WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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Agency Identification:

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
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Regional Offices:

Southwest Region	Northwest Region	Eastern Region	Puget Sound Region
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Olympia, WA 9812	Burlington, WA 98233	Wenatchee, WA 98801	Auburn, WA 98002
(360) 753-7143	(360) 755-9231	(509) 662-0420	(253) 931-3907

Responsibilities:

▪**State Parks System:** The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission acquires, operates, enhances and protects a diverse system of recreational, cultural, historical and natural sites. The agency manages 118 parks and three statewide recreation programs including boating safety, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. State Parks is governed by a board of commissioners – a policy-making body of seven citizens appointed by the governor to staggered six-year terms.

Responsible for:

- ▪Acquisition, development, and operation of state parks system.
- ▪State recreation trail system.
- ▪State water trail program.
- ▪Conveyances for persons in recreational activities (e.g., ski lifts)
- ▪State scenic river system.
- ▪State ocean beaches.

- State snowmobile program.
- Boating safety program.
- State Cross country ski program.
- Clean vessel program funding.

Details:
The commission manages over 260,000 acres, 60 miles of ocean beach, and over 900 miles of trails.

Parks system facilities include 7,000 campsites, 5,000 picnic sites, 100 group campsites, 140 boat launch lanes, numerous swim beaches, kitchen and picnic shelters, a golf course, a ski area, playing fields, playground equipment and fishing docks, 12 environmental learning centers, one conference center, 14 interpretive centers and 17 historic areas, including, military forts, homesteads, and numerous historic residences and lighthouses.

In terms of infrastructure, the commission operates sewage systems (25 miles of pipe, 588 septic tanks, 167 lift stations, 20 treatment plants, 50 lagoons, 221 pumps, 76 trailer dump stations and 38 boat pump out/dump stations), drinking water systems (47 miles of pipe, 127 wells, 116 reservoirs and 162 pumps) irrigation systems (13 miles of pipe, 28 wells, 10 reservoirs and 48 pumps), and 894 miles of roads.

Visitors to Washington state parks contribute more than $1.1 billion to Washington's economy and create more than 15,000 jobs. The agency employs approximately 500 permanent and 415 seasonal and temporary staff. It uses more than 200,000 volunteer hours each year.

▪Boating Program.
The program is responsible for coordinating boating safety education, marine law enforcement, vessel registration and accident reporting with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and private and non-profit organizations. The program is also responsible for coordinating efforts to reduce the pollution of Washington's waters related to recreational boating activities. It is supported by federal "pass-through" funds. Approximately 230,000 boats are registered in Washington State.

▪Winter Recreation Program.
The program is responsible for administering facility planning, development, environmental and safety education, law enforcement, and other services for snowmobilers, cross country skiers, dog sledders, snowshoers and other winter recreationists throughout the state. It is supported by user registration fees. The program contracts for grooming of 3300 miles of snowmobile/cross country ski trails annually.

Organization and Budget:

Budget by Source and Program

Agency: 465 State Parks and Recreation Commission
Total 2003-05 Operating Budget: $105,720,000

State Parks Operating Budget by Program Area and Funds

Program Area/Service Center	FTEs	GF-S	PRSA	Other Funds
Directorate (Director, Deputy, Budget/Policy and Public Affairs) Program 010	16.8	2,447,100	337,532	0
Human Resources SC Program 010	13.5	1,667,455	628,913	8,259
Business Development SC (Administration, Special Recreation and Enterprise) Programs 010,040,050	63.5	9,968,908	1,610,866	8,483,045
Parks Development SC Program 020	17.8	1,714,632	672,829	837,500
Stewardship SC Program 030, 020	10.5	1,335,734	367,370	12,500
Safety SC Program 030	4.0	2,553,100	313,700	0
Partnership/Community SC (includes Fort Worden) Program 030	38.6	3,304,100	2,471,557	0
Parks and Regions Program 030	530.9	37,407,671	28,493,033	795,155
Agency Totals	**695.6**	**60,398,700**	**34,895,800**	**10,136,459**

Other funds for dedicated programs include Federal, Private Local, Winter Recreation, Off Road Vehicle, Snowmobile, Aquatic Lands Enhancement, Public Safety, and 108-Motor Vehicle. Saving Incentive of $27,459 is also captured in Other Funds.

