

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS
AND RECREATION
COMMISSION

Community & Economic Development Committee

PRESENTED BY
OWEN ROWE, POLICY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR



State Parks and Recreation Commission

7 commissioners appointed by the Governor to set policy for the agency

Serve staggered 6-year terms

Hires the Director



Steve S. Milner, Chair
Chelan



Michael Latimer, Vice-Chair
Yakima



Mark O. Brown, Secretary
Lacey



Ken Bounds
Seattle



Sophia Danenberg
Seattle



Diana Perez
Vancouver



Lucinda S. Whaley
Spokane



Don Hoch, Director

State Parks by the numbers

- 124 developed parks; includes 19 marine parks, 16 heritage sites, 11 historical parks, and 13 interpretive centers
- 138,000 total acres
- 80,000 acres of forest land
- 19,800 acres of wetlands
- 59 miles of Seashore Conservation Area
- Over 700 miles of park trails, and over 400 miles of cross-state trails
- More than 3,000 miles of groomed snowmobile and 300 miles of cross-country and snowshoe trails



Boating & Winter Recreation







Lake Sammamish State Park



Camping at Steamboat Rock State Park





Stuart Island Marine State Park

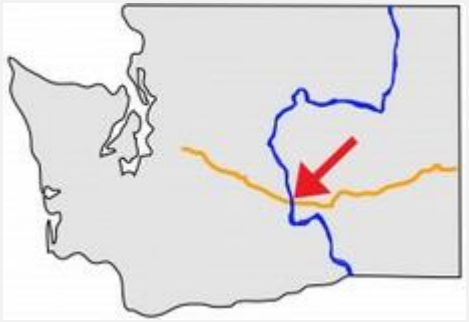




Admiralty Head Lighthouse, Fort Casey Historical State Park


GOLDENDALE OBSERVATORY

Beverly Bridge
Palouse to Cascades Trail







Public/Private Partnership at St. Edward State Park

Concessions- Tillicum Village at Blake Island State Park

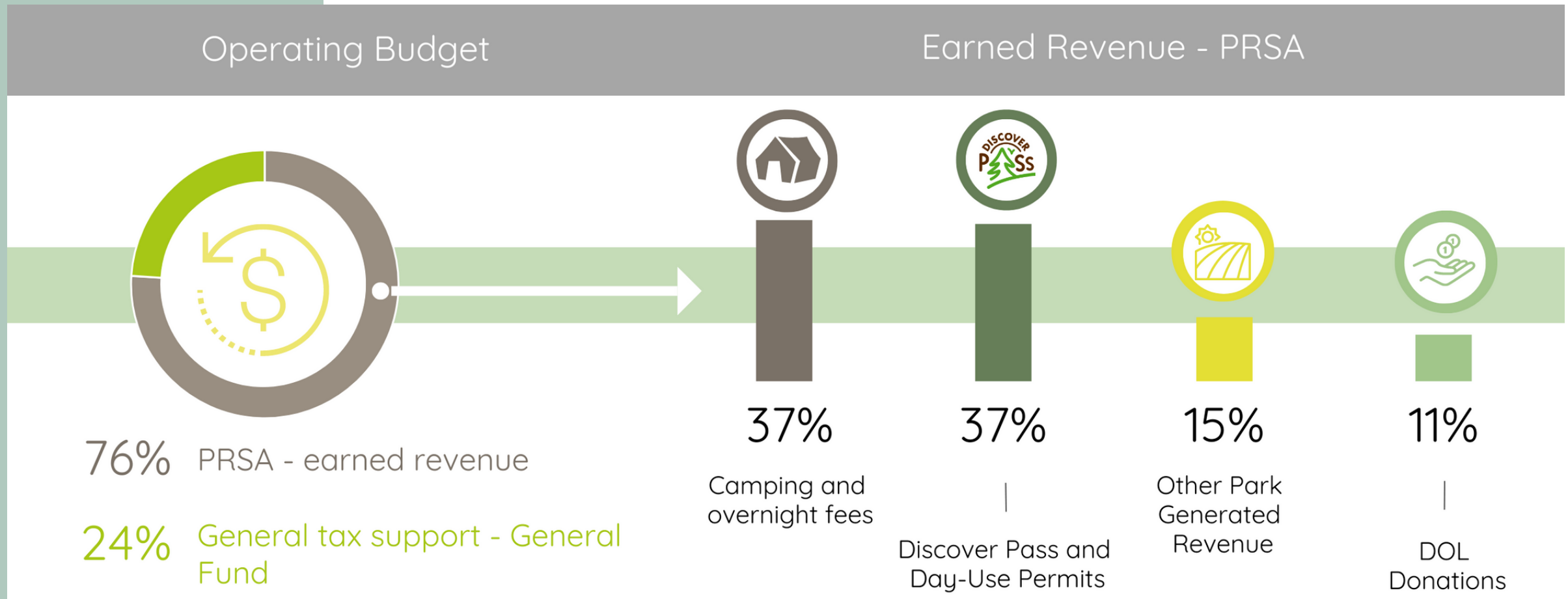




Folk and Traditional Arts Program- Canoe Families Journey



Operating Budget Composition



Economic contribution from your state parks

Continued growth — over 43 million visits projected in FY 2023

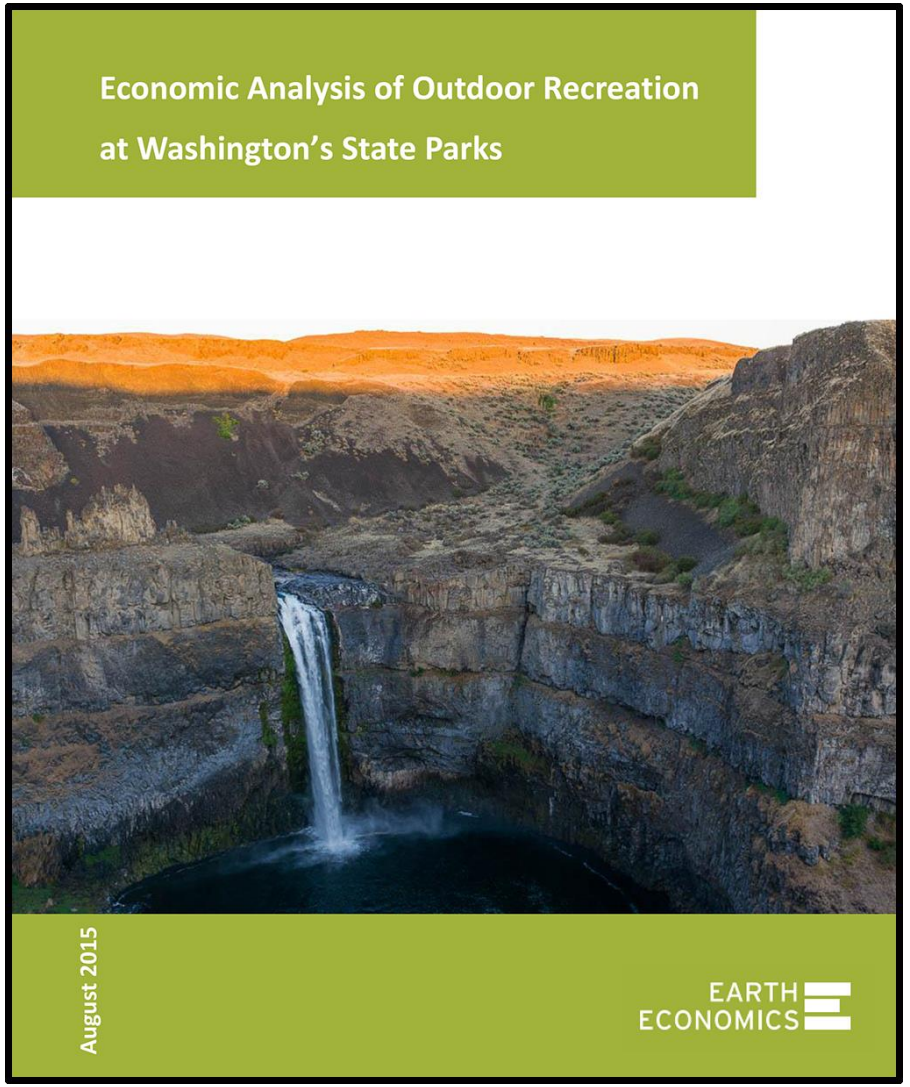
Significant economic driver, especially for rural communities

