

**Westport Light State Park – Westport Golf LLC Proposal Comments**

*March 21, 2023 – April 30, 2023*

We can learn from what Florida has allowed on coasts: hardly any more mangrove wetlands or sand dune buffers along the coasts resulting in dropped water tables, beach erosion, flooding. Or we can choose to ignore what has happened to coasts worldwide and wait for nature's payback here in Washington.

A resort is not a park. A golf course is not a park. The state has other means of encouraging profitable business enterprises on private land and should do so in communities like Westport, but not in unique habitats on public land. <sup>1</sup>

Hello,  
I think a golf course/resort project on this park property would not be good for the city or the park system in general. I have been a Westport resident for decades now and have enjoyed the charm of this area with its open (undeveloped) space for all persons, birds, and other wildlife. Westport is a unique and attractive to tourists and residents because it is not crowded with overdevelopment. A golf course/resort is not special or an attraction to everyone and is more exclusive than inclusive. Furthermore, such development in the area proposed would destroy wetlands and the peace and pleasure of open natural areas. (Thousands of people come to the Westport area for birdwatching all year round and the birds need places to safely be.) My additional concerns;  
+The project is in an area threatened by coastal erosion and also threatened by sea level rise due to climate change. The wetland affected by this project play an important part in preventing flooding.  
+Golf balls sailing around the nearby a well-used walking trail could be dangerous.  
+The Department of Ecology in their most recent study of coastal sand dune areas noted only 9 such area left in WA so it's important "...to undertake all appropriate steps to protect . . . (these) areas.  
Thank you for reviewing and considering my objections to this project.<sup>2</sup>

*I am opposed to the proposed development a golf course on open space lands at Westport Light State Park. We need more open space, not less, at state parks. We need to preserve undeveloped land for passive recreation, wildlife habitat and ecosystem preservation.* <sup>3</sup>

I am opposed to the proposed golf course in Westport Light State Park. This is a significant park for the state, with beautiful sand dunes and ocean views that are inaccessible to vehicles, making it a wonderful quiet and undeveloped habitat for both wildlife and for people to visit. We are losing so much of our quiet and undeveloped spaces to human development. A place that should be held higher than the rest, that should be free of commercial development, is our State Parks. If not even our state parks can be protected, what can be protected? <sup>4</sup>

Disrupting this wetland and park cannot happen. The impact of a golf course, and the chemicals required to maintain it, on nearby homes, native shore pine, rare dune plants, and the unusual intertidal wetlands habitat would be drastically damaging.  
I incorporate by reference comments made by Friends Of Grays

Harbor written by Arthur (R.D.) Grunbaum.  
Thank you for your consideration,<sup>5</sup>

The Westport Lighthouse and the surrounding area has been a great source of enjoyment and recreation for years. It's intended use was to explore the wonderful ocean and coast of Washington for everyone. To cut out a large portion for the privileged few to play a game is arrogant to say the least. In a time where we are already losing massive natural resources it seems short-sighted to proceed with this project. The residents of Grays Harbor moved here and built community here to be one with this extravagant nature. Please vote down this project.  
Sincerely,<sup>6</sup>

This comment is regarding the proposed "environmentally friendly" golf course at the state park near Westport. Please also incorporate by reference all comments from Friends of Grays Harbor (FOGH). I live in Montesano in Grays Harbor County. I visit the state parks along the shore to see the beaches, wetlands, dunes and forests in their natural state. My granddaughter and her family visit this park. I enjoy seeing the birds and other wildlife. That's why I visit these parks. I do not want to see more development inside the park, traffic, and wealthy tourists playing a game that takes up inordinate space in the park. You have not even restored the damage done to by the last failed golf course. Our state parks are not the playground of the rich. They want to turn our shores into an urban wasteland, empty of life, accessible only to those with money. Don't mistake development for progress. It is not progress. We are losing what really matters. These wetlands and dunes are rare and priceless habitat. Restore the wetlands and dunes to their previous condition.<sup>7</sup>

I purchased a home in Westport to enjoy the trails, trees, small town and beauty. Now I have learned that all I bought into, will be destroyed for a golf course. I urge you to reconsider this. Golf courses are environmentally contaminating and add to climate change. The now open trail and beautiful beach landscape will soon be gone to a golf course of grass and limited access to only the upper classes of the people. Traffic and housing will become overwhelming and spill out until it encompasses the coast. The potential damage and loss of use by the people is devastating. Please do not do this. Read the many studies of the pollution caused by golf courses and the importance of maintaining access to natural setting such as our public parks.<sup>8</sup>

The Westport State Park should remain accessible and open to all users, not just those who golf. Additional trails and limited accessible camping would protect the habitat for all.<sup>9</sup>

The Westport Golf Links project at this location must not be approved.

