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STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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Item E-7: Mount Spokane Land Classification - Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This item reports to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission on land classification options for the Potential Alpine Ski Expansion Area (PASEA) at Mount Spokane State Park. This item aligns with agency core values and advances the Commission Transformation Strategy: "Demonstrate that all Washingtonians benefit from their state parks."

SIGNIFICANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Mount Spokane State Park is the largest park in the state park system at approximately 14,000 acres. Within Mount Spokane State Park, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) has authorized an alpine ski area known as the Mount Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park that is currently operated under a concession agreement with Mount Spokane 2000 (MS 2000), a Spokane area non-profit corporation. The area under agreement with MS 2000 for the Mount Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park encompasses 1,425 acres or about 10% of the park.

In 1999, the Commission adopted land classifications for the park. However, an approximately 850-acre portion of the park, known as the Potential Alpine Ski Expansion Area (PASEA), was left unclassified at that time (Appendix 1). In 2010, MS 2000 approached the Commission with a conceptual proposal to expand skiing into approximately 279 acres of the PASEA. The proposed expansion included a new chairlift and seven new ski trails. To make a determination of whether ski area expansion is appropriate and if so, what types of facilities and activities to allow, the Commission first needs to classify lands within the PASEA.

Staff has assessed a range of land classification options for the PASEA, which take into consideration the area's significant natural resources, as well as potential recreational opportunities. In light of the potential for a ski area expansion, it was determined that the land classification action has the potential to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. As a result, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The EIS consists of two parts. The first part assesses the potential environmental impacts of land classification alternatives, while the second considers the impacts of ski development alternatives. The purpose of this report is to introduce the land classification options developed for environmental analysis and to outline next steps towards a Commission decision anticipated in November 2014.

Land Classification

A range of recreational activities and facilities could be permitted in the PASEA dependent upon the land classification and conditional uses adopted by the Commission. Under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 352-16-020 Land Classification System (Appendix 3), “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.”

The Commission may select specific land classifications for the PASEA that include Recreation, Resource Recreation, Heritage, Natural, Natural Forest Area, and Natural Area Preserve. In addition to other trail-based and dispersed uses, both the Recreation and Resource Recreation classifications allow for alpine skiing and alpine skiing facilities as a conditional use. That is, the Commission may permit the use, but it must be conditioned to assure design is compatible with overarching purpose of the land classification and abutting classification objectives.

To frame the discussion, staff developed a matrix of land classification options and recommended uses for each option (Appendix 2). The options range from the most conservative to the most permissive in terms of natural resource protection and recreational use (Appendix 4). Staff has analyzed the options described below in the EIS to assist the Commission in determining the appropriate classification of the PASEA.

Option 1: Natural Forest Area

In 1992-1993, the Washington Natural Heritage Program (WNHP) inventoried forests statewide to identify those eligible for classification as Natural Forest Area and Natural Area Preserve. The WNHP determined that the area referred to as the PASEA has considerable natural resource value and is eligible for classification as a Natural Forest Area.

This option proposes classifying the PASEA as Natural Forest Area (NFA) with the exception of the Chair 4 Road, a portion of the summit road, and an existing mountain bike trail, which would be classified as Resource Recreation. Alpine skiing would not be allowed in the NFA. However, other existing uses (snowmobiling, equestrian uses, and mountain biking) could continue to be allowed in designated Resource Recreation areas.

The NFA classification proposed in this option would limit development and promote use in the PASEA for preservation, interpretation and enjoyment of natural processes. As per the Commission’s land classification system, the principal function of this area would be to “assist in maintaining the state’s bio-diversity while expanding human understanding and appreciation of natural values.”

Option 2: Resource Recreation and Natural Forest Area

This option would classify the area within the PASEA above the Chair 4 Road as Resource Recreation and the area below the road as Natural Forest Area. Within the Resource Recreation area, alpine skiing would be allowed as a conditional use, but no lift or formal runs would be constructed. Some clearing of downed, tipped, or damaged trees could be allowed to reduce hazards for backcountry skiers, improve access for search and rescue, and otherwise enhance the

skiing experience. Snowmobiling, mountain bike and equestrian trails could be allowed within the Resource Recreation designation. This option preserves the current use of the PASEA for undeveloped alpine skiing while affording natural resource protection through classifying the area as a mix of Resource Recreation and Natural Forest Area.

Option 3: Recreation, Resource Recreation, and Natural Forest Area

This option includes three land classifications within the PASEA:

- A Recreation classification in the 279-acre portion of the PASEA where MS 2000 has proposed expanding its developed ski area;
- A Resource Recreation classification in an area that buffers the developed ski area; and
- A Natural Forest Area classification in the area below the Chair 4 Road.

Within the 279-acre area designated as Recreation, a ski lift and runs could be permitted. More vegetation could be cleared within the area designated Recreation. The area designated as Resource Recreation would offer a higher level of resource conservation due to the forest management practices required in that classification. The area below the Chair 4 Road is not being considered by MS 2000 or staff for alpine skiing due to its habitat and terrain and would be classified as Natural Forest Area.

