

Sun Lakes – Dry Falls State Park Management Plan

July 31, 2003

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 Core Values

- A commitment to stewardship that transmits high quality park assets to future generations.
- A dedication to outdoor recreation and public enjoyment that welcomes all our citizens to their public parks.
- Support for one another as we translate our mission into reality.
- Excellence in all we do.
- Involving citizens in our policy development and decision making.



C.A.M.P.

Washington State Parks

Classification and Management Planning Project

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CONTACTS

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission gratefully acknowledges the many stakeholders and the staff of Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park who participated in public meetings, reviewed voluminous materials, and made this a better plan because of it.

Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park Management Planning Team

Daniel Farber, CAMP Project co-lead
Peter Herzog, CAMP Project co-lead
Harry Malloy, Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park Manager
Mike Sternback, Park Ranger
Jim Harris, Eastern Region Manager
Tom Ernsberger, Eastern Region Stewardship Manager
Bill Fraser, Eastern Region Planner
Mark Schulz, Eastern Region Environmental Program
Wayne McLaughlin, Operations Concession/Contract Manager

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

7150 Cleanwater Lane, P.O. Box 42650 Olympia, WA 98504-2650
Tel: (360) 902-8500 Fax: (360) 753-1594 TDD: (360) 664-3133

Commissioners (at time of land classification adoption):

Clyde Anderson
Bruce Hilyer
Mickey Fearn
Bob Petersen
Joan Thomas
Jack Shreve
Mel Wortman
Cleve Pinnix, Director

Plan Author

Marty Davis, Environmental Planner-Eastern Region

**SUN LAKES - DRY FALLS STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN
CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION**

The signatures below certify the adoption of this plan by Washington State Parks for the continued management of Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park.

Park Manager

Date

Region Manager

Date

Assistant Director, Operations

Date

Deputy Director

Date

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	4
INTRODUCTION.....	5
SECTION 1: DESCRIPTION OF SUN LAKES - DRY FALLS STATE PARK.....	6
SECTION 2: SUN LAKES - DRY FALLS STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROGRAM	10
SECTION 3: PARK ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT APPROACHES.....	14

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park Management Objectives.....	11
Table 2: Summary of Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park Management Issues	14
Table 3: Natural Resource Issues and Management Approaches.....	15
Table 4: Cultural Resource Issues and Management Approaches.....	21
Table 5: Recreational Resource/Facility Issues and Management Approaches	22

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park Vicinity Map.....	8
Figure 2: Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary Map.....	12

PREFACE

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission manages a diverse array of 120 parks located throughout the state. Growth in the state's population, tourism, and the popularity of outdoor recreation has dramatically increased pressure on the agency to provide for more recreational opportunities in parks under agency management. Simultaneously, the agency recognizes that as an ever greater number of parks become oases surrounded by residential and commercial development, the need to conserve natural and cultural resources within limits of acceptable change is increasing in importance.

In January of 1992 the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission adopted a publicly developed Strategic and Action Plan. One question asked in the plan was "how do we provide for protection and wise use of park resources and assets?" In response to this question, the agency committed to a number of actions including the preparation of management plans for each park in the system.

The duality of the agency's role as both recreation provider and resource protector has led to differences among park stakeholders as to how these seemingly opposing imperatives can be achieved. Simply put, it is the agency's goal to identify appropriate recreational experiences that meet the needs of the public while protecting natural and cultural resources for future generations. Insightful planning that includes careful analysis of resource suitability and capability, and encourages participation by park stakeholders, provides the most effective means of determining which recreational experiences are appropriate in a given park (see Appendix A: CAMP Project Planning Principles).

In late 1995 the Commission adopted a revised land classification system (see Appendix B: Washington State Parks Land Classification System). Application of the revised system creates zones, or land classifications, within a park. Six distinct classifications determine what recreational uses and types of developments 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 development.

Following the adoption of the revised classification system, it became clear to agency staff that simply classifying park lands and delineating them on a map did little to affect "on the ground" results, nor did it adequately address the goal of preparing management plans for each park. As a result State Parks developed a combined planning effort and titled it the Classification and Management Planning Project or CAMP. This combined effort began in March 1996.

The CAMP Project classifies park lands and prepares park management plans through careful analysis of resource inventories, technical information, and results of an issue based public planning process in each project park. Stakeholders and staff identify specific issues facing the park and develop management approaches designed to resolve these issues during a series of public planning workshops. In this plan, classification of lands is employed as one of several management approaches to address resource management issues in the park.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this park management plan is to: 1) orient readers to Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park and the agency's park management planning process, 2) identify the natural, cultural, and recreation management issues for the park, and 3) identify management approaches designed to address these issues. The ultimate purpose of this plan is to describe how park management intends to balance recreational use with measures to protect natural and cultural resources.

This plan has been divided into three sections, several appendices, and is organized as follows:

- Section 1: Description of Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park provides a brief overview of the park including its geography, historical background, major attributes, and public use.
- Section 2: Sun Lakes - Dry Falls Park Management Planning Program describes both the agency's system-wide park management planning program and its specific application to Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park.
- Section 3: Park Issues and Management Approaches outlines natural, cultural, and recreational resource issues identified through the agency's public planning process conducted for the park. Specific management approaches, designed to address these issues, are provided. A brief outline of management issues facing Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park is presented in Table 2.

Appendices contain additional supporting documentation pertinent to this plan.

SECTION 1: DESCRIPTION OF SUN LAKES - DRY FALLS STATE PARK

Location: Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park is located in Grant County, 7 miles southwest of Coulee City on State Highway 17. See Figure 1: Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park Vicinity Map.

Acreage: 4,024 acres with 73,640 feet of freshwater shoreline.

Acquired: Sun Lakes – Dry Falls State parks was acquired in 15 parcels, beginning in 1933, with the last acquisition in 1972. Land was acquired from the Bureau of Land Management, DNR and private ownership.

Historical Background: The park is part of the geologic formation created by runoff from the last glaciation and Bretz Floods. Sun Lakes was originally called Dry Falls but was renamed, at the request of then Lt. Governor, Vic Meyers, as being descriptive of the area.

Site Description: Several park resource inventories and other descriptive documents have been prepared for the park. Examples include a sensitive plant survey and State Parks' Historic Facilities Condition Assessment. Appendix C: Listing of Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park Resource Inventories and Other Descriptive Information, includes references and locations where these documents are stored.

Facilities: 174 standard site, 18 utility sites, 10 group campsites, 90 picnic sites, Visitor Center, 300 feet of beach, boat launch, Environmental Learning Center with capacity of 84 people, 7 restrooms, 3 permanent residences and 3 seasonal residences, 3 shops, trailer dump, mower shed, 6 pumphouses, 15.5 miles of hiking trails, 2 equestrian trails, 27.5 miles of road, 5 sewage lagoons. The Commission has a concession agreement with Sun Lakes Resort, Inc., to provide the following: horseback riding, golf course, café, general store, boat rental, 50 cabins and 10 mobile homes, 112 utility campsites, a laundromat, and marina.

Activities: Camping, swimming, boating, fishing, picnicking, golf, sun bathing, interpretive viewing, and canoeing.

Attendance: Derived from agency standardized attendance system.

