is a flawed process. I did not hear at any of the meetings nor see in subsequent comments the concern that any and all changes to the park should be ADA complaint (sic). This expectation should be clearly mentioned in the report recommendations and not just taken for granted. I think the interests of the "fishing and boating" communities were not adequately reflected in the report or the recommendations. For example, the boat ramp needs to be wider to accommodate two boat trailers at the same time and vehicle and trailer parking is very limited near the boat ramp. An L shaped north dock or breakwater which extends another 50 to 75 feet into the Sound would largely eliminate this problem. This most likely is less expensive than buying land and expanding the park and would expand usage and enjoyment of the park.
- Gerald Betts
3. Page 13-14 discusses the north day-use area and the fact that one land of the access road has already been lost due to slide movement. Uphill of that portion of the road is a drainage ditch lined with a metal half culvert that appeared to me that the bottom of the metal culvert has rusted through and may be contributing water to the slide area. – Barbara Brock
4. Protection of Natural Resources: Continue to work toward managing the impact of large groups on the fragile shorelines, whether clamming or school groups, is very important. I was pleased to see the management policy of retreat, rather than construction in addressing the unstable marine feeder bluffs.
Water Access and Water Area Development: I was pleased to see support for accessing the feasibility of constructing habitat features within the Lowell Point beach area for fisheries habitat enhancement and public education. I continue to question the idea of

adding a scuba diving marine park. I've understood that the currents in the area can be a problem and I'm also concerned that it would add additional congestion to an already congested boat launch area.

Recreational Facilities Development: I strongly support expanding the Long Term Boundaries when there is opportunity.

Trails: I was pleased to see the emphasis on maintain existing hiking trails within the park for non-wheeled trail activities.

Park Programming: I was pleased to see support for adding CISP to the reservation system.

Community Partnerships: Under the Trails item, the discussion listed maintaining existing trails for non-wheeled activities, so I assume the mention of the biking community is in relation to additional trails in areas possibly added within the long term boundaries?

Long-Term Boundary: As mentioned above, I strongly support expansion of the long - term boundary. Because of drainage issues in the Park, I also strongly support efforts to work to coordinate the conservation or low-impact development within the park's watershed.

- Barbara Brock

5. There are two high quality terrestrial ecosystems of concern to the Natural Heritage Program within the park boundaries, Douglas-fir- Pacific Madrone Salal Forest and Douglas-fir-western redcedar/salal- dwarf Oregon grape/ sword fern Forest. These undeveloped forest areas provide an opportunity for low-impact use such as bird watching/wildlife viewing and non-paved walking trails, and we support the recommendation that they are managed for preservation and non-intense recreation. – Jasa Holt, Washington Natural Heritage Program

6. Relative to the pocket estuary restoration- early in the discussion of the pocket estuary restoration someone suggested taking a sediment core sample in the proposed area. The idea would be that the core sample would show if the area was an estuary at some time. I believe taking a sediment core sample is straightforward and relatively inexpensive and would go a long way in setting the controversy about whether the area was historically an estuary. Also, is there a plan in place to contain an oil spill that might occur in Saratoga Passage? The Preliminary Recommendation Report is well written and there are many thoughtful comments provided by the public. – Julius Budos