Option 4: No Action

SEPA requires consideration of a no action alternative. In this case, no action would mean leaving the PASEA unclassified (Appendix 1). Up to this point, staff has generally managed the area as a de facto Natural Forest Area. However, backcountry alpine skiing has been informally allowed to continue even though this use is not otherwise permitted in Natural Forest Areas. Continuing to leave the area unclassified would mean no clear direction from the Commission with regard to management and future development of the area.

Key Issues

The sections below summarize key issues raised during EIS preparation.

Forest Habitat

Considerable discussion has taken place around the presence of “old growth” within the PASEA, with the implication that if the site contains old growth forest it is worthy of protection. There are many definitions of old growth and several have been applied to the site at various times. However, the most recent work on old growth forests in eastern Washington, led by the Washington Department of Natural Resources Old Growth Definition Committee, leans away from the use of “old growth” as a descriptor for forest stands in eastern Washington. The committee proposed the term “older forest” instead. Disturbances, such as fire, are more frequent on the east side of the state. Due to fire frequency, stand development in some forest types may be truncated by wildfire before reaching old growth stand development stages. However, old trees may persist in riparian areas or ravines. A definition of old growth for these forests is more accurately applied to individual trees rather than to entire stands.

Old growth development involves gradual changes in a variety of structures and functions. Since this evolution does not typically involve abrupt changes, the decision as to when the “old-

growth” stage begins is somewhat arbitrary. Classifying forests into two classes, “old growth” and “not old growth” does not do justice to the complexity of forest ecosystems.

Regardless of whether the forests of the PASEA meet a particular definition of “old growth,” they represent the highest level of significance of natural resources in the state park system and meet agency Natural Forest Area criteria. They are a matrix of young to late successional stands of trees (including old growth trees), intermixed with abundant wetlands, small meadows, and talus slopes. The area is rich in native structure, composition, and functioning processes, providing habitat for a large (and unknown) population of species ranging from large animals to a multitude of often overlooked invertebrates, fungi, and micro-organisms. The PASEA provides significant habitat – “old growth” or not.

Cultural Significance

The Spokane Tribe of Indians recently wrote a letter to the agency regarding proposed plans for the park. Due to Mount Spokane’s elevation and view, the mountain has spiritual significance to the Tribe. Traditionally, Mount Spokane was used for game hunting and huckleberry gathering, as well as spiritual quests. The Tribe continues to gather huckleberries and bear grass at Mount Spokane and has expressed concerns about the impacts ski area expansion might have on native edible plants and other resources. In addition, the Tribe is concerned that there are many stories and sacred areas throughout Mount Spokane State Park that exist in oral culture. The Tribe’s Archaeology and Preservation Program would like a Traditional Cultural Property Study completed for Mount Spokane State Park. Staff is currently engaged in discussion with the Tribal staff to determine what level of study is appropriate and how best to address their concerns.

Land Classification and Land Management

While land classification provides general direction for facilities and activities on State Parks’ lands, it is only one of the tools used for resource management. Many park properties have management plans specific to key resource needs, such as forest health or vegetation management. Even in areas classified as Recreation, staff may develop plans that will guide the management and protection of certain resources. For example, if the Commission were to choose Option 3 and classify a portion of the PASEA as Recreation and allow alpine ski expansion, staff would still be able to use a landscape management plan to set allowed practices for modification or removal of vegetation and other landscape features (e.g., standing snags, coarse woody debris, boulders, other terrain features) in developed ski runs and forested areas between them. The plan could include spatial components that limit modification of natural features in areas necessary to protect wildlife habitat and other natural processes, while allowing select modifications to ensure a safe and enjoyable skiing experience.

Next Steps

Staff anticipates releasing the draft EIS in July 2014, which will be followed by a 30-day public comment period. The EIS will include two parts: a *non-project* section, focused on land classification, and a *project* section, focused on proposed ski area expansion. At the end of the comment period, staff anticipates needing approximately six weeks to address comments and to issue a final EIS. The Commission will receive both the draft and final EIS, which will include detailed analyses of the potential impacts of both the land classification options and the ski area proposal.

At its November 20th meeting in Spokane, the Commission will be asked to make a decision on the land classification for the PASEA. If the Commission selects a land classification that allows alpine ski facilities, the Commission may also consider approving the proposed ski area expansion. However, these decisions are separate.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

RCW 79A.05.030 - Powers and duties - Mandatory

RCW 79A.05.035 - Additional powers and duties

WAC 352-16 - Naming of state park areas and the land classification system

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

Appendix 1: Existing Mount Spokane Land Classifications

Appendix 2: Land Classification and Conditional Use Options Matrix

Appendix 3: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Land Classification System

Appendix 4: Land Classification Option Maps

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Reviewer(s):

Randy Kline, SEPA REVIEW: Pursuant to WAC 197-11-704, staff has determined that this Commission agenda item is a report and therefore is not subject to State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review.

Terri Heikkila, Fiscal Impact Statement: Report only. No fiscal impact.