1. Environmental impacts cannot be mitigated. Building a golf course can have negative impacts on the environment, including soil erosion, water pollution, and disturbance of wildlife habitats. These impacts can be amplified when building close to the ocean.
2. Maintaining a golf course can be costly, including irrigation, landscaping, and upkeep of facilities. The maintenance of golf course greens requires the obvious environmental impacts of using valuable resources for watering, fertilizer, and weed control chemicals which pollute wetlands, groundwater, and the marine environment.
3. Weather-related risks will impact this course. Building close to

the ocean can expose the golf course to risks from extreme weather events, such as coastal erosion, high winds, and coastal flooding.

4. Sea level rise (SLR) is caused primarily by two factors related to global warming: the added water from melting ice sheets and glaciers, and the expansion of seawater as it warms. The AECOM Coastal Study Report Executive Summary states: Our analysis of shoreline retreat due to SLR and dune erosion show that assets at the Park, including the paved path, parking lot, and restroom facilities, could be at risk after 2030 under the Moderate-Risk Scenario and this decade under the High-Risk Scenario

Walk the path now and look south to the Westport by the Sea Condominiums. The dune area seaward has been reinforced and hardened repeatedly over the last decade. From the path you can see the drop-off resulting from dune erosion moving eastward.

In conclusion restore the habitat and wetlands by following the Conclusions and Recommendations (page 24) of the September 2021 AECOM Wildlife Habitat Assessment report. <sup>10</sup>

We are residents of Westport and love our community. While the proposed golf course MAY provide untold and fabulous riches for us all, it most definitely WILL cause harm to us. The senseless destruction of beautiful natural resources for the benefit of only a few aside, you're now making the only safe, paved walking option in the entire town into a shooting gallery with tiny round missiles. We, and many of our neighbors walk this path daily for exercise and wonderful sights and sounds of the Washington coastline. We don't need to dodge your little balls while enjoying the glorious natural resources of our state. We vote No! <sup>11</sup>

Keep state park lands out of the hands of developers!! Private owners don't need to be building exclusive access courses on our beautiful public land. <sup>12</sup>

am resident of Westport I am against the golf course. I heard the presentation comparing it to the Bandon links in Oregon. That site is 100 feet elevation, Westport proposed site is 20 feet, we get erosion just come down and look at the shoreline we are losing at least 10 feet each winter. Removing the vegetation and redesigning it to accommodate a golf course means more erosion to a highly sensitive area! Westport planning commission along with parks need to be creative in how to maintain the natural area we have, updated trails within the lighthouse park area going to the beach, an interpretive kiosk with maps and information, planned educational events: birds of the area, sea life, plants and fauna, mushrooms, ecology of the area and so much more can be added, visitors welcome programs that individuals and families can participate. Working with other local programs Westport aquarium, Westport Museum incorporate them into events.

Put up a survey of how many people use the trail from lighthouse to West Haven. General population of users, Strollers, wheelchairs, seniors, disabled all use the paved trail. To add and disrupt a whole area for just a few is not the wisest of decisions. This park belongs to us all it's a State Park!, we pay taxes. Adding this golf leasing the property to the golf course LLC group and they won't pay any taxes, NO NO bad idea for the golf course, Visitors come for the natural beauty to observe the wildlife and

birding , surfing, strolling these visitors go to our restaurants and other businesses they spend money in Westport, Have more community meeting regarding this project. <sup>13</sup>

Wetlands are necessary and irreplaceable. Golf courses are neither. Reject this project. <sup>14</sup>

Dear Ms. Dupuis:

The Grays Harbor Audubon Society is a non-profit tax exempt organization in Grays Harbor County whose mission is "to seek a sustainable balance between human activity and the needs of the environment, and to promote the enjoyment of birds and the natural world." We are affiliated with the Washington State Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society. We are writing to express our strong opposition to the development of a links-style golf course in our Westport Light State Park, a large ocean and bay-front treasure just west of the town of Westport in Grays Harbor County. The latest acquisition of 300 acres, funded by Washington taxpayers through the Recreation and Conservation Office, was joined together with two smaller parks to create a 603 acre complex. This latest addition consists of a mosaic of mostly undisturbed dunes and wetlands, all connected hydrologically through the water table. Three major wetland types occur here - forested, shrub and emergent - all of them in good to excellent condition. The whole mosaic is among the largest such type along the WA coast and is rare worldwide. As such, it is rated by Emlogy as a Category 1 wetland complex. Excavation of uplands, clearing of forests and the filling or draining of wetlands to create the golf course could severely impact the quality of the wetlands, the native plants and wildlife. The greens would be laid out like a necklace around the perimeter of the park with the driving range intruding deep into the interior. Although each green is rather long and narrow, each has a substantial edge adjacent to the surrounding vegetation. Both the above facts mean that the 'edge effect' on the surrounding plant community may be huge. Effectively, the golf course likely will cause habitat degradation in most of the park. Sandy soils underlie the entire parkland and so there is great connectivity among all the wetlands. During the wet season the wetlands act as lenses of the high water table and the water levels all sink together in dry months. Herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers applied to the greens will be transferred to wetlands through the water table, Likewise irrigation waters will alter the moisture regime in many of the wetlands, causing changes especially in the emergent vegetation. Invasive plants may enter into cleared areas and move into native vegetation. All these factors may lead to significant changes in this landscape and degradation of the quality of this rare and valuable dunes/wetland mosaic- SEA-LEVEL RISE: In the Executive Summary of the 'Coastal Study Report' by AECOM Technical Services, they warn that future shoreline retreat and dune erosion may cause risk to park assets including the paved path, parking lot and restrooms within the next decade. There may be significant issues in the foreseeable future to development on the whole site. EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS: WA state parks, paid for by tax revenue, belong to all Washingtonians. In some cases there may be restrictions in some areas due to sensitivity for the environment. But most parkland should be open to all of us. The pandemic events of 2020- 2023 highlight the importance of State Park's role in supporting physical and mental wellbeing, regardless of race, identity, abilities or socioeconomic status. This includes ensuring that all visitors are welcome and have access to a well-run park system. However, this golf course, catering to the small slice of the population who

can afford to golf and wants to, will be unavailable to families with children, hikers, birders, nature observers and other less intrusive users - to most Washingtonians, in fact. The prospect of being hit by flying golf balls will keep lots of us away. In a time when the sensitivity regarding accessibility is paramount, tuning a public space into an amenity for only a limited number of high-end users makes no sense.

ALTERNATIVES: There are many other ways that State Parks could develop with a lighter footprint which would benefit most Washingtonians. And they could be executed a portion at a time, as finances allow. Some suggestions are: a walking trail south to the lighthouse, leading to a loop trail incorporating the existing dune trail: a fitness trail. an interpretive trail highlighting natural features; an observation tower in the forest; a picnic area and playground using natural materials; restroom facility, of course. Ranger or volunteer-led birding and nature walks could be offered, to educate folks about the amazing and unusual aspects of this ocean-side environment. These brief ideas can lead to other creative ones.

CONCLUSION: The conversion of this large, unique, largely undisturbed dunal wetland system to a golf course runs counter to the ideals set forth by many non-profit groups, Governor Inslee and many state agencies including State Parks. This development involving the large majority of available land in the park, practically precludes the use of our tax-funded parkland by any residents except golfers of sufficient means to pay the green fees. It would amount to a semi-private golf club. This isn't right, or fair or environmentally responsible. We strongly oppose the degradation of this valuable habitat and the lack of access to our park by average Washingtonians. We strongly urge you, as State Parks Director, along with the Parks Commissioners, to withdraw all plans for a golf course and rethink the appropriate uses for this highly ecologically valuable park land and consider its benefits for all the people in Washington.

