

Cama Beach Public Comments

September 11 – 19, 2024

We have loved staying at the Cama Beach cabins over the past 13 years. It is sad to see them go, but I support keeping the area closed. This has been requested by the local tribes and is also best from an environmental standpoint. Public day access would be great to offer while not re opening for overnight stays. ¹

My name is [x] and I've been enjoying Cama Beach Historical State Park since 2017, when I first started volunteering there for the Center for Wooden Boats. (Since the opening of the park in 2008, CWB has run the Boathouse and the Boat Shop, keeping the boat rental operation alive while teaching boat building and repair.) I'm writing to encourage you to do the maintenance and repair work necessary to restore the park to full operation.

If you've never been to Cama Beach, you should go. There's just no substitute for the jaw-dropping experience of walking down that hill and finding yourself in the 1930s; gazing across Saratoga Passage from the long, secluded beach and feeling yourself transported into the past.

During the summer of 2021 I managed the Cama Beach Boathouse for CWB, bunking in the Fire Truck Garage at night during my four-day work weeks. It gave me the opportunity to experience the park in all its glory. During the day we sent families and friends out on the water in rowboats and kayaks. In the evenings I watched while the families staying in the cabins enjoyed the wonders of the park: impromptu softball games and soccer matches, kids playing on the beach, family meals at picnic tables, and everyone watching the sunsets over the water. Such a joyful place!

In the simple, wooden cabins, tiny by today's standards, families found plenty of room to enjoy the togetherness and pleasures of their grandparents' generation. With no Wi-Fi and little or no cell service, people rediscovered how to have fun in the old-fashioned ways: playing board games, doing puzzles, reading a book, or going for a walk. Many families came back year after year to enjoy a one-of-a-kind, Pacific Northwest-style vacation. There was also lots to learn.

The Cama Beach Foundation presented programs on sea life, including tide pooling at low tides. Interpretive signs explained the history of the park, from its use for food gathering by Native Americans, as a logging camp, and finally as a boating and fishing resort. We ran Toy Boats sessions for kids, during which children built wooden model boats using real hand tools. And there's no substitute for being on the water in a small, human-powered boat to get in touch with the beauty and fragility of the marine environment and understand our rightful place there.

Please keep the Cama Beach experience alive for another generation. I've never seen a place that does so many people so much good year after year. ²

I am writing with concerns about the Cama Beach Cabins, etc. facing a potential permanent closure. While I understand that there are some challenges involved in keeping the cabins open, my hope is that those challenges and ways in which they can be overcome, will be very thoughtfully and extensively considered. I was born in Everett, WA forty-six years ago. While I've lived elsewhere (Santa Barbara, CA and Hilo, HI) at times in my life, I am now living in Everett and have for most of my life. Cama Beach is one of the local spots my family has visited on numerous occasions on day trips. However, my fondest memories are related to the time we've spent in the cabins. The Cama Beach Cabins are a nice break from modern times and take one back to a day and age where things weren't so fast paced and technology driven. I feel it's important to sustain places like Cama Beach as there are less and less of them as time progresses. It's important for younger generations to have places they can go to unplug and enjoy the world around them without all of the noise. Cama Beach is unique in this respect due to the rustic cabins that are there. The wooden boat house is a major bonus to the experience as well. My family has loved being able to stay in the cabins and enjoy a rowboat ride and nature right outside our front door. It's also been a treat to walk up for breakfast at the Cafe and order a shaker lemon pie for the road. Additionally, my daughter's girl scout troop has benefited from cabin stays at Cama Beach and Ranger led nature walks. I would be deeply saddened to see such a historic part of Western Washington shut down because of challenges that are difficult but not impossible to overcome. Please do everything you can to keep the Cama Beach Cabins open and available for public use. Respectfully, ³

My family and I have enjoyed Cama Beach Cabins for over 14 years. It has always been a special time with family and friends. We unplug for a long week end, going for hikes, beach comb, and take in every sunrise and sunset. We have been able to watch Eagles fish and seals feeding along the shoreline. I believe every effort should be made to keep the cabins open for generations to come. This is a unique place and should be preserved. The educational factor is huge for our young children and grand children. Please don't let this extraordinary place go. ⁴

I was surprised and disappointed to see the agency's proposal to turn Cama Beach State Park into a day use park. I believe that would be a mistake.

I looked through the power point presentation of issues. I think those issues were addressed in 2004 when the park was accepted and then developed. Do you believe applicable commission policies and RCWs have changed since 2004?

Of course, there was some soil disturbance when the park was carefully developed. It appears to me, repairs to water and sewer lines in existing trenches would not require disturbing any areas that weren't already disturbed during the park's development. Even if you turn the park into a day use park, the existing central restroom and sewerage system will still need to handle the sanitary needs of large groups of day users. That will

require a sewerage system that is equal to, or exceed, what is presently provided for the cabins.

Certainly, climate change and sea rise were known factors when the park was developed. Removing the cabins now would certainly lead to new soil disturbance. Has the agency investigated raising the foundations to minimize damage from King Tide events?

The sea wall is long. Is it necessary to replace the entire wall? Areas along a seashore are continually evolving. Is there really any danger of disturbing cultural artifacts on the beach? Could the seawall, in places it is failing, be protected with rock gabions or even logs as I've seen, in my lifetime, along the Salish Sea shore?

I appreciate the work the agency does to protect historical artifacts and areas. As a society I believe we do that today when we move graves in graveyards for public works. Traveling through Europe and Asia I've seen how, as the world's population has grown, many of our ancestor's homes, cities and graves have been covered. If we prohibited any activities that might infringe on cultural or traditional sites we would not have the cities and homes that house our world. We would not have many of our parks and we would not even be allowed to climb mountains such as Everest or Denali.

The challenge of Cama Beach is certainly formidable. Please do not give up. Cama gives families a unique opportunity to build their own traditions with an overnight experience along the Salish Sea. You have an opportunity to preserve Cama Beach as a full use state park for **everyone** in Washington. Please do so.

Thank you,⁵

Please prioritize and sustain the efforts to work with the Tulalip tribe in planning a future for Cama Beach Historical State Park. The cabins and resort were built in the 1930's on top of sacred burial grounds, and there is an opportunity to help protect this place and restore cultural humility for land and people since well before 2005, which is when human remains were archaeologically documented.⁶

Thank you to the Park commissioner present at the July information meeting. During my last visit to Cama Beach State Park, I was pleased to see several portable restrooms in place at the lower level of the park.

As far as the future of the park and cabins, it would be wonderful if ALL the issues with reopening the cabin be made public, as well as any associated costs to fix. If there are new issues that were not identified in the July presentation, they should be shared with the public. Let's be transparent and share what is known ahead of a time when a final decision is made. If that is done, perhaps we will all come to the same conclusion.⁷

My vote is to fix that sea wall and upgrade whatever needs to be done to save the cabins. It's a fun, historic step back in time and well used and well loved.

Make it so!⁸

To Whom it May Concern,

I recently learned of the pending decision on the fate of the Cama Beach Cabins. I hope many citizens have reached out to implore you to find a way to save the cabins & reopen them to the public! They are a tremendous resource & the site of so many memories old

& yet to be made! In this modern technological age, it seems so important to retain ways to connect with nature & humanity in places such as this rather than just abandoning them to time & disrepair.

Thank you,⁹

Please do what it takes to keep this park open. The value it provides to the community and future generations cannot be dollarized and the historical and cultural value is priceless. Whatever efforts it takes to get the money for repairs and renovation should be done. This hidden gems cannot be lost.

Please help fight to save and preserve Cama Beach State Park.

Camano Island Resident and father of a 2 year old and 5 year old.¹⁰

The state should keep the cabins, repair the sea wall and septic, even if the prices were raised by 10-15 dollars the state would be making revenue towards offsetting the cost. People love the area. So many family memories would be lost, future generations would lose out on one of the most beautiful areas of Washington, events (weddings and more) would have to elsewhere and the state would lose out of the revenue it provides.

