OLALLIE STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

November, 2011



Washington State Parks Mission

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission acquires, operates, enhances, and protects a diverse system of recreational, cultural, and natural sites. The Commission fosters outdoor recreation and education statewide to provide enjoyment and enrichment for all and a valued legacy to future generations.



WASHINGTON STATE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CONTACTS

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission gratefully acknowledges the many stakeholders and the staff of Olallie and Lake Sammamish State Parks who participated in public meetings, reviewed voluminous materials, and made this a better plan because of it.

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OLALLIE STATE PARK LAND CLASSES, RESOURCE ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

The signatures below certify the adoption of this document by Washington State Parks for the continued management of Olallie State Park.

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PREFACE

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) manages a diverse array of 120 parks located throughout the state.

The Commission adopted the Centennial 2013 Plan in October, 2003, thereby creating a focus for the agency, state leadership and the public, to work toward a parks system all can celebrate as it turns 100 years old. The Centennial 2013 Plan blends public and private funding, engages more partnerships and creates greater public stake in the system.

As part of the Centennial 2013 Plan, the Commission directed staff to complete land use plans for all 120 parks. Land-use plans follow a process that has been used by the Commission since 1996, called CAMP. CAMP is an acronym for Classification and Management Plan.

One of the most important elements of land use planning is the classification of lands. In 1995, the Commission adopted a land classification system. Application of the system creates zones, or land classifications, within a park (see Section 5, Land Classifications). Six distinct classifications determine what recreational uses and facilities are appropriate in different areas of a park. In general, sensitive areas are classified restrictively and allow only low-intensity uses and development of minor facilities. Less sensitive areas are classified to allow higher-intensity uses and more extensive facilities.

A CAMP brings together park visitors, nearby communities, stakeholders and agency staff in a public process that forges a common vision of what the state park should become. Through a public process staff and public participants identify park management issues, and look at alternative approaches for addressing them. The outcome is a plan that will help focus our efforts to balance resource protection with recreation in the park. For State Parks' staff, this document represents policy approval and a means to create a state park that meets the Commission's Vision for State Parks Centennial:

In 2013, Washington's state parks will be premier destinations of uncommon quality, including state and regionally significant natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources that are outstanding for the experience, health, enjoyment and learning of all people.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to: 1) orient readers to the park and the agency's park management planning system, 2) identify park natural, cultural, and recreation/facility management issues, and 3) provide initial direction to park staff (suggested management approaches) to address these issues. The ultimate purpose of this document is to describe how the agency intends to balance recreational use with measures to protect natural and cultural resources.

- Section 1: Provides a brief overview of the park including its geographic setting, historical background, major attributes, and public use.
- Section 2: Describes the CAMP planning process specific to Olallie State Park.
- Section 3: Describes the overall management objectives for the park.
- Section 4: Outlines the management issues related to the natural and cultural resources and the public recreation interests, issues and concerns.
- Section 5: Describes the various management approaches to deal with those issues and concerns.
- Section 6: Depicts the approved park land classifications and long-term boundary recommendations.
- Section 7: Lists other reference documents

SECTION 1: PARK DESCRIPTION

OLALLIE STATE PARK

Location: Olallie State Park is adjacent to Interstate Highway 90 situated along the

South Fork of the Snoqualmie River near I-90 Exits #34 and #38.

Acreage: 2,541.33 acres, including the Twin Falls Trail area and Mt. Washington.

Acquisition History:

In 1950, after deciding that they were not interested in using the area for hydroelectric power generation, Puget Sound Power and Light Company sold the 160 acres along the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River that included Twin Falls to Washington State Parks. At that time, an informal trail leads from a roadside rest area on the Snoqualmie Pass Highway to Twin Falls. The area was officially named "Twin Falls State Park" in 1974. In 1977, 220 acres to the east was added and the park was renamed "Olallie State Park." The park name, derived from the Chinook Jargon word for berry, was chosen because of the abundance of huckleberries in the area. At this time, Interstate 90 was built and the rest area and trail to Twin Falls were eliminated. In the early 1980's, Washington State Parks was approached by a private company interested in constructing two run of the river hydroelectric plants in the park, one at Weeks Falls and the other at Twin Falls. After lengthy negotiations, public meetings, and legal battles, plans were modified to reduce the impact on local fish and retain the scenic aspects of the falls. Construction of the two power plants was completed in 1990. As mitigation for the power plants, the hydroelectric company was required to build a new trail from the west end of the park to Twin Falls. State Parks linked the two areas as Olallie State Park. Total acreage at that time was 353 acres. In 2010, Olallie State Park grew to 2.541.33 acres when property on the northern slope of Mount Washington was transferred from Iron Horse State Park to Olallie to facilitate more efficient park management.

Background:

Olallie State Park area is located in the heart of the Mountains to Sound Greenway. The Greenway stretches over 100 miles along Interstate 90 from the shores of Puget Sound in Seattle, over Snoqualmie Pass and into Central Washington. The Greenway encompasses protected and working forests, farms, historic sites, lakes, campgrounds, rivers, trails, wildlife habitat and vibrant communities. Because of this magnificent scenic beauty and easy access to nature, the stretch of Interstate-90 within the Greenway is a designated National Scenic Byway. Regional planning efforts by the Mountain to Sound Greenway's coalition have highlighted the preservation of the visual landscape along Interstate-90 corridor and encouraged collaborative recreation planning and management among

resource agencies. Olallie State Park is well situated be a significant player in this collaborative resource and recreation management. The land base of this park is located in the foothills of the Cascades and adjoins state and federal lands which offer many backcountry recreation opportunities. The need to proceed with this CAMP was amplified by our apparent niche as the "frontcountry" recreation connection to those backcountry opportunities.

