

Cama Beach Public Comments

September 19 – 23, 2024

Hello,

Just read article about closures of Cama cabins because of septic system and cabin repairs. It will take 2 years for these cabins to be in disrepair. It would be a tragic to see these cabins demolished for all the history of the cama cabins.

Have you given it thought to lease cabins to rehab and keep them operating.

How can we submit a option to lease Cama cabins from State Parks.

Thank you ¹

I just watched the KING 5 news report on the Cama Beach State Park historic cabins.

For reference: <https://youtu.be/OZ2XPpac264?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, ²

Cama Beach State Park is one of the brightest stars in the constellation of Washington State Parks. The cabins were a huge draw for the park and made other features of the park even more enjoyable and accessible. The septic system should be repaired and the cabins put back in service. ³

We are property owners at the south end of the island. Cama Beach Cabins really are part of the long term community and atmosphere of Camano Island and I think with the right publicity and volunteer recruitment we could rebuild the cabins and once again make them a very desirable destination.

In 1949 the Camano Island South End Grange, as part of a community service contest, put together volunteers and a plan to establish Camano Island State Park. Why couldn't we do the same for the Cama beach cabins and land?

Thank you. ⁴

As a 23 year resident of Camano Island, my family and I have come to regard Cama Beach as one of the best examples of northwest culture and history. We sincerely implore Those entrusted with its preservation and the awareness of the immense gift of the original owners to Camano Island and the state of Washington to exert every effort to preserve this park. Not only would its loss be felt by residents of Island County, but by the entire state. The unique pristine beaches and doorway into the past as a 1930s resort it represents make it a treasure which must not be lost to the public. We beg you to follow the steps outlined by Gary Worthington and his letter to you regarding the future of this resort. ⁵

Greetings Commissioners and Director Dupuis...

I just wanted to add my voice to the crowd of voices (encapsulated in the letter likely much seen below) requesting that Cama Beach State Park and cabins be preserved and continue to function as always. What a heart break to think that this beautifully handled, environmentally considerate and friendly place could be gone forever. What a place of peace and beauty and history.

Hoping so very much for a very different course of action than closure!

Sincerely,
[X]

August 15, 2024

The Commissioners
& Director Diana Dupuis
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

Re: Cama Beach State Park Decisions and Future Planning

Dear Commissioners and Director Dupuis:

We are writing as former owners of Cama Beach, and as donors to Washington State Parks through our charitable trusts of approximately \$10 million in property value (in 1990s dollars), and well over \$2 million in cash to fund the Master Plan and what eventually became the Cama Center building.

We would first like to say that we very much appreciate that you, the Commissioners, are generously serving with no compensation, other than knowing that you are offering your experience and judgment in the best interests of the people of Washington State, present and future.

When we turned over ownership of the Cama Beach waterfront to the Commission, we turned over a sacred trust – a trust involving the protection of the sole remaining large historic 1930s waterfront family saltwater fishing resort (and also, of course, the protection of the tribal artifacts and remains below the ground surface).

We now fear that the Commission, although with the best of intentions, might soon make a decision based on incomplete information that sets aside that sacred trust and fails to provide this unique National Register treasure, and living museum, the protection it requires.

We believe that the Commission is legally obligated, as well as having a duty to future generations, to protect the historic cabins and other resort buildings and to reopen them to the public in their current location as soon as feasible.

In the agreement dated April 12, 2004, and ratified June 1, 2004, between us and the Commission for the cash donations for what became the Cama Center Building, the parties agreed in Section 13 that among the most important reasons for our Trusts to make the donation was the buildings' intended use in providing kitchen, dining, meeting, lodging, and restroom facilities for members of the public attending educational programs at Cama Beach State Park. That section also provides that "Educational programs will be a primary and significant purpose of Cama Beach State Park."

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Section 14 of that Agreement states that “the parties understand that one of the most important reasons for the Trusts to make the donation of the buildings is that the activities conducted in the buildings are anticipated to enhance and help ensure the preservation of the adjacent historic resort buildings and related structures. The Commission undertakes to make bona fide and continuing significant efforts to preserve, in accordance with its own Cultural Resources Management Policy, and to interpret to the public, the historic structures and artifacts of Cama Beach.”

We consider that agreement to still be in effect and binding upon the Commission and the agency.