Keep the park open and restore the cabins, I would even Repair them myself for free if the state provided the materials needed. And I wouldn't be alone, so many people would help volunteer to help as well.¹¹

I can see its getting harder for the state to afford to do anything. So before the resort gets so run down it would never be feasible to rebuild. Why doesn't the state sell it to a private party with the stipulation it has to run as a public resort, not a private resort. Lets do whats right for the property so it can remain for years to come.¹²

Ask for community volunteers. There are sure to be plumbers, electricians, and carpenters who would donate their skills, especially if the State picks up the cost of materials. We just finished an irrigation project in our retirement community that was supposed to cost \$4100, but we did it for \$200 in materials. We also did a pergola repair estimated at \$1200 for \$100 using volunteers. Put ou the word thru your website with a date and time, and invite the local tv outlet to the event, and you will be surprised how people will come together if you have a plan. Even if you do one cabin, it will make a difference and get the ball rolling.¹³

I support the refurbishment of the Cama Beach cabins, septic system and seawall repair if needed.¹⁴

Please restore Cama Beach Cottages for overnight use.¹⁵

Please do what it takes to keep this park open. The value it provides to the community and future generations cannot be dollarized and the historical and cultural value is priceless.

Whatever efforts it takes to get the money for repairs and renovation should be done. This hidden gems cannot be lost.

I take my two young sons to Cama beach at least twice a month, we do low tide walks,

visit the boat house and in the summer the store. I use these visits to make family memories and teach them the importance of nature conservation, learning about the life that lives in the sea and protecting these sea creatures from pollution, man made intrusion and development. Every year we purchase the Discover pass for the year, primarily to continue our monthly adventures at the park.

Please help fight to save and preserve Cama Beach State Park. ¹⁶

Please look into repair, not closure. I love these cabins- I used to go with my friends as a kid. I want younger generations to continue enjoying summers like I had. ¹⁷

I understand that this will be expensive, but wanted to send a note in favor of saving them. They are part of Washington's history and it would be a shame to lose them. ¹⁸

Hi! I just wanted to reach out with a comment on the Cama Beach Cabins situation. My friends and I have enjoyed staying at these cabins a number of times, and there's really very little available in the state parks system that is anything like this - though I am comfortable with camping in a tent late into the season, most people I know are not and it is special to be able to do a semi-outdoor overnight activity late into November, and the Cama cabins make this possible.

I understand that the septic system and cabin maintenance entails a considerable cost. Is there any capacity for allowing a 'Friends of Cama Cabins' organization to raise funds to help with this? I'm sure that funding would materialize - I would be happy to contribute to it.

Also, to be frank, having visited other state parks with cabins (like Lincoln Rock), I don't really comprehend why Cama is being treated so differently - the Lincoln Rock cabins are far newer and modern, and seemingly expensively furnished - why were there funds for those but not for Cama?

I'm concerned that decisions are being made without proper consideration for how special and unique the Cama cabins are for the state parks system. There's really nothing else like this and I just can't really believe that every option for keeping them open has been pursued.

Best, ¹⁹

I want to go on record that Cama Beach must be saved. It is historic and beautiful and brings joy to those of us that live on the Island and brings in revenue and support for Camano Island for those wanting to visit. I don't know where funding could come from but it seems there should be grant money and then charge more for cabins to offset some costs. ²⁰

Please invest in the necessary repairs to keep the cabins open for the public to reserve and use. It's s dream for many of us and an opportunity to visit our history. Many would be happy to contribute to a special fund.

Thank you! ²¹

This is a wonderful public good. If it takes a gofundme campaign to raise money, I bet it would work. Or just raise the rates in order to cover the costs. Please do anything to save this treasure of a park! Thanks, ²²

To Whom It May Concern,

The historic cabins are a treasure and should be saved and preserved for current and future generations. They generate over a million dollars a year to the state!

This state has the resources to do the necessary repairs and to not do them would be a travesty!

For once honor the will of the people and preserve this wonderful treasure! ²³

Please find a way to keep this beautiful park and cabins in place and open for the public to rent. I have happy memories of staying here with my family. We should preserve these special places for our young people coming up. I have lived and worked in Washington State over 50 years and I consider our money spent on WA State Parks to be well worth it. Washington State is a gem. Let's do everything we can to preserve it. We HAVE the money. Let's use it wisely.

Thanks. ²⁴

The Cama cabins are part of Washington's rich history and continue to a part of countless families who stay there. These cabins need to be maintained so they can continue to create wonderful memories for families in the future.

Sincerely, ²⁵

The historic fishing resort cabins at Cama Beach are historically significant. There should be a priority on funding for the repair of the septic system and the seawall, so that people of the Puget Sound can continue going there, spending the night, waking up to the sun beaming onto the Olympic Mountain range.....so close you could almost touch them. Private fishing resorts and boathouses were once a very important part of our fabric here in the Pacific NW. I do believe this resort is one of the only remaining ones left. Wa State Parks, as stewards, I would think has a duty to both the environment AND the historic relevance of the land and experiences they have provided over the years. Thank you for your time and consideration. ²⁶

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my concern and opposition to the complete closure of Cama Beach State Park. While the repairs are going to be costly, losing such an incredible experience for future generations is unacceptable. If future Washingtonians are to be good stewards of the land they must be able to forge a connection to the wonders of nature and Cama Beach State Park and those cabins are relied upon by older generations to pass on their love of all Washington's natural splendor has to offer. We cannot be pennywise and pound foolish, these unique parks that offer incredible experiences should be preserved at all costs for future generations.

Thank you, ²⁷

Please keep the cabins open by repair renovate and replace where needed to keep up to housing code. This could be an important place for people to take their families to teach them how to canoe and learn water safety right on the water . Or maybe tribal groups could come to some consensus on how to use the land and keep this area open for some type of use if the state does not have a better idea. ²⁸

I am writing as a person who has stayed at the cabins and created marvelous memories over multiple years. Please find a way to save this beloved place.

Sincerely, ²⁹

To whom it may concern,

I know funds are scared and we are facing deficits at the State level but we cannot keep taking away public resources, like the Cama Beach cabins, with no intention to ever replace them. The cabins provide an opportunity for people to connect with nature that is unique and awe inspiring. Childhood trips to places like the cabins create a connection to our environment that inspires future stewardship of our land.

We attended a wedding there and return every year. Please don't take this away.

Sincerely, ³⁰

As always - get funding. It ALWAYS gets down to that. What a unique spot. All WA state parks are. ³¹

Ok state legislators, cancel one fish passage replacement and repair this park. Do something that actually helps the people of this state instead of your ideas that you have to help Mother Nature over helping the population. I've seen several of former public areas go unmaintained and you claim you don't have the money but you spend unnecessary money for these fish passages that may or may not return fish. Do something that is guaranteed to return people to this park!! ³²

It would be short sided to let this jewel of a park and cabins go. This park is an important part of our history in Washington State. We implore you to figure out the finances around replacing the sea wall and upkeep of the cabins. It could continue to create great revenue if they were cared for and updated. So many generations have enjoyed this natural area and it would be a shame to let it go and/or sell it to commercial interestes.

Sincerely, ³³

Haven't been there yet! Pleas keep the cabins! ³⁴

My family and I have been going to Cama Beach State Park and staying in the cabins over Memorial Day weekend with a big group for years.

We love the site, the cabins, the no-cars safety for kids.....etc etc.

Please accept my vote/wish for the State Parks to repair the site for future use of all WA state residents and visitors — this place is a treasure! ³⁵

Hello,

I am writing you to urge and plead that the Cama Beach Cabins need to be saved! Doesn't historical building like these have special designation and possible fundings for repairs?

My family first visited the cabins with our first born daughter in 2015. It was such a magical trip, we returned the following year and convinced my in-laws to rent a cabin as well. They loved it. We had planned on going this past summer with all three of my children, but to our disappointment the cabins were closed.