Park Features:

A one-mile hike off exit 34 leads visitors to two spectacular waterfalls including the 100-foot cascading Twin falls. Old-growth trees 12 to 14 feet in diameter add an historical and extraordinary natural dimension to the park.

Cedar Falls Trailhead (Iron Horse State Park)

The western terminus of Iron Horse State Park, the Cedar Falls Trailhead provides access to the 108 mile long John Wayne Pioneer Trail and is the most popular route to Olallie State Park's 1.5 mile long Cedar Butte Trail. This family friendly trail provides a gentle hike to the 1,870 foot summit of Cedar Butte. Along the way, hikers get a view of the Boxley Blowout, a crater left in the hillside where a giant landslide and flood let loose and destroyed the downstream town of Edgewick in 1918.

Twin Falls Trailhead

This is the main trailhead for the Twin Falls Trail, a popular trail that follows the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River through the rainforest along the western slopes of the Cascade Mountains. The trail provides spectacular views of Twin Falls. A little over a mile from the trailhead, a set of stairs descends to a viewpoint of the Lower Falls as they plunge over a 135 foot cliff. Hike another quarter mile to a bridge that spans the narrow Twin Falls canyon for a view of the Upper Falls. The trail continues another mile where it intersects with the John Wayne Pioneer Trail. The Twin Falls Trailhead is also a popular river access point for fishermen and put-in for kayakers.

South Fork Fishing Access

This small trailhead provides fishermen access to the north riverbank of the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River. Rainbow trout, cutthroat trout and whitefish are the most abundant species of fish found in the South Fork.

Homestead Valley Trailhead

The Homestead Valley Trailhead provides access to a variety of outdoor pursuits. Hikers can use the John Wayne Pioneer Trail to access the east end of the Twin Falls Trail. Rock climbers can access the Deception Crags and the Mount Washington climbing areas which offer over 100 routes

that range in difficulty from 5.6 to 5.13b. The trailhead is often used as the end point for mountain bikers riding the John Wayne Pioneer Trail from the Hyak Trailhead through the 2.3 mile long Snoqualmie Pass Tunnel and then another 12 miles downhill to Olallie.

South Fork Picnic Area

The South Fork Picnic Area has two separate picnic areas, one next to the Hall Creek Play Field and the other along the riverside of the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River. Both picnic areas have picnic tables and barbecues grills and are first come, first served. The Snoqualmie Wagon Road Interpretive Trail starts near the riverside picnic area and passes through a small grove of old growth trees as it makes its way to Weeks Falls. Interpretive signs educate visitors about the Snoqualmie Wagon Road, the first road that ran from Ellensburg to Seattle in the late 1800's. The South Fork Picnic Area is also provides river access for fishermen.

Far Side Trailhead

The Far Side Trailhead provides hikers and rock climbers access to trails and crags in the Middle Fork Natural Resource Conservation Area. Visitors can hike Dirty Harry's Peak Trail 4.25 miles to the 4,680 foot summit where they will take in views of the Upper Snoqualmie Valley to the west and the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area to the east. Rock climbers have access to six separate climbing areas that range in difficulty from 5.5 to 5.12c.

Name Origin:

"Olallie" is the Chinook Jargon word for "berry." The park is rich in huckleberries.

Interpretive Opportunities:

An interpretive trail at the South Fork Picnic Area passes through a small grove of old growth trees and educates visitors about the Snoqualmie Wagon Road, the first road that ran from Ellensburg to Seattle in the late 1800's.

Picnic and Day-use Facilities:

The park offers a total of 11 picnic tables in two picnic areas at the South Fork Picnic Area. All are available first come, first served.

Recreational Activities

Trails:

6 mi. Hiking Trails

An intermediate and advanced rock-climbing area is adjacent to the park, above the Iron Horse Trail. Olallie provides access to the Iron Horse

Trail, an old Milwaukee Railroad path that starts in North Bend and extends to the Idaho border. The Iron Horse Trail permits mountain biking and horseback riding.

Water Activities:

Fishing (freshwater)

Kayaking (downstream of Twin Falls only)

Other:

- Bird Watching
- Interpretive Activities
- Mountain Biking
- Rock Climbing
- Wildlife Viewing

Wildlife Mammals:

Bears

Chipmunks

Coyotes

Deer

Elk

Rabbits

Raccoons

Squirrels

Weasels

Birds:

Ravens

Ducks

Eagles

Grouse

Hawks

Hummingbirds

Jays

Osprey

Owls

Pheasants

Woodpeckers

Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinis)

Fish & Sea Life:

Trout

Whitefish





Environmental Features:

Physical Features

Flora thrives in this temperate rain forest habitat. Huckleberries and salmonberries flourish in the lush understory of the forest canopy. Solitary old-growth trees are reminders of what the forest was like before European settlers arrived. An 80-foot bridge spanning the magnificent Twin Falls Canyon provides a unique view of the falls. The falls are particularly spectacular in winter when the water volume dramatically increases.