Thank you very much for your review of this letter and your attention and consideration of this. <sup>15</sup>

Proposed Links Golf Course at Westport Light State Park

Dear Ms. Dupuis:

The Vancouver Audubon Society, a non-profit organization with members in Clark, Skamania and Klickitat counties, is affiliated with Audubon Washington and the National Audubon Society. We are opposed to the proposed development of a Scottish links style golf course and a 30-40 room inn at Westport Light State Park. The recent acquisition of 300 acres, funded by a \$1.9 million grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) in 2015, joined together two smaller parks to create a 603-acre complex. This addition consists of a mosaic of mostly undisturbed dunes and wetlands, all connected hydrologically through the water table. Three major wetland types occur here: forested, shrub and emergent, all of them in good to excellent condition. The entire wetland mosaic is among the largest of its type along the Washington coast and is rare worldwide. As such, it is rated by the Department of Ecology as a Category 1 wetland complex. The Westport Golf LLC proposal to create a Scottish links style golf course recreation concession at Westport Light State Park raises a number of environmental and equity concerns and potential impacts.

**Wetlands**

Excavation of uplands, clearing of forests and the filling or draining of wetlands to create the golf course could severely impact the quality of the wetlands, native plants and wildlife. The

greens would be laid out like a necklace around the perimeter of the park with the driving range intruding deep into the interior. Although each green is rather long and narrow, each has a substantial edge adjacent to the surrounding vegetation. The golf course likely will cause habitat degradation in most of the park. Sandy soils underlie the entire park so there is great connectivity among all the wetlands. During the wet season the wetlands act as lenses of the high water table and the water levels all sink together in dry months. Herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers applied to the greens will be transferred to wetlands through the water table. Likewise irrigation waters will alter the moisture regime in many of the wetlands, causing changes especially in the emergent vegetation. Invasive plants may enter into cleared areas and move into native vegetation. All these factors may lead to significant changes in this landscape and degradation of the quality of this rare and valuable dune-wetland mosaic.

### **Wildlife Habitat**

The Wildlife Habitat Assessment concluded that Westport Light State Park represents an important area for conserving and protecting undeveloped coastal wildlife habitat in Washington, with valuable interdunal and wetland habitats. Recommendations to improve wildlife habitat within the park included control of invasive Scotch broom and European beachgrass, removal of construction debris, removal and control of unauthorized campsites, wetlands protection, and dune restoration. The adjacent freshwater wetlands make the grass, shrub and woodland habitats particularly valuable to migratory birds.

### **Sea Level Rise**

The Coastal Study Report commissioned by Washington State Parks evaluated shoreline retreat due to sea level rise. Between 2002-2016, long term retreat was observed along the entire park shoreline. The report noted that sand was annually placed in the nearshore area immediately south of the jetty and in Half Moon Bay, and placed on the beach and dunes to fill two potential dune breaches in 2010 and 2012. These nourishment actions likely reduced the observed shoreline retreat near the South Jetty. The report warned that shoreline retreat due to sea level rise and dune erosion show that assets at the park, including the paved path, parking lot, and restroom facilities, could be at risk after 2030 under the Moderate-Risk Scenario and this decade under the High-Risk Scenario. Erosion modeling of flooding due to both a 30- and 100-Year coastal storm could expand landward of the current open-coast dunes after 2060 under the Moderate-Risk Scenario and after 2050 under the High-Risk Scenario. Sea level rise and shoreline retreat likely will be significant issues for the proposed golf course development.

### **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**

Washington State Parks belong to all Washington residents. The corona virus pandemic of 2020-2023 highlighted the importance of state parks' role in supporting physical and mental wellbeing, regardless of race, identity, abilities or socioeconomic status. This includes ensuring that all visitors are welcome and have access to a well-run park system.

The proposed golf course, however, would cater to the small portion of the population, primarily men between the ages of 19-39 ("The Trends Shaping the Golf Industry Outlook in 2023" [linchpinseo.com/trends-in-the-golf-industry]) who can afford to play golf. White women far outnumber Black women and minorities in golf (USA Today, December 28, 2020 [golfweek.usatoday.com/2020/12/28/diversity-in-golf-generation-z-future-of-golf/]) Families with children, hikers, birders, nature observers and other less intrusive users would be excluded from a substantial area of the state park. The "Trends Shaping the Golf Industry Outlook in 2023" article also highlighted that the golf industry suffers high employee turnover

and labor shortages due to low wages, so the proposed golf course may not solve Westport's economic needs and desires, despite the rosy picture painted by golf course proponents.