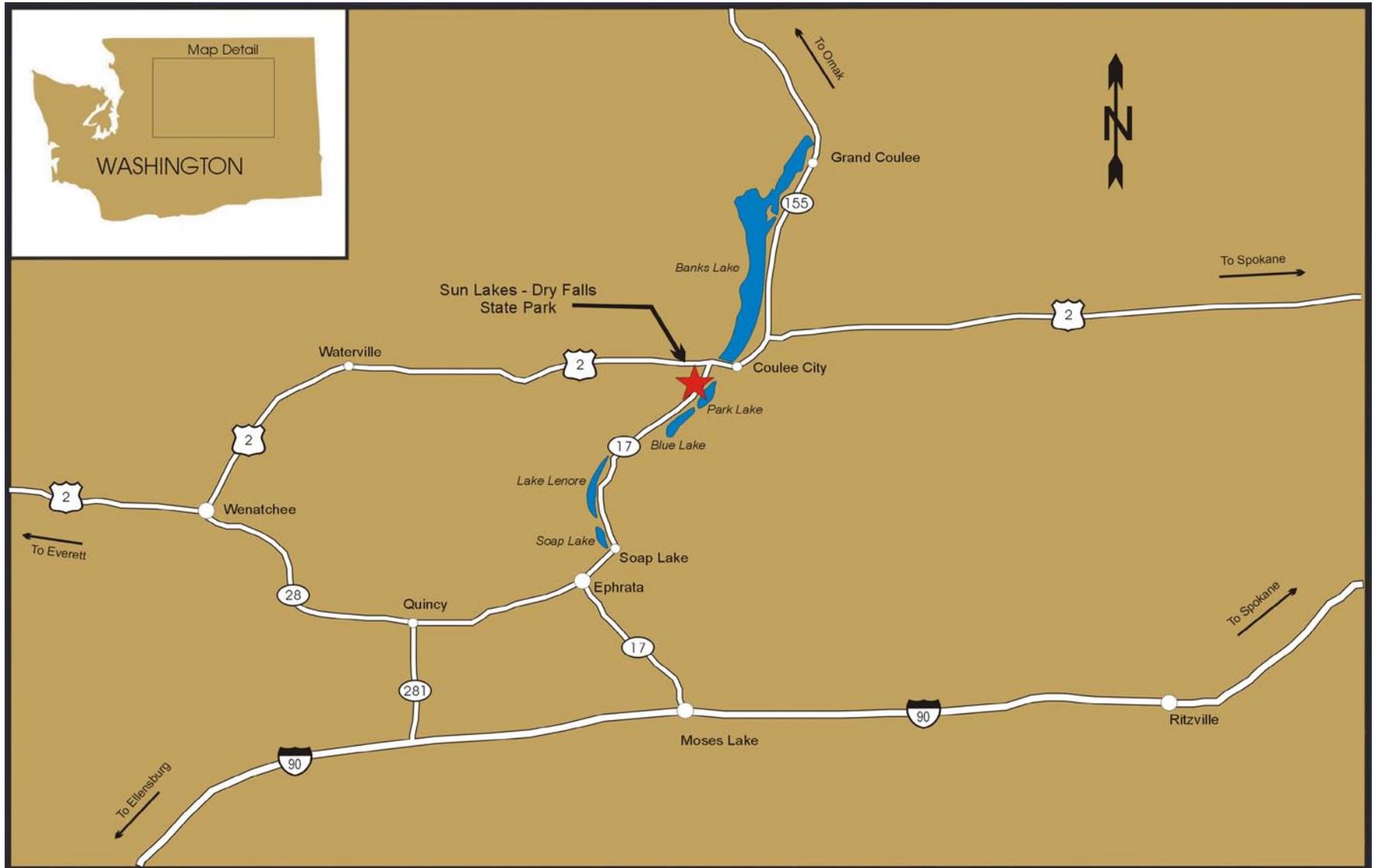
<u>Year</u>	<u>Camping</u>	<u>Day Use</u>	<u>Camp Delaney</u>	<u>Dry Falls V.C.</u>	<u>Total</u>
1991	121,430	978,221	5,285	71,600	1,176,536
1992	106,261	909,203	4,764	80,180	1,100,408
1993	99,022	873,875	4,479	46,048	1,023,424
1994	87,379	1,328,515	5,093	52,290	1,473,277
1995	43,136	667,790	5,555	54,555	771,036
1996	38,927	801,894	5,190	41,322	886,703
1997	42,047	797,020	7,192	18,291	864,550
1998	39,284	954,792	5,126	20,454	1,019,656
1999	40,769	1,005,524	7,333	66,537	1,120,163
2000	46,436	890,066	6,514	37,937	980,953

Interpretation: Summer campfire programs, extensive geological interpretation at Dry Falls Visitor Center.

Staffing:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Staff Months</u>
Park Ranger 6	12.0
Park Ranger 4	12.0
Park Ranger 2	12.0
Park Ranger 1	12.0
C&M 1	12.0
Park Aides (6)	26.4

Figure 1: Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park Vicinity Map



Map not to scale

SECTION 2: SUN LAKES - DRY FALLS STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROGRAM

2.1 Legal and Policy Direction

Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park operates within a framework of laws, rules, regulations, and policies that govern jurisdictional behavior. Agency staff make day-to-day management decisions consistent not only with laws and policies of the agency, but with all federal, state, and local regulations. Interpretation of, and compliance with, government rules and policies requires sound and thoughtful judgment. A comprehensive listing and description of all laws and policies under which the agency operates is not included in this document. However, management activities recommended in this plan have been reviewed to ensure a sound legal and policy footing.

2.1.1 Park Management Objectives

Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park will further the Agency Mission and Core Values through general park management objectives presented in Table 1.

2.1.2 Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park's Land Classifications and Long-Term Boundary

Figure 2 shows land classifications and the long-term boundary proposal adopted by the Commission for Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park on April 24, 1998. The adopted land classifications provide policy guidance for appropriate use and development intensities in specific areas of the park. Adopted classifications also represent the park's desired long-term boundary, i.e., properties either desired for acquisition or surplus to park needs. Often times direct ownership of lands may not be necessary, in fact management goals may be reached through cooperative agreements, easements, and other management tools which benefit both parks and neighbors. Specific rationales and more detailed discussion of the park's classifications and long-term boundary are included in Section 3: Park Issues and Management Approaches. Additional information concerning classification and long-term boundary of Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park can be referenced in the Commission Agenda Item 98-04E5 - Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park - Land Classification and Management Plan - Grant County - Requested Action and the official Commission minutes for this item (April, 1998).

2.1.3 Other Policy Direction for Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park

Other plans (either currently existing, or called for in the future) may provide additional policy guidance for the management of specific resources or activities within a particular park. Examples of these could include threatened or endangered species management plans, cultural resource management plans, and trail use and development plans. Park master plans are generally oriented towards capital facilities development, but also commonly provide policy direction. The Sun Lakes – Dry Falls State Park Master Plan was developed concurrent with the classification plan. As new information is derived from more detailed resource-specific inventories, existing plans should be reviewed and modified to reflect changed circumstances. No single plan should be vested with ultimate authority, but rather, the on-going process of creating new plans and revising existing plans should be seen as forming an increasingly comprehensive base of policy direction. The role of this park management plan is to serve as an umbrella document under which all other park-related plans are referenced. A listing and location of existing plans prepared for Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park is included in Appendix D: List of Plans for Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park.

2.2 Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park's Management Planning Process

Management planning at Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park began in 1997 with the assembly of key agency staff to act as a core planning team. This team consisted of the park manager, region manager, headquarters Planning Program representatives, and a Natural Resource Stewardship Program representative. The planning team also consulted with a number other agency technical specialists throughout the planning process.

The public participation process for Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park was developed during the first planning team meeting for the purpose of identifying management issues facing the park. Planning Staff then organized all of the issues into generalized categories.

The planning team conducted two sets of public planning workshops in 1997 in Coulee City and Seattle. At the first workshop the planning team gave an overview of the CAMP Project and presented two alternative concept plans. Participants were asked to provide their input regarding the presented materials during the workshops and otherwise through written correspondence at any time during the planning process.

At the second public workshop the planning team presented a schematic land classification and long-term boundary and narrative management approaches that incorporated public input from previous workshops and written correspondence. Participants again provided input regarding the preliminary recommendation.

Following the second workshop, the planning team prepared a final staff recommended schematic land classification and long-term boundary and management approaches, drawing on all public/staff input and correspondence. The final staff recommendation was approved by the Director and presented to the Commission at its April 24, 1998 meeting in Issaquah. During this meeting the Commission heard public testimony and approved the staff recommendations for land classification and long-term boundary of Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park.

Park staff intends to coordinate with regional staff and review the park's management plan with park stakeholders to encourage participation in identification of additional management issues and other plan revisions during future open houses and other public meetings.

Table 1: Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park Management Objectives

The State Parks Mission and Core Values will be advanced at Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park through the consideration/implementation of the following management objectives:

Natural Resources: Protecting, preserving, and interpreting 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; geologic formations related to ice age floods, lava flows, and influences of the Columbia River.