Plant Life

- Cedar
- Douglas Fir
- Hemlock
- Nobel Fir
- Spruce
- Yew
- Alder
- Ash
- Birch
- Maple
- Daisy
- Foxglove
- Lupines
- Paintbrush
- Berries
- Ferns
- Moss or Lichens
- Thistle

Figure 1: Olallie State Park Vicinity Map



Figure 2: Facilityand Eixsting Trail Map



SECTION 2: PARK PLANNING PROCESS & INTRODUCTION

The CAMP project for Olallie State Park Area began in November of 2008. Staff reports, public comments, and other project information have been posted on the planning web page and are available at: http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/Olallie/

Public outreach was extensive. The planning team sent correspondence to park neighbors, visitors, and recreation interest groups, such as the Mountaineers, The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, Mountain to Sound Greenway Trust and other stakeholders. Articles and announcements were published in the Issaquah Reporter and Snoqualmie Valley Record and posted at the park and trailhead bulletin boards. Staff conducted three public workshops in North Bend and two stakeholder workshops in Issaquah to solicit public input.

The first workshop was held on November 25, 2008, to identify management issues to resolve and identify recreation opportunities during the planning process. The second workshop was held on April 14, 2009 to present alternatives to resolve issues identified at the previous workshop and receive public comment. Two additional workshops were held with conservation and recreation stakeholders to clarify the level of recreation development and recreation experience. These were held on April, 1, 2010 and May 4, 2010.

Focus group meetings were held with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington State Fire Training Academy, the Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group and the Mountain to Sound Greenway Trust, the Homestead Valley Homeowners Association and members of the Snoqualmie Tribe during the spring and summer, 2010. The third public workshop was held on September 2, 2010 for staff to present preliminary recommendations and receive public comment. Staff also mailed over four hundred e-mails and postcards to interested parties and adjacent landowners.

INTRODUCTION

Location & Setting: Olallie State Park Classification and Management Plan (CAMP) encompasses a forested land base located within the viewshed of the I-90 corridor, just east of the city of North Bend. Along the foothills of the Cascades it adjoins in several areas, the pristine South Fork of the Snoqualmie River. The park extends from the Cedar River Watershed (Seattle's water supply) to the north including the northern slope of Mount Washington. The



Photo: Snoqualmie River

most easterly boundary of the park connects with substantial forestlands managed by the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Also included in this park ownership is the Twin Falls Natural Area, east of the town of North Bend. This area, only minutes from the freeway, is heavily used for pedestrian hiking, and showcases stunning twin waterfalls and deep second growth forests.

The CAMP process is designed to develop the best stewardship and management practices and to determine the most appropriate type and level of recreational use for this landscape. As part of the CAMP planning, Washington State Parks requests ideas and concerns from the public as to the management of this park area and inquires as to whether any additional properties could contribute or enhance the long-term recreational use in the area. Properties that are determined to be an excellent "fit" for this park's purpose are included within the "Long-term Park Boundary", whereby these properties can then be considered for inclusion into the park (through donation or purchase), or staff may work to develop cooperative management prescriptions for the natural and cultural resources and recreational use.

Olallie's Close-In Advantage:

The close proximity to urban and suburban centers makes this natural environment highly attractive and easily accessible to large populations for recreation. Direct access off of the I-90 highway corridor invites hikers, mountain bikers, climbers, picnickers and nature enthusiasts. This State Park is also an integral visual component of the collaborative management and protected forested landscape within the "Mountains to Sound Greenway" (Thorp to Snoqualmie Pass to Seattle). These properties form a contiguous vegetated



corridor moving from the foothill forests of the "Issaquah Alps" (including; Cougar Mt., Tiger Mt., Squak Mt., Rattlesnake Ridge), to the alpine forests higher in the Cascade Crest. Inherently, Olallie's forests, ravines, cliffs and streams contribute to the diversity of protected wildlife habitat and impart to travelers and recreationists a dramatic Northwest setting. These outdoor values that are "close-in" and readily accessible have the potential of offering diverse outdoor recreation experiences for novice recreation families as well as opportunities for the more hearty outdoor adventurer.

The State Park goal is to provide safe and easily accessible outdoor recreation opportunities while providing formal day-use facilities and the presence of professional park staff. This State Park can offer a transition from the "front-country", more refined outdoor experience, to the more wilderness experience of the "backcountry", further into the mountains. By working with other recreation land managers; DNR and the Forest Service, there is great possibility to collaborate on common management goals. Adjacent to thousands of acres of backcountry, public lands managed by state and federal natural resource agencies provides opportunities for networking recreation facilities (e.g. trails linkages) and working towards collaborative resource conservation management. Olallie State Park also straddles Iron Horse State Park and its cross-state trail, the John Wayne Pioneer Trail (JWPT). The proximity and ease of access to the JWPT expands the attractiveness of many of the trails designed or anticipated for development within Olallie.

An Opportunity for a Diverse Recreational Setting -- Linking the "Frontcountry" to the "Backcountry":

The determination of a land management plan and the forward-looking inclusion of new properties can position State Parks to provide a variety of outdoor trail opportunities designed for families as well as more challenging hiking, biking and climbing areas. The properties within and adjacent to Olallie State Park are part of the foothills of the Cascade Mountains and have been deemed the "frontcountry" area. One of the prime attributes of our frontcountry recreation area is the feeling of a remote forested landscape, yet a key advantage is the close proximity of backcountry recreation areas (higher, more remote), managed by other state and federal agencies. State Park recreational trails can easily access the backcountry recreation. Our proposed recreation management and proposed properties to be included in the Long-term Park Boundary will make the connection from close-in frontcountry experiences and wilderness, backcountry opportunities. This is a unique opportunity to make that link.

