

Don Hoch
Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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February 3, 2012

Martha Neuman, Planning Manager
Puget Sound Partnership
326 East D Street
Tacoma, WA 98421

Dear Ms. Neuman,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comment related to the December 9, 2011 Draft Action Agenda. The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) has long been a partner in Puget Sound recovery efforts and looks forward to continued participation. Please note that this review is in specific regard to the Near Term Actions (NTAs) for which State Parks would be responsible. State Parks looks forward to the upcoming February 10, 2012 meeting with Puget Sound staff to further address the items below. As provided in Appendix D of the *Draft Action Agenda*, there are four NTA's that specifically address State Parks:

State Parks NTA 1: *DNR, in consultation with WDFW, Ecology, RCO, and State Parks will publish design guidance on construction, repair and rebuilding of overwater structures to increase light by 2012 (Appendix D, p. 490).*

Comment: State Parks staff has not had the opportunity to discuss the scope of this item with Puget Sound Partnership staff. Please note that we would like to include this item for discussion at our February 10, 2012 scheduled meeting.

State Parks NTA 2: *State Parks will identify opportunities to provide nearshore restoration including removing hard armoring at Parks and will implement at least [number] feet of nearshore restoration including armoring removal by [date] (Appendix D, p.491).*

Comment: Thank you for incorporating earlier comments submitted via email by State Parks on November 3, 2011. Hard armoring removal is one type of restoration conducted by State Parks. Related nearshore restoration projects include beach debris removal, habitat enhancement projects, retrofitting dock facilities to encourage eel grass and replacement of outdated mooring buoy anchors with helical anchors. At our upcoming meeting we look forward to discussing details related to number of feet of restoration to occur and the date by which that restoration would occur.

State Parks NTA 3: *DNR will convene appropriate state agencies such as WDFW and State Parks to prioritize restoration projects within protected landscapes such as Aquatic*

Reserves and State parks to ensure maximum long-term benefit from habitat restoration (Appendix D, p.491).

Comment: State Parks staff has not had the opportunity to discuss the scope of this item with Puget Sound Partnership staff. Please note that we would like to include this item for discussion at our February 10, 2012 scheduled meeting.

State Parks NTA 4: *Ecology and DOH, with National Estuary Program grant funding, will coordinate with Washington State Parks' Clean Vessel Program to assist in construction, repair and monitoring of pump-out stations to meet requirements of the NDZ petition (Appendix D, p. 491).*

Comment: State Parks staff has not had the opportunity to discuss the scope of this item with Puget Sound Partnership staff. Please note that we would like to include this item for discussion at our February 10, 2012 scheduled meeting.

Given the current desire to reduce the amount of NTAs, State Parks will not be proposing any new NTAs. However, it appears from the available draft documents that actions that State Parks has the capacity to track for performance measurement are largely included within the existing NTA framework and could be addressed through existing NTAs. These items include:

- Piling removal is addressed through C1.1 NTA 8
- Outreach/Interpretation can be addressed through C2.5 NTA 1

Three additional activities that are easily tracked for Parks and may be addressed by existing NTAs are:

- Land acquisition – may be addressed in the Public Access section although a draft of this section does not seem to be available, in the old action agenda it was addressed under NTA A.2N1.2
- Stormwater Upgrades – in the old action agenda this was addressed as NTA C.3N2.3
- Septic/Sewer Upgrades – in the old action agenda this was also addressed as NTA C.3N2.3

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 360.902.8632 or randy.kline@parks.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Randy Kline, Environmental Program Manager

Cc via email: Lisa Lantz, Acting Stewardship Manager
Peter Herzog, Planning and Partnership Manager