It is so wonderful to sleep right on the Oceanside, listening to the waves. Then, waking up and stepping outside to beauty of the Puget Sound is simply magical.

Surely saving them would eventually pay for the repairs and updates.
Please find a way so generations can continue to enjoy.

Thank you, ³⁶

It would be a big mistake to close the cabins. They are historic and so enjoyed by the public, not just people who rent the cabins but people visiting the park and also boaters who have a view of history as they go by the cabins.

There has to be a better way. They must be kept open to preserve the history of Camano Island!!!!

Best regards, ³⁷

Chair Danenberg and Commission Members:

I am writing to add my support to former Senator Mary Margaret Haugen, the Sound Water Stewards & Cama Beach Quilters, the Cama Beach Foundation, and over 1,500 concerned citizens in their efforts to keep the resort cabins and buildings at Cama Beach State Park open to the public.

I am certain that you do not take difficult decisions like closing facilities lightly. Additionally, I understand there are some serious infrastructure issues that need to be dealt with at the park. However, given the historical significance of the cabins, the tourist draw they have created, and the tremendous outpouring of public support, I believe there must be a way to overcome these difficulties.

Thank you for your consideration and please, do not hesitate to contact me should you need further support in the future.

Sincerely,

Steve Hobbs

Washinton Secretary of State ³⁸

I'm sad to hear of the challenges with another legacy property. Would it be possible to replace the cabins with yurts or more rustic shelters? At least there could continue to be glamping?

I confess I've never stayed there, but it has been on my list for some time now. ³⁹

I support any repairs needed to keep the cabins at Cama Beach. They have historical value and provide an affordable place for people to stay in a beautiful environment that many could not otherwise afford or experience. If anything I would love for additional cabins to be installed.

Thank you. ⁴⁰

Please, please restore Cama Beach so families can continue to enjoy the simplicity, beauty, step back in time that is present at Cama Beach. The volunteers have been so instrumental in working and keeping Cama Beach also--it seems to be truly a special place to them, as it is for everyone who has stayed there.

It is like a refuge from our busy culture. It would behoove the state park system to spend the money to preserve this extremely special state park. We, as Washingtonians, love and care that places like Cama Beach still exist, as do many of the other state parks.

I imagine tears have been shed (as in our family also) at the thought of losing this precious place. We even love the fact that you have to walk to the bathroom, have a limited kitchen and sleep (under beautiful quilts) in a room together.

Thank you, ⁴¹

I was so proud of Washington State when they resurrected the historic cabins. I understand it's a big cost to keep them open, but I bet that if there was some outreach to the community, there would be a lot of residents that would financially help support repairs.

In a world that is so full of technology, modernization, chaos and social isolation, these cabins represent an important slice of history and bring happiness to so many people. Please save them!

Sincerely, ⁴²

To Whom It May Concern:

We strongly support looking into some long range planning and specific plan to save the 34 historical cabins and the septic system at Cama State Park in Camano Island. This stunning place of natural beauty also brings in great revenue and is one of the longtime gems of the state of Washington. Close to Seattle, it is a huge draw for visitors and tourism and wonderful wedding and event venue. While we understand the age of the cabins and the potential cost, can we be involved in going to the Washington legislature to testify, helping set up a volunteer base and or a Go Fund Me page? We realize the

cabins are 90 years old but we think there must be some way to preserve this historic place for future generations and to continue to be an income source for the state after an initial investment. This is a huge asset to the local and state community. The closure is already hurting local businesses, especially the local cafe. Please let us know what we can do. We will follow this very closely and donate a much money as we possibly can.

Sincerely, ⁴³

There is no other place like Cama Beach cabins this in the area... Yes, It's rustic but it's old-fashioned fun... For everyone, but esp for families (for which beach access can be cost prohibitive otherwise!)

Our family has come for 5 years with a big group of friends every Summer. (And we know many other families who tell us they used to ce with their kids too!) We were all heart broken when our reservation was canceled for this year (we have to stay up til midnight night after night until we are lucky enough to snag a spot a yr ahead... But it's worth it!) It is our child's favorite thing we do every Summer (and ours too)! And when we leave at the end of the week, there are tears and sadness and a count down begins (literally!!) until.the next year.

Please please don't make just an accountant's financial.decision here! This is about more than just dollars and cents. This is tradition and memories and a place that captures childhood and one of the last affordable treasures in this area.

Sincerely, ⁴⁴

Dear Park Planners

For what it's worth, my family has enjoyed Cama beach, staying in the cabins several times to celebrate special events. We would hate to see it go. Hope the repairs are doable.

Appreciate your efforts, ⁴⁵

Campground should be restored, regardless of the cost, a wonderful piece of history and a beautiful setting should be enjoyed by all ⁴⁶

Dear Parks Service,
Regarding the Cama Beach State Park cabins

Have you considered doing a fundraiser for the repairs? Or maybe some sort of corporate sponsorship? Or maybe even requesting volunteers? Skilled volunteers and donations? Partner with non-profits who care about hiking/camping/outdoors for funds or work?

Remember the days of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps)? So much of our parks that we enjoy today was originally touched by the CCC.

Be creative! Ask for help! Nothing big ever happens by doing the same old thing every day.

Good luck and thank you for reading my email.

Cheers,⁴⁷

I believe we should do anything we can to save this historical site.

The beauty of keeping our history alive is crucial for continued generations to come.

Perhaps volunteers along with state park funding can create a positive outcome.

The owners of the cafe are also struggling for their livelihood.

It would be an awful demise to let this park see it's cabins gone.⁴⁸

Hi there,

I'm writing in to add my voice to the conversation about the restoration of the cabins. I can only imagine how expensive and complex the repair process would be, but I believe there would be a return on investment for generations to come; both tangible, in terms of the rental income, and non-quantifiable, when it comes to families making memories at an affordable vacation spot in our beloved state.

During one stay, I remember seeing a calendar of an artist who made quilts depicting a Cama Beach cabin stay through the seasons. It was beautiful, but it also made me think of not only the 12 months and 4 seasons Cama Beach passes through during a year, but all the greater seasons these cabins have passed through over the span of decades. I hope there's a way to give the cabins the opportunity to pass through many more seasons, and create lasting memories & a true appreciation for the park for many more generations.

If you have any kind of community service day open to the public to help in some way, my family and I would love to help.

Thank you for allowing public comments, and for listening.⁴⁹

The idea to not fund repairs to these cabins and install a new sea wall to protect them is just ridiculous.

Our State government spends so recklessly on what's been proven to be ineffective social and transportation projects, it's disgusting to even consider letting any of our Parks deteriorate.

I'm a life long Washingtonian. Graduated from the Snohomish school district 1975, I spent most my young adult age hiking and climbing and camping in our varied park systems here.

These old park lands and newer gifted lands are irreplaceable jewels. More and more people move and live here every year...The focus for the parks department should be figuring out how to build more parks, and more outdoor usability rather than letting existing ones go. As existing ones can't meet the demands for usage now.

I remember boating in front of this place 40 years ago when it was a privet resort...wishing I could go there. I still haven't had a chance to go there and hearing about it's looming demise is more then heart breaking...it borders on criminal negligence of this gifted resource.

Most of us don't know the challenges of funding within the park system...But most of us also know the state waists millions every year on failed pet projects.