State Park properties also link the undisturbed forested visual landscape of the upper Snoqualmie Valley and mountainsides down to the lower valley with growing residential expansion. Knitting together of the visual and recreational landscape has long been the mission of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, a regional coalition of public and private conservation interests. Many conservation interests support this coordinated direction of connecting and merging land management goals amongst land management agencies and conservation organizations.

SECTION 3: MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

During initial stages of planning, staff worked to craft a series of objectives to guide future management of the park. Management objectives are outlined below.

- Natural Resources: Protect, preserve, and interpret key natural resources of the park, including rare and high quality examples of vegetative communities, associations and species; important fish and wildlife corridors and habitat areas;
- Cultural Resources: Protect, preserve, and interpret where appropriate the key cultural
 resources of the park, including evidence of pioneer wagon road and an historic state
 highway route.
- **Recreation:** Provide for a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities emphasizing trails for hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers; orienteering; wildlife viewing; picnicking; fishing; kayaking; rock climbing; interpretive activities; and camping facilities where feasible and suitable for the natural setting.
- Interpretation and Environmental Education: Combine the resources and skills of
 State Parks with local and statewide organizations and individuals specializing in
 resource education and interpretation to provide materials and displays that introduce the
 visiting public and active recreationists to the inherent natural and historic values of these
 properties.
- **Volunteers:** Recruit and manage a volunteer corps of interested park users and interested organizations to help maintain and protect the natural and cultural resources.
- **Park Boundary:** Identify a long-term boundary and park management plan that establishes priorities for land acquisition, easements, and a variety of cooperative management approaches with nearby resource managers and park neighbors.
- Concessions and Park Enterprise: Enhance public services via programs and projects that expand the park experience for visitors and minimally impact park natural and historic features. Such concessions may include recreation activity training and guide services.
- Relationship to Regional Community: Recognizing the park's importance as part of the Snoqualmie Watershed and the Mountain to Sound Greenway, continue to work actively with local government and other community-based organizations and interested parties to meet the needs of regional conservation and recreation goals, as well as the citizens of the State of Washington and visitors from around the world.

Management Approaches:

During the Classification and Management Planning (CAMP) process, we developed thematic approaches and management alternatives which reflected a range of possible direction for recreation, resource protection and property management. Staff developed three Approaches; Threshold to Nature, which focused on family-oriented recreational opportunities, more formal day-use facilities (such as paved parking and restrooms), and introductory-level trail experiences, combined with educational and interpretive displays; Active Resource Recreation, which focused on the most rigorous type of trail experiences, rustic-style recreation day-use facilities, and less formal trailhead facilities (ex. gravel parking and vault toilets); and Access for All, which emphasized using only existing parking and trailhead areas, minimal recreation facilities and primitive trail development for the more challenging outdoor experience.

RECREATIONAL USE:

Emphasis for future recreation development would be directed toward trailheads, trail systems through natural forested areas, and areas highlighted with scenic vistas of the Snoqualmie River watershed and Snoqualmie Pass corridor. A mountain-bike trail on the slopes of Mt. Washington has already been planned and is designed to connect with Forest Service trail systems to the east, thereby extending the trail reach by many miles. Our proposed trail emphasis will offer the opportunity to link with backcountry trails, peak vistas and more wilderness experiences, with minimal investment. Collaborative management strategies can further ensure adequate staffing and oversight of these areas to provide a higher level of assurance of keeping these areas open for public use and enjoyment.

The recommended long-term boundary (properties of interest) extends to the edge of neighboring and adjacent public land managed by the USDA Forest Service, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and the US Bureau of Land Management. These agencies currently offer a variety of backcountry trail and camping opportunities within managed forest and resource conservation management areas. Discussions with these agencies have determined areas where State Park management would be a more efficient use of public resources and recreationists would benefit from the close-in oversight that our agency could provide. Those areas are included in our preliminary long-term boundary recommendation. Properties included in the long-term boundary include further protection of the visual landscape and natural forests visible from the I-90 corridor and from the Olallie State Park trail system.

Summary of Recommended Recreation Components and Considerations:

<u>Land Base:</u> The Preliminary Recommendation focuses on providing an extensive land base for trail systems and a variety of recreation skill-level opportunities, together with ample trailhead facilities and access to the various environments.

Overnight Accommodations: Where feasible provide for small primitive camping areas, similar to those sites along the nearby John Wayne Pioneer Trail (JWPT) with basic sanitation facilities and fire control.

Formal Campground: Included in the long-term boundary is a flat basin, less than two miles from



I-90, which is currently used by the State Patrol Fire Academy. This area is suitable for more intense recreation development. If vacated, the Fire Academy site would offer ample space and developable land for a large campground (>50 units), and could act as "base camp" for more extended recreational travel and backcountry experiences. (Note: Currently there is no indication that the Fire Academy site will be abandoned.)

Photo: Road to State Patrol Fire Academy property

<u>Design & Construction of Recreation Facilities:</u> Moderate rustic-style facilities should be developed as necessary for visitor orientation, sanitation, trailhead parking, designed trails, picnic areas and river access areas.

<u>Interpretation</u>: The need to emphasize resource protection through education and interpretation is important to resource-based activity areas. Effective interpretation also enhances the recreational experience, providing trail maps depicting environmental features, the historic setting and descriptions of the skill-level required for the various trails. Interpretive facilities encourage recreation appreciation and appropriate behavior such as low-impact recreation and camping.