### **Alternatives**

There are many other ways that Westport Light State Park could be developed with a lighter footprint. Some ideas include a hiking trail south to the lighthouse connecting to a loop trail incorporating the existing dune trail; an interpretive trail highlighting natural features; an observation tower; a picnic area with nature play area; and volunteer-guided bird and whalewatching walks. This proposal brings up memories of the mid-1970s, when Washington State Parks entertained a similar proposal for Leadbetter Point. The Vancouver and Willapa Hills Audubon societies jointly hosted a Leadbetter Point Conference in Seaview that convinced State Parks to designate Leadbetter Point as the first State Park Natural Area. Perhaps Westport Light State Park would be better served as a natural area.

### **Summary**

The proposed conversion of this large, unique, largely undisturbed dunal wetland ecosystem to a commercial golf course concession is counter to the best conservation uses of this state park. In addition, the proposed development would take up most of the land at Westport Light State Park away from public access except by golf players. We urge you to deny approval of plans for a golf course concession, to reconsider the appropriate uses for this ecologically valuable park land and to consider its development to benefit everyone.<sup>16</sup>

Greetings:

How long have golf courses been in decline in the US? Well, this article from NPR is from 2011 and it indicates at that time the decline was well on its way.

"Nationwide, there are too few golfers and too many courses. That's led to a shakeout in the industry. There are more golf courses closing than opening. Dozens have shut down in Florida, the state with the most golf courses."

"Finding New Uses For Troubled Golf Courses" May 30, 2011 NPR:

<https://www.npr.org/2011/05/30/136788050/finding-new-uses-for-troubledgolf-courses-in-florida>

According to the article "All golf is local." In other words, planning on tourism golfing is not a safe bet.

This article from 2018 indicates the same trend. "We've seen a pretty significant decline in the number of golf courses, both because of oversupply and underdemand," said Ed McMahon, a senior resident fellow at the institute.

See the article "Developers tee off amid mass closure of U.S. golf courses" Reuters 2018: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-land-sportidUSKCN1N64TK>

For instance, Chambers Bay Scottish Links in University Place, Washington, is a 'destination' golf course. It claims a lauded golf course designer and won the obligatory awards from industry publications. It was awarded tournaments. It is also within an hour of Seattle and in the heart of the Tacoma area. It boasts fantastic views of Puget Sound. Yet, how many come to play golf annually?

According to the annual report for Chambers Bay total golf rounds played were 5180 in 2015 which was a 52% decrease over the prior year. Food and beverage increased and merchandise revenues increased.

See the Pierce County report: Pierce County Documents:

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/38959/Chambers-Bay-2015-Second-Quarter-Report?bidId=>

Nowhere in the report to Pierce County does it indicate what the surrounding community benefited from the revenue, and the impressive decrease in rounds played over the previous year are concerning, I would think. Fiscal reports, like the one presented at a previous meeting for

Westport Light Golf Links, indicate 'tens of millions' of regional revenue, but not many details. How reliable are reports like this and what do they mean, exactly?

What kind of jobs will it bring? Do you really even want revenue in the region for service industries like housekeeping, food service and golf merchandise? I don't see how any of these industries represents a living wage. The fishing industry is a proud tradition. How are the values of these residents represented with a golf course?

It appears that the City of Westport and the golf LLC are partnering to provide the EIS. What is the legal jeopardy in an arrangement like this? The legal aspect is significant for this golf course proposed in Wisconsin after 7 years of law suits by opponents.

"As we have proceeded for almost 7 years, we have brought suit against the DNR for an incomplete wetland permit, an incomplete Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) based on incorrect science, written by the DNR as a justification for issuing a wetland fill permit to Kohler, an incomplete storm water permit, and the illegal swap of our prime state park land."

See the article: Sierra Club Wisconsin Chapter articles January, 2021: <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/great-waters/blog/2021/01/expectedsheboygan-grants-permit-troubled-kohler-golf-course>

"Among FBRF's (Friends of the Black River Forest) many concerns with Kohler's (the Developer) faulty EIS is that placing a golf course on top of the fragile, sandy dunes at Kohler-Andrae Lakeshore practically guarantees that the chemicals used in course maintenance will leak into the aquifer that serves local wells."

"The people of Wisconsin need our state parks, intact wild lands, and carbon sequestering forests a lot more than we need more chemicalsaturated golf courses."