Let's move a little of that towards our Parks conservation efforts please! ⁵⁰

I have volunteered at the Cama Beach store for several years. Every summer many families return to stay in the cabins there. This park is important historically as it is on the National Register of Historic places and is the only remaining 1930's fishing resort. The unique location on the beach makes these cabins very special and worth preserving. Of course this location also comes with weather related problems and storm damage which has happened the last few years. The sea wall needs to be shored up to prevent further damage to the cabins and the septic system needs to be repaired. Maintenance needs to be done. Cama Beach State Park ark is worth preserving as a living history museum. It is an important part of Camano Island and the state park system. Washington State Parks needs to step up and make sure this gem is maintained for future generations., ⁵¹

Please find a way to keep these cabins going!!! ⁵²

Good morning,

My wife and I got married at Lake Cushman Resort, and every anniversary was spent in our honeymoon cabin. Until it shutdown. It's a simple thing, being able to go back to where your life as a happily married couple started and be able to relive that moment, but it's the simple things with memories that matter the most. My wife and I will never be able to stick our heads out the cabin window and say with laughing smiles "hey you remember when [x]...", and I know there are couples that have the same moments at the Cama Beach cabins. Please, keep the cabins so that memories can be celebrated and made, keep the historic cycle going because when it's gone, you can't go back.

P.S.

I've made an incredible career thinking outside the box. Outside the box is where your solution lies :)

Best regards, ⁵³

Please save these historic cabins! So much of our history has gone or changed. Surely the state could help with the cost of updating since these cabins generate so much in tax revenue.

The cabins and the setting are way too special to lose. ⁵⁴

Good morning.

We just visited these cabins for the first time last Friday and Are sad and disappointed that they were closed. Now to

Find out that may be permanent is really bad.
It should absolutely be repaired and brought back to life. It's
A beautiful spot and this part of Washington history should
Not be casually discarded.

Regards, ⁵⁵

I think that to permanently close the Camano cabins is a travesty. Ask yourself this. What is government for? Find A Way. I'm pretty sure that under the right conditions, there are people that would likely donate their labor to save the use of these cabins. Maybe some "rules" need to be tweaked! Let's not lose to a rotten set of rules. ⁵⁶

Please know my vote is to maintain the cabins and reopen them! There is so much history and present economy tied to them to shut them down ⁵⁷

Greetings, as a long time visitor to the cama Beach area and the lovely cafe, I was so disappointed to hear the state is considering permanent closure of the historic cabins. As much as I wanted to, haven't been able to stay there but always wanted to. Given the history of this unique place and the loss of almost all the places like this, I ask that you would consider this and look into what it would cost to update and maintain the property for future use. This Little Park in the Pacific Northwest is quite the little gem and in my opinion is worth investing your money and effort into keeping it going.

Kind regards, ⁵⁸

The cabins are part of our history. Please come up with a plan to save them!!!

Thank you, ⁵⁹

HISTORY AND THE MAIN ISSUE

First off I'll just say I'm related to the Huntington family and the Rolfson family both are north end homesteaders from the late 1800s. Rolfsons ended up near English boom and the Huntingtons just off rocket point. I'm not sure how well known this is but the cabbins at the cama beach state park were made from Camano Island Cedar and we completely made as if they were original Homestead houses; No power tools were allowed to be used in construction, the wood had to be sourced from period Correct buildings and any new wood used was Camano Island Cedar. Those cabins have been a childhood memory for almost every single person on this island and loved the park and went regularly until they removed the lower parking lot and put a shuffle there.

HOW TO FIX IT AND MAKE MONEY

get rid of that horrible shuttle, absolutely nobody wants to wait for a shuttle or have to walk almost a half mile down to the beach. Plus most of the old people out here cannot walk that half mile so it gets avoided by a lot of people because you can just drive right down the road to the state park and not have to walk a half mile. If she park was actually accessible like it used to be back in the day then it will be a more popular park. I've lived on Camano Island the entirety of my life and I know this better than any of you so if you

wanna fix the park ditch that awful shuttle system and let people park at the beach again.
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Rebuild its a part of what Washington is the Great North west so all can enjoy⁶¹

Our family just visited Camano Island for the first time in August. It was a magical place for us, we saw orcas for the first time!
We loved eating brunch on the balcony of the restaurant, in the tree tops of the park, and were thrilled to learn about the cabins. We, including our 9 year old son, are so excited about the possibility of staying in them soon, they're a treasure, please find a way to save them!
Thank you!⁶²

Saw the Komo article that the future is in consideration for the cabins. Don't let the cabins go to waste, if budget is the blocker be open to partial public crowdfunding or similar.
Thanks,⁶³

Don't close Camas Beach Park Cabins!⁶⁴

Washington state park,
I'd like you to provide public comment regarding the cabins at Cama beach.
Washington's culture as a state is evolving as a result of a population influx and modern times. Our historic cultural identity is being diluted and lost to time. The Cama beach cabins are a window into a simpler word for families to make memories in. They are a step back in time. As vacation destinations such as Great Wolf Lodges are popularized, children benefit from the simplicity that our historic state parks provide.⁶⁵

Thank you. I am writing in support of the renovation and restoration of the cabins located at Cama State Park. These rustic cabins represent a marvelous bridge between what was and what is in terms of the enjoyment of embracing the tranquility of the Sound and the pure pleasure of being able to step in and out of time. I urge the State to develop a fiscally responsible plan yet still retain just enough whimsy to allow the continued embrace of history over simple expediency.⁶⁶

The Cabins at Cama Beach are very unique and should be preserved!
The money generated from the rent should be used to upgrade them and fix the septic system. The entire park is a gem and can't be replaced. Im looking forward to staying there again.⁶⁷

It's a shame that the Cama Beach State Park is closing. There are not enough parks and camps sites in the Puget Sound area considering the size of the population. Money is being spent on projects less valuable.⁶⁸

It's worth it and the public needs rest places. Fix the Septic or make compost toilets. Otherwise, you know that a private company is going to buy it and take it and profit from it and make it something that people need to be able to rest and enjoy. It won't have access to. Please keep this public property.

Sincerely⁶⁹

Please keep park & cabins open clean up existing problem, design off-site drain field or is porta potties there was a purchase of the property so leave it alone the people that use it do nothing but good. Thankyou ⁷⁰

Hi there,

I would like to advocate for the Cama Beach cabins to be saved. The cabins have been a fantastic getaway for friends and family over the years and it would be a huge loss to the area if they were gone.

Thank you! ⁷¹

Please keep those beautiful and simple cabins open for the future. I attended my nephew's wedding there and we stayed in the cabins, they are so comfortable with handmade quilts on every bed, don't let this historical retreat go. Can you go for a simpler septic design and use incinerating toilets? It is definitely worth saving, the cabins are lovely and the hall above is perfect for celebrations!! We need places like this to remind us of the past and how we can live more simply. ⁷²

Hello! I'd like to ask the state parks to do whatever is necessary to keep the Cama beach state parks cabins open and available to the community for affordable rentals, as they have been in the past. These cabins are an amazing resource for families to get out and enjoy some of what makes Washington truly special. The Cama beach cabins are very accessible for many Washingtonians; affordable, not insanely remote, nor requiring expensive gear or dangerous treks to enjoy the outdoor wonders of the beach and puget sound. Sure, upgrading the septic system and sea wall are difficult and expensive, but these are absolutely worthy causes to keep such an amazing and historic location available for Washingtonians to enjoy. Cama beach cabins are an amazing place, it is our duty to keep them going for many more generations of Washingtonians to enjoy, even if it requires some deferred maintenance ⁷³

I am writing in support of preserving the cabins and facilities at Cama Beach State Park. It is a unique experience staying there and something I truly missed this year. I realize the cost will be high to do what is needed to reopen the park, but the loss of these cabins and the experiences they provide also has a cost. Please don't allow this special historic place to be lost. ⁷⁴

Hello!

I'd like to send a message of support to the parks department for making whatever upgrades are necessary to keep the Cama beach state park cabins open. They are an amazing resource for accessible, affordable, outdoor recreation for all Washingtonians.

Please do what is necessary to save these historic cabins so Washingtonians can continue to enjoy the ocean and the beach on Camano.

Thank you! ⁷⁵

Cama State Beach Park cabins are a historic gem for our whole state. The cabins are nearly 100 years old and preserving their intended use is essential. Just shutting them down is a shame and does not honor their donors intent. Furthermore it takes away the opportunity of generations to enjoy this local resource for recreation, family, and natural resources.