<u>River Use and Access</u>: The location of this park provides the advantage of safe access to a pristine river environment. Our plan would allow for easy access areas for riverside picnicking, river viewing, summer-time swimming and fishing. Where feasible, ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) access to the river's edge and river-side trails would be provided. Low intensity river recreation activities are emphasized.

<u>Trails:</u> Many trail routes will allow shared use for hikers, equestrian and mountain bikers. Some would accommodate only single uses, and in sensitive areas, may be limited to pedestrian-only access. The size of the land base and the diverse environmental settings can offer opportunities for extended trail mileage, such as full day-out recreation travel. Trail design would seek to provide a variety of experience levels and to extend into trail systems managed by other state and federal agencies. Providing for diverse recreational skill levels, there will be a variety of trail designs; e.g. beginning trails, to novice, to more advanced routes, which are clearly signed for skill-levels. Provisions for ADA trail travel are part of this diverse trail system. Trails that link to urban trail systems are recommended to encourage non-vehicle access to get to this recreation area.

<u>Trailheads</u>: Access to these areas is anticipated to become very popular, considering the close proximity to urban populations. The facilities will be large enough to accommodate parking demands, yet be rustic in design.

Roadside areas with large vehicle parking demands will have more formal trailhead development with orientation kiosks, restroom facilities, and paved parking. Parking areas in more remote locations along the roadways have dispersed small trailheads with less formal development; e.g. gravel parking, vault toilets, and simple rustic signage to complement the more rugged nature of the activity area.

Photo: Homestead Valley Rd. & Historic Sunset Highway

<u>Stewardship Programming:</u> Recreationists are asked to welcome and appreciate a shared-use of trails by equestrians, hikers, climbers, and mountain bikers. Backcountry rangers or volunteers should be available for stewardship patrols. Stewardship should be more active with citizen-volunteers and research programs to assess resource health and wildlife populations, and to monitor recreational use impacts.

<u>Recreational Programs:</u> Recreation classes are encouraged through private vendors, and races and special events are encouraged through concessionaires.

<u>Staff Presence:</u> Regular patrol and visitor contact from rangers and park staff will both establish a sense of security for the recreationists in more remote areas and keeps a watchful eye for resource protection and safety.

SECTION 4: SUMMARY OF RESOURCE AND RECREATION ISSUES

During initial stages of planning, staff conducted workshops to receive issues and ideas from interested public and stakeholder organizations. These needs and desires are addressed in the management approaches outlined below.

Natural Resource	Need management prescriptions for old-growth forest
Issues	Identify areas off-limits due to sensitive wildlife species
	Coordinate management of elk habitat corridors with other agencies
	Identify areas with current State Parks' land classification system for
	protection and limited recreation
	 Seek protection of natural viewshed from JWT and Mt. Washington
	areas
	 Identify and protect existing wetlands
	Provide access to Snoqualmie River shoreline and develop riparian
	protection strategies
	 Monitor recreation impacts as use increases
	 Coordinate with Forest Service, DNR, and Mountain to Sound
	Greenway Trust to manage visual landscape
Cultural Resource	 Develop a cultural resource assessment
Issues	 Assess remnants of the Heritage state highway for protection
	 Assess remnants of pioneer wagon road route for protection
	 Interpret historic features and evolution of roadways
Recreation	 Develop comprehensive trail and resource protection plans
Issues	 Identify levels of trail difficulty for diverse trail users
	 Expand park visual landscape and recreation boundary
	 Protection of private property from recreating public
	 Identify the opportunity for regional trail connections
	 Identify opportunities for primitive riverside "fishing" trails
	 Identify old-growth educational opportunities
	 Provide more trailhead parking and sanitation facilities
	 Provide backcountry trail patrol
	 Provide loop trail opportunities
	 Provide opportunities for primitive group camping
	 Identify opportunities for orientation and way-finding
	 Provide for rock climbing access
	 Protect sensitive species from climbing activities
	 Further develop riverside picnic facilities
	 Consider ADA accessibility in developed areas
	 Interpret natural/cultural resources
	 Further interpret hydropower facility and management
	 Pursue overnight campground opportunities
	Encourage inter-agency cooperative management
	 Visitor safety along trails is important
	• Educate recreationists about respect for private property along the river
	 Provide staffing levels and volunteers to monitor resources
	 Provide for mountain biking and equestrian use

SECTION 5: MANAGEMENT APPROACHES -Natural, Cultural, Recreational

Numerous natural and recreation / facility resource issues were identified by the public and staff during the CAMP planning process. Suggested management approaches to address the issues are included within the tables below. Addressing these issues will, in almost all cases, involve park staff working with Regional Stewardship, Environmental, and Planning staff. Additional stakeholder involvement is also anticipated, and may include, but not be limited to, other state natural resources agencies (including the Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Ecology and the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation), local government institutions (weed control boards, county permitting), non-profit organizations (Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, The Mountaineers, Washington Native Plant Society, The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society), institutions of higher education, and adjacent land-owners and interested citizens. All management actions will be consistent with the laws and policies governing the agency, in addition to all federal, state, and local regulations. State Parks will work with the Tribes regarding any resource issues of common interest.

Note: As the issues and their management approaches are addressed in the future, associated materials (e.g., inventories, plans, monitoring records) will be added as appendices to this document.

