

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 10:56 AM

I love the park system and the amenities associated with them. A couple of changes I would like to see, though I am sure it would offend some fellow users, would first be the ability to reserve a buoy in advance. I find it very discouraging to plan a trip only to find no place to tie off once arriving. Maybe the addition of more buoys could solve the issue as well. I am sure enforcement would be tuff.

Second, is the upkeep on the remote toilets. Hope island used to have the worst facilities. These facilities as well as fresh water have always been a lifesaver for boaters with cramped quarters.

Regards,

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 10:58 AM
Subject: Suggestions as requested

We love the parks!! We frequent Cutts, Eagle Island, Joemma, and Penrose frequently.

Suggestions:

At Penrose:

- * Mark the shallow area the near the western mooring buoys with some kind of marker

At Kopachuck/Cutts:

- * Put a no-wake marker in the area of the buoys. Too many jet skis and ski boats pulling tubes around there at high speed.

- * Add a couple more mooring buoys

- * Launch ramp at Kopachuck? That would be quite nice as there are no state park launch ramps anywhere near there on the south side of the narrows convenient to Gig Harbor. We moor our boat at a marina in Gig Harbor but like to have someplace nearer south sound when we launch our Jet ski.

We are OK paying more annual fees to help with any of this.

Thanks,
Gig Harbor

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 11:01 AM
Subject: State Boating Parks

We primarily use our boat in the San Juan's and use the state parks in that area, but I am very interested in know about the parks in the south Puget sound as well. Please keep me on the updated e-mail reports.

Thanks,

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 11:05 AM
Subject: Participation

Good morning!

Thanks for the invitation to participate. I'm interested!

My wife and I cruise the Sound all year and do indeed enjoy staying at the State Marine Parks. I heard with some dread that because of budget reductions at the state level some of our parks would no longer be available.

How can I help?

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 11:07 AM
Subject: South Sound Parks

I appreciate your efforts to keep parks open during these difficult economic times. As the economy recovers, I would like to see boat access expanded at parks by adding docks when possible. I think the South Sound is going to get more boat traffic when fuel prices spike again and people discover that the parks rival those in the San Juans. If there are more places to moor with easy shore access, I believe South Sound could become more of a destination rather than a day trip.

Thank you for providing the services for boaters and seeking input. I have been very pleased with park staff and the management in Olympia.

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 11:10 AM
Subject: Re: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

Hi Peter,

I am delighted to receive this information, so thank you! Even though I am a former commissioner I have not stayed abreast of parks issues for various reasons. I have just retired Sept. 1st and hope to follow along more.

So, please keep me on your mailing list and if my son who is coming from CA leaves on the 24th I will try to attend the evening meeting on the 24th.

I am also going to forward the email to a very thoughtful boater friend who lives on Hartstine.

Thanks for all your work and for including my name on your contact list.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 11:19 AM

Subject: RE: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

I have a 25 foot C-Dory - so here are my comments from that perspective.

Jarrell Cove needs dock side electrical hook ups like was done at Blake. When I was there this summer the street light at the head of the dock was burned out. The trail between the bathrooms and the dock needs much better lighting. The pay station down by the docks needs to be opened - for those of us with mobility issues - it would be nice to pay dockside vs. having to get up the hill to pay. If this were done it would be a better all season destination.

Penrose Point would be more utilized if the harbor was dredged and did not go dry at low tide. It would be better utilized if it had some of the improvements noted above.

I would improve any marine parks that have protected docks. They will be utilized all year if this is done by more of the boating public.

I like the fact that it's first come first served - and that moorage cannot be reserved or saved.

I think a fresh water spigot on the docks would be nice to replenish our supply when it runs low.

Thanks for asking.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 11:37 AM

Subject: MAINTENANCE - EWING COVE - SUCIA ISLAND

Hello

Thank you for the information about state marine parks in south Puget Sound.

You should please tell the MAINTENANCE AND/OR ENGINEERING people that one of the mooring buoys in EWING COVE at Susia Island is sinking, and does not look very safe.

I would be interested in receiving information on the construction of the mooring buoys, and how often they are inspected and maintained.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 11:43 AM

Subject: Re: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

Hello..

We do a lot of boating, and we like to tie up to the State bouys..We have the state annual pass that cost around \$150...We go to Blake alot because you put in shore power, keep that idea going in other places and we will spend more time in south sound and etc. and we will stop going to Canada (to costly) and lets spend the money in the States..THANKS ...

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 11:57 AM

Subject: Washington Marine Parks

We buy a marine park pass every year because we enjoy them so much. I grew up in the northwest and have been visiting Washington's marine parks for over 50 years, mostly those located in the San Juan Islands. In April of 2008 we took a tour of South Sound marine parks aboard our 40 foot Pacific Trawler Sea Venture because we had never seen them before. They are as beautiful as their northern counterparts are even though surrounded by more populated areas. We like to do a lot of our boating in the off season and were disappointed to find at least one dock missing at that time of year.

In general, when entering a park area by boat we naturally look for either dock space or mooring buoys. The quality and quantity of these facilities throughout the system are most important to us as "self contained" boaters. While we don't rely on land based facilities for camping we do enjoy going ashore to hike so our primary wish is for dock space with adequate depth (we draw over 4 feet) alongside even at the lowest tide.

We like the design and construction of your docks. The mooring rail is easy to catch on approach and allows placement of mooring lines as we wish. Washington State Parks are nearly always clean thanks to the dedicated, friendly and helpful park rangers.

I would like very much to be kept informed about your plans for marine parks.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 12:01 PM

Subject: Re: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

Thank you for the message. Please keep me on your list.

We are a very frequent visitor of Blake Island, but always head north to the Gulf Islands when we have an extended vacation. We always go to the Gulf Islands because of one reason, WE LOVE THEIR MARINE PARKS.

All we're looking for is a quiet anchorage and a great view, mooring buoys and docks with electricity are nice in the winter.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 12:19 PM

Subject: Re: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

Please consider trash pick up in our parks since it would help keep our waters more clean..

Thank you

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 12:57 PM

Subject: State Park improvements

Just a couple of suggestions.

A. If you are looking adding addition moorage to these locations, the rope docking system that was placed at Sucia and Steward islands in the San Juans were a good idea, but do not work for most boats. The ropes are too high for boats under 36 feet in length which is the majority of boats. The ropes rest against the rails, boat house sides and windows instead of the hull which is the structural part of the boat. That why boaters are not using them. Just lower the height and they will get used.

B. The moorings in some state parks are too close to each other. Power boats tend to react to wind more and sail boats to current more. When these opposite wind and current directions occur, boats and sail boats can swing in opposite directions and into each other making contact. Instead of setting moorings in straight lines, zig sag them some to increase the distance between them.

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 1:04 PM

Subject: Project ideas

We use most of the parks included in the project, but some are not familiar. Could you be more specific about location, and perhaps provide a map?