Finding the resources to preserve this is essential. It is the duty of the state to preserve this park and these cabins for their intended use. To preserve this for our future and to ensure a prosperous community. ⁷⁶

Save the cabins ! If the State absolutely can't save them then sell them to be moved so they survive. ! Don't let history be destroyed . ⁷⁷

Camano Island has so much to offer the PNW in regards to its culture and beauty. Cama Beach for years has been such an impactful piece to our island... it's almost shocking to hear not only the delay in fixing the problems but that it wouldn't get fixed at all. Fixing the problems to reopen the camp has to be a priority. ⁷⁸

I just watched the KING 5 news report on the Cama Beach State Park historic cabins. For reference: <https://youtu.be/OZ2XPac264?si=f5fjgBGIakoyoGWK>

Sounds like it could be expensive for private investors to try to save, but what if some kind of private coop were formed to purchase the area, with a stated intention of preserving it?

Offering coop investors a benefit of owning one of the cabins as a residence for personal use for as long as they like?

It looks like a pretty place to form a good, solid retirement community. I wish I had a cabin with a view like that to retire in!

Sincerely, ⁷⁹

I was lucky enough to stay at Cama Beach with a group of elementary schools students who had this wonderful opportunity to spend a weekend together enjoying nature. For some kids, this place that is so close to the city yet so far removed from it, is one of the best chances to see wildlife right up close. The cabins were amazing, the gift shop is incredible. Everything about Cama Beach is unique and special. Please do everything you can to fund the restoration of the seawall and keep the cabins open for future generations. Even if it takes a while, it is worth it. We need these special places to remain; seems like we ordinary citizens lose out the most when places like this close or aren't the same anymore for one reason or another. FUND THE REPAIRS!! ⁸⁰

Please continue the planning to reopen Cama Beach Cabins. It's such a special place to visit and one of a kind. We have many great memories there and would love to keep up our annual tradition. ⁸¹

The park department should look into working with the students in the construction program at Sno-Isle Skill Center to help preserve the cabins. ⁸²

Hello,

I am writing you in hopes it will help you consider keeping the cabins at Cama State park. I think the repairs even though costly are worth what they give to our community here on the island. They bring visitors every summer for weeks at a time which helps the local businesses. Also there is history and tradition for many Washington residents that can't be replaced. It's such a fun and beautiful place for family to get away that isn't super far away from the city.

Please consider repairing them and keeping the park and cabins open.

Thanks, ⁸³

Hi, I'd like to inquire about the options evaluated to keep the cabins open and what the future of the park would look like if it is elected to not reopen them.

Will they be destroyed? What about the cost to repair the septic for the restaurant? Will the walking trails continue to be maintained? Would the beach portion be condemned if the cabins are left to age? What about all of the other structures?

We use the park several times a week and it would be a shame for the park to become abandoned. We would like to see what the return on investment looks like and what the plan could be?

Leaving the cabins abandoned could become a safety concerns as well as an environment concern so as users of the park we would like to know what the long term plan is.

Thank you ⁸⁴

As a resident of Camano Island, our family loves the amenities of Cama Beach. Having it closed the past summer has been a huge disappointment. We hope that you will see the benefits it brings to our island between the actual revenue it produces for you the government and the actual joy it produces for us the residents. ⁸⁵

It's such a special and beautiful place!! Please do your damndest to keep it going for future generations!!!

Go fund me?! Raise room rates?! Do what it takes! I know you all will find a solution!

Thank you ⁸⁶

This was a donated park. Fix the problems and open the cabins. They need to stay open.

Camano island resident ⁸⁷

Please don't close the cabins at Cama permanently, they are beloved and full of history. They are worth the investment. ⁸⁸

These cabins must be saved! ⁸⁹

Cama beach park is a gem, and belongs to the people. What an absolute travesty to allow it to go away because of septic repair issues..when the septic in my backyard needed replacement, I sucked it up and fixed it. It was in the Henderson Inlet watershed, and had to be a working system! I remember when the state threatened to close Tolmie..Is the plan to sell MY park to developers? Shame! ⁹⁰

I am a resident of northern Snohomish County. The park I visit the most often in the county is Cama State Park. I appreciate that the State Park system has camping in such a beautiful area, and as one with disabilities I appreciate it when I see facilities for others to enjoy as well. The cabins at Cama Beach allow for many to be close to the water; to enjoy the natural environment of the area. Because it is so beautiful many chose to hold weddings and/or receptions at the location.

The park and its cabins are a rare jewel of the PNW and I request that these cabins to be saved for generations to come. More and more parks and amenities are disappearing to urban expansion. Please do not allow this park to be someone one can only read about or see archive video on YouTube. ⁹¹

Just putting in my two cents that permanently closing the Cama beach cabins would be a huge waste. They are such cool cabins and everyone loves them. Plus they make money for the park and the cafe up the hill is SO GOOD and it will go out of business without the cabin guests. Those cabins have stood the test of time and with some updates could continue to give people so much joy for so many years to come.

What will you do if you permanently close them? Let them sit and rot into the ground? What a waste! Or will you spend millions to demolish them? What a waste! If you can't afford to fix them lease them to a private company that will fix them up and continue to rent them. ⁹²

The State of Washington needs to realize that our state parks are NOT primarily a business... but a SERVICE. And our state representatives need to do WHATEVER they need to do to ensure the health and welfare of Cama Beach State Park. More Taxes?? Ask for them. Do NOT focus entirely on business paradigms. That would be unacceptable. Irresponsible. And morally deplorable.

Thank you, ⁹³

Don't be stupid. Cama Beach is an incredible asset of our state. This irreplaceable land was a unbelievably generous gift to the state and, as such, requires good stewardship and yes, that means a significant expenditure for repairs and upkeep. But the alternative of losing this resource, this unique recreational site is simply unacceptable. The right decision is to make the investment for future generations, because once it's gone, it gone forever. ⁹⁴

I spent a wonderful long weekend at Cama Beach when my three children were young. It was a magical place and they spent hours watching the water, skipping stones and exploring. There are so few places where working families can take their children to experience a true northwest outdoor experience and not break the bank. A unique and wonderful place. ⁹⁵

I just watched the KING 5 news report on the Cama Beach State Park historic cabins. For reference: <https://youtu.be/OZ2XP264?si=f5fjgBGLAkoyoGWK>

Sounds like it could be expensive for private investors to try to save, but what if some kind of private coop were formed to purchase the area, with a stated intention of preserving it?

Offering coop investors a benefit of owning one of the cabins as a residence for personal use for as long as they like?

It looks like a pretty place to form a good, solid retirement community.
I wish I had a cabin with a view like that to retire in!

Sincerely, ⁹⁶

Please keep this treasure open. I first visited in 1962 and have introduced my kid's dad, my kids , my grandkids and various friends. We love this place. It is part of our family lore. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE. ⁹⁷

Hello. I wanted to write to express my hope that funds can be found in the budget for saving the cabins at Cama Beach. I have been a visitor to Cama beach multiple times and was lucky enough to stay in the cabins for the first time last summer with my extended family. We had a wonderful time and we would be so sorry to see the cabins closed forever.

There is something so unique about Cama Beach, in that you cant drive down, so once you are transported there by shuttle (or walking), it really does feel as if you are stepping back in time to a different time and place and the sense of peace and tranquility that descends on you is profound. The little store, museum, cafe and boat center add to the ambiance and the whole experience is really special.

If you can possibly do it, please find a way to save the cabins .

Thank you ⁹⁸

I hope you are able to fix the problems and retain these historic cabins. It would be sad to lose this part of our heritage. ⁹⁹

When considering whether to restore the cabins at Cama state beach, please think of all the negative factors, don't look just at the financial cost of restoration. Local businesses are hurt, something unique and historic would be lost and many people will be unhappy. Perhaps if government could do something efficient for a change they could be restored simply, as they were ,

not made into expensive, fancy places.

Please try to find a way to preserve this special historic park. Thank you! ¹⁰⁰

Have you considered selling them individually to buyers who can then either live full time or rent them out on short or long term basis?

You can use those funds to fix the repairs that are needed. ¹⁰¹

Please do not close the park or the cabins! They are historic and everyone loves them. History should always be preserved at whatever cost, especially if it will be resourceful and profitable through time. This is a no brainer!!! ¹⁰²

Please consider not closing these wonderful park cabins. Perhaps ask the public to help fund the need for repairs and even ask for volunteers that have the experience in the

fields needed got said repairs. These cabins are part of Washington's history.
Thank you for your consideration, ¹⁰³

The sea level is rising. Purchase additional land if needed and relocate all buildings and infrastructure to higher ground. Rebuilding what is there including a sea wall, will only be under water. That money should be used to purchase new land first. Then wait if needed for additional funds to rebuild on higher ground. ¹⁰⁴

Would love to see this park given back to Tulalip Tribes considering it was a burial site and fishing area for them in the first place. I say this as someone who stayed there at the cabins a few times and am sad that they are closed now. My opinion is that it would be in better care for the tribes and the least WA State Parks could do in reparations & broken treaties. <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2005/jun/25/discovery-of-remains-spurs-state-tribe-talks/> ¹⁰⁵

I first visited Cama before the state parks came in, shined it up and reopened the historic fishing resort. That was a massive effort, something to be proud of. And now, the state is daunted because they need to repair a septic system and make a seawall higher? Weak effort and not respecting the family that gave the state this priceless beach. ¹⁰⁶

Dear Parks,

I am emailing you to ask you to find a way to repair Cama Beach Park Cabins and keep these historic cabins open for public use. As well as rebuild the as seawall.

We can't afford to lose such a good part of Washington State history. So much has changed and so many places have closed that we must restore and keep these cabins open so that folks have the opportunity to experience what life was like not too long ago in our beautiful State.

I realize that budgets are under pressure and we need to be prudent in our spending but we also need to keep Cama Beach Cabins open as they critical structures they are to help define our past and preserve these cabins to be enjoyed in our future.

Thank you for your time and consideration. ¹⁰⁷

PLEASE! PLEASE!

Save the history
Save the experience
Save memories for future generations.

Once gone ... they'll never be replaced.

We need the Cama Beach State Park Cabins to be restored and maintained.
Finally something worthwhile to give back to Washington State citizens! ¹⁰⁸

Good day,

The cabins at this park must be saved. All too often, things that have historical significance are simply dismissed and tossed away. I know the repairs for these cabins will be expensive, but they are vitally important. Most times, we are not asked about how our tax dollars are spent. This needs to be put to vote and allow our voices to be heard. It is our money that would be spent, after all.

It is something that should be taken care of, and I for one think the government has a duty to protect and preserve history. Those in charge often forget about their constituents and make decisions in our supposed best interest without so much as a nod. They think they know best. Saving these cabins must be addressed! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, ¹⁰⁹

Sell me one if you're going to tear them down. I will preserve it for history and move it 😊

¹¹⁰

This hidden gem of a park in Washington State tucked away on the south end of Camano Island has been entrusted to the state park system and Camano Island volunteers. Closing the buildings in our beloved park is not an acceptable solution. I understand the challenge, but all options to save the historical buildings should be considered. This park not only brings in a sizable revenue for the parks system it is essential to the history and revenue of Camano Island. Generations have married, vacationed and celebrated this park through staying at the cabins, celebrations on the beach with access to an amazing bounty the cafe offers. These celebrations have brought sustainable income to the park, the cafe and to Camano Island. Without these buildings there will be a significant decline in tourism and income to our beautiful Island that offers and shares an abundance of nature's gifts and historical significance to those that visit. You will not just be shutting the door of a fishing cabin. you will be shutting the door to generations of history and a significant draw to a Pacific Northwest paradise. ¹¹¹

Greetings from the south sound. I am writing to implore the Cama planning powers that be to make the necessary repairs and upgrades to reopen the Cama beach cabins. This location is a jewel that must be preserved. The quiet of not having vehicles by the beach, the sunsets, the historic cabins, no cell service, no other place in Washington is like this piece of heaven. My wife and I discovered the cabins at Cama beach our first year of marriage in 2009. We have been back nearly every year since. Our latest trip was in 2022, with our two kids in tow.

Please, do the right thing and get these cabins reopened. If it takes donations from the public to do it, you will find those who love this place will put down money to ensure future generations can find and enjoy this treasure. ¹¹²

Hello,

I am writing to express my deep concern and request urgent action to save the historic Cama Beach Cabins on Camano Island. These cabins have been an integral part of Washington's heritage and a beloved destination for generations. I understand they have

been closed for some time, and while I had hoped this was due to temporary renovations or repairs, it has come to my attention that their closure may be indefinite, with the risk of permanent closure looming.

The Cama Beach Cabins are not just a place for recreation; they are a significant piece of our state's history and a treasure that deserves preservation. My family and I have spent countless summers there, creating cherished memories in a unique, unplugged setting. In a time when it is becoming increasingly difficult to find such opportunities to disconnect, the cabins provide a rare chance for families to experience nature through boating, crabbing, bonfires, and other quintessential Pacific Northwest activities.

Washington is known for its natural beauty and rich history, but too often we see pieces of that history replaced rather than preserved. This is a trend that we must reverse. I strongly believe that with outreach, funding could be secured from private benefactors and the wider community to restore the cabins and repair the seawall, ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy this irreplaceable landmark.

Please consider seeking alternative funding options to save the Cama Beach Cabins from permanent closure. I know that many individuals, including myself, would be willing to contribute to such efforts.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I sincerely hope you will take action to preserve this important part of Washington's history. ¹¹³

I read about the closure of the cabins at Cama State Park. You all have probably already looked at many options, but I'm wondering if a combination of composting toilets and self-contained greywater processing units would alleviate the pressure on the septic system. The seawall is a gnarlier problem—I recall flooding is the issue. Is relocating the most vulnerable cabins possible?

I'd be happy to participate in a design charrette, and could probably rope in green building colleagues as well. ¹¹⁴

Formally entering public comment here, on the future of the historic cabins on Camano Island.

Washington State generally discards, abandons, and disregards its physical past for practicality's sake.

Losing our historic touchstones devalues our entire cultural landscape.

Please consider preserving these cabins, their plumbing and functionality, and the seawall that has protected them. We support doing this for their legacy value to our public culture, including necessary improvements.

Washington protects its billionaires with favorable financial conditions. What do our billionaires protect? Funding for this should not be exclusive to public sources.

Thank you. ¹¹⁵

If it's too expensive to repair all the cabins at one time, how about repairing them gradually over a 2- to 3-year period? That way the total cost doesn't have to be raised all at once and you don't lose the cabins. Also how possible is it for some of the work to be done by volunteers?

Just some thoughts... ¹¹⁶

I was invited to stay at Camino Island park about 10 years ago by a friend who had a cabin there. We set out on a kayak trip for wildlife watching. I will never forget what an awe-inspiring place. To hear it will be shut down is a total shame. It should be restored at whatever it takes to keep it standing as a viable historic landmark and recreation retreat. I am sure you could find volunteers to donate their time to help pitch in to restoring this grand historical place. We are losing these great places. I recall another similar place with cabins where kids could buy penny candy at the local store. Also a lake where kids could go swimming, boating, fishing, and hiking. I was one of them. I am now 73. It was inspiration for me to continue my life career in State Parks. I continue to enjoy Yosemite in California. ¹¹⁷

Keep the cabins. We need local things and history to stick around. Yes it is expensive. If we got rid of everything because it was expensive we would have nothing left. ¹¹⁸

In an age where technology has our lives moving faster and faster, we need to take time to look back. Investing resources in the cabins at Cama Beach Resort saves a part of our history and provides not only for the surrounding community but the lives of those who visit such a historical site. Visiting the past provides perspective, thinking of the people no longer here and how Cama Beach was part of their lives compared to how our lives are now. All of this deserves to be preserved for generations to come. ¹¹⁹

I strongly believe the state should be taking great care to restore the cabins at Cama state park. The amount of \$ generated by these cabins and the \$ it also gives the local businesses through visitors, is vital.