Jim Schwartz, Assistant Attorney General: June 27, 2014

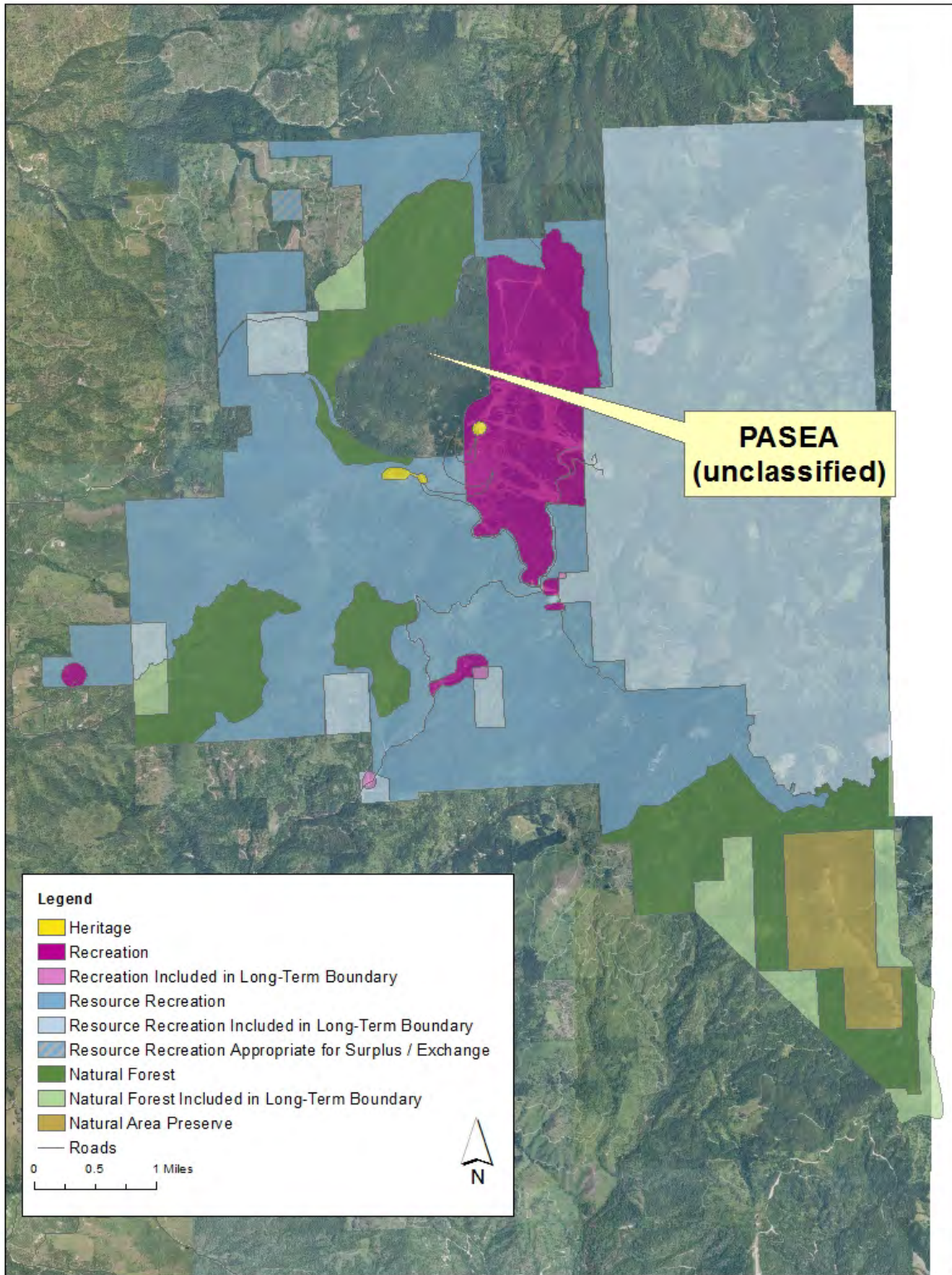
Peter Herzog, Assistant Director

Approved for Transmittal to Commission


Don Hoch, Director

APPENDIX 1

Existing Mount Spokane Land Classifications



APPENDIX 2

LAND CLASSIFICATION AND CONDITIONAL USE OPTIONS MATRIX

Options:	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Land Classification	Land Classification: Natural Forest Area (NFA) with Resource Recreation for the Chair 4 Road and other existing road/trail	Land Classification: Resource Recreation and Natural Forest Area	Land Classification: Recreation, Resource Recreation and Natural Forest Area
Recommended Conditional Uses	Approved Conditional Uses: Alpine Skiing and Facilities: Not Allowed In Resource Recreation: Snowmobile, equestrian and mountain biking on the Chair 4 Road; mountain biking on existing trail Interpretive trail; Interpretive kiosks; Filming, special events; Trails – hiking Trail and off-trail – cc skiing Snowshoeing	Approved Conditional Uses: Alpine Skiing Activities: Allowed above Chair 4 Road in Resource Recreation classification; not allowed below the Chair 4 Road in the NFA Alpine Skiing Facilities: Not allowed Snowmobile, mtn. bike and equestrian trail in designated locations	Approved Conditional Uses: Alpine Skiing and Facilities: Expanded skiing in Recreation area; limited skiing in Resource Recreation area; not allowed in area classified NFA below the Chair 4 Road Snowmobile, mtn. bike and equestrian trail in designated locations

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.

Resource recreation areas are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use.

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.