Most often we use Hope, McMicken, Eagle and Jarrell Cove. At Hope, and occasionally elsewhere, we get shut out of a mooring buoy and have to anchor. It so much easier to use the buoy. I find myself saying that more of these would be useful.

I applaud your project, given the times, but that's just when the public needs convenient and reasonable recreational opportunities.

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 1:35 PM

Subject: South sound

I think that is a great idea. It would be wonderful to cruise the south sound with the same opportunities as the north sound and the san jauns.

The blake island experience is one of my favorites.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 1:31 PM

Subject: Re: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

Hello

I don't have any immediate input, except to say how much we appreciate and enjoy the boating opportunities provided by the marine state parks system. I would like to receive email updates.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 2:41 PM

Subject: Re: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

Hi, I'm and I live in Gig harbor. Unfortunately i did have a chance last summer to utilize my moorage pass and Have not renewed as of yet this year. I am looking forward to taking advantage of all that is offered with the moorage pass. My one questions is that it states in the regs one should register within x numbers of hours of mooring. But the details on how to register is vague. Could you let me know the procedure.

Thanks,

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 4:57 PM

Subject: State Parks Planning

Thank you very much for inviting us to participate in planning for improvements in the "south sound parks". My wife and I spend many weekends during the year visiting the parks. The seasonal pass is certainly a great way to make sure our fees are paid in advance, and a service we greatly appreciate. The process of obtaining the permit over the Internet is easy and fast. Don't change anything, it is great!

On the subject of passes, we spent two weeks cruising between parks this summer, the whole length of Puget Sound, tied to park mooring buoys most of the time. We spend many more weekends on the water as well. Not once has a fee compliance officer checked our permit, or even made a pass by the boat to see if we have paid. In talking to other boaters, they too claim never to have been checked. Many boaters have learned not to worry about paying the moorage fee, and simply don't pay. I know fee compliance is a nuisance for the park managers, but a lot of revenue is lost as a result. I like supporting the parks, but what I see is discouraging.

One thing we have noticed at Hope Island is the rack for Kayaks and canoes near the beach. What a great way to organize boats in crowded areas. Consider more of these elsewhere.

I know it is not strictly a State Parks issue, but as boaters we have found it very difficult to determine the location of the DNR public beaches. It would be great if you could work with your sister agency to put out a publication, including maps, showing where these are and how to find them. Signs would be of help too.

By all means put us on your e-mail mailing list.

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 6:13 PM

Adding additional mooring buoys at McMicken Island would be of benefit, provided that they are located on the NW side rather than on the east side exposed to wakes from passing boats and the wind.

At Penrose Pt a new or expanded dock with space that is not subject to low tides.

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 7:25 PM
Subject: Suggestions about Marine Parks

Hello,
First let me say that we all appreciate all that you do. We also understand that tough administrative and improvement-planning decisions are made by you because of budget restraints both short and long terms.

The following suggestions come to mind at this moment in time and are offered constructively.

We would like to see more consistency in your Park signage - the sign rules at the parks and the web site rules often are contradictory as to whether marine park annual permit holders need to register when on a buoy or floats. We go to the trouble to launch a dingy to go ashore and register only to find the permit box rusted shut from non-use. Next time we probably won't bother to register and will simply rely on the windshield permit sticker.

Trail-map signage would be nice. Although the trail is pretty short at Joemma, there are no trail-map signs to be seen. Other parks also have minimal trail signage. When the tide is in we still need exercise and the trails offer that exercise opportunity.

At Jarrell Cove we dock our boat and tie up only to find that the pump-out is out of order. Nearby boaters tell us it has been out of order for several days. Why not post a sign that would be visible to an approaching boat to save us the trouble of docking for the in-operative pump-out. Ever try to dock a large single screw boat in the wind? Also the wash hose is missing at the pump-out. We would always rinse off the dock of any drips from the pump-out hose.

We appreciate your summer interns, but they do need more instruction on small boat operation and handling. Refueling and fuel consumption seems beyond their scope, at least on one occasion for the Jarrell Cove crew this summer.

McMicken Island needs land access. We heard that the property has been purchased, but can find no web information about land access.

We love McMicken. Thank you for keeping derelict boats off of the buoys this year.

Thank you for all that you do.

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 9:35 PM
Subject: South Sound Marine Planning Study

I am a regular user of the boat in only state park islands in the San Juans, Sucia, Jones, Stuart, Turn, James islands which I have used multiple times.

I regularly use Blake Island.

What I love about these camps is that I can boat up on any weekend, including memorial day, 4th of July etc and find a camp site, without a reservation. True, I can not always find dock space or a mooring bouy, but I do not mind anchoring my 20 foot aluminum Hewescraft boat after I unload my camping gear.

South Sound is a problem. There are few developed campsites that are not accessible by car. (Boat Only). The sites at Kopachuk, Pernrose etc are usally always full with car campers on the weekends.

I would love to see some boat in only campsites available in the South Sound area.

Renton, WA

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 4:11 PM

Subject: RE: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

As a long time Marine Park user, I am very interested in new developments. Please keep me on your mailing list.

My first comment is that Washington State should consider adopting the Canadian system of independent collection agents for moorage buoys. No one seems to check boats in our state parks and everyone knows this so there is a lot of abuse (non-payment) to the system! In Canada they employ independent agents (wharfingers) who share in the revenue so they are out every night checking on the boats for payment. It would increase state revenue in this time of economic downturn.

Thanks,

From:

Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 9:50 AM

Subject: Hope Island...

Thanks for the news letter.

The only place I recognize is Hope Island. Adding more buoys or a small dock would be great. The south side of Hope Island would also be a good places for buoys. Looks as if most places are in the south sound. Just in case you didn't know... Hope Island has a buoy that is dangerous. It sinks at about 4 foot tide taking mooring lines with it.

Thanks

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From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 11:04 AM
Subject: Re: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

Hello and thanks for this opportunity to provide input.

Based on our recent boating experience at state parks in the San Juans (Spencer Spit State Park and Jones Island State Park, in particular), I would suggest for future parks that more mooring buoys be installed. Often we are unable to use our mooring permit because the few buoys are already full, even early in the day. Besides providing a more fair permit system, this would also prevent more boaters from anchoring, which can destroy eel grass beds and other sea floor life.

In short, please consider installing more mooring buoys at each park to provide permit holders with an opportunity to use their permits and to protect marine life.

Thank you,

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 12:11 PM
Subject: Power on docks?

Thank you for soliciting suggestions.

I think the Washington State Parks planning should consider adding dockside power to some locations, such as Penrose Point and Jarrell Cove. Perhaps the power pedestals could be token operated to ensure that the power use fee is collected, to help recover the investment.

Benefits:

- * Noise and pollution reduction. Many boats run generators or propulsion engines for heat and/or power, particularly in the off seasons. Most boaters with generators would prefer shore power if the fee is reasonable (\$5 to \$10).
- * Safety. Running generators or engines for extended periods while dockside presents a carbon monoxide risk.
- * Increased dock moorage usage and revenue in the off seasons. The availability of power is one of the main attractions of marinas offering transit moorage.