Parks revenue from fees, leases and concessions is deposited into the Parks Renewal and Stewardship Account (PRSA). The parks are supported by 37% park generated revenue and 63% General Fund. (Excluding dedicated funds)

State Parks has a special agreement this biennium with two Public Utility Districts to help support five parks owned by the Districts but operated by State Parks. These funds are not represented in the above table.

State Parks anticipates revenue of $36 million in the current biennium through fees, leases and concessions (PRSA). This revenue supports the operation of the parks and pays for deferred maintenance through the capital budget. The support for deferred maintenance has been reduced during the past two biennia, when PRSA became responsible for shared costs of COLAs, health and pension increases as well as increases in utilities, fuel, computer related needs, self insurance

premiums and interagency services such as Attorney General, Department of Personnel, and General Administration.

Capital Budget

Funds for the 2003-05 biennium were awarded for preservation, program enhancement, alternate financing (non-budgeted) and grant programs.

Preservation projects include renovation of the parks' utility systems, buildings and infrastructure, preservation of our historic resources, continued rehabilitation of Fort Worden and Cama Beach, and the initial renovation of Deception Pass State Park.

Fund	New	Reapprop
057 – St. Bldg. Const. Acct	9,924,500	18,175,000
269 – Parks & Recreation Acct	5,900,000	3,500,000
Total	**15,824,500**	**21,675,000**

Program enhancement projects include the addition and/or improvements of new facilities and campgrounds with an emphasis on revenue-generating capability; continued funding for the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial and the acquisition of new park properties.

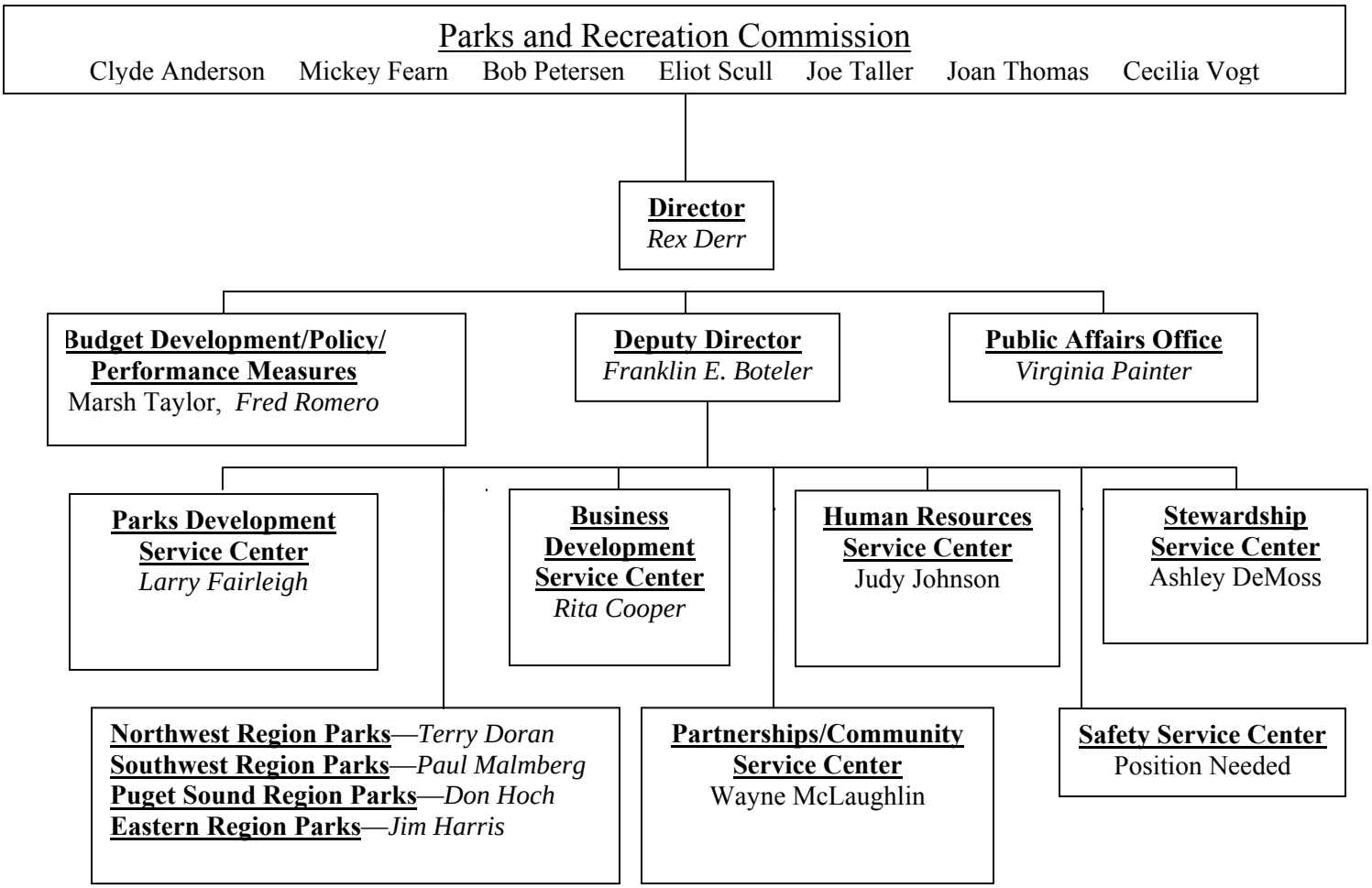
Fund	New	Reapprop
057 – St. Bldg. Const. Acct	4,650,000	750,000
269 – Parks & Recreation Acct	412,500	0
02N - Parkland Acquisition Acct	1,000,000	1,940,835
108 - Motor Vehicle Acct	150,000	
Total	**6,212,500**	**2,690,835**