Both the likelihood of future sea level rise and the condition of the sea wall were well known at the time of the agreement. Indeed in the first edition of my (Gary Worthington’s) book on Cama Beach, published in 2008, on page 107 the past flooding issues were mentioned, as well as the fact that in 2007 the cabins were raised an average of one-and-one half feet in new foundation posts and around two hundred truck loads of fill were brought in and spread in the lowest areas. The text goes on to say on the same page that “sea level rise due to global climate change may make these improvements even more relevant.” (That same text is repeated on page 113 of the second edition of the book which you, as Commissioners, should each have.)

Consequently, projected possible sea level rise and the sea wall condition would not be valid legal reasons to abandon the cabins and other historic resort buildings in their waterfront locations.

The last sentence of the Commission’s own Critical Areas Policy appears to be applicable here: “It is recognized that when historic structures or other historic facilities are involved, extra care and expense may be involved in the short term to comply with this policy, but that they will be both responsible and cost-effective in the long-term.”

Various alternatives, both “hard” and “soft,” exist to protect the sea wall and the resort buildings, and there are many people with expertise that can be brought to bear such as coastal geologists, shoreline restoration managers, and civil engineers, and resources such as the Northwest Straits Foundation. It may well be that a combination of solutions will be best (including, possibly, measures such as raising the cabins again and not making the cabins available for rent during certain predicted King Tide events, and maybe a low dike across the north end of the current resort area following the existing rock wall from the sea wall to the base of the hill).

We believe those solutions, and funding sources such as FEMA, have not been adequately explored, given the supremely important implications of the decisions to be made, including the serious, major long term effects on such a large number of interested parties and constituencies, as well on the land and the buildings themselves.

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It is likely that whatever course of action appears to be the best alternative will be costly and naturally will require permits, as well as an agreement satisfactory to the interested tribes. An experienced person has pointed out that with regard to obtaining permits, Cama Beach actually has an advantage, since it has over a mile of shoreline, most of which can be left to natural processes, as the portion needing repair is a relatively small percentage of the whole. In fact, much of the northern section of the sea wall is already protected by natural accretions of logs, gravel, and shells that are in some places even higher than the wall. This would all be taken into

account in evaluating any required mitigation.

We have long felt that the Native American use of the site should be better presented to the public, and we would be very supportive of the tribes being offered an opportunity such as an interpretive long house or other facility in an appropriate location.

The fact that undertaking that project will be difficult, time consuming for the staff, and expensive, does not justify setting aside the obligation and the sacred trust. In our own experience, most things worth doing are indeed hard and take time.

We therefore urge the Commission to:

1. Fulfill its obligation to do everything necessary to protect this one-of-a kind historic treasure for present and future generations, including obtaining an engineering study to come up with the alternatives, the permits to be needed, and the likely costs.
2. Request an appropriation in the coming Legislative session to fund the project and undertake it as soon as possible, before the historic buildings and sea wall deteriorate further. We will work with the Commission, the Director, and staff, as we did before, to obtain that needed funding.
3. Make the necessary water and sewer arrangements to reopen the highly popular cabins as soon as possible in their current locations, making them again available for the public to experience and enjoy, and bringing in revenue.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

W. Gary Worthington, Attorney at Law, and Trustee, Worthington Foundation

Sandra R. Worthington, Trustee, Worthington Foundation — with Cindy Custer. ⁶

I was very surprised to hear that the Parks Dept. was considering closing the historic cabins at Cama Beach.

I spent many vacations as a child at Cama Beach in the late 60s and Early 70s. So many wonderful memories staying in the cabins, swimming in the water and roasting marshmallows at the community fire pit. This was a place of adventure with a rustic cabin, sleeping in the main room on a metal bed frame with springs and a striped stuffed mattress.

I remember sitting around the campfire singing with other guests while a man played his guitar. Going to Cama Beach was the highlight of my summers.

I hope this resort and cabins can be saved so families can still make wonderful memories at The Beach.