What has been the experience with the first year of dockside power at Blake Island?

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 11:04 AM
Subject: Re: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

Hello and thanks for this opportunity to provide input.

Based on our recent boating experience at state parks in the San Juans (Spencer Spit State Park and Jones Island State Park, in particular), I would suggest for future parks that more mooring buoys be installed. Often we are unable to use our mooring permit because the few buoys are already full, even early in the day. Besides providing a more fair permit system, this would also prevent more boaters from anchoring, which can destroy eel grass beds and other sea floor life.

In short, please consider installing more mooring buoys at each park to provide permit holders with an opportunity to use their permits and to protect marine life.

Thank you,

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 2:32 PM
Subject: RE: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

State Park Planning

If possible to do so, add docks or floats for boats to tie up to.

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 3:02 PM
Subject: RE: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

I don't spend that much time in the South Sound but have enjoyed Jarrell Cove in the past. I like what our state offers in the way of water-related sites for either camping or mooring. Keep up the good work.

From the land of Awe. Where the sky meets the shore and the snow fills the Sound and you can't see any of it through the rain!

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 7:38 PM
Subject: Re: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

It would be nice if the docks at Joemma were in the water by mid - April each year. We are seasonal boaters due to the type of boat we own, and we begin the season about easter time. I usually buy a moorage pass for leaving the boat at Joemma and a park pass for launching. It's nice to have the boat in the water already no matter what the tides are. Second we like to stay out late into the evening when the weather is warm and when we're approaching Joemma in the dark it is extremely dangerous and hard to

see the other boats and the dock. If there were some solar powered lights even dim ones on the pilings, docking would be much safer. In the future another launching point on the peninsula would be appreciated by all.

Thank you

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 4:05 PM

Subject: Re: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

Thanks for asking for our input.

We are very pleased with the efforts of the Washington State Parks regarding the marine parks. The decision to "electrify" the docks at Blake Island seems like a bad idea to us as it will only increase the number of boats at a marina that was already filled beyond capacity most of the time. Please don't provide electricity at any of the other sites. Also, we think that the seven day limit should be reduced to three at most. Just a few really large boats can dominate a lot of dock space for a long time under the current situation.

Wherever possible we feel that more mooring buoys are a good idea. Not only do they protect the sea floor but a lot of the "dragging anchor syndrome" would be remedied. And many sites have severe current flows that tend to cause problems with anchor rode. Is it possible to combine more buoys with stern tie rings on shore?

Some of the hiking trails could be better marked and both permanent and paper maps might help in some areas.

How about a few more small "dinghy docks" here and there so us old folks don't have to shove our dinghies up on the beaches?

Here's a thought; some of the local communities have farmers markets. Could they be encouraged to set up near the marine parks so we cruisers could refill our food lockers and help the local economies?

We love the marine parks especially those in the South Puget Sound. Keep up the good work!

Anacortes

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 3:49 PM

Subject: RE: (Rescued) South Sound Marine State Park Planning

Well, I live on Whidbey Island and don't think I'd travel to attend one of the meetings, but would like to be kept abreast of developments. Great idea. Not sure if you plan to keep these open year round with docks, but that's the kind of resource we'd use.

From:
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2009 9:33 PM
Subject: Comments on WA Marine State Parks

Overall I am quite satisfied with the marine parks and mooring opportunities. We just need more of them!

A couple of minor comments:

At Joemma mooring at the piers is quite uncomfortable with boat traffic and the associated waves they generate and the dock acts like it wants to destruct. I have no recommendations on how to improve the situation short of abreakwater which is unrealistic.

At McMicken I would appreciate better delineation of the public oyster beds where we can pick up oysters. I am not sure where the private areas are located and do not wish to trespass.

A comment in general - where mooring at a ball requires going ashore to register even with a seasonal pass. It would be nice to not have to go ashore if a seasonal pass is displayed. I think I know the rationale for this requirement which is to get a more accurate use count on the facilities, but perhaps there is a way where going ashore to register is no longer required.

I appreciate the rangers you have at the parks. They are all most gracious hosts and do not mind stopping to answer any questions in a cheerful manner.

Thank you for the parks and the fine stewardship you provide. Don't let the politicians take them away.

From:
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2009 5:38 AM
Subject: Suggestions

I love the parks and would like to see the boat launches & docks open & maintained!

From:
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2009 12:45 PM
Subject: South sound marine parks

Thanks for the opportunity to offer some input.

Cutts Island is a great location but we do not moor there except for early spring and late fall due to being buzzed by high speed boats and PWC operators during typical cruising season.

The onshore parties and the reckless boat operators running at full speed in and around moored vessels is not only an annoyance but very dangerous.

Recomend: Posted no wake zone from south end of Cutts diagonally over to Kopachuck.

Occasional enforcement of speed and no drinking policy in state parks on Cutts island.

McMicken island is on of our favorite South sound locations. Many boaters have trouble dragging anchor in the McMicken moorage. Additional mooring buoys would help and avoid dredging up the bottom.

If it is ever feasible it would be nice to buy out the private owners so the whole island could be a park.

We have avoided Joemma Beach because we heard there was a security problem with boats being broken into when left unattended at the docks.

Generally most of these locations would benefit with more mooring buoys, especially Hope and Eagle islands where the tidal currents get pretty vicious.

Penrose point would benefit with a small dinghy dock North of the day use area. I have seen many small dinghies struggle with the trip all the way to the dock when anchored well out in the bay.

Please do not install any linear moorage systems in any of the open water parks, They might be okay in protected bays like Jarrell Cove but in open water like McMicken boats can't veer into the prevailing weather and just get rolled about.

Thanks for our marine parks,

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Friday, September 11, 2009 6:56 AM

Subject: Re: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

Hello,

I don't have any particular input in the form of suggestions. However you should know that of all the taxes/fees/tolls that I must pay, the cost of my annual Marine Park sticker is absolutely the best value for dollar of all. You do a good job of making an appropriate number of mooring facilities available at wonderful locations and you maintain them well.

Thanks,

From:

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2009 5:19 PM

Subject: Eagle Island

Reference- Eagle Island improvements.

Add 2 or 3 new bouys for boats to tie up to.

Add an outhouse on the south end of the island and add a few camp sites with metal fire rings away from the beach area at the south end of the island.

Thanks

From:

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2009 7:38 PM

Subject: Park Input

Hello:

Thank you for the information. I have had the opportunity to use beautiful Jarrel Cove park several times in the last few years. We make it an annual trip! I would like to be kept up to date on future changes and additions. I would love to see additional boat camping opportunities in the South Puget sound. Dock facilities would be great on Hope or McMicken so we could camp on the island. Jarrell cove is getting

very popular. A reservation system for the lower campsites and a slip spot would be a nice option also, along with additional slips.