Alternate financing projects include a family donation for Cama Beach, Chief Joseph property and the Beacon Rock Trust.

Fund	New	Reapprop
269 – Parks & Recreation Acct	1,505,000	200,000
151 – Chief Joseph Rec Dev	493,244	0
781 – Cross State Trail	152,151	0
Total	**2,150,395**	**200,000**

Grants consist of the Clean Vessel program (funded by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service), the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) and other smaller federal and local grants.

Fund	New	Reapprop
001 - GFS Federal (incl. unanticipated)	3,369,743	561,328
001 - GFS Local (incl. unanticipated)	244,718	0
Interagency	25,967,598	0
Total	**29,582,059**	**561,328**



**Italics*=exempt positions.

Leadership/Senior Management Team Profiles:

Rex Derr, Director.

Master of Science, Recreation Resources Development, Texas A&M University. Bachelor of Science, Park Management, The Pennsylvania State University. City Council Member, Deputy Mayor, Mayor City of Olympia, Washington. Various positions with Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission including: Executive Policy Administrator, Legislation; Assistant Director, Operations; Programs & Budget Manager; Youth Development & Conservation Programs Manager. National Park Service Ranger-- New York City Group of National Historic Sites; Isle Royale National Park; Grand Canyon National Park; Pacific Northwest Regional Office, C&O Canal Historic Park.

Franklin E. Boteler, Deputy Director
Responsible for internal operation of agency. Deputy Director in Washington State Parks (6 years), Deputy Director in Idaho State Parks (5 years), Chief of Planning North Carolina State Parks (5 years), Associate Professor of Forestry/Wildland Recreation West Virginia University (8 years), Counselor in halfway house for adolescents (2 years). B.S. Psychology, MFR/Ph.D. The Pennsylvania State University.

Fred Romero, Administrator, Policy and Legislation
Responsible for the agency's legislative program, including strategy, and stakeholder management. He is also a member of the policy-making executive Leadership Team and our Tribal Liaison. Fred, in his third year at Parks, has been in state government since 1982. He holds degrees from Stanford, Arizona, and University of Oregon (Ph.D.).

Virginia Painter, Public Affairs Administrator
Thirty years experience as a communications professional, including 24 years as a newspaper reporter and editor.

Marsh Taylor Manager, Policy, Budget and Performance Measurement
Fourteen years of state service focused in budget, planning and policy, including service as a Budget Assistant to the Governor in the Office of Financial Management. Four years as budget officer and performance breakthrough team leader for State Parks. B.A., M.P.A., University of Washington. Nominee - 2004 Governor's Distinguished Management Leadership Program.

Larry Fairleigh, Assistant Director, Parks Development Service Center
B.S. Univ of Washington, M.S. Colorado State Univ. (1973) in Park Design. Worked five years as a park manager for Colorado State Parks managing the remote and high altitude 72,000 acre Colorado State Forest Recreation Area and then the heavily used Cherry Creek State Recreation Area in suburban Denver. Held positions with the Washington Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) including Project Manager, Chief, Projects Division, and for six months Acting Director. Accepted a position at Washington State Parks in 1992 as Chief, Research and Long Range Planning. Appointed Assistant Director in 1994.

