

South Whidbey State Park, Useless Bay State Park Property and Possession Point State Park

Classification and Management Planning (CAMP)



Stage 2 – Exploring Alternative Approaches

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Introduction

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) manages a diverse system of over 100 parks located throughout the state. Dramatic growth in population and the popularity of outdoor recreation has increased pressure on the agency to provide more recreational opportunities while continuing to preserve the unique natural and cultural resources under its management.

State Parks prepares land use plans through an agency-wide planning system called Classification and Management Planning or CAMP. CAMP is a multi-staged, public participation-based planning process for individual parks that culminates with adoption of park land classifications, a long-term park boundary, and a park management plan.

For each planning project, the agency assembles a planning team. The team includes planners, resource stewards, and park staff. As necessary, the planning team also calls upon the expertise of resource and facility specialists – both from within and outside the agency.

Planning Process

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

Stage One – Identify issues and concerns

The purpose of this stage is to understand what is important to the park community and identifies issues to address through the planning process. The issues public meeting was held on October 21, 2015 at Whidbey Water Services in Freeland.

Stage Two – Exploring alternative approaches

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

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 preliminary plan includes recommendations for use and development of park lands and ways to address issues identified during the planning process. A third public meeting is held at this stage to receive input on the preliminary recommendations.

Stage Four – Preparing final recommendations

At stage four, final adjustments are made to recommendations and submitted to the seven-member Parks and Recreation Commission for approval. The public is encouraged to attend the Commission meeting and provide testimony or to provide written comment. This project is scheduled to go before the Commission at their regularly scheduled meeting on September 22, 2016 in Sequim.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Review

The planning process incorporates requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) for identifying the potential environmental effects of agency actions. Information gathered during the planning process will be included in a checklist describing the environmental effects of enacting the plan. The agency will then

make a formal determination regarding potential environmental impacts and determine whether additional environmental analysis and documentation is necessary. The SEPA environmental checklist and threshold determination are typically prepared during Stage Three of the process.

Planning Products

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

Land Classification

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

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

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

They may be classified in whole or part as follows:

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

(c) Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.

(6) Natural area preserves are designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are registered and committed as a natural area preserve through a cooperative agreement with an appropriate natural resource agency pursuant to chapter 79.70 RCW and chapter 332-60 WAC.

For each land classification, the agency Director has developed detailed management guidelines and a use matrix. These guidelines identify specific activities and facilities permitted in each designation. The complete land classification system and management guidelines are included in Appendix A and should be used in conjunction with the alternative maps provided below.

Long-Term Park Boundary

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

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

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

Property owners should also consider that working with State Parks to voluntarily protect natural resources contiguous with those on park lands may achieve the desired conservation effect and avoid the need for acquisition of these properties by the agency. In all but the rarest circumstances, State Parks acquires land on a willing seller basis.

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

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

Exploring Alternative Approaches

During the first stage of planning, public and staff participants identified a multitude of issues at South Whidbey State Park, Useless Bay State Park property and Possession Point State Park. Now, for the second stage, the agency planning team has developed alternative land classification and LTB approaches that are intended to respond to these issues.

Alternatives are organized thematically, sometimes taking provisions to logical extremes, to emphasize a major **aspect of State Parks' mission**. The two thematic alternatives developed for these three properties are:

- Enhancing natural, cultural and interpretive features
- Enhancing recreational opportunities

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

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

Land Classifications and Long-Term Boundary Alternatives

The alternatives below show thematically and by park the alternative land classifications and long-term boundaries developed for consideration. A brief narrative description for each is provided below.

South Whidbey State Park – Current Classification

Land Classification

The current land classification occurred in 1993 and it classified the existing developed campground (which is currently closed due to tree issues) and the day use area as Recreation. Two areas, which were logged in the recent past, located on the east side of Smugglers Road in the northeast and southeast corners of the park are classified as Recreation also.

Long-Term Park Boundary

No long-term boundary has been established for South Whidbey State Park.

South Whidbey State Park



Legend

- Trail
- Camp Loop
- Park Road
- Public Road
- Service Road
- Recreation
- Natural Forest
- Park Boundaries (source: WSPRC)

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Data in these maps were compiled for cartographic purposes. Due to the variability of the source information, the WA State Parks and Recreation Commission cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions, and, therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this material.

South Whidbey State Park - Enhancing Natural, Cultural and Interpretive Features - Alternative 1

Land Classification

In general, this thematic alternative classifies areas with significant natural plant communities including old growth forest as Natural Forest Areas. Areas shown for Natural Forest Area (NFA) classification include features such as old growth forest, steep slopes, wetlands and stream corridors.