Supports $1.4 billion in annual spending:

-**14,000 jobs**

-**$64 M annually** back to the State General Fund

2020 update will show sizable increase

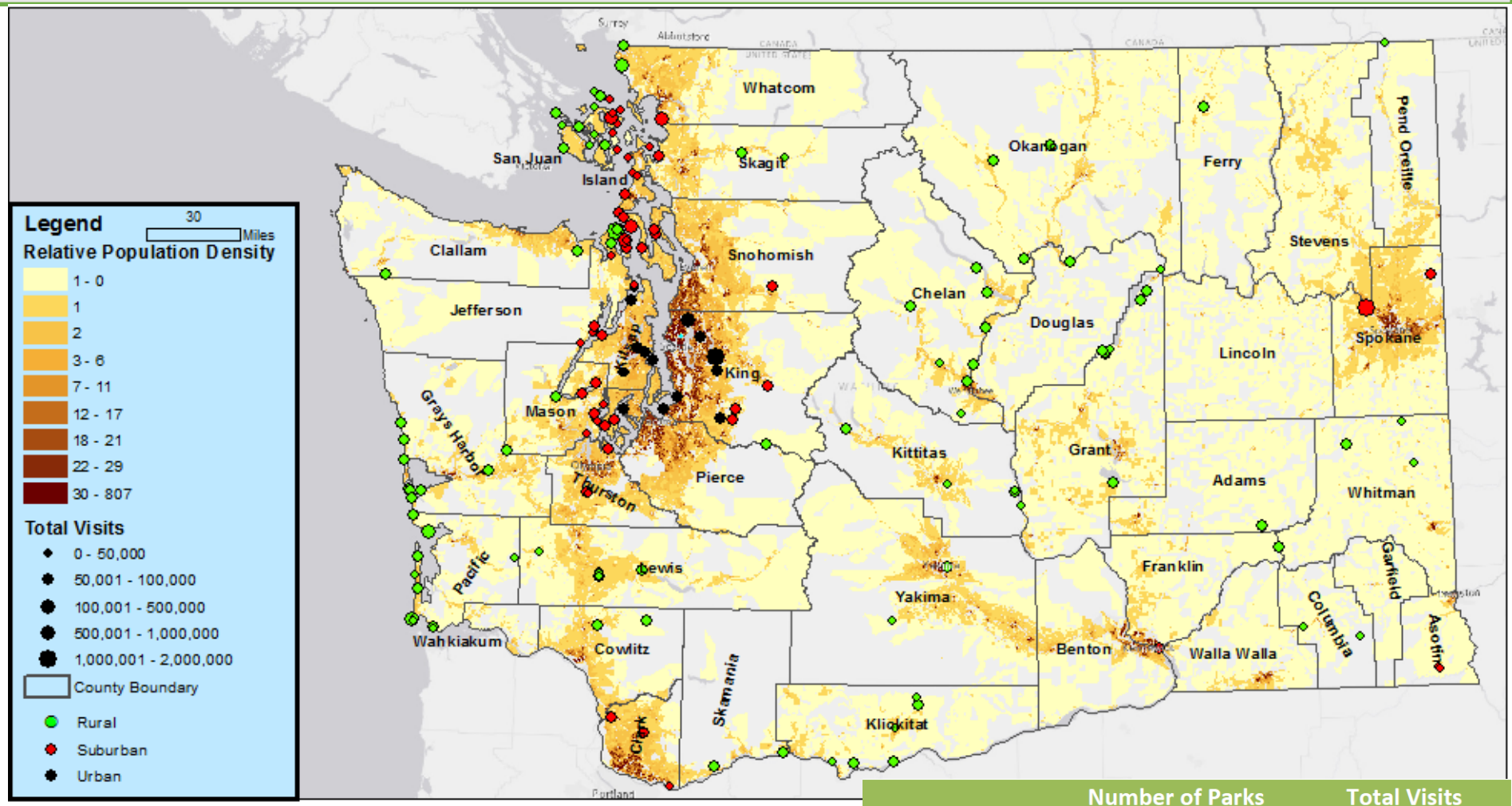


State Parks and economic development

Transfer of wealth from urban to rural areas

State Parks attracts people and helps facilitate travel throughout the state

Out of state visitors represent only 10% of total visits but 20.5% of consumer expenditures



	Number of Parks	Total Visits
"Urban"	15 (8.3%)	3,685,815 (10.3%)
"Suburban"	63 (35%)	14,290,146 (39.9%)
"Rural"	103 (56.7%)	17,871,809 (49.8%)

COVID-19 Response

Park closures
Camping and Day-Use

Transition to remote work

Earned revenue

Cost reduction measures



Communication Efforts

NBC Right Now KNDO 23 KNDU 25

Washington State Parks will close campgrounds to prevent spread of COVID-19



- Keeping public, stakeholders, partners and staff informed
- Media coverage
- Partnerships
- Connecting in new ways