It's time our state parks starts restoring the very best of what we have to offer

Thank you ¹²⁰

Dear Parks Staff

I have enjoyed staying at the Cabins, so peaceful, interesting, and historical. I can't imagine the Island and the Park without them. I truly hope there is a way to repair and sustain the Cabins. I wonder if a combined venture between the Parks Dept and a private benefactor would be a solution. I wonder if State Parks Dept are allowed to fundraise.

Thank you for anything you can do to help.

Thank you for everything you do daily. ¹²¹

Please make the cabins at Cama beach a priority. It is a beautiful park filled with memories and promise. ¹²²

You can't place a monetary value on the cultural and historical significance of the cabins and associated buildings. Not to mention the joy, memories, and nostalgia a stay at the cabins brings to families. The cost will be high, but the cabins are worth it in so many ways beyond the dollar amount. Please do everything you can to restore the cabins and

keep them open for decades to come. They feed our souls and the loss will be too great to even imagine. ¹²³

We used to go as children & then took our kids when they were young. We were looking forward to taking our grandkids!

Surely a combination fundraising effort btw public & State funds can make a difference.

If our local billionaires can build vanity rockets surely they can help save a part of their state's history. ¹²⁴

Hello Parks Staff,

I saw on King 5 that the previously temporary closure of the Cama Beach State Park Cabins might become permanent due to the expense and effort involved in maintaining them.

My family and I only got to stay in the cabins once (due to their popularity!), but it was a wonderful December 2020 visit when many things were closed. Staying in a historic cabin right on the beach was the perfect way to bring some of nature's peace during a challenging pandemic.

We've stayed in many of the state park's cabins and appreciated that Cama Beach had a few more amenities to offer (including a fridge & sink, a separate bedroom for parents). It also already has great support infrastructure for families with the Cama Beach Cafe, Center for Wooden Boats, the little store and the playground and giant chess set. The close proximity to Seattle (90 min or less, no ferry required!) also makes it an easier stay for families with young children who can't drive far.

Roofed accommodations like those at Cama Beach are so helpful to families who don't have all the gear/expertise for tent camping, but might not be able to afford a fancier hotel room. They give us immersive access to special places like Cama Beach, inspiring future generations to protect them. And yet, there aren't enough! Reserving cabins at our state parks is a competitive process with most reservations snatched up months in advance. Removing 33 cabins from the reservable population worsens the issue and takes away from the ability to experience these historic gems.

Please do everything you can to rehabilitate the Cama Beach cabins so future generations can treasure them.

Sincerely, ¹²⁵

Please do not abandon the cabins at the Park once they are gone both past and future are destroyed and will be impossible to recreate. Please invest in what needs to be done. Generations of Washingtonians will thank you. ¹²⁶

Closing down the cabins for good would be very detrimental in numerous ways. There would be a several small business owners that may end up having to close their business down due to a substantial revenue loss due to the loss of visitors that vacation at the cabins. The number of historic buildings, especially cabins like those in the Cama Beach State Park, are quickly diminishing due to high repair costs. So when those buildings get closed for good, we lose a lot of our country's history along with it. Its a really neat experience to be able to stay in an older building and see the buildings history. Especially with the population growth and places that used to be a rural area becoming more like the big cities, people need places to vacation where things are less hectic and more simple than what we have nowadays. One way to possibly help with the cost of repairs is make a list of the repairs needed and do the ones that are necessary for safety or functioning reasons. Then the other repairs can be done later on. Another way to help with cost repairs, start by repairing only a few of the buildings first. Once they are deemed safe and up to code, open those buildings up for the vacationers. This way there will be some revenue coming in to help bring a certain number of buildings up to code. Then open those buildings for vacationers and just keep repeating this until eventually all of the buildings are up to code. This way not only will you guys have some income coming in to help with the repairs for the other buildings but also helping the local businesses that are now struggling due to the cabins being closed. I really hope you guys due consider to repair the cabins instead of closing them down for good. I am very passionate in trying to keep historical buildings in safe conditions and stay open for the public. We have so many historical buildings still standing but people can't go inside because repair costs are to high. People don't get to experience the true history of those buildings from looking at the outside. Being able to go inside is when you see the true history of not only the building but of our country as a whole and what it was like back then. Please consider all options on how to open these cabins for public use again before deciding to close them for good. Thank you for taking the time to read this email! ¹²⁷

This is nothing short of a shame closing Camo cabins. My husband and I have never stayed there but had planned too. Nothing like spending the night at rustic old cabins. Gives you a few days to live like times long ago. We can come up with money for everything else. But we can't find the money for a Camo treasure. These cabin should not be shut down! It also hurts a the restaurant a area small business.

Please rethink this decision. And let families comes together for many of years to come.

Sincerely ¹²⁸

Let's work together with Washington businesses and seek a way to save this access point for campers and families. It's a shame to see a Washington tradition close. I know we can do it? Youth training jobs in construction? Ah Roosevelt! ¹²⁹

I got this link from the article about the problems the park is having.

Rebuild or repair or move cabins away from edge of shore as needed. Install composting toilets as a way to generate interest in that lifestyle. Use holding tanks for grey water that

is pumped out as needed. Or find a method of filtering, treating safely, or pumping the grey water to a leach field. Use solar methods to heat shower water. Advertise as adventure camping, or something like that. I'd go there and pay \$\$ for that experience. Showers might be hot to cold. All part of the adventure.

Good luck. ¹³⁰

It's historic and a lot of family fun.

Please, it's a small part of the budget, keep it. ¹³¹

Please do not close Cama Beach cabins! If it generates around \$1Million per year then surely it is worth maintaining this historical property! ¹³²

I will never forget the summer my nextdoor neighbor [x] invited me along with her 2 kids to spend an entire week of Summer vacation in one of the rustic cabins at Cama Beach. That was in 1976. I was 16 years old.

The beach cabins were ran by the Owner back then, long before the property had been donated to the State.

It was a magical time & place. Truly like being transported back in time..They had a community room where they had board games, and played movies at night.

While walking along the pebbled beach, I reached down & picked up a small golf pencil-sized piece of driftwood and put it in my pocket.

In our cabin, my bed was butted up against the front window facing the water.

I'd just woke from an afternoon nap, when I remembered the piece of Driftwood I poked in my pocket so I pulled that out and grabbed a pin and started drawing on the Driftwood to where it resembled a baby Papoose wrapped in a blanket. that was 48 years ago. I still have that piece of driftwood.

My memories of that week are still vivid today.

Mine is just some tiny memory from years ago. I can't even fathom how many thousands... hundreds of thousands of memories were created from different people & families over many decades that could be shared about their time on that pebbled-beach, staying in one of those cozy cabins.I'm very sad to see them go. ¹³³

Camano island State Park Cabins are a community treasure and worth investing in. I and all my children's school mates/families have spent many memorable and electronic free days there enjoying the world around us. It is one of the last opportunities to bring people who don't usually camp outdoors and enjoy beachfront time. As a campfire leader it was ALWAYS the unanimous vote of my troupe to spend our candy selling profits to pay for a few cabins and horseback riding at Langs. Few rules, unstructured playtime in an amazing setting. I've lost count of how many children learned to ride a bike in this safe setting.

It is an affordable getaway for all!

Please save this amazing access to our world of exploration! ¹³⁴

Please preserve this historical piece of America. Once "let go" it will be gone forever, and that would be a shame. Our children and grand children have enjoyed time at this unique

and irreplaceable “monument” to American life. Preserving it should not even be a question.