Cultural Resources: Protecting, preserving, and interpreting, where appropriate, the key cultural resources of the park, including archaeological sites and historic properties embracing Civilian Conservation Corps park developments.

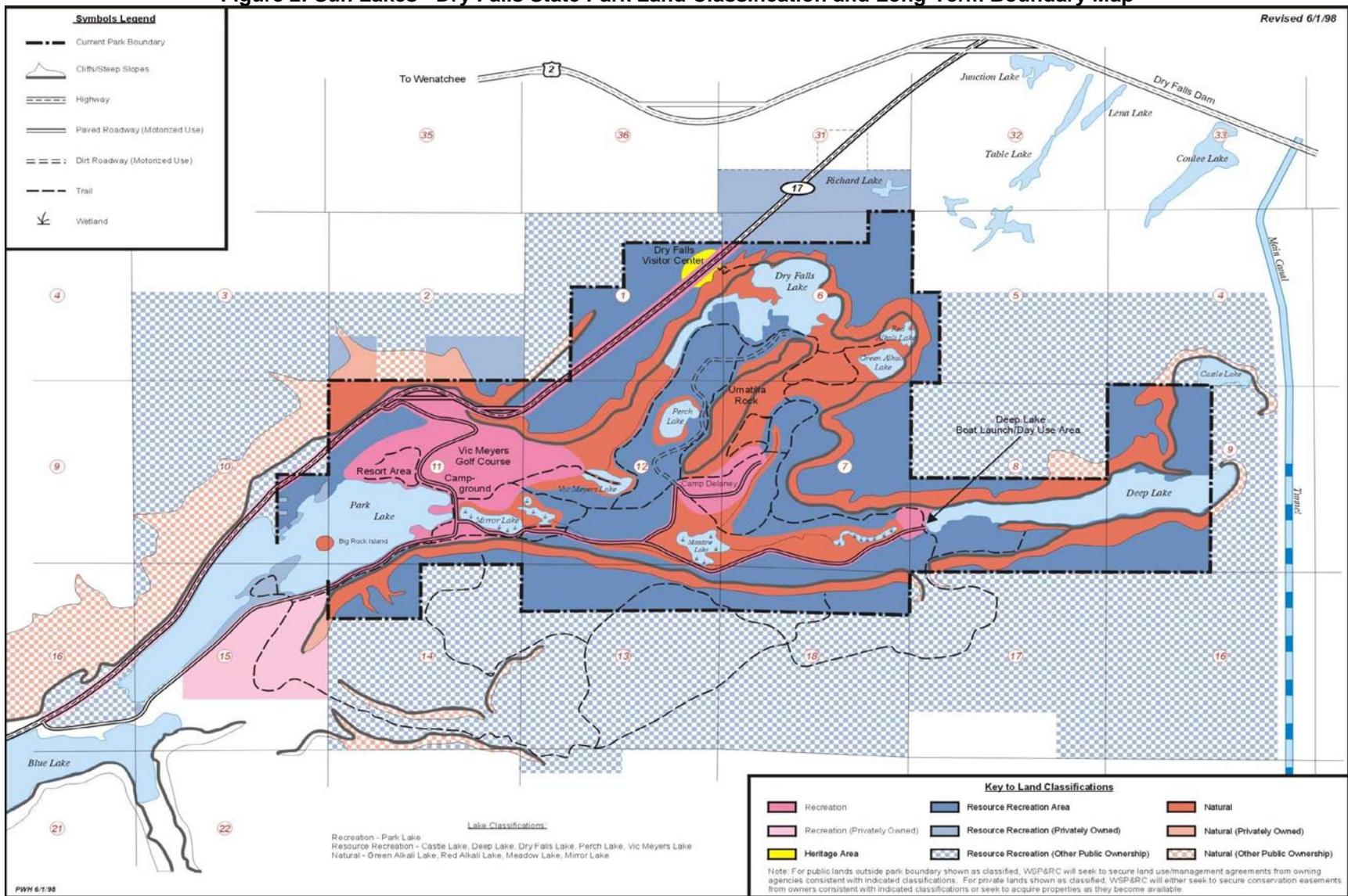
Recreation: Providing for a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities including utility, standard, primitive and group camping sites; trails for equestrians, bicyclists and pedestrians; boating; fishing; wildlife viewing; picnicking; interpretive activities; and a variety of group activities.

Interpretation and Environmental Education: Combining the resources and skills of State Parks with local and statewide organizations and individuals specializing in resource education, interpretation and curatorial services, to expand programs and facilities that promote Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park as a major destination for environmental education and interpretation.

Volunteers: Recruiting and managing a volunteer corps of park neighbors, recreational users, resource stewards, and any other interested organizations or individuals, to assist park staff in park programs and activities.

Park Boundary: Implementation of a property management plan that establishes priorities for land acquisition, surplus, easements, and a variety of cooperative management approaches with nearby resource managers and park neighbors.

Figure 2: Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary Map



Map not to scale

SECTION 3: PARK ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

While individual parks may have significantly different resources and resource management issues, all park managers share the same essential dilemma – how to effectively manage increasing demand for recreational opportunities that may, in part, utilize sensitive natural and cultural resources. The challenge at the heart of this dilemma is to accommodate recreational use while also protecting resources from deterioration. How much recreational use can resources sustain without being degraded beyond acceptable limits (see Appendix F)? The answer to this question is usually as subjective as it is technical. For this reason the “best” resource management decisions incorporate public sentiment, sound scientific information, and professional judgment.

This plan outlines individual management approaches developed in response to **issues** identified by the public and park staff. Each management approach contains two interrelated components: **policy direction** and **programmatic activities**.

Policy direction responds to issues by setting new, or emphasizing existing, rules that regulate public use and/or guide future management activities. Policy direction can be conveyed through agency-wide or park level policy statements and/or through land classification decisions. Examples of policy direction include limiting rock climbing to a specific season in an attempt to protect birds during nesting periods and classifying an area of a park as a Natural Area to preserve a unique plant community.

Programmatic activities detail projects or tasks designed to achieve the stated policy direction. Programmatic activities vary widely, ranging from cooperative efforts that engage outside experts to the development of capital projects and resource monitoring. Examples of programmatic activities include soliciting the advice of wildlife biologists in managing sensitive animal species, proposing building rehabilitation projects to protect historic structures, and monitoring visitor impacts and applying adaptive management techniques to protect against loss of vegetation. Programmatic activities frequently identify the need for coordination among agency staff and other organizations to develop additional management policies and prescriptions in response to a particular issue. In these cases it is expected that identification of specific projects or development of site level plans will ultimately result.

Readers should note that the sum of all of the management approaches represents a significant staff workload and may also create very high expectations among agency staff and park stakeholders. Clearly, completing or even beginning all approaches in the short-term is not feasible with existing resources. This plan should be seen as a “to do” list where items will be prioritized as staff and financial resources permit.

The following three tables (Tables 3, 4, and 5) summarize key issues and management approaches for the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park. As in any real world situation, some issues do not fit neatly into any one of these three categories, while others may span more than one. As a result, some license has been taken for the sake of consistent presentation. It should also be noted that in Tables 3, 4, and 5, under the heading of policy direction, the policies listed include only those most applicable or specific to a particular issue.