Table: Summary of Issues & Management Approaches

	Natural Resource Issues		
Issue	Management Approach		
Protection of Natural Plant and Animal Communities	 Emphasize management of the park for natural resource conservation and public open space/greenbelt functions with the same or slightly lesser intensity of park development than currently exists. Specific measures may include: Classify the majority of lands as Resource Recreation Areas Classify significant old-growth forest stands and riparian areas as Natural Forest or Natural Areas Minimize construction of new day-use recreational facilities beyond the roadside accessible areas. Remove non-native plant species from undeveloped areas and rehabilitate natural plant communities. Identify areas with sensitive plant and animal species and develop management prescriptions to monitor and protect them. Develop recreation use and management guidelines to protect existing bird and wildlife species. Coordinate with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to enhance habitat and travel corridors for elk and black bear. 		
Collection of Natural Resource Inventories Interpretive Approaches for Natural Resources	 Work with King County as it updates the critical areas element of its comprehensive plan. Collect information from local flora/fauna enthusiasts, local chapters of Audubon Society, Native Plant Society, and like organizations. Develop partnership with local natural resource groups and tribes to coordinate onsite park interpretation and links to other related sites in the region. 		
Management of Peregrine falcons	 Work with the WDFW to develop a management plan to protect this rock nesting raptor. 		
Forest Management	 Develop and implement a forest health management plan for all forested areas with the park. Monitor the health of the old-growth trees within the designated Natural Forest and Natural Areas. 		

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¹ Specifically, for natural resources: Protecting Washington State Parks' Natural Resources – A Comprehensive Natural Resource Management Policy (Commission Agenda Item F-11, December 2004); and for cultural resources: Cultural Resources Management Policy (Commission Agenda Item E-1, October 1998 + three amendments).

	 Develop interpretive displays or materials about the old-growth trees. Inventory old growth superlative trees and old-growth plant and animal community.
County Designated Critical Areas & Shorelines	Work with King County to address all critical area and shoreline-related issues within the park with the goal of avoidance or minimizing of potential impacts as a result of any park improvements or public access impacts.
	Cultural Resource Issues
Issue	Management Approach
Providing natural and cultural resource interpretation and stewardship education	 Develop a park interpretive master plan. As part of park interpretive master plan, design and construct a modest interpretive network for the park utilizing interpretive kiosks, signs, and non-facility-oriented programming (brochures etc.). Develop a park resource stewardship plan. Incorporate natural resource interpretation and stewardship education into day-use and trail facilities with displays or materials appropriate to that recreational use area and design guidelines. Enlist the help of volunteers to monitor resource health and wildlife species. Interpret historic features and events such as the Snoqualmie Wagon Trail, the Yellowstone Trail, the Sunset Highway, and the Boxley Blowout.
Cultural and Historic Resource Protection	 Continue to consult with Tribes that may have interest in the archaeological and cultural resources within the park. Conduct cultural resource surveys prior to any development or visitor access into sensitive areas. Classify the historic pioneer trail along the Snoqualmie River as an Heritage Area and develop a management plan to protect, preserve, and interpret remaining evidence of that route.
	Recreational Resource Issues
Issue	Management Approach
Desired Recreational Experience/allowed Recreational Uses	 Emphasize recreational use policies and facility developments that result in outdoor experiences appropriate for novice and families, and distinguish those areas designed and developed for more advanced recreationists. Develop where feasible, ADA access to the river and scenic views. Classify currently undeveloped areas and some developed areas as a combination of Recreation and Resource Recreation thereby limiting recreational use and development to medium-intensity in those areas. Sign and orient recreationists to the degree of difficulty for trail systems. Strictly enforce restrictions on motor vehicle use (WAC 352-20-020) Explore the possibility of permitting after-hours activities and primate bivouacking in certain areas of the park.
Recreational Facilities Development – Visitor Safety and Sanitation	 Acquire Department of Transportation Right of Way to the historic Sunset Highway segment that parallels the park property. Redevelop the old highway as part of a historic roadway trail with pocket park sites and day-use parking area. As part of roadside development, develop a welcome center to include visitor orientation. Address safety and sanitation issues related to current misuse of the highway as a wayside stop. Pursue acquisition of properties which would create legal hiking trail access to Mt. Washington. Provide regular trail patrols and visitor contact on the trail systems and work with DNR and Forest Service to co-manage trails.