Wayne McLaughlin, Manager, Partnerships and Community Service Center
B.A. in Geography, WWU; M.A. in Environmental Studies, TESC; 25+ years with State Parks in a variety of positions; now responsible for partnership development, visitor services, volunteer programs, fee implementation, and supervision of management for Fort Worden Area parks.

Ashley DeMoss, Manager, Stewardship Services Center
Educated at Wellesley College in Boston and at Washington and Lee Law School in VA. Her background includes a senior position at WDNR in forest regulation, policy and legal affairs, internships at the White House and US Senate, and law enforcement in the U.S. Army.

Judy Johnson, Director of Human Resources
9 1/2 years at Parks and 21 1/2 years in HR at TESC. Responsible for managing the Human Resource and Health & Safety Office at State Parks. Responsible for labor and employee relations, disciplinary actions, grievances,
Investigations, and complaints.

Jim Harris, Eastern Region Manager
B.S. in Outdoor Recreation, University of Washington. M.S. in Recreation Administration, Colorado State University. Has worked for Washington State Parks for 30 years, with 18 of those years as a park ranger.

Terry Doran, Northwest Region Manager
Employed with State Parks since 1975. Region Manager since 1982 - supervises State Parks in the seven Northwest counties. Serves on several advisory committees, Historical Reserve trust board. Active in Audubon Society, conservation groups.

Paul Malmberg, Southwest Region Manager
B.S. and M.S. Forestry degrees from Northern Arizona University. After graduation, Mr. Malmberg was employed by Arizona State Parks as a Park Ranger where he worked 22 years with the last 13 years as a Region Manager. In 1992 Mr. Malmberg was hired as the Washington State Parks Southwest Region Manager.

Don Hoch, Puget Sound Region Manager
Recently responsible for management of one of the largest county operated outdoor recreation areas in the state of Georgia. From 1982 to 1994 manager of five separate Georgia State Parks for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, State Parks and Historic Sites Division. Numerous awards for community service. B.A. Degree in Recreation Administration – Calif. State Univ., Chico

Authorizing Environment and Environmental Scan:

Major Statutory Authorities (RCW with titles)

State Parks-related Revised Codes of Washington (RCW 79A.05) or Washington Administrative Codes (WAC 352),

Chapters

79A.05 Parks and recreation commission.

79A.10 Outdoor recreational facilities.

79A.15 Acquisition of habitat conservation and outdoor recreation lands.

79A.20 Wildlife and recreation lands -- Funding of maintenance and operations.

79A.25 Interagency committee for outdoor recreation.

79A.30 Washington state horse park.

79A.35 Washington state recreation trails system.

79A.40 Conveyances for persons in recreational activities.

79A.45 Skiing and commercial ski activity.

79A.50 Public lands for state or city parks.

79A.55 Scenic river system.

79A.60 Regulation of recreational vessels.

79A.65 Commission moorage facilities.

79A.70 State parks gift foundation.

79A.75 State parks centennial.

Chapters

352-04 Policy -- Meetings and delegation.

352-11 SEPA procedures.

352-12 Moorage and use of marine and inland water facilities.

352-16 Naming of state park areas and the land classification system.

352-20 Use of motor driven vehicles in state parks -- Parking restrictions -- Violations.

352-24 Concessions and leases.

352-28 Tree, plant and fungi cutting, removal and/or disposal.

352-32 Public use of state park areas.

352-37 Ocean beaches.

352-40 Public records.

352-44 Recreational conveyances -- Certification -- Inspections -- Operator qualifications -- Violations, etc.

352-48 Snowmobile account grants and contracts.

352-52 Hostels.

352-56 Winter recreational program account grants and contracts.

352-60 Recreational vessel equipment and operation.

352-64 The state recreational boating safety funding program.

352-65 Boating safety program approval.

352-66 Uniform waterway marking system.

352-67 Vessel sound level measurement procedures.

352-68 Water trail programs.

352-70 The state boating accident reporting program.

352-74 Filming within state parks.

352-75 Boat sewage pumpout contract program.

352-76 Clean vessel program funding.

Major Partners

State Parks and Cross State Programs (Boating Safety and Winter Recreation) thrive on partnerships. The agency Partnership Master list includes over 350 active partners.

Non Profits

The Nature Conservancy: Provides scientific expertise and volunteer services to state parks.

Center for Wooden Boats: Provides cooperative programming.