Table 2: Summary of Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park Management Issues

<p>Natural Resource Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of natural plant and animal communities (665N1) • Protection of wetlands (665N2) • Control of noxious weeds/exotic plant species (665N3) • Protection of threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants (665N4) • Control of nuisance wildlife (665N5) • Fishery management (665N6) • Lake water quality, quantity, and conservation (665N7) • Protection of geologic features (665N8) • Property management plan (665N9)
<p>Cultural Resource Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of archaeological/historic resources (665C1)
<p>Recreational Resource/Facility Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency/Resort concessionaire relationship (665R1) • Operation of Camp Delaney ELC (665R2) • Natural/Cultural resource interpretative programming and facilities (665R3) • Maintenance of park facilities (665R4) • Operation of Dry Falls Visitor Center (665R5) • Scenic quality view sheds (665R6) • Trail maintenance and development (665R7) • Trail management- use by cyclists (665R8) • Trail management- equestrian use loop trails (665R9) • Law enforcement (665R10) • Visitor crowding effects on recreational experience- water oriented recreation (665R11) • Visitor crowding effects on recreational experience- land oriented recreation (665R12) • Recreational opportunities provided at Deep Lake Area- vehicle boat launching and camping (665R13)

Table 3: Natural Resource Issues and Management Approaches

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Preservation of natural plant and animal communities (665N1)</p>	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park is classified as a combination of Recreation, Resource Recreation, Natural, and Heritage Areas. (See Figure 2: Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary Map).</p> <p>1) All major cliff bands and talus; 2) wetlands directly associated with streams and lakes; 3) the area bounded by the southeast tip of Dry Falls Lake, Red and Green Alkali Lakes, and Camp Delaney and including all of Umatilla Rock; 4) the area between Dry Falls Lake, Dry Falls Lake access road, the golf course, and adjoining the Natural Area defined by the talus and cliff band to the southwest of Dry Falls proper are all classified as Natural Areas, which limits recreational use and development to low-intensity, providing a high degree of protection to wildlife and natural ecosystems. All other park lands not directly associated with intensively developed campgrounds, day use areas, and golf course are classified as Resource Recreation Areas to generally limit recreational development and uses to medium to low-intensity developments/uses providing a measure of resource protection while also providing significant recreational opportunities.</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> Park staff should ensure that all park management activities comply with agency laws and policies related to the protection of natural plant and animal communities including <i>RCW 79A.05.035: Additional powers and duties, directs management of timber and other ecological resources</i> and <i>Chapter 352-28 WAC: Tree, plant, and fungi cutting, removal and/or disposal</i>.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Natural Resource Management Program:</u> Primary regulatory authority for vegetation resources of the State of Washington rests with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR Natural Heritage Program is the state level entity responsible for maintaining a state listing of rare plants, rare plant associations, and providing technical expertise in protection of these resources. Primary regulatory authority for wildlife resources of the State of Washington rests with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Additionally, federally protected wildlife species listed under the Endangered Species Act, fall under the authority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) and WDFW. Consequently, park staff should coordinate with region and headquarters Stewardship Program staff and solicit technical expertise and cooperation from the above agencies, USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM), regional tribal authorities, Grant County, BOR, Noxious Weed Board, and other land managers to enhance the park’s natural resource management program. The general purpose of this program should be to develop and implement management policies and prescriptions, and where required identify research approaches, that ensure the: 1) general protection of important plant and animal communities; 2) specific protection of identified threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant and animal species/associations/communities; 3) control of non-native vegetation/noxious weeds; 4) control of wildlife species adversely affecting vegetation, recreation experience, or safety of park visitors; 5) protection of wetlands and riparian areas; 6) prevention of wildfires; and 7) maintaining a sustainable sport fishery.</p> <p>Park staff should also continue to vigorously enforce no hunting laws on all park properties as a regular part of normal park patrols and in response to complaints or reports. “No hunting” signs should be clearly posted at all vehicle access points to the park (e.g. county roads), prior to and during annual hunting seasons.</p>

Table 3: Natural Resource Issues (Continued)

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Protection of wetlands areas (665N2)</p>	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> All relatively undisturbed park wetland areas are classified as Natural Areas (see land classifications, issue 665N1)</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> As part of the park master facilities planning process and other park development projects, all trails and roadways should be routed away from wetland areas, or be constructed in a manner that does not cause a detriment to wetland habitat in the park. No Net loss to park wetlands will occur as a result of facilities development or day-to-day park operations. Additionally, park staff should ensure that all facilities maintenance and day-to-day park operations comply with provisions of environmental permits issued for capital development projects.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Natural Resource Management Program:</u> Park staff should coordinate with region and headquarters Environmental and Resource Stewardship staff, and actively solicit cooperation from the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) to delineate, conduct functional assessments, and rate wetlands of the Sun Lakes – Dry Falls State Park Area.</p> <p>See also Lakes Water Quality, Quantity, and Conservation (665N7)</p>

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Control of noxious weeds/exotic plant species (665N3)</p>	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> Noxious weeds will be controlled and/or eradicated irrespective of their location in the park.</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> Measures to control noxious weeds and non-native plant species should utilize integrated pest management (IPM) practices that concentrate on the least deleterious means of control and/or eradication practical. All programs developed will comply with <i>RCW 17.15: Integrated Pest Management</i> and <i>agency directive 99-3: Integrated Pest Management Policy</i>.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Natural Resource Management Program:</u> Park staff should actively solicit technical expertise and cooperation of the Grant County Noxious Weed Board, DNR Natural Heritage Program, local chapters of the Washington Native Plant Society and other interested individuals/organizations, to identify concentrations of non-native plants and noxious weed infestations and to formulate and implement eradication efforts. Park staff should also explore the feasibility of contracting specific eradication actions to local businesses or other government agencies.</p> <p>As part of the Eastern Region Noxious Weed Control Program, park staff should continue to coordinate with the Eastern Region Stewardship Manager to develop an IPM plan/program for inclusion in the regional budgeting process.</p>

Table 3: Natural Resource Issues (Continued)

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Protection of threatened/ endangered/ sensitive plants (665N4)</p>	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> Classification of any type does not preclude employing measures necessary to protect these species.</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> Park operation, maintenance, and development activities, as well as recreational activities in areas where threatened plant species are known to occur, should be carried out or otherwise configured in a manner that does not adversely impact populations of these species.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Natural Resource Management Program:</u> Park staff should continue to coordinate with regional and headquarters Stewardship program staff to solicit technical expertise and cooperation of DNR Natural Heritage Program, Grant County Noxious Weed Board, BOR, local chapters of the Washington Native Plant Society, local University Biological Sciences Departments and other interested organizations and individuals in managing the sensitive species in the park. The overall purpose of this program is to evaluate findings of recent rare plant inventories and formulate policies and prescriptions for the general protection and management of these species and their habitat.</p>

Table 3: Natural Resource Issues (Continued)

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Control of nuisance wildlife (665N5)</p>	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> Problem wildlife will be controlled and/or eradicated irrespective of their location in the park.</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> Park staff should ensure that park management activities comply with all laws and agency policies related to control of nuisance wildlife including <i>State Parks Procedure 65-1: Problem Wildlife Management</i>.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Natural Resource Management Program:</u> Primary regulatory authority for wildlife resources of the State of Washington rests with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Additionally, management of federally protected wildlife species falls under the authority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). As such, in response to nuisance wildlife issues, park staff should: 1) Solicit cooperation of WDFW, USF&WS and USDA to develop effective means of managing impacts of migratory and resident Canada Geese on park recreational activities and facilities (i.e., goose droppings in designated swim areas and aggressive geese.), 2) Solicit cooperation of WDFW to assess impacts of Yellow Bellied Marmot, Raccoon, Porcupine, and other wildlife on park vegetation and/or facilities and, if necessary, develop and implement nuisance wildlife control measures.</p>

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Fishery management (665N6)</p>	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> Not applicable</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> As part of the Park's on-going fish and wildlife management program park staff should continue to provide assistance to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) by making printed fishing regulations readily available to park visitors, by enforcing regulations and otherwise providing general support to WDFW's fisheries management efforts on lakes lying within or adjoining park property.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Natural Resource Management Program:</u> Primary regulatory authority for fish resources in waters of the State of Washington rests with WDFW. On lakes wholly owned by State Parks additional regulatory authority for the taking of fish may be exercised by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. As such, park and region staff should continue to coordinate with WDFW in the management of sport fisheries on Deep Lake, Dry Falls Lake, Perch Lake, and Vic Meyers Lake for the purpose of maintaining and/or enhancing high-quality fishing opportunities for park visitors.</p>

Table 3: Natural Resource Issues (Continued)

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Lake water quality, quantity, and conservation (665N7)</p>	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> Not Applicable</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> Park staff will seek to ensure that the quality and quantity of water in all park area lakes is not diminished as a result of park facilities development, recreational use, or other human caused degradation, and otherwise meet or exceed water quality standards for outstanding resource waters as defined in <i>Chapter 173-201A WAC- Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington</i>. Staff should strongly advocate for protection of water quality during county land use/development permitting processes for lands adjacent to Sun Lakes – Dry Falls State Park Area.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Natural Resource Management Program:</u> Park staff should follow Washington State Department of Ecology and Washington State Department of Health guidelines for monitoring Nitrate and Fecal Coliform levels in lake waters in lakes managed by Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park.</p>