	 Develop facilities that discourage trespassing on private land holdings. Discourage use of the trail access to the powerline easements by vehicles which could impact nearby residents.
Recreational Facilities Development - Camping	 Redevelop the existing day-use river access facility to provide for increased use and group picnicking. Assess the feasibility of acquisition of properties on the north of the park to include the State Patrol Fire Academy site for a possible campground development and trailhead access to trail systems to the north. Develop a group camp facility whose purpose is to introduce camping and low impact outdoor recreation to urban and under-served populations. Assess the suitability for a small group camp or primitive campsite south of the ranger residence. This site should provide easy access to the JWPT.
Recreational Facilities Development - Trails	 Partner with DNR and Forest Service to provide links to trails. Research collaborative management strategies with DNR, BLM, and Forest Service for trailheads and properties which are adjacent to State Park ownerships. Pursue acquisition of properties which best enhance the trail system developments. Work with trail user groups to develop a trail plan for the expanded State Park land base in conjunction with other agencies to include hiking, equestrian and biking use. Work with city and county agencies to develop connecting trail links which provide urban trail connections and regional trail opportunities. Develop ADA facilities where feasible, such as accessibility improvements to the existing interpretive trail. Construct the Olallie Mountain Bike Trail as designed to connect with the Snoqualmie National Forest Mountain Bike Trail System. Twin Falls Trail – Improve the trail experience and facility to a standard that elevates the attraction to a high regional importance and a State Park showpiece. (e.g. Widen the trail tread, replace aging trail structures and develop new trail signage for orientation and interpretation. Twin Falls Trailhead – Improve existing parking capacity and reduce neighborhood congestion by expanding trailhead parking lot at a nearby location. (e.g. BPA powerline property easement). Install a second vault toilet to accommodate existing high visitor attendance. Cedar Butte Trail – Officially designate and map this existing trail travel route. Upgrade the trail facility with improved signage, improved trail construction and natural history interpretation. Interpret the Boxley Blowout along the trail route and overlook.
Recreational Facilities Development – Water Access	 Promote access to the Snoqualmie River with spur trails and viewing areas along the old highway corridor and the picnic area. Such facilities should meet ADA requirements, wherever feasible. Consider the development of fishing trails along the north side of the river and suitable parking access for such use.
Recreational Facilities Development – Interpretation & Education	 Coordinate and collaborate with Iron Horse State Park staff on common management goals, maintenance, and law enforcement priorities. Mark park boundaries to reduce encroachment and trespass issues with neighboring lands. Actively solicit partnerships to provide interpretive and educational opportunities. Coordinate with other public agencies to orient recreationists and I-90 travelers to the diverse recreation opportunities within the Snoqualmie watershed. Work with Seattle's Cedar River Watershed Education Center to develop educational tours within State Park lands and trails. Further interpret the "run of the river" hydropower facility within the park. Work with the private power company to develop displays.

SECTION 6: LAND CLASSIFICATIONS AND LONG-TERM BOUNDARY Land Classifications:

The CAMP process uses six land classifications: (1) the Recreation classification designates areas suitable for and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use; (2) the Resource Recreation classification designates areas suitable for and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use; (3) the Natural classification designates areas suitable for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes; (4) the Heritage classification designates areas suitable for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historic properties; (5) the Natural Forest classification designates areas suitable for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses; and (6) the Natural Area Preserve classification designates areas suitable for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features. (Appendix A describes the classifications in more detail.)

For each classification there is a list of activities and facilities that are permitted, conditionally permitted, or not permitted with the classification. A conditional activity requires approval of the Commission during CAMP. An activity identified in the matrix as permitted in a classification is not obligated to be included within the park. Through analysis of future program direction, facility needs, and the existing natural and recreational resource base, staff recommends that the Commission classify Olallie State Park as a combination of Recreation, Resource Recreation, Heritage, and Natural (Refer to Map: Figure 1).

Recreation: Areas classified as Recreation provide for high-intensity recreational activities such as overnight accommodations, camping and administrative facilities. Within the proposed long-term park boundary, the Recreation designated areas are determined to be best suited for intensive trailhead parking facilities, high-use picnic areas or formal campgrounds. The property to the north of I-90, currently used as the State Patrol Fire Academy, would be well-suited for intensive recreation and has already been developed with paved roadways, power and water facilities. Other Recreation areas have been selected for their suitability for trailhead parking, and are located near access roads. Extensive trail use in this area justifies identifying formal trailhead access areas to accommodate the current and future use. (This classification is denoted on the map in Red.)

Activities *conditionally* permitted under the agency's land classification system may be permitted at specific sites only with the concurrence of the Commission. Activities conditionally permitted in Recreation Areas include:

Farming/orchardsGrazingOff-Trail EquestrianOff-trail Cycling

Of these, the Commission <u>did not approve any</u> of these activities at Olallie State Park.

Resource Recreation: Proposed Resource Recreation areas provide for medium to low-intensity recreational activities that are generally natural and or cultural resource based. This classification comprises the majority of the land base. A Resource Recreation "zoned" area emphasizes the natural resource base as the focus for the recreation experience and management will direct attention to the protection and stewardship of those resources while providing low-intensity recreation, such as trails and vistas. Within Olallie State Park and the proposed long-term boundary, areas recommended for Resource Recreation Areas are designated on the map in Blue. Activities conditionally permitted in Resource Recreation areas include:

Farming/orchards	Water: Jet Skiing
 Grazing 	 Water: Power Boating
 Equestrian 	· Water: Skiing
 Mountain Biking 	 Water: Wind Surfing

Of these conditional activities, the Commission <u>approved conditional use for Mountain Biking and Equestrian</u> recreation, where deemed compatible with the protection of the resource.

<u>Natural</u>: Areas classified as Natural areas are designated for preservation, restoration and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological values while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation as subordinate uses. Large segments of the park around Twin Falls Trail and along the Snoqualmie River have had man-caused intrusion. It is our intent to maintain those lowland forest and riparian environments in as natural a condition as practical. The remote feeling of forest and wild-river accentuates the visitor's experience and is valued as a destination recreation area. (This classification is denoted by the map legend color; Orange.) Activities conditionally permitted in Natural areas include:

 Interpretive Kiosks Sanitary Facilities: composting / vault Trails: paved, non motor 	Filming: special eventsTechnical Rock ClimbingWater Access: hand-launch
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Of these conditional activities, the Commission <u>approved conditional use for Interpretive Kiosks</u>, <u>Sanitary Facilities</u>, <u>Paved Trails (ADA)</u>, <u>Water Access (hand-launch)</u> where deemed compatible with the protection of the resource and where the activity or structures are relatively non-intrusive in the natural setting.

Heritage: The Heritage classification is designated for preservation, restoration and interpretation of unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features and traditional cultural properties which are of statewide or national significance. (This classification is denoted on the map in Yellow.)