Thank you, ⁷

Please find a way to fund and perform seawall, septic system, and other repairs necessary to reopen the Cama Beach cabins and to keep them and the area maintained in the future. I live in north Seattle and have visited the park several times a year. I have attended the quilt shows almost every year and have attended educational programs (i.e. low-tide beach walks, stargazing events, etc.). While those activities have been enjoyable for me, it has also been very fun to see other people and their children (many who stayed in the cabins) partaking in those and other activities being offered and interacting with the Naturalist. Those people could be found in the store, the restaurant, the Center for Wooden Boats, listening to the musical groups, on the trails, etc. The park was "alive." I didn't stay in the cabins, but I have friends who did and who thoroughly enjoyed the rustic environment and wonderful waterfront location. The only issue they had was how far ahead they had to reserve them. Not a bad problem for the park to have! And what great memories for all of us, especially the children. It's such a unique place and truly a shame to take it away. It could be such a draw if the cabins could be reopened and activities increased. It would also be incredible if the Tribes could provide activities/programs. What a great educational opportunity for all! And I'm sure the revenue generated from the cabin rentals

and other sources could be helpful somehow. Speaking of revenue, I'm sure that I am not the only one who took advantage of other amenities (i.e. spent money!) on the island and surrounding areas. Cama Beach State Park, its cabins and environment are so unique and special. Please find a way to repair, maintain and make good use of the opportunities they could provide. Thank you for your time and consideration ⁸

I am now a resident of Camano Island, and 72 years old. As a child, my parents brought me to the cabins back around the late 50's and early 60's. I have fond memories of time spent there. As an Island County Sheriff volunteer, I love patrolling the State Park(s). Understaffed as the Rangers are, they have welcomed our help for years. My favorite time is driving down the Cama Beach cabin area in the warmer months. All the families, and activity is heartwarming. Brings back those great times I had as a child. It's truly one of the best family venues I have seen. It would be a terrible loss if it is used for any other purpose. Please do what you can to save Cama Beach 🥰 ⁹

I'm a resident of Camano Island and have visited Cama Beach Park many times, to walk the trails, visit the beach, go to the boat center, and eat at the cafe. I've also stayed at these cabins for a several-day-and-night trip with friends. It was an terrific experience and I'll treasure those memories for the rest of my life. I very much hope that these historic cabins are preserved so that more people can have that experience.

I think National and State Parks must acknowledge that climate change will absolutely affect our parks. While risk mitigation is essential, you still have a duty to provide access and services to these park spaces by the public. Granted, access to the park does not necessarily mean the opportunity to stay at these cabins, but I think everyone involved would benefit from careful consideration of how we can make the best of this situation.

We do have a responsibility to provide access to and leave space for local tribes to preserve the pre-contact site. Cama Beach was a summer living camp for at least one tribe that we know of, and there are shell middens located there. Even if we don't find human remains, we know that indigenous people lived there and it would be respectful to, at the very least, provide access to (and perhaps control over) that beach to local tribes. Can we somehow preserve the pre-contact site and also keep a section of the beach for park visitors? That would require communication and negotiation with local tribes, but I'm hopeful.

As for solutions to the current septic problem - could the park install a better septic site up closer to the parking lots, move the cabins there, and leave the beach access for daytime/good weather visitors, events, and local tribal use? Yes, we'd lose the beachfront views the cabins currently offer, but I don't think the beach is a reasonable or safe place to keep these historic cabins as our climate continues to change. Over time, the cabins will be damaged by weather if we leave them where they are.

It's not a good use of park funds, nor is it respectful to the pre-contact site to keep the septic tank on the beach. If we repair the beach cabins now, even if we shore up the beach wall, the beach site and cabins will continue to flood as tides get higher over the coming years. That will cause damage, cost the park system more money, and ultimately make the cabins unusable.

If the cabins are moved uphill, we could have a small installation of photos and information (possibly provided by the Stanwood Area Historical Society and Camano City Schoolhouse Archive) there to provide context about and preserve the history of the original recreational resort.

I do think the local-and-statewide public has proven that the cabins at this park are beloved and will continue to be reserved and used. Reservations at the cabins undeniably bring in revenue to the parks service. A loan to repair and move the cabins and septic to a different location in the park could be paid back by the cabin rental revenue within a few years, and then the income from

renting the cabins could be used as the state park system sees fit after that.

On a final note - the cabins, beach, and the boat house currently provide activity space that is absolutely beloved by and essential to our community. Cama Beach Park is very important to us and I ask that you take that into consideration when deciding its fate. ¹⁰

Regarding future decisions around Cama Beach State Park, the only rightful decision is to provide funding and resources to restore this highly popular property back to a condition that allows public access and public use. The only reason this property became a State Park was through the generosity of the previous owners and the dedication and hard work of many local residents and volunteers.

I am sure that I do not need to revisit the history of how this property became part of the state park system.