As I understand it, this facility generates about \$1,000,000 in revenue annually for Washington state parks. Short of subdividing it and selling it off (which would be an absolute disastrous decision) what else could be done with this property to realize such continued income than restore, preserve, and utilize it as it was intended?

Yours,¹³⁵

Dear WA State Parks,

I’m writing about Cama Beach State Park. My family and a group of friends spent a few days there every summer for 11 years. It became the thing we looked forward to most every summer.

Cama was like being at summer camp. We turned our kids loose for hours. Because there were no cars we didn’t need to worry. They got dirty and hungry and tired for all the best reasons. We had water access, hiking, and a top notch beach for reading or flying kites. I think all our kids learned how to use money in the little store, buying candy from a kind and patient person behind the counter. There are not many opportunities for that anymore.

Cama was a delicious escape. Yet it was accessible, both geographically and financially. It wasn’t fancy, and it didn’t need to be. Basking in the glow of a long summer sunset on the beach there was pure magic. The sound of the waves lulled us to sleep at night.

This summer we sorely missed our Cama trip. It truly is our happy place, and am certain others feel the same - and more could, if given the chance. It is a unique, wonderful place worth preserving. I hope you will agree.

Sincerely,¹³⁶

I, [x], am personally insulted that Washington has the gall to employ personnel that are paid to plan but have no ability to do so. The 'old lady', as we called her, closed a cabin until there was time, material or whatever to rent it out again.

The pleasure of a rustic NW beach cabin for a short stay was immeasurable. I stayed in the tiny, med & deluxe cabins t b rough the years. I stoked the stove to heat the water for a brief shower. I listened to a mouse or 2 as well as being lulled to sleep by the lapping waters of Cama Beach. I enjoyed young nephews exploring the beach. Some of the parks should be no Need to be preserved as they are with upgrades as minimal as possible and remain for public. There is little left of true Puget Sound life. Cama Beach offers that to its visitors.

It is inconvenient in ways but well worth turning this over to preservationists that can keep this treasure viable.

Thank you for an opportunity to express my opinion. ¹³⁷

For all it's worth;

We must,

We will,

We can save

this incredibly unique piece of Washington history, especially given so many families over a very long time, have enjoyed playing and relaxing while breathing in the salt water air.

We all can compromise to find a solution.

With regards,

And wishes to Save Cama - ¹³⁸

Have you considered a fundraiser? Like GoFundMe?

Do you have the names and addresses of former patrons? Targeted fund raising to people who have stayed and loved the cabins? ¹³⁹

I strongly support the restoration and reopening of these cabins at the state park asap.

We need to encourage our residents to participate and enjoy outdoor activities and experiences! These cabins are a valuable and irreplaceable asset. ¹⁴⁰

These are historic and need to be saved! I don't have the answers as to where the money will come from, but finding funding should be top priority. Think outside the box! You cannot just let the sea and weather take them. I used to have a bone on Camano, and now live on Whidbey. Almost all of our historic cabins are gone. Replaced with McMansions. It's a shame. Please save these cabins! ¹⁴¹

I just watched the short news clip regarding closing the cabins forever at the state park.

I certainly hope not. My daughter was married there in 2022 and we had the best time.

They went back for their anniversary the following year, but unfortunately the cabins closed in 2024 so they were not able to return for their 2nd anniversary.

My hope would be that there is a grant of some sort that the park could apply for to help offset the costs.

It would be a shame to let something so rich in history go. ¹⁴²

Hello my name is [x]. I am fourteen years old. I have been going to Cama Beach State Park cabins once or twice every year (besides covid) since I was three. The last time I went, we were the only people there because the park was closing for repairs, but now I my mother has informed me that there is a chance of a permanently closing of the park. I am emailing in to urge you to reconsider investing money to repair and reopen. I know from the cabin logbooks that many families enjoy spending their vacations at the park and cabins. Thank you for your consideration. ¹⁴³

Committee

I have lived here on Camano my entire life. To think the state would get this property for pennies on the dollar only to either mismanage funds or worse and shut the cabins down is beyond infuriating. I remember when the family made the deal with the state to acquire the property, and I have seen the families gathering together playing volleyball, crabbing, playing games....this park is a gift of security and strength to a failing family system. At Cama Beach young children connect with parents and grandparents and cousins etc.

Cama beach provides the mental and soul nourishment our government has failed repeatedly to build for families. No obstacle should stand in the way of fully restoring this park to its prior operations. As a side note, my father worked at the park when it was a resort....the place is special on so many levels and a treasure that I hazard to say the state may never have deserved. I am left with the dread that our state will fail to provide this haven to more families to gather, connect, and build lasting memories that have spanned generations and should continue absent State bureaucracy failures. This is the fault of the state....our state is ours and we demand the full restoration of our park. ¹⁴⁴

Please reconsider the closure of the cabins. Find the money for repairs. Look for donors, as Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, Amazon, Melinda Gates to adopt the park. It might be a seemingly small impact compared to others, it is devastating to those impacted. Figure it out. No to the closure. ¹⁴⁵

We have been going to the cabins at Camp Beach for at least 10 years with over a dozen families every Memorial Day weekend. Our kids have grown up with memories of the park. We look forward every year to seeing friends that have become like family. We love the park, the cafe, biking around Camano Island, enjoying the natural beauty while catching up with friends, and seeing the kids of all the families grow up. I can't tell you how many new friends we have made over the years just from our Cama Beach tradition. It saddens me deeply to think that the cabins may never open again. I hope the state finds a way to do the necessary work to bring these cabins back.

Thank you. ¹⁴⁶

I recommend that whatever money is required to get Cama Beach opened up again should be spent. This is a very special beach and very unique for us. Residence of Camano Island and visitors.10 ¹⁴⁷

My wife and I firmly support spending the money to do what needs to be done to preserve and use these cabins. They are a priceless asset for people now and for generations to come. Whatever cost/investment is necessary will be recouped over the long haul. If necessary the work could be financed with long term revenue bonds. Please do not toss away this once in a lifetime opportunity. ¹⁴⁸

I acknowledge the challenges that park staff are faced with.

However, I don't believe the value of the historic structures and the value that they provide to WA State is being sufficiently valued. This does not need to be an "all or nothing" decision. The boat house could be removed if the sprinkler repair can't be completed while leaving the cabins. If the issue with the pumps is electric, that does not sound like a fix requiring substantial ground disturbance. I'm unclear about the projected sea level rise, but there are other cabins (e.g. the Tolt McDonald in the King County park system) that are closed seasonally due to flooding and an assessment should be completed about ALL of the mitigation options. Mitigation could include temporary closure of the cabins, lifting them off the ground by 18" etc.

In the event that the WA State parks does move to remove the cabins I hope that they are

offered to willing takers for \$1 so the structures could be reused and preserved in another location. However, I think the preferred option should be to find a way to keep the cabins in place for another +30 years. ¹⁴⁹

To whom it might concern,

I and my family enjoy so much the possibilities of being outside in the forest, on the beach, in the desert, and in every single place that we can learn about nature. Having so much natural beauty and ecosystems around in Washington State makes it even better. We support and use the facilities/parks of Washington State Parks; we believe that they are much more than parks; those are the remaining natural spaces that we all can enjoy, learn, and reconnect with nature, and we always get more than we can expect from that visit (I didn't intend to quote John Muir). Please consider investing in the renovation of this park not only for the people that today can enjoy it, but for many more people that will need it when the urban areas take more natural space.

I believe it is possible, and I also believe that you understand the importance of these places.

Please, keep this park and create more of them.

Best regards, ¹⁵⁰

It would be an absolute disgrace for the state to NOT correct the issues at this beautiful state park. Millions of dollars were invested in this park not many years back -- what a waste to just let it go now. Cama Beach is a jewel in the Washington State Park system and should be repaired so that the citizens of this state can enjoy it for years and years to come. ¹⁵¹