The same language could all be used when describing Westport Light State Park. The parks wetlands are designated as having "high habitat functions". The Golf Links will impact 53 acres and approximately 20 percent of the wetland mosaic, 100 percent of Category II, 82 percent of Category IV and 111 acres of wetland buffer would be permanently impacted for construction.

The climate crisis is going to erode the park. How is it possible this process keeps moving forward in light of that one fact alone?

How are the values of the community represented by installing a 'championship' golf course? Do your residents really want the town overrun with occasional tournaments?

If this gentrifies the region, where will the current residents live and work?

Gentrification includes a host of effects from tax increases to other cost-of-living expenses.

Does Westport and the rest of the beach really want to become Ocean Shores or Longbeach? I can't imagine anyone wanting that for their town, I certainly don't.

How does this development support the fishing industry?

What happens to the local wells? Will they become contaminated with chemistry?

Do you really want the legal woes?

This fragile park is eroding away. It will continue to do so. In this way it also represents the eroding of our values and our climate.

I think planning for a sustainable future is paramount for the region. Solicit businesses that support a living wage and the fishing industry as a suggestion. Existing tourism could brand for 'sustainable' and the unique nature of this beach compared to the others.

Preserve this park. Allow passive recreation that exists now.

Thank you for your time and consideration. <sup>17</sup>

I am writing to concerning the proposed Scottish-Link golf course, Leasing only 100 acres of the 600 acres from the



Washington State Parks.

That 100 acres will not be I just one area but instead will extend the whole coastline from Westport Lighthouse trail all the way to Half Moon Bay, which disrupts the paved path used by thousands of visitors, disrupts habitats and the environment. The plan is to build a 18 hole / 9 mini hole and a golf range.

Who will this serve a very limited few, mostly males with very low mixed races, locals will not participate as hopped because of the costs. The users will most likely stay in the hotel restaurant instead of eating or visiting local businesses. Plus the tax payers of Westport will pay the taxes as witnessed the inflated costs of homes in the area. Westport residents will bare the costs of water usage , and the increases of property taxes, Many residents are retired or are below poverty level income, Recent newspaper article " Daily World writes " The Westport project would create an estimated 349 jobs, during construction alone ,pumping \$55.6 million into the state's economy. Taxing districts such as Ocosta, schools, fire districts, The PUD housing authorities and transportation entities would all benefit from INCREASES PROPERY VALUES and an estimated annual TAX collection increase of \$3million ".

Where will employees stay, high shortage of places for rent, Paying minimum wages is not going keep employees at the job for long time,

What an eye sore from the natural environment for everyone who comes to Westport to the beach, surfers, birders, storm watchers, beach comers etc...

This link is compared to Brandon, Oregon Scottish golf course. That area is 100 feet in elevation , Westport area of the proposed site is 20 feet, A recent presentation by the Westport council presented a public awareness on Sea Level rising, due to climate change, its a serious concern , many organizations local and state level are conducting tests to determine the effects of sea level rising to the local coastline environment. And the ongoing erosion.

Let's not forget the all the pesticides, herbicides used will drain into the ground seep its way into the water, the ocean causing catastrophic damage to local habitats and sea life.

I am an opposed to such a radical disturbance of this fragile environment. The Washington state parks must abide by its mission to have its parks available to everyone. More outreach programs interpretive center, needs to be considered, Encompassing all users young old, disabled need this place as is,

Thank for your time.<sup>18</sup>

Hi I am writing you to convey a very strong apposition to the Westport Light state park Golf course.

The state park system is an essential program managing preserving and even in some cases improving the natural resources and beauty of our evergreen state. It provides access to the natural resources for any and all to enjoy. The purchase of the 600 acres of interdunal land which is a large watershed sanctuary and raw look at very interesting interaction with the ocean. The paved trail is widely used by visitor and resident alike. One of the fully supporting comments mentioned that the over run eyesore of a property will be transformed into a magnificent manicured golf course. I disagree , the only eye sore and even it has a natural beauty when it flowers is the invasive scotch broom plant. This has been allowed to multiply unchecked

since the first golf course development went bust and left town.

The so called non indigenous pines pose no threat to the indigenous shore pines. No one brought them here save the birds squirrels and maybe the wind.

They help stabilize the dune itself and moderate the water table.