APPENDIX 3

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION LAND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

WAC 352-16-020 Land classification system. 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.

WAC 352-16-030 Management within land classifications. (1) The director shall develop management guidelines for each land classification listed in WAC 352-16-020. The guidelines shall provide specific direction for each classification, outlining the philosophy of each classification, its appropriate physical features, location, allowed and prohibited activities, and allowed and prohibited developments. (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow uses that are otherwise prohibited, nor prohibit uses that are otherwise expressly allowed, by the commission, this code, or by statute.

Land Classification Management Guidelines Recreation Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Recreation Areas	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> are to respond to the human needs for readily available areas for outdoor recreation and facilities to congregate for education, artistic expression and other ennobling pursuits. They are to provide a variety of outdoor recreational, educational, artistic, and cultural opportunities to large numbers of participants. Primary emphasis is on the provision of quality recreational services and facilities with secondary recognition given to protection of the areas natural qualities.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> physiographic features such as topography, soil type, drainage, etc., shall be adaptable to varied types of intensive uses and development. An attractive natural setting is desirable, however, human-made settings are acceptable. There are no specific size criteria.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> generally are made, not found. They shall be located throughout the state with primary emphasis to service major centers of urban populations and/or outstanding recreational tourist attractions. Scenic and inspirational values shall be considered but are secondary to the site adaptability and population criteria. When part of a large diverse park, recreation areas should be sited in proximity to public roads and utilities.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> may allow and provide for a wide variety of indoor and outdoor day, weekend and vacation activities. Provision may be made for high intensity participation in camping, picnicking, trail use, water sports, winter sports, group field games, and other activities for many people. Off-trail equestrian and/or bicycle use may be appropriate in selected areas if approved by the commission. Activities requiring high levels of social interaction are encouraged.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Recreation Areas</u> shall provide appropriate facilities and services for the participation and enjoyment of high concentrations of outdoor recreationists and/or participants in indoor educational, cultural and artistic activities. A high degree of development is anticipated. Facilities may include road and parking networks, swimming beaches, full service marinas, trails, bathhouses, artificial lakes and pools, play fields, large sanitary and eating facilities; standard and utility campgrounds, stores, picnic grounds, group shelters, conference centers, environmental learning centers, hostels, and administrative support facilities.</p>

Land Classification Management Guidelines Resource Recreation Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Resource Recreation Areas	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium- and low-intensity recreational use.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> are sites where the high quality of a particular natural or cultural resource or set of such resources is the lure for human recreation. Thus, the rationale for recreation is based on the value of attractive natural or cultural resources. Management of these areas must stress the centrality of preserving the quality of the natural and cultural resources while allowing appropriate and sustainable levels of human use and enjoyment.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> have a variety of physiographic features. While they may contain areas of environmental sensitivity, most portions of each area will be able to withstand low- to medium-intensity recreation use without significant environmental degradation.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> may be located anywhere in the state where natural or cultural factors produce land and water sites particularly suited for recreation in a natural setting. Access to these sites should be reasonably proximate to major urban centers, but some access restriction may be necessary to avoid overuse of resources. Within large diverse parks, these areas should be located at least a moderate distance from public roads and high use intensity areas, while still maintaining reasonable public access for their intended use.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> provide opportunities for low- and medium-intensity recreational experiences including, but not limited to, picnicking, primitive camping, a variety of recreational trail experiences, interpretive facilities, historic/cultural exhibits, nature observation, photography, orienteering, kayaking, canoeing, floating, and fishing. Off-trail equestrian and/or bicycle use may be appropriate in selected areas if approved by the commission. Basketball, tennis, organized group sporting activities requiring formal sports fields, commercial-sized piers and docks, standard and utility camping, indoor accommodations and centers, developed swimming areas, and other similarly intense uses are not appropriate. Scientific research is permitted.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</u> development shall be permitted to the extent necessary to serve allowed activities. Parking, sanitary facilities, and other ancillary developments and support facilities should be constructed in a manner that is consistent with the site's ability to manage environmental change.</p>

Land Classification Management Guidelines Natural Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Natural Areas	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> are to respond to the human need for readily available "conservatories" of nature and open spaces. Emphasis is directed toward nature and the conservation of native flora and fauna, special geologic or paleontologic resources, and the natural amenities of the area. Human wants for other than naturally existing educational and recreational opportunities are considered secondary to nature's requirement for the sustained maintenance of its natural balances, or the preservation of special geologic or paleontologic features.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> have a variety of topography and features to provide a diversified natural environment with interesting but not necessarily unique flora and fauna, or geologic or paleontologic features. Where classification is based on biological considerations, sites should consist of land areas large enough to maintain natural biological processes in a nearly undeveloped state and provide users with a feeling of solitude and tranquility, and an opportunity to view nature in its "uncontrolled" form. They may be partially or wholly on land, subterranean, or part of the marine environment.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> are not "made", but rather currently exist due to historical circumstances that have resulted in little or no human interference in the natural environment. Those areas most desirable in terms of physical features and size usually are "found" and "held" against creeping encroachments and raising land values. They often become over used and "lost" as populations spread around them. As a part of the overall system, these areas should be geographically spread throughout the state. When classifying specific park areas, consideration must be given to the ability to adequately manage the areas against undesirable human encroachment.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Areas</u> provide opportunities for outdoor recreation on designated trails. Those trails may be developed and used only to the extent that they do not significantly degrade the system of natural processes in a classified area. Hiking, non-groomed cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or other trail uses of similar impact to natural systems and providing a compatible recreational opportunity, may be permitted, after consultation with appropriate local, state, federal and tribal resource management agencies, and upon a finding by the agency that such trails are not likely to significantly degrade natural processes. Relocation of existing equestrian, bicycle, nordic track or other similar trails into a natural area may be permitted upon a finding by the director that such relocation is for the purpose of reducing overall resource impacts. All trails may be moved, redesigned, closed and/or removed upon a finding that their use is causing significant degradation to the system of natural processes. Technical rock climbing requires authorization by the commission. Off-trail use for nature observation, photography, cross-country skiing, harvesting of mushrooms and berries and similar uses are permitted to the degree that they do not significantly degrade natural processes. Scientific research is permitted.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area</u> development shall be limited to facilities required for health, safety and protection of users and features consistent with allowed activities. Facilities to enhance public enjoyment shall be limited to primitive items such as trails, trail structures and minor interpretive exhibits. All improvements shall harmonize with, and not detract from, the natural setting. Parking and other trailhead facilities should be located outside of a classified area.</p>

Land Classification Management Guidelines Heritage Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
Washington State Parks Heritage Areas	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Areas</u> are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of outstanding, unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features, and traditional cultural properties, which are of statewide or national significance.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Areas</u> are designated to preserve and/or interpret selected areas or features for the education and enjoyment of the public, an area's intrinsic cultural value, and/or for scientific research.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Areas</u> vary in size and physiographic makeup according to their location and reason for existence. Historic landscapes may require relatively large acreage while archaeological sites may be measured in square feet.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Areas</u> usually are located where they are found or the feature exists. However, in some instances relocation or re-creation of artifacts, resources or facilities is possible. In these situations they may be located in appropriate settings and concentrated near major population centers and along primary travel routes.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Area</u> activities shall generally be limited to those directly associated with the interpretation of the area or feature, and the education of the patrons. Picnicking, recreational trails, and other low- to medium-intensity recreation uses may be allowed if they do not detract from the principal purpose of the area, its setting, structures, sites and objects.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Heritage Area</u> development shall generally be limited to that necessary for the protection and interpretation of the area or feature, and the education and safety of the patrons. Sanitary facilities, recreation trails, and picnicking facilities may be provided in a manner which does not detract from the aesthetic, educational or environmental quality of the area, its setting, structures, sites or objects, or, if applicable, its value for scientific research.</p>

Land Classification Management Guidelines Natural Forest Areas

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENT S
<p>Washington State Parks Natural Forest Areas</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> 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 150 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 90 years or longer; or communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> are places where human access to and interpretation and enjoyment of natural forest processes are limited to those activities and facilities that do not significantly degrade natural forest processes. Public access into these areas emphasizes appreciation of nature through experiencing nature. The principal function of these areas is to assist in maintaining the state's bio-diversity while expanding human understanding and appreciation of natural values.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> have a variety of topographic and vegetative conditions. They are generally large enough (300 or more acres) to contain one or more distinct and relatively intact vegetative communities. Smaller areas may be appropriate if representative of a unique or unusual forest community. Desirably, they are part of a large system of open space, wildlife habitat, and vegetative communities that provide a good opportunity for long-term ecosystem sustainability.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> may be located anywhere in the state where natural factors produce forest vegetative cover. These areas are not "made", but rather currently exist due to historical circumstances that have resulted in little or no human interference in natural forest progression. As a part of an overall system, these areas should be geographically spread throughout the state, recognizing that maintenance of bio-diversity is one of the primary functions of their classification. When classifying specific park areas, consideration must be given to the ability to adequately manage the areas against undesirable human encroachment.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> provide opportunities for outdoor recreation on designated recreation trails. Those trails may be developed and used only to the extent that they do not significantly degrade the system of natural forest processes in a classified area. Careful design of recreation trails should match intended uses, to maintain consistency with the purpose and philosophy of the classification. Hiking, non-groomed cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, or other trail uses of similar impact to natural systems and providing a compatible recreational opportunity, may be permitted, after consultation with appropriate local, state, federal and tribal resource management agencies, and upon a finding by the agency that such trails are not likely to significantly degrade natural forest processes. Relocation of existing equestrian, bicycle, nordic track or other similar trails into a natural forest area may be permitted upon a finding by the director that such relocation is for the purpose of reducing overall resource impacts. All trails may be moved, redesigned, closed and/or removed upon a finding that they are causing significant degradation to the system of natural forest processes. Technical rock climbing requires authorization by the commission. Off-trail use for nature observation, cross-country skiing, photography, harvesting of mushrooms and berries and similar uses are permitted to the degree that they do not significantly degrade natural forest processes. Scientific research is permitted.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Forest Areas</u> development shall be limited to facilities required for health, safety and protection of users and features consistent with allowed activities. Facilities to enhance public enjoyment shall be limited to trails, trail structures, and minor interpretive exhibits. All improvements shall harmonize with, and not detract from, the natural setting. Parking and other trailhead facilities should be located outside of a classified area.</p>

