

Diana Dupuis
Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE

Date of Issuance: December 3, 2024

Project Name: Willapa Hills Trail Menlo Trailhead and Resurfacing

Proponent: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Lead agency: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Description of proposal: The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) proposes to construct a trailhead for the Willapa Hills Trail (WHT) off SR 6 in Menlo, Washington, and approximately 3 miles of trail resurfacing. The trailhead consists of 14 parking stalls, a kiosk, and small retaining wall. The project will provide ADA access to the Willapa Hills Trail. The ADA access includes 2 parking stalls as well as an ADA ramp to the trail. In order to construct the trailhead, a small retaining wall is needed. The retaining wall, constructed of ecoblocks, is approximately 520 ft long and a maximum of 5.4 feet tall. There will be a 10-foot-wide planting area that follows the extent of the retaining wall on the east side of the trail consisting of 12 trees, six Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*), six Vine Maples (*Acer circinatum*), and various shrubs. Proposed resurfacing will vary from 10-12 feet wide depending on the trail width and include approximately 5,300 cubic yards (CY) of crushed rock.

Location of Proposal: Willapa Hills State Park Trail spans 56 miles east-west between Chehalis in Lewis County and South Bend in Pacific County. The proposed project extends from the intersection of Mallis Landing Rd. in Raymond, Washington, Latitude 46.654007 Longitude -123.682367 on the WHT, to Bullard Ave in Menlo, Washington, Latitude 46.621932 Longitude -123.647678. Proposed trailhead is located north of Menlo, Washington and South of S Fork Rd, in Township 13-N Range 08-W DLC43, adjacent to parcel #13081132097, and Latitude 46.632334 Longitude -123.653401.

Threshold Determination: After a review of the completed environmental checklist, the lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact to the environment. Development of the trailhead has been sited to avoid and minimize

impacts to earth, water, and vegetation. Recreation will be enhanced with the proposed trailhead and trail resurfacing. The nature of the improvements, as described in the checklist, will not result in any lasting impacts to waterways, native habitat, or species. Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been incorporated into the design to provide protection from incidental or unanticipated impacts such as sediment run-off. Lastly, the completed proposal would not pose a threat to public health or safety and there will be no impacts to cultural or historic resources.

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

- This DNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by **December 18, 2024** or they may not be considered.

Responsible Official: Hannah JB Ross
Position/Title: Environmental Planner
Phone: (360) 790-8512
Address: 1111 Israel Rd SW | PO Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

Date: December 3, 2024

Signature: 

"All Washington State Parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all persons regardless of age, sex, creed, ethnic origin, or physical limitations."

There is no agency SEPA appeal; however, all comments are welcome and will be thoroughly considered.

SEPA¹ Environmental Checklist

A. Background

[Find help answering background questions](#)²

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Willapa Hills Trail Menlo Trailhead and Resurfacing

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Clare Wirzbicki, Environmental Planner

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

1111 Israel Rd SW/ P.O. Box 42650

Olympia, WA 98504-2650

4. Date checklist prepared:

Aug-October 2024

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Parks)

6. Proposed timing of schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Estimated to begin January 2025 for approximately 90 calendar days.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No future additions, expansions, or further activity connected to this project are being considered.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

There's no environmental information prepared that is directly related to this proposal.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

WSDOT Right of Way Permit

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/Checklist-guidance>

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background>

County:

Development Permit Application (Pacific County)

CARL Critical Area Review Permit (Pacific County)

Land Use Planning Permit (Pacific County)

Special Use Application (Pacific County)

State:

SEPA Review and Determination (Parks)

WSDOT Right of Way Permit

Hydraulic Project Application (Washington State Fish and Wildlife)