Please do the only right thing regarding Cama Beach State Park, make the needed repairs and improvements and restore it back to use for the people of the State of Washington.

As a local residents for several generations we have been volunteers and involved over many years. Don't let the opportunity slip by to keep one of the best multi-purpose and historical properties in the Sate Park system available to and for the enjoyment and education of all.

Thank you ¹¹

Cama Beach Cabins are a very specal for me and my family and should be preserved at any cost. I would be more than willing to have the cost of bringing everything up to standards and adding that cost to using the facilities. ¹²

As a decision is made on the future of this treasure from the 1930's I have a question.

If cabin rental is currently bringing in \$1 millions per year wouldn't that continue?

I'm sure there are many people who would be quite interested in staying there & enjoying the feeling of "time travel".

Americans are so quick to tear down our history? Why do we continually demolish the things that make our area special?

Please choose to repair these ca ins & continue to keep them as examples of a fish camp in the 1930's. It's already popular for weddings so I'm sure cabins could/would be useful for those events.

Regards, ¹³

I've been coming to Cama Beach a couple times a year since 2009. During that time I've come to love the sense of history and community at every turn. Young families enjoying their first taste of camping. Multi-generational families enjoying time together in an accessible environment. Seniors revisiting Cama for the first time in decades. Friends groups enjoying an annual getaway. Couples and solo travelers enjoying the solitude and peace of an off season visit. Kids roaming everywhere. Cama is a very unique property with beach and forests just feet apart. Having cabins on the beach makes it uniquely attractive and accessible to all. You can wake up to eagles and herons dining on a beach breakfast, deer grazing, seals and whales (if you're lucky!). You can spend hours walking the beach and trails with easy access to your cabin for food and a recharge. Or just spend the day sitting outside your cabin relaxing and enjoying the view. I've seen cabin neighbors spontaneously share meals, friendships formed with strangers, families celebrating birthdays and weddings, people mourning a loss, winter storms and summer sun. There is no other state park like Cama. The Cama Beach cabins foster a unique sense of community that will be permanently lost with their closures ¹⁴

I hope the state decides to keep and repair these cabins. ¹⁵

We are tired of miss managed and poorly maintained parks! Even more so having less parks and paying more. We want these cabins and park kept open!

I look forward to hearing from you and a response.

Sincerely, ¹⁶

Dear Washington State Parks,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern and strong support for the restoration of the cabins at Cama Beach State Park for public use.

Cama Beach State Park holds a special place in the hearts of many, offering a unique blend of natural beauty and historical significance. The cabins, in particular, have provided countless families and individuals with memorable experiences, fostering a deep connection with nature and our state's rich heritage.

The recent closure of these cabins has been a significant loss to the community. These cabins are not just structures; they are a vital part of the park's charm and accessibility. They offer an affordable and immersive way for people to enjoy the park, promoting outdoor recreation and environmental appreciation.

I urge Washington State Parks to prioritize raising the necessary funds to restore these cabins. This investment will not only preserve an important part of our state's history but also ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the unique experiences that Cama Beach State Park offers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am confident that with collective effort and community support, we can bring these beloved cabins back into public use.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am confident that with collective effort and community support, we can bring these beloved cabins back into public use.

Sincerely, ¹⁸

Please save the Cama Beach cabins! ¹⁹

I was wondering if the cabins will be sold or given to people who want to save and repurpose them. Thank you, ²⁰

Dear Washington Parks:

I am told that the Cama Beach Cabins expenses may be quite exorbitant. But given the historic nature of the cabins, and the utter charm – this resident says to please move forward with the needed repairs and renovations. We cannot afford to lose the Washington State treasure. ²¹

Hello,

I am writing in support of a solution that will allow the Cama Beach cabins to be available to current and future generations. The rich history of these cabins as well as of the fishing/boating industry and Native Americans, who originally lived here is so important and special.

Our family and friends cherish the summer times we spend here. I am hopeful that there is a way to invest in the necessary work to keep this state gem accessible to all. ²²

Hello,

I am writing after hearing of the potential closure of the Cama Beach Historic State Park cabins. In May of 2023 I held my wedding at the park, renting the cabins and the Saratoga Vista for the ceremony. For me, Cama beach will always be a very special place, and so I feel that it is worth it to contribute to this public commentary.