Washington Water Trails Association: Builds marine trail campsites.

American Youth Hostel: Operates youth hostels in state parks.

General Federation of Women's Clubs: Provide funding and volunteer services.

The Friends of the South Cle Elum Depot: Provides major planning and funding for facilities restoration.

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust: Provides cooperative trail planning and trail maintenance.

Public Utility Districts: Provide funding to develop and operate parks.

Audubon Society: Provides volunteer services. Contemplating providing interpretive centers.
Centrum: Provides artistic programs at Fort Worden.
Native Plant Society: Volunteers assist with invasive weed control.

Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts: Provide volunteer services.
Many local schools, friends groups, trials clubs, and cities.

Government Agencies:
Department of Natural Resources
Provides scientific support to natural resource activities in state parks.
DNR prison crews provide cost effective park repairs.
Usually takes lead in wild fire fighting on park lands.
Deparment of Fish and Wildlife
Provides scientific support to natural resource activities in state parks.
Assist with salmon habitat restoration.
Department of Transportation: Highway marker maintenance.
U.S. Forest Service: provides trail maintenance.
National Park Service: Provides training.
Arts Commission: Brings arts, performances, and interpretive demonstrations into the parks.
Local sheriffs: provide boating and park law enforcement.

Business Relationships:
Parks play a significant role in local economic activity—in some rural area parks are among the largest local enterprises. All parks purchase supplies from local vendors.

The agency administers 36 concessions. The top five are listed below.

Mt. Spokane Alpine Skiing Concession	$150,717.97
Blake Island Tillicum Village	$91,415.02
Sun Lakes Park Resort	$44,110.47
Skating Lake Surfside Golf Inc.	$22,859.22
Coca Cola	$9,087.17

Customer Expectations:
The agency has conducted two surveys of Washington Residents over the last five years. It surveys people who make campground reservations annually. And, it provides a customer feedback card for visitors to complete at parks.
Results:
92% indicate contact with staff is good-excellent.
Commission does a good job of managing the parks system.
State parks should have less development than private campgrounds.
People favor businesses providing financial support to parks (e.g., corporate sponsorships) but were concerned with too much commercialization of parks.
Most (73%) agreed with allowing businesses to sponsor state parks.
Most people opposed restaurants in state parks. They did support camp store, souvenir shop with educational items, places to buy soft drinks/snacks, recreation equipment rentals.
Most opposed charging more for camping at popular campgrounds.

Emerging Trends

State Parks completed a major trend analysis in 2001.

Some highlights:

The significance of the role of parks, recreation, and leisure is increasing in people's lives.

The greatest change in state population, retirement of the baby boomers, will lead to significant increases in demand for interpretive services and accessibility in parks.

Web use for making travel arrangements will is significantly increasing.

Nationwide, the five fastest growing outdoor recreation activities are:

Visiting historic places.
Downhill skiing.
Snowmobiling.
Sightseeing.
Nonconsumptive wildlife viewing.

The IAC completes major recreation trends analyses every five years.

Some highlights:

• More than half of the state's population participates in some form of outdoor recreation. Roughly half of this activity is local, with the other half shared among state, federal, and private providers.

• The state's population has grown about 20% since IAC's last statewide recreation survey. Importantly, this growth results both in total numbers of people actively recreating and in an increase in the proportion of inactive people. Growing demand is resulting in more reported crowding, increased specialization, increased user conflicts, and increased management actions to limit adverse impacts of access and activities. The increase in the inactive population is contributing to a possible decline in public health.

On key issues identified by the public:

• People feel more "crowded" than ever in virtually all recreation pursuits. Reports of incompatibilities between activities, including competition for limited resources, are becoming more common.

• Adults are concerned that younger generations are out of touch with nature and natural resources such as fish and wildlife.

• Some people are skeptical about management conclusions that recreational activities are incompatible with wildlife and habitat values.

• Habitat and open space are seen as integral to the recreation estate, directly contributing to traditional natural resource-based recreation (hunting, fishing) and emerging recreation (photography, observation).

• The public continues to identify lack of physical access to land as a more critical issue than lack of supply, a trend with documentation going back to the early 1960s.

• The public cites a lack of adequate maintenance and operation (M&O) of public land and facilities as a critical issue, and desires an on-the-ground management presence especially on state and federal lands.

• People are concerned about fees associated with recreation and access.

Strategic Plan Highlights:

Agency Mission:

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission acquires, operates, enhances and protects a diverse system of recreational, cultural, historical 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.