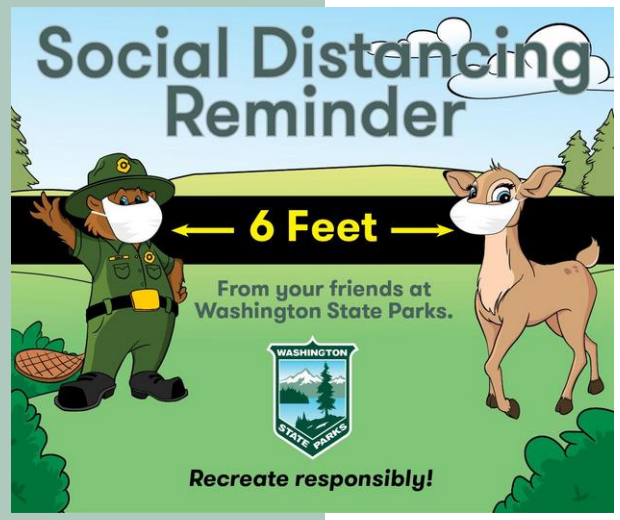


Move to remote Programming

We reached thousands of people and kept them connected to their state parks



Reopening State Parks







- Delayed reopening
- New safety protocols
- Staffing and volunteers

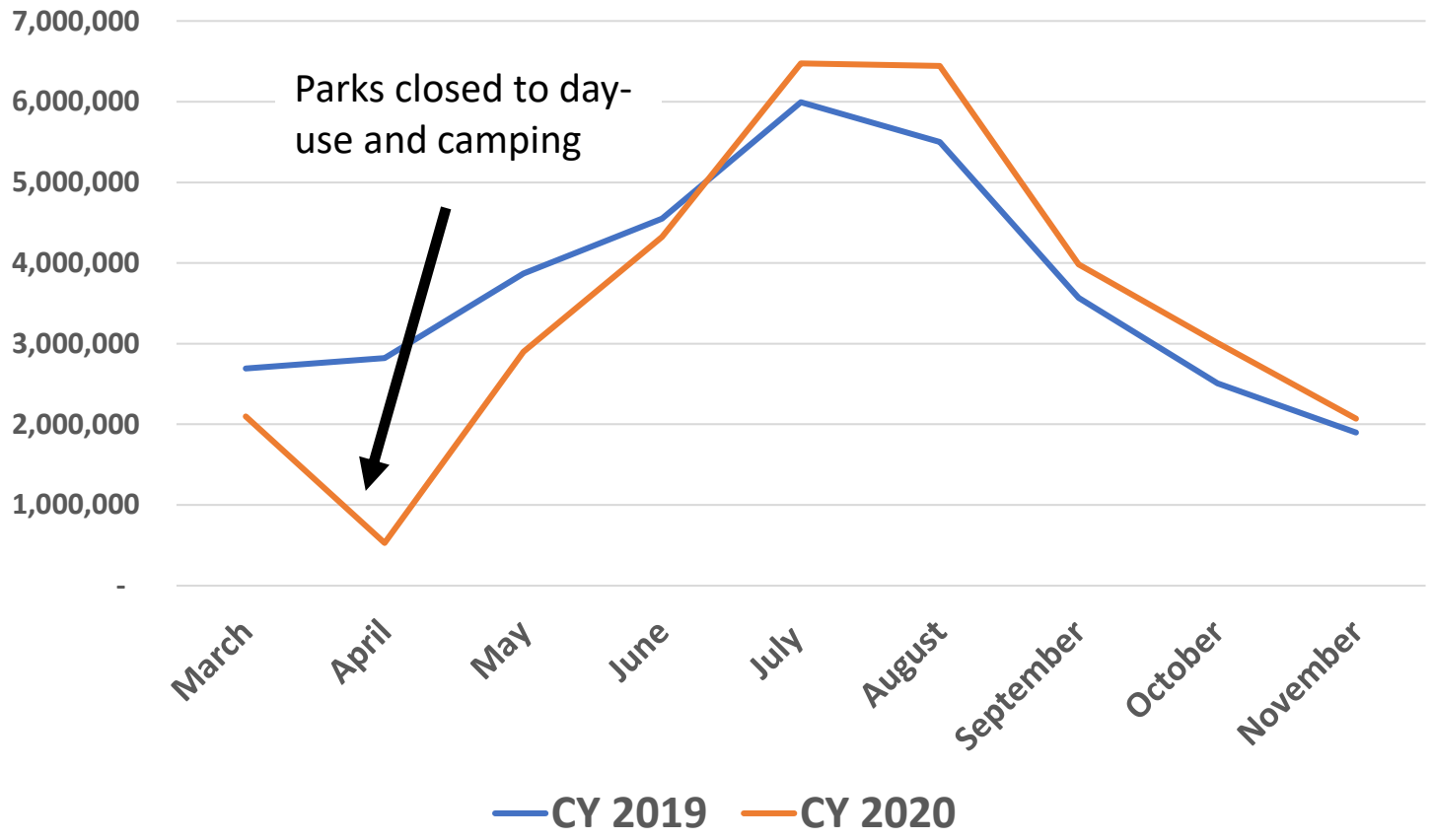
Visitation increased after closures

Overnight stays

- Limited growth possible on weekends
- Weekdays saw large increase

Day-use visitation

- Change in visitor type
- Differences in visitor behavior



Increasing visitation

Managing large crowds

Impacts on local communities and park resources

Importance of outdoor recreation to mental and physical health



Lake Chelan State Park


DRY FALLS
VISITOR CENTER







State Parks' Legislative Priorities

Operating Budget

Preventive maintenance request for 22 FTE and $6.9 million

Visitor services 61 FTE and $10.5 million

One-time support for fund balance $4 million

Increase **No Child Left Inside** grant program from $1.5 to $2 million

Agency DEI Coordinator

Safety protocols and sanitation

Proviso with the Commission on African American Affairs





State Parks' Legislative Priorities

Capital Budget

Provides $104 million in new project funding

-Improves condition of facilities

-New capacity to meet growing demand

Stimulus Projects

-$12 million in "shovel ready" paving and comfort station projects to improve park properties and stimulate local economies across the state

-Accelerates funding for the Nisqually State Park



Takeaways for Committee

- Outdoor recreation is big business in WA
- Heavily reliant on earned revenue
- Pressures- growing visitation, loving parks to death
- Being innovative and entrepreneurial
- Finalist for NASPD Gold medal in 2019
- We need your support to succeed



GET IN TOUCH

FOR QUESTIONS AND COLLABORATION

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