Thank you for the information.

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2009 6:04 AM
Subject: Planning

We use the moorages you list and are interested in your planning. Is there the possibility on another buoy on the east side of Eagle Island, for example?

From:
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2009 10:23 AM
Subject: Mason County State Park Projects

My husband and I live near Shelton/Island Lake and moor our Tollycraft in Fair Harbor Marina. We welcome the opportunity to be a part of the South Puget Sound State Parks community involvement planning process. We would like to do our part in protecting, restoring and preserving these valuable nature resources.

Please put us on your email list so that we can be kept informed of the upcoming meetings and activities for which the park visitors and local community members are invited to participate.

Thank You.

From:
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2009 10:33 PM
Subject: Washington Marine Parks

Dear Sir,

We are happy to hear that improvements are planned for the south sound marine area. Parks just for boaters are very special. Very important is the ability to get off the boat at these locations. Floating docks for smaller boats and at least dinghys are very helpful. Also desired are nice beach areas for families and walking trails. Thanks for your continued work in this area.

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 9:43 AM
Subject: Penrose State Park

Please consider adding more bouys to the west side of Penrose Pt.

Thank you,

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 10:59 AM
Subject: How can we help?

To whom it may concern,
Hello I am. The South Sound Sailing Society is a boating club dedicated to sailboat racing and cruising on southern Puget Sound. We host races, cruises, and sailing related speakers year round. We meet in the Olympia Yacht Club once a month. We support the local community through volunteering efforts. We received a copy of your email seeking input for the improvement to south sound marine parks. We use each of the parks on your list regularly and cruise destination. Our organization promotes the use of Washington State Parks and would like an opportunity to serve the Park Services in any capacity. We would like to know how we can help. Our club meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month. As we did not receive this email until Monday of last week, we are unable to bring this before the club. Please email me back so I can take your suggestions back to our club and mobilize to help. Im sure we can gather plenty of inputs for particular parks as we us them frequently. I may be able to attend the September 22 meeting.

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 3:05 PM
Subject: CAMP comments

I have utilized most of the State Parks in South Puget Sound and I have found them to be well managed and a wonderful asset to boaters.

I have a couple of thoughts and suggestions.

I would like to see Squaxin Island State Park reinstated with a picnic area and clamming beach. The old park was a great place to stay whenever the wind is out of the West or SW and the anchoring is easy in the muddy bay on the SE side of the island. The online pdf map still shows this Park, is it incorrect? Also the map doesn't show Stretch Island Park which I thought was State owned property. This Park should be expanded to include directions to the Maritime museum which is a great place to visit.

Eagle Island should have more mooring buoys since there are strong currents in the area and the park area is large enough to accommodate additional buoys. If you don't have the funds for new buoys you can remove some from McMicken since there is a protected bay with good holding bottom there.

I would like to see a small dinghy or kayak dock added to the south side of Hope Island that would allow arrivals and departures without getting wet or muddy.

Thank you for considering my input.

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2009 4:45 PM
Subject: RE: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

Hello Peter,

I appreciate your request for input. I don't think I can make it to the meeting on Tuesday but I will try. I do have a few things for your organization to consider.

McMicken Island - This is one of our favorite spots. With environmental concerns about eel grass, etc. I feel bad using an anchor anywhere. Recently I noticed that one of the three buoys on the west side was gone. There are often many boats anchored in that little bay so it would be nice if there were several more mooring buoys there.

Hope Island - This is a wonderful island and would make a great south sound destination except that the last time I was there dogs were not allowed. I can understand wanting to protect wildlife but every other island marine park from McMicken to Sucia allows dogs. We are responsible dog owners so encourage your department to evaluate this seemingly unnecessary regulation.

Penrose Park - This is another of our favorite south sound destinations. It is fine the way it is but would probably benefit from additional mooring buoys. Also it is very shallow under the pier at low tides.

Thanks again and I look forward to meeting you some day.

From:

Sent: Monday, September 28, 2009 8:41 PM

Subject: RE: Reminder - South Sound State Park Planning Workshop

Hello:

We have a Washington State Marine Park pass and really enjoy boating in South Puget Sound in the Olympia area. We would really like more mooring buoys at some of the parks that only have 2 or 3 buoys. Or, mooring buoys at locations that have docks. We have a 34' Sea Ray so often there is no room at the docks, but we have a dinghy and if we could tie up to a buoy we'd take the dinghy into shore.

Our favorite areas are Jarell Cove, Hope Island (and it's 2 bouys) as well as Stretch point.

More Buoys!

Thanks!

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2009 6:10 AM

Subject: PARKS

I think you are doing a great Job with the parks. Maybe the bathrooms could be a bit larger with a shower or two in the parks that don't have them. Adding a mooring or two to the parks to hold more boats would be great as well.

Keep up the great work!!!

Thanks Much,

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Monday, September 28, 2009 6:04 PM

Subject: Re: Reminder - South Sound State Park Planning Workshop

Hi,

Thanks for the reminder. I did attend the program Thurs eve on Harstine Island and gave feedback at that time on the sheets posted around the community center.

Thanks,

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Monday, September 28, 2009 9:46 PM

Subject: RE: Reminder - South Sound State Park Planning Workshop

I am heartened to see that you are planning improvements for these parks. However, I will not be able to attend your meeting.

I think Washington's marine parks are an excellent idea and I buy a yearly pass every year. In general, I think that you folks do a good job. However, since my boat is up north, I visit the parks up there. It seems that the number of mooring buoys available is decreasing and is less than the number you advertise on your web site. I have noticed this on the south side of Spencer Spit and in Echo Bay on Sucia Island. In the case of Echo Bay, anchoring has been limited to protect the bottom but the number of mooring buoys has not increased as advertised.

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2009 9:57 AM

Subject: RE: Reminder - South Sound State Park Planning Workshop

Dear Peter,

Thanks for the reminder and sorry for not getting back to you any sooner.

For us, the state park service is mostly helping us in enjoying our boating passion on our 42' sailboat. We are moored in Elliott Bay Marina, Seattle.

We are in love with the Blake Island state park and very much appreciate how much this facility has been improved recently (incl. the provision of shore power).

For this and other facilities, it would be great if you created an online reservation system during peak periods. I would suggest that you charge a small non-refundable booking fee (like \$20) and that arriving more than a few hours late forfeits the spot. Since you do have volunteers on site during peak periods, they could set up little "reserved" markers. The booking fee would fund the online reservation service and help eliminate some of the craziness around trying to get a spot at places like Blake (again, only during peak periods).

The same online service could provide a clear online map showing all the great state-park facilities in an area using one of the modern mapping systems (my preference would be Bing maps – maps.bing.com – as you probably did guess J).

I would have loved to attend your workshop, but cannot make it to Olympia tonight. It would be great if you could keep me posted though.

Cheers,

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 11:11 AM
Subject: Suggestion

As regular walkers at the Kopachuck State Park, we notice that a safe access from the beach to the trails is very much needed at the south end of the park. At one time there were steps at that point, but not much remains of them. As it is, people climb the bank now and it is not very safe at all.

Also, on some of the trails with steps the stepping distance is too great (more for giants). Perhaps something could be done to reduce the stepping distance.

The park itself is very well kept with a number of excellent additions to the trail system.

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 11:16 AM
Subject: improvements

I just want to add a word of encouragement to keep up the good work. Since we have visited a lot of parks and campgrounds what I noticed is The bathrooms and showers. I sure do appreciate the colors you pick which are usually yellow or shades of white tile in the showers. This is such a small thing but it makes it so nice to be able to see and it has a clean feeling. I was once in a shower in another country that was dark and brown colors and it did not feel clean. Small thing but thanks for the light bright showers !!!!

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 11:14 AM
Subject: RE: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

Thank you for inviting me. Please keep me updated as to your progress and I hope to attend the meeting on the 22nd. However, I am a little confused, I thought that Joemma Beach was going to close to cut expenses.

Thanks and regards,

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 11:36 AM
Subject: Park Improvement Suggestions

Hi- For park improvement suggestions, we offer the following ideas:

- Make paths easily - accessible/easy to walk for all ages (child-senior)
- Make restrooms and garbage easy to find and clean
- Offer seating areas which are easy to maintain and clean
- Incorporate help through local schools to raise money for parks and upgrade amenities, teach about parks and nature, etc...

Thanks for asking!
Gig Harbor, WA

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 11:45 AM
Subject: South Sound Parks Planning Project

Thank you for your email.

I would like to see more labeled trails in our state parks -- i.e., trails with some signs calling attention to plant species, trees, views. It would be nice if we could walk with our dog (on the leash) in these parks.

Thank you for asking about this.

Sincerely,

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 11:59 AM
Subject: Planning Idea - Showers

Hi,

As you plan for park improvements, here is a suggestion. As the father and grandfather of girls, it has always been frustrating to me that to help one of them with a shower requires taking them into the men's restroom. It would really be nice to have showers with a separate entrance so they could be used by families. I have noticed that some parks already have this, such as Grayland. It would be very nice to see this in other parks.

Thanks,

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 12:05 PM
Subject: RE: South Sound State Parks Planning Project

How are these improvements budgeted at this time? Last spring we were notified of partial closures of State Parks. When we rallied in support of Parks, the legislature took money from the trail funding grant programs to help maintain and keep State Parks open.

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 12:08 PM
Subject: Kopachuck State park planning

With the new Opt-Out vehicle registration plan in place, it appears that there is at least a potential for adequate park funding to remain part of the State Park system. For planning purposes for the future the following principle should be considered mandatory:

* Security of our children is paramount. We have seen what happened to little Zena Linnik in Tacoma in 2008. Kopachuck State Park is immediately across the street from Kopachuck Middle School and Voyager Elementary School. These two schools have over 1200 children attending. It is crucial for their safety that the law enforcement patrol currently in place (namely trained and armed Park Rangers)

be maintained. Consideration of transferring the park to a different agency which does not have the law enforcement capability or shutting the park and relying on the undermanned Pierce County Sheriff to maintain order is a recipe for disaster.

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 12:47 PM
Subject: Fw: South Sound State Parks Planning Project

Being new to Washington after many year exodus, Im not very familiar with these state parks yet, however I still would like to comment:

- I favor the existence and management of these parks
- Parks must primarily emphasize protection for ecosystems, wildlife and natural conditions/beauty. Man made developments and improvements should be allowed but are secondary to the primary needs listed
- Favor trails especially foot trails that fit in with the primary needs I listed
- Favor interpretation of the park values, nature and history

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 12:55 PM
Subject: Re: South Sound Marine State Park Planning

Please keep me on the email list. I will attend at least one of the meetings and at some point will provide written comments.

Thank You.

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 3:36 PM
Subject: input

Just recieved your e-mail on any input on our parks. I just have to say, we have really enjoyed visiting Panrose and Kopachuck parks. We have camped @ Penrose, and hiked Kopachuck. We live in Gig Harbor, and have young children, so the quick camping commute is wonderful! I am so glad to see Kopachuck not on the "chopping blocks" yet. We really enjoy visiting! Keep us informed

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 6:07 PM

i'm all for it I have no transportation to help!!!!

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 6:13 PM

1. Charging people who live in this state to look at waterfront and walk in mudflats is veryobscene. Have you no decency? But you may divert fees collected in this "simply"maintained area to care for areas that hve cactus , sand etd. Be careful, the League of Women Voters may decide you're a good subject, certainly, any curtailment and abuse of these few areas, once so amazingly free, fires at least a few of

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 08, 2009 6:24 PM
Subject: Planning

Hello,

Here are some ideas. Interpretive Center in this area would be GREAT. Nature/lecture programs, lectures: on animals in the forest, trees, flowers, birds, stay on trails, don't feed the animals, salmon, etc. Add Friends of the Forest Groups in the area. Yurts and showers would be a plus. Camp Host be informed in the area. Hiking trails information at camp sites.

Thanks

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 12:53 AM
Subject: Parks planning process

Folks

Thank you for including me on your list so I can get information about the parks planning process. I love the Washington State Parks, especially the ones which provide access to salt water.

I will follow the planning process and provide comment as time goes by.

My first comment is that we should focus on protecting the existing park facilities for public use, rather than build new ones. In these days of economic uncertainty, it would be irresponsible to build facilities we can't afford to maintain.

My second comment is that we should preserve public access to the beaches. In many states, the beaches are protected for public access. I believe it was poor judgment for the state to have allowed the state's beaches to go into private ownership. We should do what we can to reverse that poor policy and restore public access to our beaches where we can.

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 2:37 AM
Subject: Parks

I think it would be a great idea to post a discussion board so that anyone could look it up and post their opinion. More the marrier. I like this idea because most of us that have time restraints who really care are prevented from actually attending meetings. I for one work swing shift.

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 8:41 AM
Subject: Parks Planning

Good Morning Mr. Herzog:

I am interested in participating in this planning process. It appears that I will be asked to comment on the process/ideas as they become available. Please advise when input is needed.

Regards;

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 10:45 AM
Subject: Park-Community Improvements

I think that parks can improve if you involve the kids whether they are earning a small stipend-incentive or community service involvement, thanks,

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 4:11 PM
Subject: park ideas..

This is a great park and facility...hope to see that you keep it...love it just the way it is...

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 10:47 PM
Subject: comments

I frequent Harstine Is. State Park and the DNR beach to the S, where I gather shellfish frequently--in fact it is a significant part of my diet. I would one day like to walk out to McMicken Is. at low tide, though I've not yet done so. My recreation tends to be people-powered (there is a kayak in my future!) and I hope that any future development is friendly to this use. I would NOT like to see more facilities for RVs, powerboats, motorbikes, etc. I also frequent Jarrell's Cove State Park for walks on the trails, and have camped there as well, using it as a base for bicycle explorations. I like the fact that the forest in these areas has been largely left alone for the past 50+ years, providing opportunities for wildlife watching and enjoyment of native plants and gathering mushrooms and berries. I also enjoy the oysters that the State stocks their beach w/ near McMicken!