State Parks Centennial: The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has implemented a Centennial 2013 Plan. The plan outlines improvements the agency will complete, with the help of partners, volunteers and policy makers, by 2013 when the park system celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Details:
The 2013 Centennial Plan evolves from the Commission's Centennial Vision:

"*In 2013, Washington's state parks will be premier destinations of uncommon quality, including state and regionally significant natural, historic and recreation resources that are outstanding for public experience, health, enjoyment and learning.*"

With help from the Governor and Legislature, State Parks commits to:
Stewardship of all resources under its care.
Enjoyment and learning for visitors.
Service, using versatile and valued employees, partners and volunteers.
Facilities care, including the maintenance backlog and critical renovations.
Enhanced partnership building.
Leveraging increased general tax support with earned revenue and donations.

In the plan, *Legacy* projects address the needs of a growing population, and *100 Connections* are specific park projects State Parks is asking groups and visitors to gift to parks.

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats Analysis:

Strengths (what the agency does well, advantages)

- Public involvement. Major policy and budget decisions are made during public commission meetings which occur every seven weeks.
- Popularity. State parks are very popular with citizens. A WSU scientific survey indicated most citizens have visited a state park within the last three years.
- Learning/Innovation. Agency staff actively seek to learn from other state park systems and implement their breakthroughs.

Weaknesses (things that are a struggle for the agency)

- Expenditure of capital funds. Capital projects typically occur in environmentally and culturally sensitive areas. It takes an extended amount of time to get permits—resulting

in budget reappropriations and disgruntled support groups.

- Diversity of Staff. Natural resource agencies typically have the least diversity of staff among the state agencies. Outreach efforts (e.g., expanded recruiting) lead to little increase in diversity.
- Potential for Torts Claims. The amount of visitation and aged parks facilities expose the state to increasing liability.
- Failing infrastructure—particularly waste treatment systems. An engineering analyses indicates that one half of the waste treatment systems in the system will need major repair/replacement over the next 8 years.
- Adequate staff/resources to care for facilities the significant natural/cultural resources the agency is entrusted with.

Opportunities

- Tourism. State parks support economic development in rural areas of the state that have significant need for it (e.g., Lewis and Clark, Great Flood). State Parks offers unique destinations with new overnight accommodations.
- Group Retreat Centers. New group retreat centers have been developed at Cama Beach State Park (opening 2005) and Hyak Lodge (Snoqualmie Pass). Significant improvements have been made to Ft Worden.
- Health and Wellness. State parks can play a significant role in promoting public health.

Threats

- Perception that State Parks is an expendable priority in relation to other government services.
- Perception that State Parks System can be self supporting—with implementation of the vehicle parking fee, the agency has implemented the last significant increase in revenue generation available. Most state parks were not designed to be self supporting (e.g., multiple entrances, aged facilities, short season,…).

Emergent Issues:

Business Enterprise vs. Social Welfare.

Although the parks system was originally established to foster societal values (e.g., family togetherness, conservation, recreation, economic development); over the last fifteen years the legislature has encouraged the agency to move further in the direction of operating like a business enterprise—increasing the proportion of agency budget which is supported by revenue generated from park users. The parks are currently 37% self supporting. The agency's movement to increase fees and provide pay-for-recreation services creates some negative public reactions.

1. Vehicle Parking Fees: These fees ($5.00 per visit or $50 per year) were implemented in 2003. Collection of the fees enabled the agency to reduce the number of parks it had to close (or transfer back to original landowners) to five during 2003 budget cuts. There is strong public reaction to the vehicle parking fee with some people feeling that they have a basic right to access park lands.

2. Variable Campsite Fees: In October 2004 the Commission implemented variable campsite fees (higher fees for premium campsites). As the public begins to make reservations in Spring 2005 for campsites, there is likely to be some negative reaction to these fees.

3. Campsite Reservation System: In 1994 the agency implemented a campsite reservation system in cooperation with Oregon State Parks. The original hardware/software system was not successful—creating situations in which customers had to wait long times to access operators. In 2001 the agency switched to another vendor (CAMIS) which has operated a very successful campsite reservation system.

4. Uncoordinated Fee Systems: The public (and legislature) remain frustrated with the large number of fee systems in place to access public lands. In 2004 the agency joined with Oregon State Parks, USDA Forest Service, and the National Park Service to pilot a joint fee pass. Twenty Washington State Parks are currently participating with the joint pass.