The area in the park which deserves this recognition and protection is within the Natural Forest area described above, and has evidence of the Snoqualmie Wagon Road, the original pioneer roadway across Snoqualmie Pass. Roadway rut depressions and remnants of the boarded road surface have been located in this area. Special attention will be made to verify the location of evidence of the pioneer roadway and interpretation of this special park feature. Stewardship of this historic feature and protection from natural or recreation-caused impacts is paramount.

Note: In proximity to this historic pioneer route is a remnant segment of the historic paved state "Sunset Highway", which runs adjacent to the Homestead Valley Road near the existing picnic area. This paved highway is designated as Recreation because it is well suited for trailhead parking and does not interfere with the pioneer roadway. Activities conditionally permitted in Heritage Areas include:

· Amphitheater	· Roads
<u> </u>	
· Children's Play Area	 Parking
 Picnic Facilities 	 Sanitary Facilities
 Equestrian Facilities 	 Trails: biking,
· Play Fields	equestrian
 Indoor Accommodations 	 Metal detecting
 Off-trail hiking, equestrian 	 Orienteering

Of these conditional activities, the Commission did not approve any conditional use.

Long-Term Boundary:

The purpose of a long-term park boundary is to take an overview of the park area and surroundings, independent of ownership that might advance the vision and goals of the park. This process not only considers whether an adjoining property would make a suitable addition, but also considers whether agency-owned property should be retained or might appropriately be considered surplus to park needs. Including a privately owned property in a long-term boundary does not necessarily mean the agency wants to purchase it. It simply means that it would be in the park's best interest if the property were managed in a condition that complements development and operation of the park. Any of the following possibilities could apply.

The agency might:

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

The Commission recommends that the following properties be included within the park's long-term boundary:

- 1. The Thompson property to provide legal trail access for hiking trails from public roads and connecting to the Mt. Washington Summit Trail, where there exists unauthorized user-built trails.
- 2. USDA Forest Service property to the south and east of Mount Washington to extend the trail opportunities and have more cohesive management of the trail near the watershed.
- 3. Washington State Department of Natural Resources property north of the park boundary and north of Interstate 90 including the existing State Patrol Fire Academy and surrounding forested acreage to provide a scenic visual corridor, campground development opportunity and trail corridors into other state and federal recreation properties. (Note: currently there is no indication that this property would be vacated.)
- 4. City of Seattle properties adjacent to the western park boundary along the Homestead Valley Road and which are not included in the city's watershed hydrographic boundary.
- 5. Private property to the north and east of the Twin Falls natural area for further protection of forested land and opportunity to provide additional trailhead parking near the trail entrance.
- 6. Weyerhaeuser property to the north of the park and adjoining the proposed DNR property for additional development of trails in that area.
- 7. Washington State Department of Transportation unused roadway property which is a segment of the historic state Sunset Highway and will provide significant trailhead parking. This will allow State Parks to manage uncontrolled river access, to minimize roadside sanitation problems, and it will create a contiguous State Park boundary along the roadway.
- 8. A BLM parcel to the North of I-90 and north of the Homestead Valley Rd. to better manage the viewshed along the Greenway.

Note: State Parks seeks to acquire any properties identified in this action on a willing-seller basis.



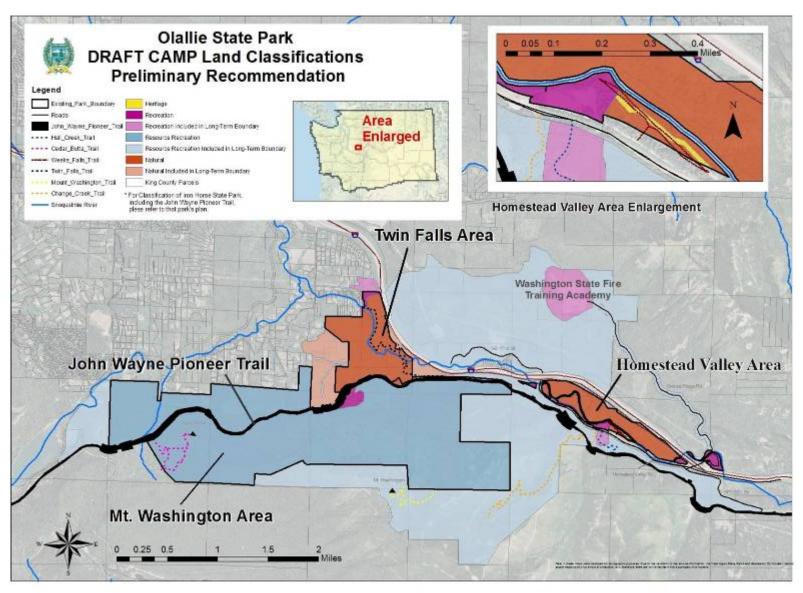


Figure 1: Olallie State Park Long-Term Boundary and Land Classification Map

SECTION 7: OTHER REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- Agenda Item E-10: Olallie State Park –Classification and Management Plan (CAMP) Requested Action, November 19, 2010 and commission action to approve.
- SEPA Checklist and Determination of Non-Significance. Pursuant to WAC 197-11-704, staff prepared a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist and issued a "Determination of Non-Significance" on September 28, 2010 for the staff recommendation finding that the action proposed by Commission staff was minor and the environmental effects not significant.
- State Park Land Classification System, WAC 352-16-020.