



- [Home](#)
- [Reservations](#)
- [Discover Pass](#)
- [Special Offers](#)
- [Passes/Permits](#)
- [Volunteering](#)
- [Donations](#)
- [Centennial 2013](#)
- [Beyond 2013](#)
- [Commission Meetings](#)
- [What's New](#)
- [State Parks Foundation](#)
- [News](#)
- [Tsunami Debris](#)

- RELATED LINKS
- [Boating Programs](#)
  - [Winter Recreation](#)
  - [ADA Recreation](#)
  - [Stewardship](#)
  - [Planning & New Development](#)
  - [Puget Sound - Hood Canal Cleanup](#)

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Select year: [2013](#) [2012](#) [2011](#) [2010](#) [2009](#) [2008](#) [2007](#) [2006](#) [2005](#) [2004](#)

[Winter Schedule](#)  
(PDF format)

### News Release 13-036

**Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission**  
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#### State Parks announces public meeting on proposed management agreement at Fort Worden

OLYMPIA – July, 19, 2013 – Washington State Parks announces a public meeting July 30, to provide details on a draft lease agreement that could define cooperative management at Fort Worden State Park.

The public meeting is scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. July 30, in the Commons Building at Fort Worden State Park, 200 Battery Way, Port Townsend. The purpose of the meeting is to roll out and summarize the details of a proposed 50-year lease agreement currently in development and not yet available for review. The agreement would outline how the Port Townsend Lifelong Learning Center Public Development Authority could manage the portions of Fort Worden State Park commonly referred to as "the campus."

The Commission is tentatively scheduled to consider adoption of a lease agreement with the PDA at 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 8, its regular meeting in Anacortes, if the PDA adopts a final proposal prior to the meeting. A unanimous vote is required for Commission approval of any 50-year lease.

In 2008, the Commission directed staff to work with a non-profit partner to make Fort Worden State Park a Life-Long Learning Center. In December 2012, the Commission directed staff to negotiate an agreement with the Fort Worden Lifelong Learning Center Public Development Authority to manage the campus portion of Fort Worden State Park. The campus is comprised of the conference center, rental classrooms and residences used as overnight rentals. State Parks would continue to manage and operate the campground, trails, beach and other natural areas of the park. More information about the PDA is available on the organization's web site at [www.fwpda.org](http://www.fwpda.org).

The PDA board has said it intends to have a public meeting on Aug. 1, to consider adopting a draft agreement. If the PDA board adopts the proposal at that meeting, it will move forward for Commission consideration on Aug. 8. If the PDA does not adopt the proposal at the Aug. 1 PDA public meeting, State Parks staff will recommend that the Commission postpone any consideration on Aug. 8.

For information about Commission meetings, visit online at [www.parks.wa.gov/agency/commissionmeetings/](http://www.parks.wa.gov/agency/commissionmeetings/). A full agenda is posted approximately one week in advance of all regular commission meetings.

Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend is considered by many to be an icon of the state park system. With 433 acres and 11,000 feet of saltwater frontage, the park is known for its large collection of historic buildings from its origins as a 1900-era coastal defense fort. The park is the setting for a variety of festivals, workshops and community events. It is popular for overnight rental of historic homes at the site.

Stay connected to your state parks by following Washington State Parks at [www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateParks](http://www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateParks), [www.twitter.com/WASStatePks](http://www.twitter.com/WASStatePks), [www.youtube.com/WashingtonStateParks](http://www.youtube.com/WashingtonStateParks) and [www.foursquare.com/WASStatePks](http://www.foursquare.com/WASStatePks). Share your favorite state park adventure on the State Parks' blog site at [www.AdventureAwaits.com](http://www.AdventureAwaits.com).

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission manages a diverse system of more than 100 state parks and recreation programs, including long-distance trails, boating safety and winter recreation. Washington State Parks turned 100 years old on March 19, 2013, and will celebrate with events in parks all over the state, all year long. For more information, visit [www.parks.wa.gov/events/](http://www.parks.wa.gov/events/).

Support state parks by purchasing your annual Discover Pass today, and enjoy a whole year of outdoor fun on Washington's beautiful state-managed recreation lands. For more information, visit [www.discoverpass.wa.gov](http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov).