



Washington Native Plant Society

Appreciate, Conserve, and Study Our Native Flora

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Robert A. Fimbel, Ph.D.
Resource Stewardship
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
7150 Cleanwater Lane
PO Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

Dear Robert,

Thank-you for the opportunity to review Washington State Park's Natural Resources Policy. We are impressed with the thoroughness of this document and pleased that State Parks is examining the incredible public resource it stewards for the citizens of Washington with particular attention to the protection, preservation and restoration of the biotic component of state park lands.

This policy is ambitious and far-sighted. Critical to its implementation will be a responsive administration that recognizes the value and importance of these natural resources for current and future generations and who is also, willing to allocate sufficient funds, adequate staffing and organizational support to ensure their protection and restoration.

Plans to restore native plant habitat in State Parks which has been lost due to human causes or the spread of invasive species is heartening. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of protecting State Parks from the continued spread of invasives and working to control and restore those areas already impacted by non-native plants. I felt a great sense of loss when I recently visited Ilahee State Park and realized that much of the native forest understory had been lost to English ivy. What a difference State Parks could have made 10 or 20 years ago, if it was understood what those initial infestations could do. We hope State Parks will look to all its lands which are still native and non-infested and see the long-term value of protection.

We are also pleased with the Management Planning section that proposes to identify natural resources of regional or statewide significance in an effort to ensure protection when there are conflicting demands on State Parks usage. Habitat assessment, monitoring and the proposed database will be important in helping State Parks set priorities for restoration and management activities.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Hovanic
Administrator