4. Facilities Expansion: The agency has been renovating historical facilities (to support overnight stays) and constructing 200 cabins/yurts in order to generate revenue and provide expanded visitor services. Some segments of the public object to the construction of new facilities in parks while other segments of the public call for it.

Urgency/Significance/Controversy:
Segments of the public feel strong ownership of their state parks. At times complaints can be adamant.

Timeline for Conclusion/Resolution:
It is likely that the Legislature will continue pressures for the agency to become more self supporting—thus creating ongoing citizen reaction to fee-for-recreation services.

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Vision for 2013 Centennial State Parks System.
The Commission has adopted a Centennial Plan and Vision to prepare for the 2013 Centennial of the State Parks System.

The Vision: "*In 2013, Washington's state parks will be premier destinations of uncommon quality, including state and regionally significant natural, historic and recreation resources that are outstanding for public experience, health, enjoyment and learning.*"

To implement the vision, at the end of 2004 staff will be completing review of the existing agency land holdings with recommendations as to which ones should continue to be part of the state parks system and which ones divested to other recreation providers or, perhaps, sold. Savings from this process will be used to support the remaining parks in order to help bring them to levels of service that are acceptable to the commission. Current analyses indicate that 25-35 park holdings will be listed for divestiture over the 2004 to 2013 period. Divestiture of some of these holdings is likely to cause significant concerns from local community leaders (due to the loss of economic development) and park users.

As the agency moves to implement the 2013 Vision, it continues with plans for individual parks (called "CAMPS"—classification and management plans). Four current CAMP projects are likely to create public interest/reaction:

Lake Sammamish State Park: The initial 2003 CAMP plan identified a number of revenue generating, non traditional options for recreational use of the park (e.g., indoor soccer arena, indoor water slide,…). There is strong local interest in potential uses of the park—spanning from more intensive use to more natural preservation. A large, locally based citizen task force has been formed to advise the commission on potential uses of the park.

Fort Worden State Park: The agency has initiated its CAMP process for Fort Worden. This park has ongoing strong local interest and support. Fort Worden has relatively high capital improvement needs and the agency will be exploring new partnership opportunities in administration of the park.

Implementation of the Centennial Plan also calls for development of a new state park in Southeastern Washington. This is somewhat controversial as the commission transferred four southeastern state parks back to the federal government as a result of 2003 budget cuts.

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2005-07 Proposed Agency Request Legislation

Background Checks for Non-Commissioned Staff and Volunteers
State Park employs over 500 people who have access to children and vulnerable adults or handle cash within state parks. Uniformed employees undergo background checks, but other employees—maintenance personnel, park aides, and (camp host) volunteers--do not. Thousands of volunteers come into contact with children in the Jr. Ranger program, at fireside talks, or on interpretive tours.

Background check legislation should also encompass people who handle money. For example, over a five month period, State Parks collects over $4 million in cash and/or in credit card transactions, and these collections are often handled by park personnel who are seasonal help Park Aides.

Agency request legislation would request authority to conduct background checks on non-commissioned State Park employees and volunteers. Fiscal impact: $ 50,000.

Park Ranger General Authority
The agency will submit this item as a placeholder on the list State Parks submits to OFM as 2005 Agency Request Legislation.

Ice Age Flood Coordinating Committee
Unveiling the mystery of the Ice Age Floods is part of the State Parks' *Centennial 2013 Plan.* The last Ice Age Floods occurred 12,000-17,000 years ago. Vivid reminders of their impact remain on the landscape in Washington and other western states. The story of the Ice Age Floods and their importance for the nation's natural history and geology, represent a very popular interpretive theme.

The legislation would establish a formal coordinating committee of state and local agencies and private parties to develop plans and implementation strategies to educate the public about the Ice Age Flood. This Coordinating Committee would be similar to the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Advisory Committee, created to lead and coordinate the state's efforts to commemorate the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial. Minimal fiscal impact.

Special License Plates
The state Department of Licensing offers a program that allows vehicle owners to purchase "organization license plates," --license plates that display a symbol or artwork emblematic of certain programs or universities. Digitalization of the manufacturing process has made these special license plates a cost-effective way to raise revenue for a cause or an organization.

This legislation will create a special license plate for vehicle owners who wish to purchase them to support State Parks. Money earned from the sale of these plates, not to exceed $40 per purchase, will be used for programs benefiting state parks