Basically, I would like to see minimal "improvements" to these parks; leave them as wild and "primitive" as possible!

I live in Marysville, WA 98270, but my boyfriend lives near Harstine Is. (98584) so I am frequently in the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 10:58 PM
Subject: Concerns about the parks

Thanks for the email and the opportunity to respond.

Not to long ago I was sitting in Kopachuck Middle School hearing from the state parks department that they wanted to transfer ownership of Kopahuck State Park to another parks department. The State Parks didn't have the money to keep it open and it just wasn't up to par for what a state park should be. The parks employees at that meeting couldn't provide a clear vision of just what a state park should be,

what they'd like our parks to look like in the future or how we could provide stable, secure, funding for state parks in the future.

We now have a stop-gap funding measure, that might not work, in place. We still lack a long term funding solution and all of a sudden a park that wasn't fit to be a state park is one of the crown jewels and in need of an upgrade and we have the cash to do this? Excuse me? Huh?

I'm a huge fan of Kopachuck and Jerrell Cove and a frequent user of our parks. I was camped out at Riverside (dirt bagged it at Riverside. Three nights in the campground is beyond budget) and Lewis and Clark trail a couple of weeks back and had a wonderful time.

I think you're putting the cart before the horse. Rather than thinking about fixing up parks you should be focusing on developing a stable, long-term funding solution, a clear vision of what a state park should be, what ones experience in a state park should be like and what you'd (we'd) like to see our state parks look like in the future.

Lets get a stable funding source outside of the general fund set up for the parks, get everyone on the same page as to what we want our parks and state parks department to be like and then talk about upgrades. As it stands now I'd urge my state legislators to with hold funding from and upgrades to parks. We need to fix the funding problem before we attempt anything else.

Here's my fix it list

1. Fix our funding source.
2. Lower prices so that everyone can afford to go camping.

From:

Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2009 12:04 PM

Subject: Kopachuck Park

Planning@Parks:

My only input is that we enjoy living near Kopachuck Park and highly support it, including the Park Rangers and other employees

who keep the park running. It would seem that one small step toward a solution to the state support of the parks would be to increase the user fees, which although I am sure would not be a total solution, would nevertheless help. Keeping the parks open and operating is an essential ingredient to living in Gig Harbor. We hope we can find a way.

Thanks for the info on the community meetings.

From:
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2009 6:34 PM
Subject: Re: Concerns about the parks

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly.

Thanks for the reminder that HOW you get your funding is mostly* up to people like XXX and I. With that in mind I'd like to propose the Pennies For Parks Campaign! Washington state has a population of roughly 6,600,000 people. If we place a 1 penny surcharge on every non-food retail purchase and 6,000,000 of us purchase 1 item every third day that would generate \$726,000,000 which could go straight into the PRSA and go long way in funding our parks. Pennies for parks is a catchy name and even if people made 3 purchases every single day that's still only \$10.95 (\$6,570,000,000 if 6M of us did this) for the year. With our state parks getting 46 million or so visits a year and being our states crown jewels there shouldn't be a problem getting this passed. Any one have any other ideas?

And thanks for the reminder that the parks department needs to plan for all contingencies.

As to the plan to transfer ownership of some of the parks, that can only be done with the goodwill** and the blessing of the local communities around the parks and around the state. It's a good thing you're thinking about the future of Kopachuck, because it will never be transferred. Penmet and Pierce County Parks don't have the budget to take in Kopachuck, don't seem to want it and any proposed tax increase to take it on would be shot down as a way to keep Kopachuck a state park. If my memory suites me there were at most 5 parks that could be realistically be transferred.

Closing parks faces similar hurdles. People will enter anyway. Trash will get dumped. Homeless move in. Teenagers party. Vandalism happens. People fall down unmaintained stairs and sue.

So really, the only option we have is to keep our state parks, state parks and to keep them open. This is a good thing.

Yes, we have the Centennial 2013 plan. But, what I saw last year and what I've experienced while visiting parks over the last couple of years is a lack of leadership and a lack of shared goals and vision.

I've been camping in Washington's State Parks for my entire life (I'm 40) and despite the 2013 plan the quality of my experiences in our parks has been going down steeply for the last couple of years. Our parks facilities have been going down hill*** (lack of proper funding) for years. Lack of funding isn't a new issue and it is only partly addressed in 2013. Talking to other campers I've found irritation at the increase in camping fees and the \$6 online surcharge. We've priced low income folks right out of the parks. Our parks should be

for everyone, not just the wealthy, shouldn't they? How did you address this last year? In 2013? I've shared campsites at with cyclists at who, despite being told that parks keep one site open for them, arrived to full campgrounds and indifferent staff. Can hikers and cyclists please have their site back?

Maybe now is a good time to start over from scratch? The 2013 plan would be a good launching point, but it in noway presents an adequate, encompassing, vision of what our parks should be like.

*The idea that State Parks directors and such can't speak up and push back a little on funding issues is nonsense.

**From talking to people in the parks, the meeting at Kopachuck and what I've read in the paper, public good will towards the state parks department seems mighty low. Continuing down our current path wont fix that.

***The bathrooms at Lewis and Clark Trail State Park are disgusting.

On Thu, Sep 10, 2009 at 2:08 PM, Herzog, Peter (PARKS)

<Peter.Herzog@parks.wa.gov> wrote:

> Dear Mr.,

>

> Thank you for your question.

>

> Hopefully I can clarify the purpose of our planning work at Kopachuck
> and the other South Sound parks. Our intent is that the cart and horse
> move forward together.

>

> First, the funding situation (the horse): Last winter the budget
> process required us to look at transferring several state parks to local
> government as last resort to keep them open. With the advent of the
> opt-out program, we hope that voluntary donations on vehicle license
> renewals will allow us to keep all parks open. Of course it's up to
> vehicle owners whether this approach succeeds. During the next
> Legislative session, State Parks will report back to the Legislature on
> whether the projected donation rates materialized. It will then be up
> to the Legislature to determine how it wishes to move forward from
> there.

>

> Here's why we're planning for these parks now (the cart): At the
> Kopachuck Middle School meeting you recall we described an evaluation
> process done in 2004 to determine which parks were consistent/not
> consistent with the agency's mission/vision. The process was
> inconclusive about Kopachuck, Joemma Beach, and a number of other parks.
> Considered borderline between state and local park experiences, these
> parks were found "potentially consistent" with the State Parks
> Mission/Vision. The agency had then intended to complete further
> analysis and planning to make a final determination of consistency. By
> winter 2008-09, several potentially consistent parks had received

> additional planning and had their consistency thoroughly vetted and
> determined. Several more, including Kopachuck and Joemma Beach had not.

