

Item E-3: Fort Worden State Park - Future Governance

This item asks the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to authorize staff to enter into negotiations with the Fort Worden Lifelong Learning Center Public Development Authority regarding a co-management agreement to guide the future governance of Fort Worden State Park. This item complies with our Centennial 2013 Plan element, “Our Commitment – Stewardship”, and with our core values.

REQUESTED ACTION FROM COMMISSION:

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

1. Following review, staff has determined that the action proposed for the Commission by staff is exempt from the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) pursuant to WAC 197-11-800(14)(h).
2. Expresses its appreciation to stakeholders and the public for their participation and comments related to Fort Worden State Park potentially being managed in partnership with The Fort Worden Lifelong Learning Center Public Development Authority.
3. Accepts the Fort Worden State Park Business and Management Plan as submitted by the Fort Worden Lifelong Learning Center Public Development Authority as being consistent with the spirit and intent of the action taken by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission in September 2008 regarding the creation of a Lifelong Learning Center at Fort Worden State Park.
4. Expresses its strong support for realizing the vision of Fort Worden State Park as a Lifelong Learning Center in partnership with the Fort Worden Lifelong Learning Center Public Development Authority and directs the Director to make every reasonable effort to achieve this vision so long as any proposed co-management agreement does not adversely impact the rest of the state park system.
5. Will provide financial support to the PDA at Fort Worden State Park as negotiated and contingent upon available funding from either statewide earned revenue or legislative appropriation of additional funding so long as there is no adverse financial impact on the rest of the state park system.
- ~~6. Directs that any proposed co-management agreement brought to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration projects a cumulative reduction of net cost to Washington State Parks for its operational responsibilities at Fort Worden State Park no later than the end of fiscal year 2020 through net revenue increases and/or cost avoidance assumed by the Fort Worden Lifelong Learning Center Public Development Authority.~~
- ~~7. Authorizes the Director and/or designee to negotiate a co-management agreement that is consistent with action taken by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission in September 2008 creating a Lifelong Learning Center at Fort Worden State Park.~~

8. Directs and reaffirms that in any proposed co-management agreement with the Fort Worden Lifelong Learning Center Public Development Authority ownership and title to all of Fort Worden State Park shall remain with the State of Washington and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will consider temporary title encumbrances on very limited parts of Fort Worden State Park as may be necessary to secure grants and tax credits for capital redevelopment projects.
 9. Intends to provide ample opportunity for stakeholders and the public to review, understand and comment on any proposed co-management at Fort Worden State Park prior to taking action.
 10. Directs that the Director, upon completion of a negotiated draft co-management agreement with the Fort Worden Lifelong Learning Center Public Development Authority, bring that agreement to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission for review and final consideration no later than June 30, 2013.
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REQUESTED ACTION FROM COMMISSION

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

6. Directs that any proposed co-management agreement brought to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (WSPRC) reflect a Net Present Value in projecting: i. an increase of Parks net revenue over a ten year time-line and ii. a decrease in the net Parks operating deficit relative to an agreed upon baseline, for its operational responsibilities at Fort Worden State Park no later than the fourth complete year of partnership through net revenue increases and/or cost avoidance assumed by the Fort Worden Lifelong Learning Center Public Development Authority.

The co-management agreement will include milestones for both parties (State Parks and PDA) that tracks and evaluates specific performance measures, goals for reductions in net-operating expenses, goals for net-revenue increases, targets for capital improvements priorities and other public benefits.

7. Authorizes the Director and/or designee to negotiate a co-management agreement that is consistent with and guided by the spirit and intent of the action taken by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission in September 2008 creating a Lifelong Learning Center at Fort Worden State Park, and minimizes the direct loss of jobs by current Fort Worden state employees.

11. Directs that the co-management agreement break down the capital plan into discrete projects and identify a stand-alone project of high value to the plan for early completion, and for the purpose of demonstrating the performance of the partners and improving the performance of subsequent operations.

12. Directs that the map found in Appendix 5 of the item be amended to remove approximately 10 acres of forested area near McCurdy Pavilion from the proposed management boundary for the Fort Worden Life Long Learning Center Public Development Authority.

Motion and approval as requested with changes (in red).