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Protection of geologic features (665N8)</p>	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> All major cliff bands, talus, and other very steep slopes associated with ice age floods are classified as Natural Areas to limit recreational development and use to hiking trails and other low intensity recreational development/uses. Classification in this manner provides a high level of protection to these features.</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> As part of the on-going resource management program state park's staff will insure that formations of geological significance are identified and protected.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Natural Resource Management Program:</u> Park staff should coordinate with Regional Resource Stewardship staff, and work with DNR, NRCS, NPS and others with geologic expertise, to identify significant geological formations, measures to protect them, and opportunities to interpret them throughout the park.</p>

Table 3: Natural Resource Issues (Continued)

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Property management plan (665N9)</p>	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> Commission-approved properties appropriate for acquisition/exchange and preliminary classifications for specific properties are shown in Figure 2: Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary Map.</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> Any land acquisitions or disposals must be consistent with <i>Commission Policy 62-25-3: Dual Functions of Commission and Director; 68-55-1: Land Acquisition; 74-55-1 Inholding Policy; 76-55-1: Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition; and 81-55-1: Appraisal Policy.</i></p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Natural Resource Management Program:</u> Park staff should coordinate with region and headquarters Resource Stewardship staff, Planning, and Lands Programs to prepare a Park Property Acquisition Plan. This plan should detail properties desired through trade, donation, fee acquisition, easements, management agreement, or other similar instruments. WSP&RC should seek to acquire the Feed Lot Property, Hope properties (south of park entrance), and large tracts of public lands surrounding existing park boundaries to: 1) Potentially expand camping and day use opportunities (McLeary property), 2) ensure long-term protection and geologic integrity of Dry Falls proper, 3) eliminate inholdings (Hope properties), 4) ensure long-term protection and geologic integrity of all major cliff bands and talus associated with ice age floods (surrounding public lands), 5) ensure long-term preservation of park view sheds in a predominantly undisturbed state (surrounding public lands), 6) provide additional non-motorized, multiple-use trail opportunities (hiking, cycling, equestrian) in upland areas outside of the coulee (surrounding public lands). Note: as an interim measure to #3, parks should review and monitor property lines and water facility use, to eliminate trespass and protect the state from improper water system uses,</p> <p>As part of the statewide land classification and management program, propose classification of Lake Lenore Caves, and other park property holdings.</p>

Table 4: Cultural Resource Issues and Management Approaches

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Protection of archaeological/historic resources (665C1)</p>	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification</u>: The area surrounding the Dry Falls Visitor Center, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) era overlook and adjacent residence, is classified as a Heritage Area. The primary purpose of this designation is to encourage the preservation of CCC structures and recreational facilities built in that era.</p> <p><u>Park Policy</u>: 1) Park’s staff should ensure that no known historic or prehistoric cultural sites or artifacts are disturbed or degraded by park development or renovation. 2) Location of all Native American cultural sites will be treated as confidential information and any disturbance of sites will be immediately reported to Region Stewardship Manager, State Parks Archaeologist, and Parks Interpretive Supervisor. In the event of major disturbance to known Native American cultural sites, State Parks Archaeologist will notify appropriate Tribal authorities.3) Park staff will monitor all known Native American cultural sites in developed park areas to identify any increase in exposure of cultural material attributable to recreational activity. 4) All assessment, monitoring, and management of cultural sites will be carried out under the supervision of State Parks Archaeologist and Parks Interpretive Supervisor. 5) Monitoring of undisclosed cultural sites not located in developed park areas will be the responsibility of regional Tribal authorities in coordination with the State Parks Archaeologist.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Cultural Resource Management Program</u>: Park staff should coordinate with region staff, Parks Archaeologist, Parks Interpretive Supervisor, and Regional Parks Resource Stewardship Manager, and solicit technical assistance from the Colville Confederated Tribal authorities and the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) to inventory, assess, monitor, and manage Historical sites and Native American cultural sites and to prescribe measures to ensure their long-term protection and determine appropriate approaches to interpretive programming.</p>

Table 5: Recreational Resource/Facility Issues and Management Approaches

Issue	Management Approach
Agency/Resort concessionaire relationship (665R1)	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> Park land associated with the Sun Lakes Resort Concession and Golf course are classified as Recreation Areas. See Figure 2</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> All activities related to park concessions must comply with provisions of <i>Chapter 352-24 WAC: Concessions and Leases</i>.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Recreational Resource/Facilities Management Program:</u> Resort concession agreement will be completed as soon as feasible.</p>

Issue	Management Approach
Operation of Camp Delaney (665R2)	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> The area of the park around Camp Delaney ELC is classified as Recreation.</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> Operation of Camp Delaney will comply with <i>Administrative Policy 65-005 and 65-006: Check-in and Out of ELC's</i>, and <i>Directive 95-2: Administrative use of ELC Facilities</i>.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Recreational Resource/Facility Management Program:</u> Park staff should work with Eastern Region Programs and Services and HQ ELC staff to operate Camp Delaney as a self-sufficient program.</p>

Issue	Management Approach
Natural/Cultural resource interpretive programming and facilities. (665R3)	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> Applies to all Land Classifications</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Recreational Resource/Facility Management Program:</u></p> <p><i>Park Capital Projects:</i> In conjunction with capital project proposals for Dry Falls Visitor Center, Park Staff will coordinate with Regional Stewardship staff and Parks Interpretive specialist to develop an interpretive plan, which should include at least the following elements: 1) A park-wide interpretive survey and assessment of significant natural and cultural resources. 2) Development of a park-wide interpretive theme. 3) Design and location of interpretive structures/facilities. 4) Specific content of interpretive displays, signs, and brochures. 5) Development of on-site interpretive programming. 6) Volunteer participation.</p>

Table 5: Recreational Resource/Facility Issues (Continued)

Issue	Management Approach
Maintenance of park facilities (665R4)	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> Applicable across all Land Classifications</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Recreational Resource/Facility Management Program:</u> Park staff will develop and maintain a maintenance management program for the park which will include all facilities, grounds and programs of the park.</p>

Issue	Management Approach
Operation of Dry Falls Visitor Center (665R5)	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> The area around the Dry Falls Visitor Center is classified as a Heritage Area.</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> Sun Lakes – Dry Falls State Park Staff will maintain a presence in the operation of the Dry Falls Visitor Center.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Recreational Resource/Facility Management Program:</u> As part of the visitor center program State Parks should: 1) Continue 5 year (from May 5, 2001) cooperative staffing arrangement with NPS. 2) Continue to work with Grant County to gain continued funding for staffing and operation of the visitor center. 3) Explore potential funding sources to carry out an extensive renovation/redesign of the Dry Falls Visitor Center. 4) Generate revenue to meet operational costs at the center.</p>

Issue	Management Approach
Scenic quality view sheds (665R6)	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> See issue 665N9 and Figure 2: Sun Lakes – Dry Falls State Park Land Classification Map</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Recreational Resource/Facility Management Program:</u> State Parks Staff should work cooperatively with neighboring land owners (BLM, private, BOR, DNR, WDFW) to formulate management agreements or conservation easements that limit adjacent property development in areas visible from within the park (see also issue 665N9).</p>

Table 5: Recreational Resource/Facility Issues (Continued)

Issue	Management Approach
Trail maintenance and development (665R7)	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> Applicable across all Land Classifications</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> All activities will comply with provisions found in Commission Policy 72-99-1: <i>Trail Policy</i></p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Recreational Resource/Facility Management Program:</u></p> <p><i>Park Capital Projects:</i> As part of State Park’s trails program and consistent with formally adopted park master plan, land classifications, and agency trails policy; park staff will: 1) Develop a park trail use and development plan that details a) additional trails to construct, b) trail maintenance needs, c) existing trails to abandon, d) allowed conveyances, e) degrees of difficulty/accessibility. 2) Construct, repair, or revegetate trails as necessary. 3) Develop park trail sign plan. 4) Purchase and install trail information maps, regulatory signs, and directional signs. 5) Develop and print park trail information brochure.</p> <p>As part of an on-going trails program, State Parks Staff will seek to formulate management agreements with adjacent public land management agencies (DNR, BLM, BOR, WDFW) to allow park staff to manage existing trails and develop additional non-motorized, multiple use trail opportunities (hiking, cycling, equestrian) on lands outside current park boundaries.</p>