This park is a unique and special part of Washington state history, maintaining an accessible and public space for families to enjoy our state parks. The integrity of the cabins and park overall is incredible and anyone who has stayed there can tell you that it feels like stepping back in time. I must ask as a Washington State Resident, that the state parks system strongly consider investing in the necessary upgrades to keep this park open.

Of the many parks in Washington, Cama Beach stands alone in the type of services and history that it provides. In a time where we are experiencing constant change at an exceptional rate, it is vital that we preserve history and help younger generations understand and value the past.

Thank you for your time, ²³

Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well. I'm writing to express my deep concern and heartfelt support for keeping Cama Beach State Park open, despite the challenges posed by the need for critical renovations like the septic system and seawall. While I understand the financial considerations, I believe that closing this beloved park would be an immense loss not only for the local community but also for the many families who treasure it as an affordable and accessible gateway to nature.

Cama Beach is more than just a park; it is a historic gem, woven into the fabric of Washington's past. Its preservation speaks to our shared heritage, and to lose it would mean erasing a part of our collective story. For families—especially those with young children or seniors who may not have extensive camping experience—Cama Beach offers a perfect blend of simplicity, comfort, and adventure. The cabins provide a rare opportunity for multi-generational families to enjoy the outdoors without the complexities of more rugged camping options. Its affordability makes it accessible for many who might otherwise miss out on the experience of being in nature.

At a time when access to outdoor spaces is shrinking, and other state park inventories are

limited, Cama Beach stands as a crucial resource. It's a place where children and families can disconnect from the overwhelming digital world, fostering social skills and providing much-needed mental health relief. The natural beauty of Cama inspires generations to reconnect with the world outside their screens, and in doing so, builds stronger, healthier communities. I still recall my conversation with Canadian visitors there around the firepit while roasting marshmallows. It was such a delight especially the workshops that were offered to kids so parents can get the much deserved break.

Cama Beach has always been a place of community building. From family reunions to peaceful weekends away, it has brought people together and nurtured a sense of belonging. Its preservation would ensure that this important tradition continues, offering respite to those who need it most and fostering the next generation's love for nature.

I urge you to consider every possible option to preserve Cama Beach State Park. The cost of renovation, while significant, is an investment in both our past and our future. Losing it would be a loss not only for this generation but for all those to come. One idea would be to have some recommendation from the public on how to lower the cost of renovations. You have some really smart people in our community!

Thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts, and for all the work you do to preserve Washington's natural treasures. We enjoy Wa parks throughout the year and recall when I first moved here in 2010 I decided to call WA my forever home because the tremendous access it offer to nature.

Have a wonderful weekend!
Warm regards, ²⁴

Our family has stayed at the cabins at Cama Beach many times since they were opened. It was such a beautiful peaceful experience! We watched eagles flying over the water and tending their young in nests high in the trees. When the Cama Beach Café opened, it was a delightful way to have a meal that you didn't have to bring in your cooler. I realize this is sensitive land to our Native American citizens and want to respect their desire to preserve this history of their people. I see this area as an opportunity to teach us about their culture and the history of this site. Could there be a way forward with keeping Cama Beach open to the public, modify cabins to deal with plumbing issues, and bring Native American Park Rangers to teach the history of their native people? ²⁵

Please save this wonderful cabin site. There are not too many places that offer this type of "camping" right on the shores of Puget Sound. The history, the quilts, the awesome sunsets should not be lost. We have looked forward to cabin camping there and we know how hard it was to secure a spot, as it was always booked up well in advance. Please reconsider closing it, it is a state treasure! ²⁶

I am the volunteer bookkeeper for the Cama Beach Foundation and was a volunteer cashier at the Cama Beach store for five years. The pleasure that the cabins provided to the park's guests was amazing. So many families reported coming back every year to enjoy the beach, the park, and the 'back to basics' aspect of the cabins. The thought that these cabins might be closed for ever is really saddening for so many families. Please do the basic repairs that need to be done to reopen the cabins soon and budget for the larger repairs over the next few years. Keep the Cama Beach cabins open for all to enjoy this most beautiful park. ²⁷

I treasure this place and the cabins are such a large part of it. The Cafe is fabulous and when I go there I feel an ease of my stress. I think others feel it too. My Aunt and Uncle honeymooned there and had family vacations there for years. My cousin and I go there several times a year and it is a much treasured retreat from the stresses of the days we are in. This is a health-giving place, a peaceful place with delicious food too.