- 11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)**

Washington State Parks is proposing a trailhead for the Willapa Hills Trail (WHT) off SR 6 in Menlo, Washington, and approximately 3 miles or 15,400 LF (215,00 Sq ft) of grading, resurfacing, and clearing of the WHT. The trailhead consists of 14 parking stalls, a kiosk, and small retaining wall. The project will provide ADA access to the Willapa Hills Trail. The ADA access includes 1 parking stall as well as an ADA ramp to the trail. In order to construct the trailhead, a small retaining wall is needed. The retaining wall, constructed of ecoblocks, is approximately 520 ft long and a maximum of 5.4 feet tall. There will be a 10-foot-wide planting area that follows the extent of the retaining wall on the east side of the trail consisting of 12 trees, six Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*), six Vine Maples (*Acer circinatum*), and various shrubs. Proposed grading, clearing and resurfacing will vary from 10-12 feet wide depending on trail width and include approximately 5,300 cubic yards (CY) of crushed rock.

- 12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.**

Proposed project extends from the intersection of Mallis Landing Rd. in Raymond, Washington, Latitude 46.654007 Longitude -123.682367 on the WHT, to Bullard Ave in Menlo, Washington, Latitude 46.621932 Longitude -123.647678. Proposed trailhead is located north of Menlo, Washington and South of S Fork Rd, in Township 13-N Range 08-W DLC43, adjacent to parcel #13081132097, and Latitude 46.632334 Longitude -123.653401. Proposed grading, resurfacing, and clearing is approximately 15,400 LF, beginning and ending at proposed project boundary. All proposed work will be conducted from SR 6 up to the trail, no work will extend past the trail prism.



Figure 1. displays the project border.



Figure 2. displays the proposed trailhead area

B.Environmental Elements

1. Earth

[Find help answering earth questions](#)³

a. General description of the site:

This is a segment of the Willapa Hills Trail, a rails-to-trails project. The area has moderate vegetation bordering the trail, primarily brush and blackberry. The trail is on an old railroad grade creating steep slopes on either side of the trail, though the trail itself is primarily flat. There is private property adjacent to the east side of the proposed trailhead, and the trail borders multiple private properties where proposed resurfacing will occur.

Circle or highlight one: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The steepest slope on the site is 3%.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them, and note any

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth>

agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Soil types found within the trail corridor and proposed trailhead, as identified in the Pacific County Soil Survey by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (accessed October 24, 2024), are primarily: Arta silt loam, Astoria silt loam, Nemah silty clay loam, Lytell silt loam, Grehalem silt loam and, Bear Prairie silt loam.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

There have been instances of erosion in the vicinity of the Willapa Hills Trail within Pacific County; in addition, high winds and flood waters during a storm event in December 2007 resulted in extensive damage along certain portions of trail, including grade deterioration, debris accumulation, and failed culverts and bridges. There is no surface indications or history of unstable soils in the vicinity of this section of trail.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Proposed Trail Head:

Grading is required for the proposed trailhead and trail resurfacing. Approximately 49,500 square feet of clearing and grading are required for the proposed trailhead. There is approximately 1,100 cubic yards of cut native material and 643 cubic yards of fill which include the eco block retaining wall. The eco block retaining wall is approximately 520 feet in length and estimated to be 5.25' height at the center tapering to 1' on the ends. The parking area will mainly consist of gravel parking except for the areas designated for ADA use which will be asphalt. The approximate square foot for each material is as listed.

Gravel Area: 16,450 square feet

ADA Asphalt Parking Area: 10,100 square feet

Proposed Surfacing:

Approximately 15,000 LF or 215,000 sq. ft of grading and clearing is required for trail surfacing. Approximately 3,500 CY of crushed rock will be required for surfacing, crushed rock consists of 1,500 CY of 3/8" minus Crushed Surfacing Top Course (CSTC) and 3,800 CY 1/2" Crushed Surfacing Base Course (CSBC).

f. Could erosion occur because of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Erosion is not likely to occur because of construction, if occurred, it would be minor and have temporary impact. At a minimum, Best Management Practices (BMPs) as outlined in the Washington Department of Ecology (ECY) Stormwater Manual for Western Washington will be implemented to control erosion.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

The existing railroad grade consists of impervious surfaces; the maintenance surfacing of the existing grade will not increase the amount of impervious surfaces. The trailhead will add an additional 49,500 square feet of impervious surfacing with the parking area, ADA ramp, and small retaining wall.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any.

Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control (TESC) BMPs will be implemented in accordance with the most recent Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington, prepared by the Washington Department of Ecology.

2. Air

[Find help answering air questions](#)⁴

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Construction activities will generate temporary, low-level exhaust, and some dust from vehicles transporting materials and operating equipment used for trail resurfacing and grading and constructing the trailhead. No new emissions will be generated because of the project.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No; the only off-site sources of emissions are from vehicles driving on SR 6. These off-site sources of emissions will not impact this project.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

During construction, standard dust suppression measures will be used to limit and/or control dust. All construction equipment will be maintained in good working order to minimize the emissions impacting the immediate area. After the construction is completed all sources of emissions will be removed from project site, therefore no measures to control dust or odor in the air are required.

3. Water

[Find help answering water questions](#)⁵

a. Surface:

[Find help answering surface water questions](#)⁶

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-Air>

⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Surface-water>

1. Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Yes, according to the National Wetlands Inventory (accessed Sep 18th, 2024) the following are adjacent to proposed trailhead: 1.87-acre Freshwater Pond classified as PUBH east of the project site, it is estimated to be 150' away from trailhead boundary, and North of the project site is a fish bearing stream estimated to be 196' from the project boundary.

According to the DNR Forest Practices Application Water Type Mapping (accessed October 24, 2024), the following water bodies are in the vicinity of the proposed surfacing along the Willapa Hills Trail:

- Unnamed Stream- Type N
- Unnamed Stream- Unknown
- Unnamed Stream- Type F
- Unnamed Stream- Type F

2. Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes, all work will take place in previously disturbed areas and above or adjacent to the listed waterbodies in 3(a)(1), no work will occur in the direct vicinity of wetlands. The following bodies of water stated in 3(a)(1), will not be impacted and BMPs will be implemented throughout construction, such as the use of silt fencing and/or tarps to contain any debris generated by these surfacing activities. Trail resurfacing will include the grading of the existing trail and the application and compaction of surfacing material.

3. Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

No fill or dredge material will be placed or removed from surface water or wetlands.

4. Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No, the project doesn't require water withdrawals or diversions

5. Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Yes.

6. Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No, the proposed project does not involve discharges of waste materials to surface waters.

b. Ground:

[Find help answering ground water questions](#)⁷

- 1. Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

No groundwater will be withdrawn or water discharged to groundwater for this proposed work.

- 2. Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.**

No waste material will be discharged into the ground due to this proposed work.

c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):

- 1. Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.**

Water will continue to sheet flow within the proposed project area. Proposed trail head water currently sheet flows into a man-made ditch adjacent to proposed trailhead area along SR 106.

- 2. Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.**

It is not likely that waste materials would enter the ground water during construction; however, BMPs such as a typical silt fence will be used to capture any potential debris generated, as a preventative measure. Once the trailhead is built there is a potential negligible amount of waste material generated by users that could occur outside the construction period of the proposed project (ie litter, animal waste etc.).

- 3. Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.**

No, all water runoff will continue to sheet flow.

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Groundwater>

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

The project has been designed to direct stormwater runoff into adjacent man-made ditch along SR 106. Drainage patterns are not anticipated to be impacted from proposed project.

4. Plants

[Find help answering plants questions](#)

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other**
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other**
- shrubs**
- grass**
- pasture**
- crop or grain**
- orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops.**
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other**
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other**
- other types of vegetation**

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

The area of proposed work is located between State Route 6 and the established Willapa Hills Trail. The vegetation being removed is primarily Canary Reed Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), and "weed", removal from graveled surfaces associated with resurfacing.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

GIS analysis of the Department of Natural Resources' Heritage Program data (accesses August 26, 2024) indicates that there are documented species outside of the project area.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.