Issue	Management Approach
Trail management-use by cyclists (665R8)	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> 1) All areas with existing park trails, excepting Dry Falls Overlook to Dry Falls Lake trail, trails between Red/Green Alkali Lakes and Dry Falls Lake, trails around Red/Green Alkali Lakes, and trails crossing Spring Creek, are classified as a combination of Recreation and Resource Recreation Areas, thereby conditionally permitting use of trails in these areas by cyclists. 2) All areas on adjacent public lands, excepting cliff bands and talus, are proposed as Resource Recreation Areas, thereby conditionally permitting use of trails in these areas by cyclists. 3) No cyclist use from park property will be permitted onto adjacent property prior to approval of management agreements with adjacent public land stewards.</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> Unless prohibited by land classification (i.e. Natural Areas), all trails will allow historic use until such time as a trail policy is adopted and a plan is created for the park.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Recreational Resource/Facility Management Program:</u> As part of the parks on-going trails program trail use signing, trail maps, and trail brochures shall be implemented or produced by Sun Lakes – Dry Falls staff in conjunction with the Regional Planner and Region Manager.</p>

Table 5: Recreational Resource/Facility Issues (Continued)

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Trail management-equestrian use/loop trails (665R9)</p>	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> 1) All areas with existing park trails, excepting Dry Falls Overlook to Dry Falls Lake trail, trails between Red/Green Alkali Lakes and Dry Falls Lake, trails around Red/Green Alkali Lakes, and trails crossing Spring Creek are classified as a combination of Recreation and Resource Recreation Areas, thereby conditionally permitting use of trails in these areas by equestrians. 2) All areas on adjacent public lands, excepting cliff bands and talus, are identified as Resource Recreation Areas, thereby conditionally permitting use of trails in these areas by equestrians.</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> 1) Unless prohibited by land classification (i.e. Natural Areas), all trails will allow historic use until such time as a trail policy is adopted and a plan is created for the park. 2) No equestrian use from park property will be permitted onto adjacent property prior to approval of management agreements with adjacent public land stewards.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Recreational Resource/Facility Management Program:</u> As part of the parks on-going trails program an equestrian loading/unloading area, trail use signing, trail maps, and trail brochures shall be implemented or produced by Sun Lakes – Dry Falls staff in conjunction with the Regional Planner and Region Manager.</p>

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Law enforcement (665R10)</p>	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> Applicable across all Land Classifications</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> Enforce the laws of the State of Washington and the WSPRC according to agency policy and procedures. Commissioned Ranger Staff will follow approved Sun Lakes – Dry Falls State Park Enforcement Plan.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Recreational Resource/Facility Management Program:</u> Sun Lakes – Dry Falls State Park Area deals with a wide range of matters from old facilities and amenities to long patterns of historic use. Traffic violations and underage drinking of alcohol are the most prominent problem areas. State Parks is the primary law enforcement presence with-in the park and is often called to assist in nearby matters by the Washington State Patrol and Grant County Sheriffs Office. The goal of law enforcement will be to maintain visitor and resource protection as well as maintain order throughout the park.</p>

Table 5: Recreational Resource/Facility Issues (Continued)

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Visitor crowding effects on recreational experience</p> <p>Water oriented recreation (665R11)</p>	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> 1) Park Lake is classified as a Recreation Area, thereby allowing recreational developments and uses including full service marinas, formal swim areas, multiple ramp boat launches, fishing piers, motorized vessel use, water-skiing and other high intensity developments and uses. 2) Castle Lake, Deep Lake, Dry Falls Lake, Perch Lake, and Vic Meyers Lake are classified as Resource Recreation Areas, limiting recreational developments to small scale boat ramps, fishing piers, and generally limiting uses to non-motorized vessels, float tubes, and informal swimming. Motorized use of Deep Lake will conditionally be allowed to continue per Grant County motorized watercraft ordinances. 3) Red Alkali Lake, Green Alkali Lake, Meadow Lake, and Mirror Lake are classified as Natural Areas, thereby generally limiting recreational developments to hand carried boat launch sites, small fishing piers, boardwalks, non-motorized hand carried vessels, float tubes, and informal swimming/wading.</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> As part of the park boating program, park and regional staff should: 1) Encourage Grant County Sheriffs Office to continue and/or enhance active enforcement of Grant County Ordinance 6.08.64(g) (5 mph vessel speed limit and water-skiing/personal water craft prohibition on Deep Lake) and Grant County Ordinance 6.08.64(b) (seasonal closure, seasonal hours, and direction of travel for water-skiing on Park Lake). 2) Continue to provide assistance to Grant County Sheriffs Office by making printed vessel use regulations readily available to park visitors, by informing visitors of vessel use regulations as necessary, and otherwise by providing general support to Grant County's law enforcement efforts on Deep Lake and Park Lake. 3) Actively enforce prohibition on internal combustion engines (WAC 352-32-155) and other vessel use restrictions defined by formally adopted land classifications on lakes located wholly within Sun Lakes – Dry Falls State Park Area boundaries (Dry Falls, Green Alkali, Meadow, Mirror, Perch, Vic Meyers, and Red Alkali Lakes).</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Recreational Resource/Facility Management Program:</u> Primary regulatory authority, enforcement responsibility, and search and rescue (SAR) coordination for activities occurring on bodies of water of the State rests with individual county governments. In most cases, County Sheriffs are responsible for primary enforcement of county ordinances and coordination of SAR on bodies of water within their respective counties. As such, Sun Lakes – Dry Falls park staff should solicit cooperation from Grant County Sheriffs Office to review current levels of use, accidents, and conflicts between various vessel types occurring on lakes in Sun Lakes – Dry Falls State Park and evaluate: 1) Adequacy of current use regulations, 2) need for additional regulations or amendment of current regulations, 3) success of enforcement practices, 4) need for additional enforcement measures or enhanced cooperation, and 5) need for additional information dissemination and/or signing at State Park boat launches.</p> <p>In order to ensure that visitor perception of overcrowding does not interfere with the quality of the recreational experience, park staff should work with region resource stewardship staff to implement an LAC monitoring system, that measures the number of boats per acre of water on Park Lake. Standards for acceptable limits should be sought through the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA).</p>

Table 5: Recreational Resource/Facility Issues (Continued)

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Visitor crowding effects on recreational experience</p> <p>Land oriented recreation (665R12)</p>	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> Sun Lakes – Dry Falls State Park Area is classified to concentrate high-intensity use primarily in the developed resort, camp grounds, golf course, ELC, day use areas, and roadways. One large block of park land is reserved for low-intensity pedestrian, interpretive, educational uses only. This area generally lies between the southwest tip of Dry Falls Lake, Red/Green Alkali Lakes, Umatilla Rock and Camp Delaney. Additionally, wetlands, riparian areas, cliffs, and talus are similarly reserved for low-intensity uses consistent with long-term preservation of those resources. Dispersed medium-intensity trail and overland uses are allowed in most of the remainder of park areas. See Figure 2: Sun Lakes – Dry Falls Land Classification and Long-Term Boundary Map.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Recreational Resource/Facility Management Program:</u> When designing park facilities, consideration will be given to the effect the facility and design will have on visitors recreational experiences and the potential for use conflicts to arise. Park staff should pay close attention to the number of visitor conflicts that are reported.</p>

Issue	Management Approach
<p>Recreational opportunities provided at Deep Lake Area</p> <p>Vehicle boat launching and camping (665R13)</p>	<p>Policy Direction</p> <p><u>Land Classification:</u> The Deep Lake boat launch/day use area is classified as a Recreation Area.</p> <p><u>Park Policy:</u> 1) Vehicle boat launching at Deep Lake will be permitted on a seasonal basis during the periods when the lake is open to fishing, April 16-September 30. The only vehicular access permitted between October 1 – April 15 will be administrative staff. 2) Overnight camping at Deep Lake will be prohibited until such time as primitive hike/bike-in camping is designated, an implementation plan is approved, and facilities are developed. Vehicle camping will not be permitted.</p> <p>Programmatic Activities</p> <p><u>Park Recreational Resource/Facility Management Program:</u> Park Staff should work with Region Programs and Services staff, Regional Planner, Region Maintenance and Preservation Manager, and Region Stewardship Staff to develop and implement a plan for hike/bike in camping at Deep Lake. Such a plan should consider the possibility of relocating the existing parking area ¼ to ½ mile from Deep Lake to reduce the ability of vehicles to approach the lake. In addition to this, the feasibility of establishing a host site in the vicinity of the restroom should be explored, for the purpose of maintaining a presence in the area, and assisting in programs (e.g. guided tours) in the area.</p>

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A: CAMP PROJECT PLANNING PRINCIPALS

The seven basic principles used in the CAMP Project to ensure the long-term value of the end product to both the agency and the public stakeholders:

- 1) **Park management plans use a statewide format:** For efficiency and consistency among park management plans, State Parks has standardized management plans to include information that is applicable throughout the agency and a standard format for presenting park-specific information.
- 2) **Members of the public participate in development of park management plans.** Directly involving park stakeholders in producing and revising plans fosters better understanding of how their particular interests fit into the larger resource management context, while also giving them a stake in the plan's success. Public constituencies should be encouraged to participate in management planning both during the initial CAMP planning process and thereafter during annual open house meetings at the park.
- 3) **Park managers and park staff play an integral role in producing and revising park management plans.** Participation by park staff in planning is an essential part of ensuring that staff responsible for implementing this plan has a vested interest in making it succeed.
- 4) **Park management plans are the primary documents for communicating park resource management information.** Plans should be written to communicate clearly and concisely stewardship-related issues -- and the steps the agency should take to resolve them -- to the rest of the agency and to the public.
- 5) **Key administrative functions are incorporated into the park management planning process.** To ensure that park management plans are kept up to date, a process for proposing and justifying park capital and operating program requests has been incorporated into the management planning process.
- 6) **The Director approves park management plans.** Park management planning is an on-going process and plans should never be considered finished. Plans should however be considered "mature", ready to be published, and acted upon when they have been reviewed by the agency and approved by the Director or his/her designee.
- 7) **The review and approval process for future plan revisions will remain flexible.** After initial park management plans have been approved subsequent environmental, social, and political changes will necessitate that plans be revised. To ensure that revisions don't become mired in lengthy full agency review, a variable level approval process should be used. Staff at each level of the agency – park, region, division, and directorate -- must make a critical judgement as to whether a proposed plan revision requires review and approval at the next higher level.

APPENDIX B: WASHINGTON STATE PARKS LAND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Washington Administrative Code Establishing Land Classification System

WAC 352-16-020 Land classification system. State park areas are of statewide natural, cultural, and/or recreational significance and/or outstanding scenic beauty. They provide varied facilities serving low-intensity, medium intensity, and high intensity outdoor recreation activities, areas reserved for preservation, scientific research, education, public assembly, and/or environmental interpretation, and support facilities. They may be classified in whole or part as follows:

- (1) Recreational areas are suited and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use, conference, cultural and/or educational centers, or other uses serving large numbers of people.
- (2) Resource recreation areas are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use.
- (3) Natural areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological value while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses.
- (4) Heritage areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of unique or unusual archaeological, historical, scientific, and/or cultural features, and traditional cultural properties, which are of statewide or national significance.
- (5) Natural forest areas are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses, and which contain:
 - (a) Old-growth forest communities that have developed for one hundred fifty years or longer and have the following structural characteristics: Large old-growth trees, large snags, large logs on land, and large logs in streams; or
 - (b) Mature forest communities that have developed for ninety years or longer; or
 - (c) Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.
- (6) Natural area preserves are designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are registered and committed as a natural area preserve through a cooperative agreement with an appropriate natural resource agency pursuant to chapter 79.70 RCW and chapter 332-60 WAC.

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

**Land Classification Management Guidelines
Recreation Areas**

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

**Land Classification Management Guidelines
Resource Recreation Areas**

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

**Land Classification Management Guidelines
Natural Areas**

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

**Land Classification Management Guidelines
Heritage Areas**

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

**Land Classification Management Guidelines
Natural Forest Areas**

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

**Land Classification Management Guidelines
Natural Area Preserves**

TITLE	DEFINITION	PHILOSOPHY	PHYSICAL FEATURES	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES	DEVELOPMENTS
<p>Washington State Parks Natural Area Preserves</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> are designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are registered and committed as a natural area preserve through a cooperative agreement with an appropriate natural resource agency pursuant to chapter 79.70 RCW and chapter 332-60 WAC.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> are sites where human access is limited to educational and scientific purposes. The principal function of these areas is to preserve natural ecosystems or geologic features of statewide significance. Public access for recreation must be subordinate to the principal function of the classification.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> have a variety of topographic and vegetative conditions. They are generally large enough (300 or more acres) to contain one or more distinct and intact ecological communities. Smaller areas may be appropriate if representative of a unique or unusual ecological community or geologic feature. They may be partially or wholly on land, subterranean, or part of the marine environment. Desirably, they are part of a large system of open space, wildlife habitat, and vegetative communities that provide a good opportunity for long-term ecosystem sustainability.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> may be located anywhere in the state where natural ecological systems or significant geologic features exist. These areas are not "made", but rather exist due to historical circumstances that have resulted in little or no human interference in the natural system. As a part of an overall system, these areas should be geographically spread throughout the state.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> provide opportunities for scientific research and education about natural systems, geologic features, sensitive, rare, threatened or endangered species or communities. Recreational use of existing or relocated trails may be permitted, provided that it can be clearly demonstrated that such use does not degrade the system of natural processes occurring in the preserve. Otherwise, trails are limited to administrative, scientific and organized educational activities and uses. No other activities are permitted.</p>	<p><u>State Parks Natural Area Preserves</u> development shall be limited to access facilities for permitted activities and structures to inhibit general public access. No other facilities or structures are permitted.</p>

Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Facilities

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

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

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

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

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

N (Not Permitted)- Use not permitted.

NA - Not Applicable

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

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

Land Use and Land Classification Compatibility Matrix – Activities

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

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

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

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

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

N (Not Permitted)- Use not permitted.

NA - Not Applicable

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

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

**APPENDIX C: LISTING OF SUN LAKES-DRY FALLS STATE PARK
RESOURCE INVENTORIES AND OTHER DESCRIPTIVE
INFORMATION**

Listing of resource inventories and other descriptive documents will be expanded as information is gathered.

Title	Author	Date	Location
Washington State Parks Historic Properties Assessment, Sun Lakes – Dry Falls State Park	Engineering Program	1998	Park Office Region Office Stewardship Program Engineering Program
Sun Lakes – Dry Falls State Park Sensitive Plant Survey	Calypso for agency Environmental Program	1998 and ongoing updates	Park Office Region Office

APPENDIX D: LIST OF PLANS FOR SUN LAKES-DRY FALLS STATE PARK

List of all known plans for Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park. This table will be updated as plans required by CAMP are written.

Title	Date	Approved by	Location
Sun Lakes – Dry Falls State Park Master Plan	1998	Commission	Park Office Region Office Olympia HQ

APPENDIX E: GLOSSARY

Agency Policy/Procedure - One-time statement of administrative rules or procedures that apply to more than one park (e.g., Commission Policy, Administrative Policy/Procedure, Directive, Memorandum of Understanding, etc.), and are adopted by various levels of the agency.

Agency Program - Response to an issue identified in all or most parks that requires on-going cooperation of various agency staff, other agencies, and/or members of the public, and that is coordinated and implemented at the headquarters level. Examples include the following agency-level programs: Resource Stewardship, Lands, Environmental, Planning, Engineering, Contracts/Concessions, Interpretation, Law Enforcement, ELC, WCC, Volunteer, Boating, Winter Recreation, Central Reservations, Park Fees, Public Affairs, etc..