Land Classification Management Guidelines Natural Area Preserves

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
<p>Washington State Parks Natural Area Preserves</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> are sites where human access is limited to educational and scientific purposes. The principal function of these areas is to preserve natural ecosystems or geologic features of statewide significance. Public access for recreation must be subordinate to the principal function of the classification.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> have a variety of topographic and vegetative conditions. They are generally large enough (300 or more acres) to contain one or more distinct and intact ecological communities. Smaller areas may be appropriate if representative of a unique or unusual ecological community or geologic feature. They may be partially or wholly on land, subterranean, or part of the marine environment. Desirably, they are part of a large system of open space, wildlife habitat, and vegetative communities that provide a good opportunity for long-term ecosystem sustainability.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> may be located anywhere in the state where natural ecological systems or significant geologic features exist. These areas are not "made", but rather exist due to historical circumstances that have resulted in little or no human interference in the natural system. As a part of an overall system, these areas should be geographically spread throughout the state.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> provide opportunities for scientific research and education about natural systems, geologic features, sensitive, rare, threatened or endangered species or communities. Recreational use of existing or relocated trails may be permitted, provided that it can be clearly demonstrated that such use does not degrade the system of natural processes occurring in the preserve. Otherwise, trails are limited to administrative, scientific and organized educational activities and uses. No other activities are permitted.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> development shall be limited to access facilities for permitted activities and structures to inhibit general public access. No other facilities or structures are permitted.</p>

Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Facilities

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Amphitheater	P	C	C	N	N
Archery/Target Range	C	C	N	N	N
Camping - Std and Util	P	N	N	N	N
Camping - Primitive	P	P	C	N	N
Camping - Adirondack	P	C	N	N	N
Camping - Horse-oriented	C	C	N	N	N
Camping - Water Trail	P	P	C	N	N
Children's Play Area	P	C	C	N	N
Day Use Picnic - Tables	P	P	C	N	N
Day Use Picnic - Group Shelter	P	N	C	N	N
Day Use Lodges/Centers	P	N	C	N	N
Environmental Learning Centers	C	N	C	N	N
Equestrian Facilities	C	C	C	N	N
Fields - Informal Play/Mowed	P	C	C	N	N
Indoor Accommodations	P	N	C	N	N
Interpretive - Centers	P	N	P	N	N
Interpretive - Kiosks	P	P	P	C	N
Interpretive Trail	P	P	P	P	C
Interpretive - Signs	P	P	P	P	C
Parking - Vehicles	P	P	C	N	N
Roads	P	P	C	N	N

Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Facilities (Continued)

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Sanitary: Comfort Stations	P	N	C	N	N
Sanitary: Composting/Vault	P	P	C	C	N
Sports Fields	C	N	N	N	N
Skiing - Alpine Facilities	C	C	N	N	N
Swimming Facilities	P	N	C	N	N
Trails - Hiking	P	P	P	P	C
Trails - Mountain Biking	P	C	C	N**	N
Trails - Equestrian	C	C	C	N**	N
Trails - Nordic Track Skiing	P	P	C	N**	N
Trails - C-C skiing	P	P	P	P	C
Trails - Snowmobile	P	C	C	N**	N
Trails - Paved non-motor	P	C	C	C	N
Water: Docks/Piers \geq 10 boats	P	N	C	N	N
Water: Docks/Piers - < 10 boats	P	P	C	C	N
Water: Launch Ramps	P	C	N	N	N
Water: Hand Launch Areas	P	P	C	C	N
Water: Mooring Buoys	P	P	C	C	N

P (Permitted) - Use permitted with normal agency design review

C (Conditional) - Use may be permitted, but conditioned to assure design is compatible w/purpose of land classification and abutting classification objectives.

N (Not Permitted) - Use not permitted.

NA - Not Applicable

* All uses in a Natural Area Preserve must be specifically approved by the Park and Recreation Commission as part of a management plan.

**Relocation of existing trails into a natural or natural forest area is permitted per WAC 352-32-070(3) and WAC 352-32-075(2)(b).

Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Activities

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Farming/Orchards	C	C	C	N	N
Filming/Special Events	P	P	P	C	N
Grazing	C	C	C	N	N
Harvesting - Edible Fruiting Bodies	P	P	P	P	N
Harvesting - Mushrooms	P	P	P	P	N
Harvesting - Shellfish	P	P	P	P	N
Harvesting - Fish	P	P	P	P	N
Harvesting - Algae, etc.	P	P	P	P	N
Haying	P	P	P	N	N
Metal Detecting	P	P	C	N	N
Orienteering	P	P	C	N	N
Ocean Beach Driving	P	C	N	N	N
Off-Trail: Equestrian	C	C	C	N	N
Off-Trail: Hiking	P	P	P	P	N
Off-trail biking	C	C	C	N	N
Paragliding	P	P	C	N	N
Technical Rock Climbing	P	P	C	C	N

Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Activities (Continued)