To promote a natural barrier from the neighboring houses a planting plan is associated with the proposed trailhead. The planting consists of 5,200 SF of native vegetation along the eastern side of proposed trail re-route. The plant species include vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), redbud dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), tall Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), red flowering current (*Ribes sanguineum*), Nutka rose (*Rosa nutkana*), and Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*). See design plan for specific planting methods.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

The following known noxious weed and invasive species are located near or within the project boundary: Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Scot's broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*), common St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), evergreen blackberry (*Rubus laciniatus*), and tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), and common groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*).

5. Animals

[Find help answering animal questions](#)⁸

a. List any birds and other animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds

Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver

Fish: salmon, trout

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

U.S Fish and Wildlife [Information for Planning and Consultation](#) (IPaC) database accessed (October 24, 2024) states the following threatened or endangered species are known to be on or near the site, however there are no biotic detections within the vicinity of project area:

- Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)- Federally Threatened, no critical habitat within vicinity of project area.
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)- Federally Threatened, no critical habitat within vicinity of project area.
- Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)- Federally Threatened, no critical habitat within vicinity of project area.
- Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*)- Candidate, no critical habitat within vicinity of project area.

GIS analysis of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife PHS data (accessed October 25, 2024) indicates that the following species occur within the waters adjacent to project site:

⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-5-Animals>

- Roosevelt Elk (*Cervus elaphus roosevelt*), no critical habitat within vicinity of project area.
- Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), no critical habitat within vicinity of project area.
- Winter Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), no critical habitat within vicinity of project area.
- Resident Coastal Cutthroat (*Oncorhynchus clarki*), no critical habitat within vicinity of project area.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Yes, it is a part of the Avian Pacific Flyaway.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any.

None.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

None known.

6. Energy and natural resources

[Find help answering energy and natural resource questions](#)⁹

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

No electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, or solar, the proposed project is a trail and trailhead with no energy requirements.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No, this project does not affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any.

Not applicable.

7. Environmental health

[Health Find help with answering environmental health questions](#)¹⁰

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe.

During grading, fill, and resurfacing processes there is potential for vehicle and equipment to spill or leak hazardous materials, primarily petroleum products (e.g. gas,

⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-6-Energy-natural-resou>

¹⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-7-Environmental-health>

oil and lubricants). Best management practices such as proper maintenance of vehicles and equipment, and inspection for leaks prior and during use will support efforts to prevent contamination from vehicle use.

1. Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

None known at this project site.

2. Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

None

3. Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Vehicles and/or machinery may be stored at staging areas during construction periods; best management practices such as daily inspections for leaks and ensuring they are in good working order will be required. All material staged on site will be contained in the proper manner

4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

5. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.

Not applicable.

b. Noise

1. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Types of noise in the area are typical of surrounding uses and have no implications on proposed project.

2. What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site)?

Temporary construction associated noise from vehicles and equipment during normal workday hours for proposed project will be expected.

3. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

No noise impacts are anticipated as a result of this proposal; temporary noise produced during construction will be temporary and will only occur during normal workday hours. Low noise level currently exists on proposed project area by bicycle,

pedestrian and equestrian trail use. Potential for increase noise is minimal due to the already existing noise level from SR 6.

8. Land and shoreline use

[Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](#)¹¹

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.**

The project area is a currently a Washington State Park that is as a trail system for walking, biking, and equestrian use. Single family residences, and family-owned farms are nearby the proposed project area. The proposed project will not have any effect on these nearby properties or uses.

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses because of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?**

No, the project site has not been used as working farmlands or working forest lands. The Willapa Hills Trail corridor is an old railroad right-of-way that was used by railroad companies for over 100 years.

- 1. Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how?**

No, the area will not be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land, it has and will continue to be used as a multiuse trail.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.**

There are no current structures on site.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?**

Not applicable.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?**

Current zoning classification is Rural Lands (RL)

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?**

Current zoning comprehensive plan designation of the site is General Rural (GR)

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**

Not applicable.

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-8-Land-shoreline-use>

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.**

Yes, there are critical areas adjacent to the project area.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?**

None.

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?**

None.

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.**

Not applicable.

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any.**

State Parks will consult with Pacific County planning office and other applicable regulatory agencies to ensure that the project complies with all federal, state, and local laws, zoning regulations, and comprehensive plans.

- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:**

Not applicable. Proposed project has no anticipated impacts to adjacent properties.

9. Housing

[Find help answering housing questions](#)¹²

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**

None.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**

None.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:**

None.

10. Aesthetics

[Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)¹³

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?**

¹² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-9-Housing>

¹³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-10-Aesthetics>

The kiosk is approximately 9'5".

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

To provide a visual block for adjacent private property a planting plan is proposed to approximately extend 520' containing a variety of native plant species listed above in Question 4.

11. Light and glare

[Find help answering light and glare questions](#)¹⁴

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

No lighting or glare will be produced. No lighting is proposed or provided to the project area.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

12. Recreation

[Find help answering recreation questions](#)

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Recreational opportunities in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project area include the Willapa Hills Trail that provides park visitors with walking, biking and equestrian opportunities.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No, the proposed project does not displace any existing recreational uses. The proposed projects intent is to increase recreational uses by providing additional access points, and improved trail quality to the Willapa Hills Trail.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

¹⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-11-Light-glare>

Parks will inform the public when installation of proposed trailhead is completed and ready for recreational use in a timely manner.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

[Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions](#)¹⁵

- a) **Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.**

There are no observed or recorded buildings, structures, or sites located within the project area that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in the national, state, or local preservation registers. However, the grave site of Willie Keil, is eligible for the Washington Heritage Register and is located near the proposed project area.

- b) **Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.**

The project is funded through an RCO grant and is subject to Governor's Executive Order 21-02. WSPRC archaeologist, Kayley Bass, conducted a cultural resources survey of the project area (Bass 2024).

- c) **Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.**

Consultation was completed with interested tribes and Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). An archaeological survey was conducted, and an Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) will provide guidelines and directions during construction. WSPRC will follow consultation procedures under Governor's Executive Order 21-02 with DAHP.

- d) **Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.**

¹⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-13-Historic-cultural-p>

The project will proceed with an IDP which will address project specific measures to avoid and minimize any potential impacts to resources.

14. Transportation

[Find help with answering transportation questions](#)¹⁶

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.**

SR 6 is the main highway serving the site. Access in and out of the proposed trailhead will be provided through an entrance and an exit controlled by one way traffic. South Fork Road is in the general area but not directly affected by the proposed project. BMP's and road laws will be obeyed to ensure proposed project has no effect to public and residents' transportation use.

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

There is rural bus that is provided by Pacific Transit that operates in the Raymond/South Bend area. The nearest bus stop is in Menlo, WA just south of the proposed trailhead.

- c. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).**

The proposed project will include 14 public parking stalls and 3 miles of trail resurfacing. Twelve parking stalls are single vehicle stalls including one ADA stall. Two parking stalls are for trailers, one of which is an ADA stall. This will improve accessibility and parking for Park visitors. The proposed resurfacing work will provide better trail conditions for Park visitors.

- d. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**

No.

- e. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?**

The proposed trailhead will increase the number of vehicles by providing access to parking along the Willapa Hills Trail. Recreational trips would likely peak during weekends, holidays, and favorable recreation weather conditions, and reduced usage will occur on the typical weekday.

¹⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-14-Transportation>

- f. **Will the proposal interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.**

No.

- g. **Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:**

Proposed project functions as a measure to control transportation impacts, by dispersing and increasing trailheads.

15. Public services

[Find help answering public service questions¹⁷](#)

- a. **Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.**

No, the proposed project will not result in increased need for public services, Washington State Park Staff will be responsible for the management of the proposed project.

- b. **Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.**

None.

16. Utilities

[Find help answering utilities questions¹⁸](#)

- a. **Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other:**

There are no utilities currently provided at the site.

- b. **Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.**

There are no utilities being proposed for the project.

C. Signature

[Find help about who should sign¹⁹](#)

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

¹⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-15-public-services>

¹⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-16-utilities>

¹⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-C-Signature>

x Clare Wirzbicki

Type name of signee: Clare Wirzbicki

Position and agency/organization: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission,
Environmental Planner

Date submitted: 11/12/2024