I hope our State can find it in our hearts to preserve this for generations to come, We throw alot of money at programs that don't yield the results we'd like. This place is very generous in what it gives to the citizens of Washington,

Please preserve Cama Beach Cabins.

Sincerely, ²⁸

I've never stayed at the cabins but many of my friends and family members have.

Closing the cabins should be the last resort.

Ideas:

Grant applications

Bond funding

Philanthropic donations

Music/Art fest to raise money and awareness

Sale of merchandise to raise funds

Raffles

Historic Preservation Society

Reality Show highlighting preservation construction remodel.

My son is a producer. Owns his own media company, Red Sea Media LLC.

His name is [x]

He has 2 Emmy nominations for his investigative pieces.

Maybe you can contact him about doing a piece on saving these historic cabins.

He lives in Oregon but does travel to site. ²⁹

https://parks.wa.gov/sites/default/files/projects/Cama%20Beach%20Project/LETTER%20TO%20COMMISSIONERS.8-15-24.pdf?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2bw4pqocXfoM_Eoet4w2iUsONNSxRYNjjbr67zQ7AuGTAv9nDWiVPZEc_aem_y1Ac-6T_HK4m9jul5xzDbQ [link to Gary Worthington's August 15, 2024, letter] ³⁰

This is history....we need to preserve what little we have left.Go fund me's, asking the people of Washington or builders across the state there has to be something...we need to save Cama Beach for future generations. ³¹

Cama Park, go out for donations from the corporate donors. Plaques can be erected commemorating who donated, plaques would be sized according to the amount donated. Thank you. ³²

Hello,

I have learned that it's possible the Cama Beach Cabins may not reopen again due to the septic and other challenges that have been going on. Our family has been coming to the cabins for

years and it is such a special place for so very many families. We have come many summers with a group of other families ranging from 3 to 6 other families where we can all gather, relax, enjoy nature, and have some of the most down to earth old fashioned family enjoyment. No where else allows kids to safely run free together for hours on end, having fun on the beach and in nature.

Is there any way if finances don't allow for the necessary repairs to put a request out to the community to do some fundraising to meet the funding needs that you would have to make the repairs? I'm confident that between all of the families that feel the same way that we do, that you'd have your funds in no time with everyone chipping in here and there!

Please, please consider keeping the cabins running!

Thank you for your consideration-

Sincerely,³³

Good sirs,

I believe making the necessary repairs and upgrades, then increasing usage/rental fees would be good and viable plan.

You'd be surprised what people are willing to pay, especially in the knowledge of supporting such a gem.

Cheers,³⁴

Hello this is McMullen Construction LLC a licensed general contractor in Stanwood Washington. We would like to volunteer are service to help get Cama Beach open again with whatever we can do .³⁵

Hi, thank you for taking the time to read this.

My name is [x]. I am 12 years old and live in Seattle, and I am sending you this to try and do my part to keep Cama Beach open.

When I heard that Cama Beach might close, I was distraught. I've been going there since I was little, and it's magical. DON'T KILL THE MAGIC. I understand that you work hard, and probably haven't stayed at Cama Beach, but there's something special about it. Cama Beach may be old and need some fixing up, but it has heart. People love it.

It's a place where children roam free on bicycles, and their parents relax and chat at picnic tables in camping chairs. It's a place where families come together, and where people polar plunge into icy cold waters while others watch, bundled in blankets and sipping hot chocolate, while feeling good about their life choices. Cama Beach is a place where kids make lemonade stands, and then spend all their profits on candy at a Camp Store.

Middle school is hard, but Cama Beach is a place where kids don't have to worry about that. I've seen high schoolers building tree forts, riding bikes, and playing on the swings. Nowadays, kids grow up too soon. Some of the older kids are hanging on to their childhood by a thread, and that thread is Cama Beach. Don't snap that thread. Cama beach is a place where kids can be kids. There aren't a lot of places like that in this day and age.