	Recreation	Resource Recreation	Heritage	Natural/Natural Forest Area	Natural Area Preserve*
Water: Jet Skiing	P	C	N	N	N
Water: Kayak/Canoeing	P	P	P	C	N
Water: Power Boating	P	C	N	C	N
Water: White Water Boating	P	P	C	C	N
Water: Sailing	P	P	P	C	N
Water: Skiing	P	C	N	N	N
Water: Swimming	P	P	P	P	N
Water: Wind Surfing	P	C	C	N	N
Winter: Alpine Skiing	C	C	N	N	N
Winter: C-C Skiing (off-trail)	P	P	P	P	C
Winter: Mushing/Sled Dogs	C	C	C	N	N
Winter: Snowshoeing	P	P	P	P	C
Winter: Snowmobiling (off-trail)	P	P	C	N	N
Wood Debris Collection	P	P	P	N	N

P (Permitted) - Use permitted with normal agency design review

C (Conditional) - Use may be permitted with Commission concurrence, but conditioned to assure compatibility w/purpose of land classification and abutting classifications.

N (Not Permitted) - Use not permitted.

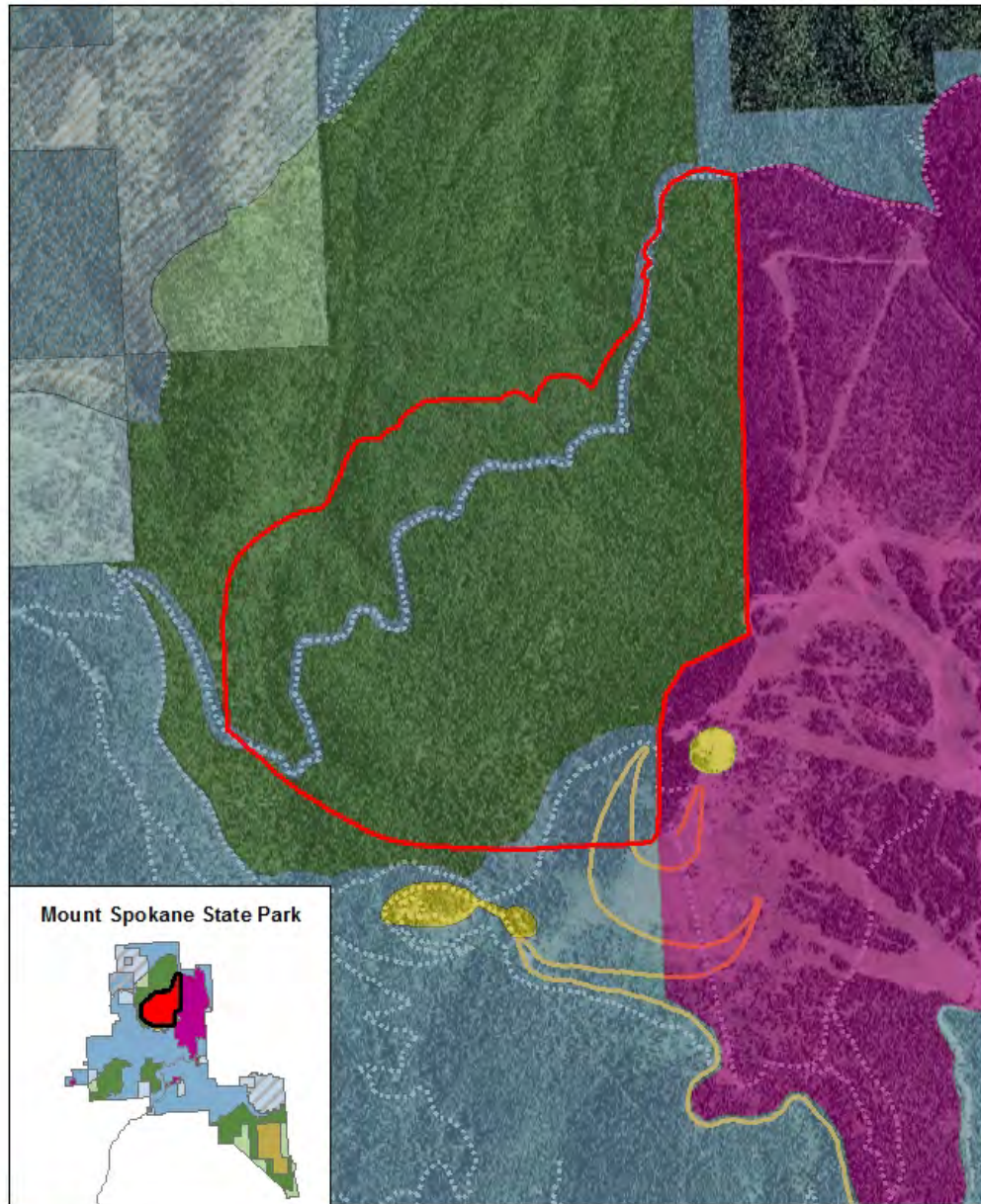
NA - Not Applicable

* All uses in a Natural Area Preserve must be specifically approved by the Park and Recreation Commission as part of a management plan.

**Relocation of existing trails into a natural or natural forest area is permitted per WAC 352-32-070(3) and WAC 352-32-075(2)(b).