Capital Agency Staff Project - Proposal for a large-scale capital project (typically > \$20,000) in response to an issue. Examples include, request for preparation of a park master plan, major facility renovation, and acquisition of in-holdings/additional property (may include additional staff as an "operating impact").

Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) - Response to an issue that requires on-going monitoring and adaptive management of a specific natural, cultural, or recreational resource. The LAC system monitors specific resource attributes that are indicative of the overall condition of a resource at issue, and sets standards beyond which the condition of a resource is no longer acceptable. Should the condition of a resource exceed a pre-determined standard, specific management actions are prescribed in an effort to improve the condition to within the acceptable range. See Appendix F.

Other Park Plans - Subordinate plans developed to express, in greater detail, management of specific park resources, administration activities, or facility development (e.g., Bald Eagle management plans, business plans, and site plans).

Park Land Classification - Zoning that sets the desired intensity and extent of recreational uses and facilities for specific areas within a park (adopted by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, see Appendix B).

Park Master Plan - Plan that sets policy base and guides long-term capital development of a park (adopted by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission).

Park Policy - One-time statement of a rule in response to an issue that either regulates public activities or guides future management activities.

Park Program - Response to an issue that requires on-going cooperation of various agency staff, other agencies, and/or members of the public that is coordinated and implemented at the park level. Examples include wildfire prevention/suppression, watershed management, marine resource management, cultural resource management, visitor safety/law enforcement.

Park Staffing Plan - Response to an issue that requires changes to the allocation of staff time or areas of staff responsibility. Additional staff allocation is *usually* requested as part of "operating impacts" associated with capital projects, property acquisition, or in response to legal mandates.

Planned Maintenance Project - Proposal for a maintenance project (typically < \$20,000) or an agency staff project in response to an issue. Examples include small renovation projects, regularly scheduled facilities maintenance, requests for hazard tree removal, and requests for assistance in preparation of park-level plans.

Regional Program - Response to an issue identified in several parks that requires on-going cooperation of various agency staff, other agencies, and/or members of the public that is coordinated and implemented at the region level (e.g., Eastern Region Noxious Weed Control Program).

WAC (Washington Administrative Code) - Rules and regulations developed by state agencies at the direction of the legislature, governing administration of programs for which the legislature has appropriated funds. Most WACs approved by the State Parks and Recreation Commission are codified in Title 352 WAC.

APPENDIX F: LIMITS OF ACCEPTABLE CHANGE (LAC) ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Introduction

Managing a diverse collection of natural, cultural, and recreational resources is a balancing act. Park managers face increasing pressure to accommodate public recreational use of natural and cultural resources while also protecting those resources from unacceptable degradation. How much public use is too much? What kinds of use can a resource sustain? Over the past 30 years several approaches to resource management have been developed to increase objectivity in decision making when prescribing actions to protect resources. This Appendix explains the evolution of Washington State Parks' approach to resource management.

Carrying Capacity Model

Traditionally, State Parks has approached protection of resources using the "carrying capacity" model. The crux of this concept is that a selected park has a collection of natural, cultural, and recreational resources and that each park visitor causes a given amount of impact or wear on one or more of these resources. By setting a maximum number of visitors allowed to enter an area, a resource manager presumably can control the amount of impact and thereby sustain resources at a given level. If the maximum capacity is exceeded, resources may be significantly degraded or facilities over-burdened. The carrying capacity model has been widely embraced because it is easily understood and appears to be attainable. However, applying this approach to a specific site has significant difficulties and limitations. These include:

- # Difficulty in establishing a scientific basis or empirical evidence to support a proposed maximum capacity. Why are 10 people per day allowed but not 11?
- # Impacts per person are not always equal. Some visitors have greater sensitivity to the fragility of resources and tend to tread more lightly.
- # Great variety exists in the amount of impact, based on the type and extent of management tools in place. A primitive area with clearly defined trails, defined seasons of use and certain permit restrictions may be able to withstand a certain level of use with less impact than a similar area without such controls.
- # In many cases controlling the number of visitors accessing an area is simply not a practical option.

The above difficulties and limitations led the agency to search for an entirely different approach. In 1993, State Parks' staff identified the "Limits of Acceptable Change" model (or LAC) as the successor to the carrying capacity model. The carrying capacity model is not used in this management plan.

Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) Model

LAC was formally published by the U.S. Forest Service in 1985 (Stankey, Cole, Lucas, Petersen, Frissel: *The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) System for Wilderness Planning*. General Technical Report INT-176, January 1985). LAC was first adapted by State Parks staff for use in resource planning of Hope Island State Park. Public support for LAC at Hope Island further solidified the agency's acceptance of this management approach and ultimately led to its use in this plan.

The LAC model embodies a fundamental shift in approach to resource management. Instead of trying to answer the question "how much *access to* natural and cultural resources is too much?", the LAC model focuses on the condition of resources and asks "how much *change to the condition of resources*, as a result of public access and development, is too much?"

Application of LAC to state park management has been modified from the original Forest Service model, but retains its basic framework. The Washington State Parks adaptation can be summarized as follows:

- 1) **Identify key resource management issues:** identify high-profile issues where intensive monitoring and assessment is called for as part of the overall management approach outlined in the “Issues and Management Approaches” section of this plan.
- 2) **Select measurable indicators of natural, cultural, and recreational resource conditions:** identify quantifiable events or physical properties that gauge a resource’s condition or the quality of a visitor’s experience (e.g., area of bare ground in campsites, incidents of vandalism, reported visitor conflicts).
- 3) **Measurement of indicators:** determine methods for measuring indicators and make measurements.
- 4) **Determine standards (Acceptable Limits of Change):** identify an acceptable numeric range for the extent, distribution, and/or condition of resource indicators.
- 5) **Explore management options:** identify a range of management prescriptions designed to achieve or maintain resource standards.
- 6) **Select most appropriate management option(s):** initiate one or more identified management options if indicators do not meet determined standards.
- 7) **Monitor resource indicators:** schedule the monitoring or measurement of resource indicators over a period of time.
- 8) **Evaluate management actions:** determine successes and/or failures of applied management actions and, if necessary, modify either management actions or resource standards.
- 9) **Involve the public:** encourage park stakeholder participation during all of the above steps.

The LAC process recognizes that any recreational use of natural or cultural resources will cause some degree of change to those resources. The overarching goal of the LAC process is to involve managers, specialists, and stakeholders in identifying key park resources and determining how much change to those resources is acceptable. These key resources can then be assessed over time to determine if their condition achieves or remains within acceptable limits. If condition standards are not met, either additional management actions may be selected and implemented or resource standards may be changed, whichever is deemed appropriate.

In most cases, measuring changes or impacts to all resources in an area is impractical. For this reason LAC is an issue-driven process. LAC only addresses resource-related matters of heightened public concern or matters where the “most appropriate” approach to resource protection may be in dispute. Another practical consideration of LAC is the use of resource condition or quality of experience “Indicators”. Indicators are quantifiable observations or events that gauge the condition of a particular resource or experience. The use of indicators reduces the need for comprehensive resource inventories and allows persons without extensive technical expertise to monitor change.

Limits of Acceptable Change Tables

LAC adaptive management information specific to Sun Lakes - Dry Falls State Park will be presented in tables as plans for specific resources are written. Not all steps in the State Parks adaptation of LAC will be shown in the tables. Actual results of indicator measurements, the selected management options (if any), and evaluation of the selected options will be recorded in raw data monitoring forms. Issues will be grouped sequentially by natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Issue numbers will coincide with those listed in the "Park Issues and Management Approaches" section of the park's management plan. From left to right the tables outline the following information:

- 1) **Issue:** A general statement of the issue facing the park.
- 2) **Indicator:** A quantifiable, recorded event or physical property used to gauge a resource's condition or quality of a visitor's experience.
- 3) **Measurement of Indicator:** A description of how an indicator will be inventoried and how numeric measurements will be made.
- 4) **Standard (Acceptable Limit of Change):** A numeric threshold or range beyond which indicator measurements are no longer acceptable.
- 5) **Management Options:** A broad set of management prescriptions designed to achieve or maintain measurements within acceptable limits.
- 6) **Monitoring of Indicators:** A schedule of when and/or how often indicators will be inventoried and measured.