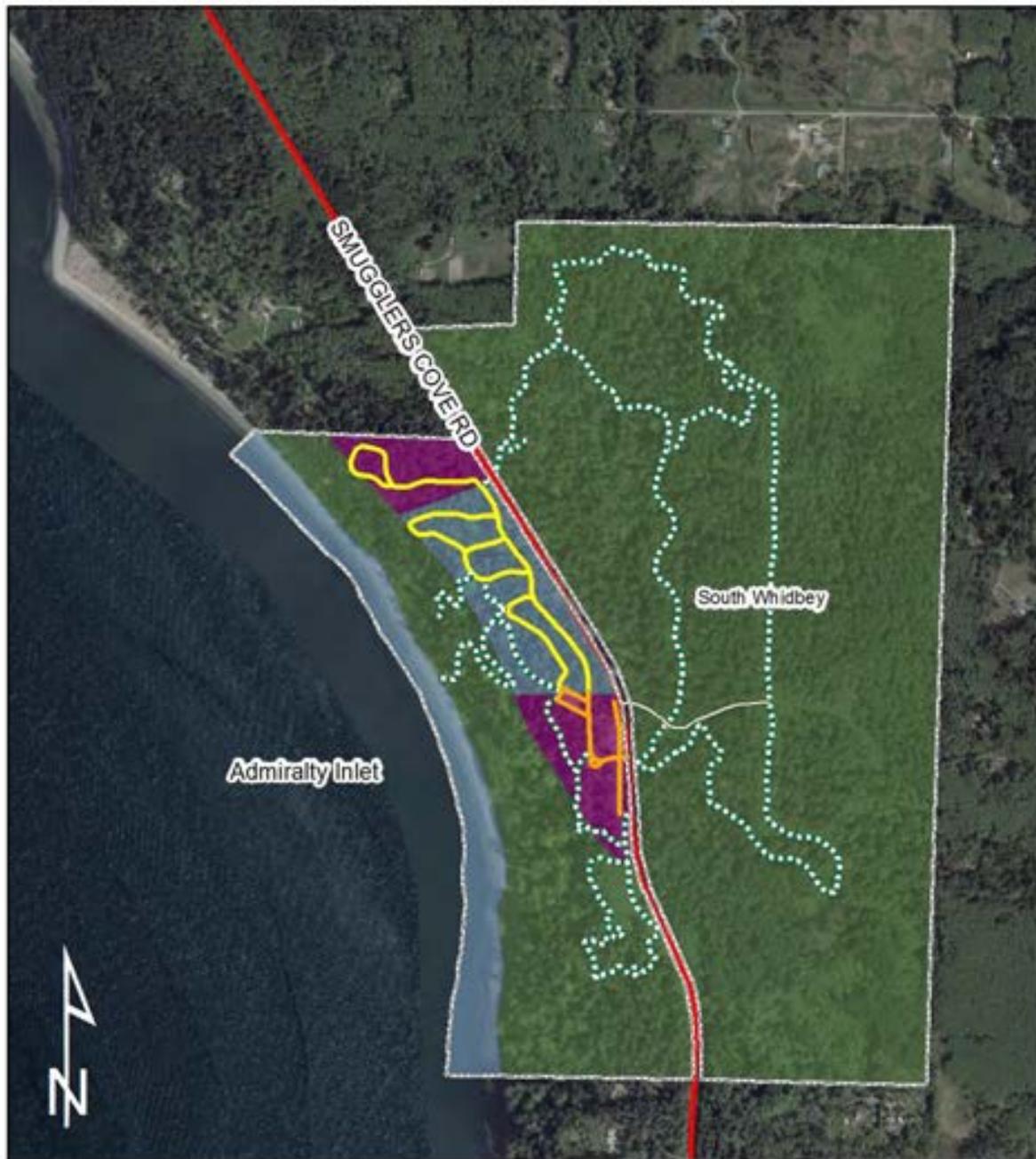
The existing developed campground (which is currently closed due to tree issues), with the exception of the group camp, is shown as Resource Recreation. The existing day use area is classified as Recreation to recognize and allow high-intensity recreational facilities.

The balance of the park located east of Smugglers Cove Road is designated as Natural Forest Area allowing for low intensity trail-based recreation opportunities (such as hiking and interpretation) while protecting existing environmental features. This alternative classifies the northeast and southeast corners of the park as NFA which is a change from the current classification which has these two areas classified Recreation.