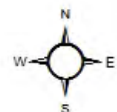
APPENDIX 4 LAND CLASSIFICATION OPTION MAPS

Mount Spokane State Park PASEA Land Classification Option 1: Natural Forest Area

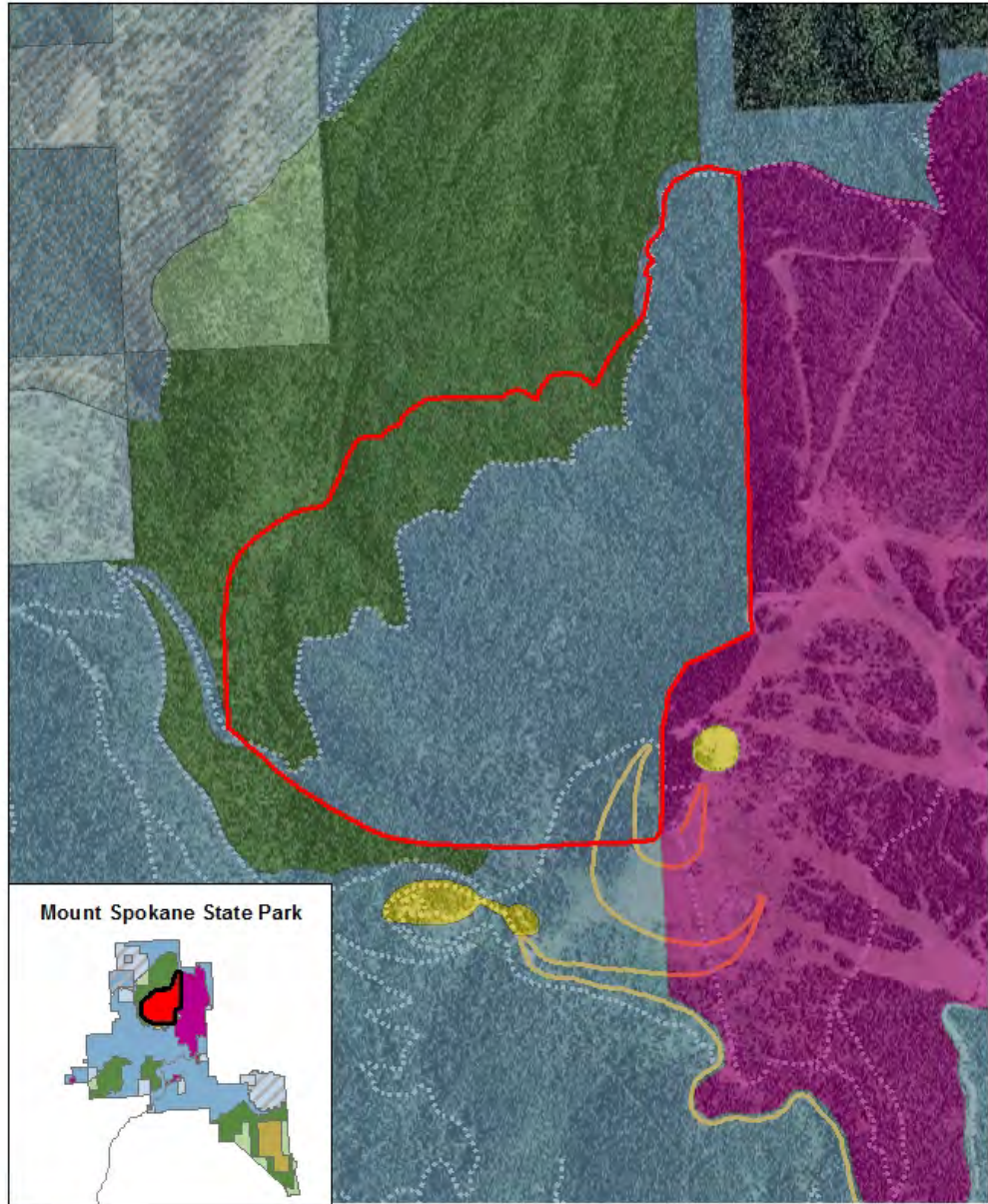


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|--|--|
| PASEA | Resource Recreation Appropriate for Surplus / Exchange |
| Heritage | Resource Recreation for Acquisition by Exchange only |
| Recreation | Natural Forest |
| Recreation Included in Long-Term Boundary | Natural Forest Included in Long-Term Boundary |
| Resource Recreation | Natural Area Preserve |
| Resource Recreation Included in Long-Term Boundary | Park Road |
| | Trail |

0 950 1,900 3,800 Feet



Mount Spokane State Park PASEA Land Classification Option 2: Resource Recreation/Natural Forest Area



PASEA	Resource Recreation Appropriate for Surplus / Exchange
Heritage	Resource Recreation for Acquisition by Exchange only
Recreation	Natural Forest
Recreation Included in Long-Term Boundary	Natural Forest Included in Long-Term Boundary
Resource Recreation	Natural Area Preserve
Resource Recreation Included in Long-Term Boundary	Park Road
	Trail

0 950 1,900 3,800 Feet



Mount Spokane State Park PASEA Land Classification Option 3: Recreation/Resource Recreation/Natural Forest