>

> As the budget crisis intensified, State Parks leadership had to make
> some tough choices. Wishing to keep all parks open amid huge budget
> reductions, they proposed transfer of parks to local government - in
> addition to huge reductions in agency administration, maintenance, and
> programs. To achieve targeted reductions, they turned to the list of
> "not consistent" and "potentially consistent" parks to transfer. As you
> heard in the Kopachuck Middle School meeting a significant number of
> attendees strongly objected. Many disagreed with the assessment that
> Kopachuck and Joemma are not fully consistent with the State Parks
> vision. Others argued that these parks have enormous untapped potential
> and could easily become consistent given the chance. Still others argued
> that the vision for the state park system must be wrong if these parks
> don't fit.

>

> Given the momentary budget reprieve and hearing the public's concerns,
> State Parks has committed to taking a closer look at several
> "potentially consistent" parks and completing the planning originally
> intended. This work will involve the public in determining what, if
> anything, is necessary for these parks to achieve their full potential
> and make them solidly state park experiences. With a shared
> public-agency vision for each of these parks, State Parks hopes to
> develop real partnerships with local communities to operate and improve
> them. We recognize completing physical improvements and developing park
> programs will depend on future state and philanthropic support and will
> likely take several years to implement. Completing planning now, gets
> us all on the same track.

>

> We hope this explanation is helpful and that you will continue to
> participate in the public planning process,

>

> Peter Herzog, Parks Planner

> (360) 902-8652

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From:

> Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 10:58 PM

> Subject: Concerns about the parks

>

> Thanks for the email and the opportunity to respond.

>

> Not to long ago I was sitting in Kopachuck Middle School hearing from
> the state parks department that they wanted to transfer ownership of
> Kopahuck State Park to another parks department. The State Parks
> didn't have the money to keep it open and it just wasn't up to par for
> what a state park should be. The parks employees at that meeting
> couldn't provide a clear vision of just what a state park should be,
> what they'd like our parks to look like in the future or how we could
> provide stable, secure, funding for state parks in the future.

- >
- > We now have a stop-gap funding measure, that might not work, in place.
- > We still lack a long term funding solution and all of a sudden a park
- > that wasn't fit to be a state park is one of the crown jewels and in
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- > I'm a huge fan of Kopachuck and Jerrell Cove and a frequent user of
- > our parks. I was camped out at Riverside (dirt bagged it at
- > Riverside. Three nights in the campground is beyond budget) and Lewis
- > and Clark trail a couple of weeks back and had a wonderful time.
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- > I think you're putting the cart before the horse. Rather than
- > thinking about fixing up parks you should be focusing on developing a
- > stable, long-term funding solution, a clear vision of what a state
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- > for the parks, get everyone on the same page as to what we want our
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- > upgrades. As it stands now I'd urge my state legislators to with hold
- > funding from and upgrades to parks. We need to fix the funding
- > problem before we attempt anything else.
- >
- > Here's my fix it list
- > 1. Fix our funding source.
- > 2. Lower prices so that everyone can afford to go camping.
- >

From:

Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2009 9:56 AM

Subject: Accommodating Persons w/Disabilities along Walking Trails in Public Parks

Thanks for soliciting public comment re local State Park improvements.

Just a quick note: many of us 'Persons with Disabilities' would be able to enjoy our regional Parks more if there were places to SIT along the walking trails.

All it would take is to have large 'sitting rocks' or 'sitting logs' placed along walking paths that were raised up to a height of about 15-18" so that we could sit down and then get back up! Placing them about every 150' or so would GREATLY enable us to make use of the parks, too. People with breathing or walking difficulties would be so appreciative! Most Persons with Disabilities don't even venture along trails because they know they can't 'make it' very far without being able to rest along the way. For that matter, many older adults or children might be helped, too.

This past summer I hiked up to Myrtle Falls, above the old Lodge at Paradise-Mt. Rainier, using my walker along the paved path; however, at times it was difficult because there were not enough 'resting places'. Other hikers who encountered me on the trail were amazed (and inspired!) when they saw me up so high, plodding along. A couple took pictures of me to take back to their disabled relatives so as to get them 'up and out', too.

Thanks for your consideration in this matter! (I've been stroke/walking-disabled since 2002.)

Volunteer Chair ~ AID for INDIVIDUALS with DISABILITIES (AID) - a Disabled Parking Enforcement effort
Member of City of Tacoma's Commission on Disabilities

From:
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 6:39 AM
Subject: Kopachuck State Park project

Sir/Madam:

As the population of this region continues to grow so does the number of boat owners. It seems as if more and more people are getting out and enjoying the waters of the Puget Sound. Access to the water is, however, limited and often quite congested in the lower Peninsula/Gig Harbor area.

The boat launch located at the base of the Fox Island Bridge, for example, becomes so crowded during the summer months that it presents a real traffic and safety concern. Trucks with trailers are literally parked for a 1/2 mile along Fox Island Blvd.

Why not build a boat ramp at Kopachuck? There is an ample amount of parking. Likewise, parking fees and boat launch fees could help pay for the project and any future maintenance and improvements.

From:
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2009 11:53 AM
Subject: My input on Kopachuck State Park

Hello,

I will not be able to attend the planning session this evening, but I thought I would take a moment to voice my opinion, for what it's worth. I do not believe Kopachuck state park should be used for commercial purposes. I was not a big fan of having the kayak rentals this year. While I love to kayak, I think there are plenty of other places to do it, and it felt very commercial for a state park.

I think the best use for the park is as a place for people to enjoy the pacific northwest in its rawest form. It is a place for people to escape from the hustle and bustle of city life, not a place to be amongst it. I am all for trails, camping, picnicing, etc.

I have been using the park for over 25 years and would happily contribute towards its fiscal success, if required. I know many others who feel this same way.

Sincerely,

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2009 5:12 PM
Subject: Re: South Sound State Parks Planning Project

thank u 4 the opportunity, as a volunteer host at all the park systems we are the least expensive manpower u have. contact workamper news .com 4 expert feedback.

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 2:08 PM
Subject: South Puget Sound (CAMP) planning

I'm writing in response to a broadcast message from WWTA for comments on southern puget sound state parks planning and have read the parks web document and viewed the maps.

I'm an Oregonian but often kayak-camp in Washington waters, especially in the San Juan islands, and for the last couple years, the south puget sound --the focus of the current planning program.

I'm just back today, from another week paddling these waters.

I've stayed overnight at Kopachuck, Joemma, Hope Island and visited McMicken many times, drove into Jarrell to reconnoiter it as a start/stop place for multi-day kayak-camping (esp. overnight car parking and beach access). I've also wondered about the elusive Harstine Island State park--especially while standing on McMicken and wishing for a place to start/end kayak trips from Harstine island. I've also stopped at Penrose to look at the WWTA camp there and enjoyed warm water washrooms on a cold rainy day. So, all in all, I'm familiar with these camp grounds enough to make some remarks I think.