Long-Term Park Boundary

In both alternatives, the long-term boundary includes properties intended to provide a connection with the Trillium Community Forest located south of South Whidbey State Park and east of Smugglers Cove Road. In this alternative the Trillium connection would be classified as Natural Area to limit use to low-intensity recreation activities and facilities and to be consistent with the NFA classification that is proposed under this alternative for the southeastern portion of the park (which is where a potential trail connection would likely be made).

South Whidbey Island State Park Land Classification Alternative 1



0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Legend		
Park Boundaries (source: WSPRC)	Park Road	Resource Recreation
Trail	Public Road	Natural Forest
Camp Loop	Service Road	Recreation

South Whidbey State Park - Enhancing Recreational Opportunities - Alternative 2

Land Classification

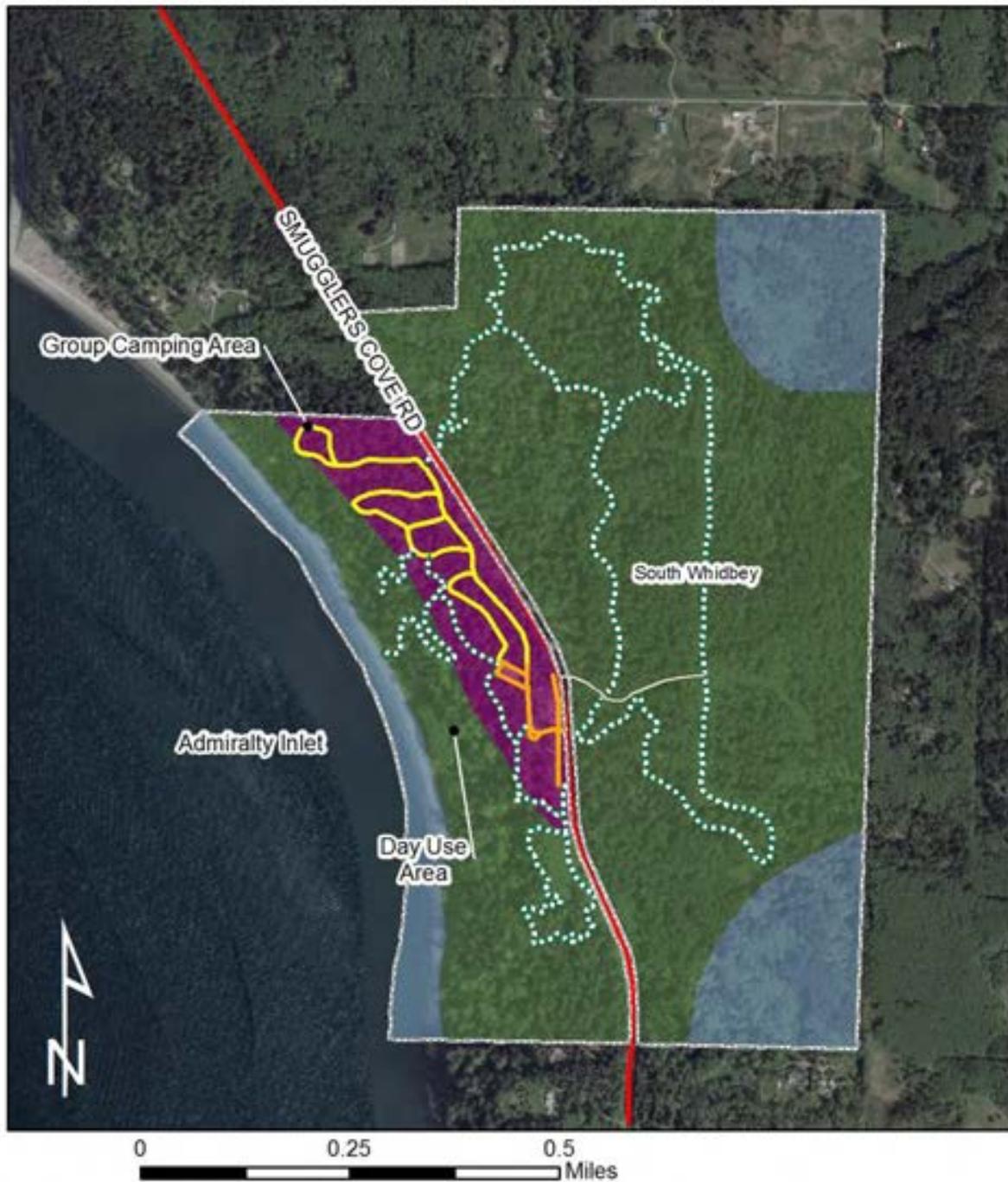
In general, this alternative classifies areas with existing recreational value and developed facilities as appropriate for high-intensity trail and facility based recreation use. These areas include the developed day use area, the existing campground (which is currently closed) and the group camp.