And to my knowledge not threaten other species. People are drawn to the access of an 18 mile beach . The Westport part of the beach prohibits driving on it. Thank God for that, in ocean shores a pedestrian on the beach risks their lives walking because of the traffic of varying motorized vehicles.

Has there been an outcry from the visiting public or in particular the citizens of westport for the need to have a golf course? Best I can tell the supporters of this project are a relatively small # of influential well healed and connected people licking their lips at a chance to overrun the area with high end development to suit their own needs. Ironical isn't it that people find a place that has natural beauty a relatively pristine environment lots of open space " a peaceful and quaint little fishing town" and then want to exploit it for profit, then proclaim the place was just a dump with dirty fisherman and low income families until we transformed it. Those that have been able to escape the big cities across the country are moving to places like westport to escape overcrowded badly managed stress.

The golf course is a poor idea for westport, the developer will be leasing the property from the state and will not pay property tax. All other property owners pay property tax. Including business owners. The average sq ft. Of new homes here has to be at least 3000 ft. The average price for homes along the ocean is close to a million dollars. That forces values of other homes out of reach for many buyers and increasing taxes is putting many people in a bind. And new owners are already asking if the army corp of engineers will mitigate the erosion nipping at their front porch. More public funds usurped. I do not expect the state federal or any agency to protect my front porch. I seriously our doubt flood insurance would cover a loss of my home because of A tsunami regardless it says it does.

So the Parks Dept used public tax money to purchase this property now leases it to a large concession serving a very narrow segment of the population and they have no skin in the financial game aside from development and the false economy that they advertise and promote.

The environment of this ecosystem is precious this peninsula was created by e creations of sand taking many years to develop. the Chehalis river basin should not be altered anymore than it has. Altering the dunes in Westport destroys and severely disturbs our environment. heavy machinery should never be allowed on this site for any purpose save an emergency breach of the dunes by sea water and even that would be questionable for environmental reasons. Interestingly the Elma golf course closed. Brandon dunes the golf complex owned and operated by this same development group compares Westport to that complex.

There are differences one being the elevation there is at least 100 ft above beach level. The light park might be 50 and much of it is below or at sea level. The light house was built on the beach the south jetty created this wetland, and now is taking it back. If the supporters of this project think sea side oregon on a sunny summers day is a good thing move there. Westport is a dead end street put that in the overall plans. But sadly money is the motivator I truly hope don't have to live in these people pipe

dream. So please hear our cry. Don't ruin a pristine living ecosystem and the environment that comprises it thank you for allowing me to comment I hope this does not seem an attack. <sup>19</sup>

Hello Sarah, my name is - my wife and I built a home and moved to Westport in 2009. We have lived here full time since. About the time we arrived in town an attempt to build a golf course in what is now Westport light State park was in process. At that time the land was purchased by the developer. The whole thing went broke leaving a pristine historical interdunal wetland of some 640 acres scarred and the topography altered. Much of the perimeter of the now park has been infested with "scotch Broom" an extremely invasive species of plant that is not indigenous to Wa. So what does any of the have to do with State Park concessions? The proposed Golf course is a form of concession serving a very small and elite population. With the rise of "Tiger Woods" In the world of golf the sport has yet to become multi ethnically diverse. In simple terms a golf course is Racist and flies in the face of ETHNIC JUSTICE. TO LEASE PUBLIC LAND TO AN ENTERPRISE WITHIN A STATE PARK PAYED FOR WITH PUBLIC TAX DOLLARS IS ILL CONCEIVED. THIS ENTERPRISE WILL NOT PAY PROPERTY TAX CERTAINLY NOT TO THE CITY OF WESTPORT. YET ALL THE INFRASTRUCTURE USED AND MAINTAINED BY THE CITY WILL BE STRESSED AND ULTIMATELY PAID FOR BY THE PUBLIC. This project will prevent public access to this eco system and permanently disfigure it. This dune system did not even exist prior to the south jetty being constructed . 3000 ft of essentially sand built up and since has been eroding at a continual rate. WITH THE RISING AWARENESS OF THE RESULTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE THIS AREA IS NOT QUESTIONABLY THREATENED BUT A MATTER OF WHEN. This is not a static area it is alive AND THE SHORELINE IS ERODING CONSTANTLY. Thank you for reading this. This concession should be re thought for more reasons than I can list. But primarily it's focus would be a very narrow band of exclusive users. Not the general public! <sup>20</sup>