Generally, I and friends I've been traveling with, have greatly enjoyed some very peaceful, quiet nights and enjoyable days paddling these relatively empty waters of south sound (compared to the San Juans). We plan to come back more often as the drive is also shorter for us in Portland. Another very nice feature has been that WWTA camp sites are often located away from the cars and RV's--in the day use area at Kopachuck, Penrose, and Joemma for example. What a nice way to get a more wild feeling in such a large developed park.

Rental cabins, showers, fire pits, pavement, even kayak racks, are unnecessary luxuries for my group of paddler-campers. A picnic table with trees to pull over a tarp, space for 2-4 small tents, a toilet, and some quiet shoreline and/or trails are enough to keep us happy during a week of camping. Luxuries that are nice to have are covered eating areas (during rain storms), a water supply. But we carry tarps and water, so luxuries. So, having the WWTA sites in the day use areas at Joemma, Kopachuck, and Penrose adds to their attractiveness to me. Public access is of course critical. Access to undeveloped islands for camping and lunches is highly attractive. Hope Island is a treasure. And Squaxin would be if it were more clearly advertised/published where state park beaches are.

Unfortunately, kayak campers probably provide minimal revenue for park upkeep. However, I would think also, a minimum of resource use, as kayakers typical expect to pack in/out everything but feces and TP. Long term parking, say during a week-long camping trip, is one thing that I look at the state park system for. However \$10/night is only feasible if I am camping for a short time. Even though we carpool 3 boat/paddlers

per car. A typical 8 person troupe would be 3 cars at 7-8 nights == \$210-\$240. A painful expenditure just to park an empty car with no guaranteed policing or security.

That's more than two nights stay per person at a WWTA site. Ouch. I'd rather camp another two nights on Hope Island! Well. It's not an easy problem to solve.

We try to carpool as much as we can, but roof racks can only take so much. I suppose if I were wealthier, I would be the one backing a trailered boat down the ramp, or tying up at the mooring buoy for the night. At this point, I'm enjoying kayak-camping for it's affordability, but am willing to support my share of maintenance that my use of resources necessitates.

All in all, myself and a number of friends down here are very very pleased with the WWTA sites at the state parks, and were all shocked to hear the likes of Kopachuck would ever be closed. It is truly one of the most beautiful day areas I've seen. And Hope Island is a treasure in a very interesting fun location on the south sound.

Enhancement of McMicken and boater access via Harstine Island park lands would be lauded as well.

Driving time from Portland is much shorter than getting out to

Key Peninsula so attracts us more to Harstine and areas south of it (e.g Boston Harbor, Tolmie) as starting places for a kayak adventure.

If you have specific questions (ie. a questionnaire) regarding use of the south pugest sound state parks, I would be willing to fill it out.

Best regards, and thanks for trying to maintain some natural areas and public access to your beautiful salt water sound.

Sincerely,
Portland OR

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2009 12:47 PM

Subject: Re: Reminder - South Sound State Park Planning Workshop

Unfortunately, we are unable to attend. We hope that none of our State Parks will be closed; to do so would be to lose them forever.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2009 11:24 AM

Subject: Re: Reminder - South Sound State Park Planning Workshop

Dear Sir or Madam,

Just a piece of information for those who might be unaware of it; the Americorps programs have a great resource on board for getting help to clear trails and the park grounds if they have met with serious damage during a winter season.

Consider contacting Americorps at www.americorps.org to find out what the State centered Americorps program has to offer the parks in addressing the situations with the parks -- manpower to maintain, etc.

Sincerely,

Vaughn, WA

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2009 4:10 PM
Subject: Haley Property- Undeveloped

I would like to see some public access here.

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2009 9:04 PM
Subject: Re: Is it too late to get involved?

Excellent news Peter.

The gate was closed last time I went there, and because of all the talk of proposed closures I guess I just assumed it was.

Thanks for letting me know.

Please let me know if I can help out in some way? I belong to several boat clubs and to date I don't believe they have weighed in on this issue.

Best,

----- Original Message -----

From: Herzog, Peter (PARKS) <mailto:Peter.Herzog@PARKS.WA.GOV>
To:
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2009 2:37 PM
Subject: RE: Is it too late to get involved?

Hi, it's not too late. Thanks for your comments, we'll incorporate them into the planning process. Just a quick note: Joemma Beach was not closed, nor was it ever slated to be. During budget development for the 2009-11 biennium, Joemma was proposed for transfer to local government to keep it open. In the end, the Legislature established the vehicle license tab donations "opt out" system. We hope this will allow us to keep all parks open. It remains to be seen, however, whether the expected donations materialize. We're all keeping our fingers crossed and hope we don't have to close any parks.

From:
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2009 8:59 PM
Subject: Is it too late to get involved?

Mr. Herzog,

I just became aware of this project this weekend while attending a antique boating rendezvous on Mason Lake (Mason County). I am a longtime resident of Key Peninsula and an avid boater/camper. I've probably used every possible boat launch in NW Pierce County and have often wondered why our boat ramps are so few, and in such poor condition as compared to those on the East side of the Cascades. It's like we live in two different states?

I was very sad when Joemma was shut down (for budgetary reasons). This was my favorite launch because it is one of the few places where my elderly parents can board my boat from a stable platform

(the floating docks), and I appreciate the mooring buoys for camping or dock overflow. While the boat ramp is difficult to use without being willing to submerge the wheels on your tow vehicle (it is too shallow of a grade), it is still a wonderful destination for a picnic, camping, or beach hiking.

It was the only waterfront park on the West side of Key Peninsula (now there is none) and I miss it a lot.

On the East side of the peninsula there are only two boat ramps that I am aware of. Penrose does not have one. There is one across from the West side of McNeil Island (in total disrepair) which is unusable, and one in the little village of Home. While that one has a concrete ramp that is steep enough for a descent launch and retrieval (one vehicle at a time), it is extremely limited in its trailer parking and there is no dock or float. The same is true for the concrete ramp at Purdy (also not part of your consideration). That ramp is dangerous to maneuver a tow rig into because of the high volume of traffic (the launch is on Highway 302). The bottom line is there is no decent launch ramp on the entire peninsula.

There is no boat ramp at Jarrel Cove either. There is no boat ramp at Kopachuck. In fact there are no boat ramps at any of the State Parks we are talking about here. Why is that? If I want to launch my boat at a park ramp I have to go to Twanoh State Park on Hood Canal. Twanoh is a wonderful facility and should be a model for what could be done at Joemma or Penrose.

It is for this reason that I think there should be a push to reopen Joemma Beach State Park with an emphasis on boating, camping and fishing. I also think a boat ramp and floating dock should be installed at Penrose State Park. A development like this would also be very good for the economy on the peninsula (which really has no economic engine beyond tourism).

I would be willing to do some volunteer work to help out and get behind a good plan.

Gig Harbor, WA 98329