In this alternative the balance of the park east of Smugglers Cove Road would continue to be classified as NFA allowing for low intensity trail based recreation except for the previously logged areas in the northeast and southeast corners which would be classified as Resource Recreation.

Long-Term Park Boundary

In this alternative also the long-term boundary includes properties intended to provide a connection with the Trillium Community Forest located south of South Whidbey State Park and east of Smugglers Cove Road. In this alternative the Trillium connection would be classified as Resource Recreation allowing for medium-intensity trail based uses.

South Whidbey Island State Park Land Classification Alternative 2



Legend		
..... Trail	— Public Road	Resource Recreation
— Camp Loop	— Service Road	Natural Forest
— Park Road	Recreation	— Park Boundaries (source: WSPRC)

Useless Bay State Park Property - Enhancing Natural, Cultural and Interpretive Features - Alternative 1

Land Classification

State Parks' ownership in Useless Bay is unique in that it is comprised of marine shoreline and bedlands with no upland public access. In general, this thematic alternative classifies the middle portion of the property ownership which includes half of Deer Lagoon, as Resource Recreation (RR) and the parcels on the western and eastern end of the ownership as Natural. Under this alternative currently occurring water-based recreational activities such as wind-surfing and kite-boarding would continue to be an allowed use and those areas that do not support water-based recreational activities would be classified as Natural.

Long-Term Park Boundary

In this alternative no additional properties are included in the long-term boundary. However this property, in its entirety, would be identified as appropriate for surplus or exchange with entities such as Island County, the Department of Natural Resources, or the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Useless Bay Land Classification Alternative 1



Legend

 Park Boundaries (source: WSPRC)	 Resource Recreation	 Natural
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Useless Bay State Park Property - Enhancing Recreational Opportunities Alternative 2

Land Classification

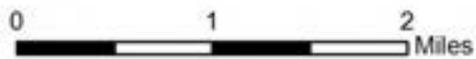
In general, this alternative classifies State Parks ownership in Useless Bay as Resource Recreation and appropriate for water-based recreation uses such as windsurfing and kite-boarding.

Long-Term Park Boundary

In this alternative no additional properties are included in the long-term boundary and no park properties are proposed for surplus or exchange.

Useless Bay

Land Classification Alternative 2



Legend

-  Park Boundaries (source: WSPRC)
-  Resource Recreation

Possession Point State Park - Enhancing Recreational Opportunities - Alternative 1

Land Classification

Possession Point was acquired and developed to be part of the Cascadia Marine Trail. The water trail campsite is located in the developed portion of the park which also includes an upland parking area, driveway and a park residence.

In general, this thematic alternative classifies the developed portion of the property as Recreation to allow maintenance of existing infrastructure. Under this alternative the uplands outside of the developed area would be classified as Resource Recreation allowing for a range of medium-intensity uses such as biking and hiking trails. In this alternative, the shoreline is classified as Resource Recreation to continue to acknowledge and allow existing water-based recreational activities.

Long-Term Park Boundary

In this alternative no additional properties are included in the long-term boundary. However the upland non-developed portion of the park would be identified as appropriate for surplus or exchange with entities such as Island County, the Department of Natural Resources, or the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Possession Point Land Classification Alternative 1



Legend

-  Park Boundaries (source: WSPRC)
-  Recreation
-  Resource Recreation

Possession Point State Park - Enhancing Natural, Cultural and Interpretive Features - Alternative 2

Land Classification

This thematic alternative classifies the developed portion of the property as Recreation to allow maintenance of existing infrastructure. Under this alternative the uplands outside of the developed area would be classified as Natural allowing for low-intensity uses such as hiking and interpretation. In this alternative, the shoreline is classified as Resource Recreation to continue to acknowledge and allow water-based recreational activities to occur.

Long-Term Park Boundary

In this alternative no additional properties are included in the long-term boundary and no park properties are proposed for surplus or exchange.

Possession Point Land Classification Alternative 2



0 500 1,000 Feet

Legend

- Recreation
- Resource Recreation
- Natural
- Park Boundaries (source: WSPRC)

Appendix A

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Land Classification System

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Establishing the Land Classification System

WAC 352-16-020 Land classification system. State park areas are of statewide 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 statewide 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
<p>Washington State Parks Recreation Areas</p>	<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
<p>Washington State Parks Resource Recreation Areas</p>	<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
<p>Washington State Parks Natural Areas</p>	<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	DEVELOPMENTS
<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 <input type="checkbox"/> Unusual forest 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 ≥ 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).