I know I'm just a kid, but I want to make a difference. Please don't close Cama Beach. ³⁶
Pay to have them stay open. Stop wasting millions \$ on green energy and carbon neutral scams. The cabins generated millions, so do the upkeep! ³⁷
Please do not permanently shut down Cama Beach Cabins. These cabins are historical and were entrusted to the state to maintain. There are very few affordable options (State Parks), with similar cabin options in our state. They are a vital part of our island community both in support of recreation and also economically. ³⁸
I whole heartedly encourage the State to put money into restoring these historic cabins. They are so neat and we love the rustic nature not to mention the location. They are a real part of our history in the Puget Sound and state of Washington. So much money is squandered on other "improvements". Let's actually spend funds to keep the cabins a continuing part of history and good times for all to enjoy. They also provide much needed revenue for business who pay state taxes.
Sincerely, ³⁹
To whom it may concern: The Cama Beach Cabins are magical and provide the public with access to more affordable lodging directly on the water, as there is no way I can afford that in private accomodation. We have stayed there a few times and it is amazing to wake up and sip coffee on the sea wall, or take in the stars without the light of cars. It's a unique place that has brought so much joy to so many. I really hope the state can figure out how to keep them open. The cabins at many of the other state parks lack community and are too close to loud RVs. I'd support an added surcharge to help pay for rehab.
Thank you, ⁴⁰
I have been staying at the Cama Beach cabins since I was a very small child. I am 70 years old now and have had many, many wonderous days there over the years. Please save this piece of history, it would be a travesty to see them disappear. ⁴¹
Hello, We have been coming to cama bay for over 10 years every memorial day weekend with about 15 to 20 other families. We stay in the cabins and our children roam free and it is a wonderful and joyful time. We heard about the potential for cabins to remain closed and we are writing in support of work being done to restore and open them back up. Save Cama cabins! Thanks you ⁴²
I love the cabins at Camma Beach State Park and would support a fundraising effort to keep them open. ⁴³
I don't know where to start... If you only knew how disappointed my son and 12 other kids were this summer when our annual highlight of going to Beach was canceled! There's no other place like Cama Beach cabins in Washington... or most anywhere else now that I think about it! Not only is it affordable for families. It creates lifelong memories and taking kids

away from technology and parents from the busyness of life, bringing them all together, and the simplest of ways.

Yes, the cabins are old, and you have to bring every single thing from dishes to sheets. And yes, you have to cook outside and there's no air conditioning or private baths in most cabins. But it's absolutely perfect and people who know the secret of it wonder, go year after year for that reason. It's rustic relaxation and a safe environment where the kids have a freedom that is 1/2 a mile wide. I know most of this discussion about saving the cabins, has to do with the sewer system and water issues. Because honestly, the cabins don't need any updating. and I know that this repair work is complicated all the more because of the agreements to work within parameters of historic tribal land. But honestly, the generations of families who know about Cama Beach cabins would be willing to use porta potties if you would just open it back up. And Very selfishly I'd ask you don't take forever if you even plan to do it. My child growing up so fast. It is the single thing he (and my husband and I) look forward to the most every summer and start counting down for, the day after we leave. This child who never cries, sheds real tears when we drive off each year. I'd give almost anything to make a few more memories there with him and all of our friends before he is too old to care! either way, though, I'm certain there will be many more generations of families ready to make lifelong memories at Cama if you just let them.

I hope you'll be willing to make a decision that's more than just about bookkeeping and I really hope you can escalate the timetable of the work for all of us for whom Cama Beach will always be our favorite week of the summer. Thank you for considering.⁴⁴

Don't let it go! Find a way. There is always a way if the will is truly there.⁴⁵

Just a quick note on the cabins at Cama Beach. I happen to be consulting on issues of sea level rise in Florida, so this kind of thing already has my attention. First, the cabins and boatshed have historic value but also economic value, which could and should be determined by replacement costs. Relocation (of those closest to the water, initially) is preferable to their wholesale loss. Their current siting along the beach is probably not, longer-term, viable given sea level rise but the next two decades might be something you could mitigate. Further armoring (sea wall augmentation) may or may not be successful and create new problems of its own. However, there may be low-impact ways to safely elevate the cabins and boatshed (e.g., tiered pier foundations that rise further from the water--allows a staged retreat so that the first line of cabins can be relocated when SLR dictates, side benefit is that in the meantime the second or third line of cabins have a view over the lower down). Given their recreational nature, if the costs/practicalities of septic service are prohibitive (should there ever have been septic service in that location?), what about compost toilets or siting a single public bathroom/shower house uphill? The cabin audience would seem like good candidates for a "roughing it" experience--I would lean into that in terms of amenities or lack thereof. (To close, since I'm spitballing, I might also suggest partnering with local high schools for a maintenance-woodshop credit trade.)⁴⁶

I worked at Cama Beach from prior to open for 5 years and the. As a volunteer till present day. There are so many unanswered questions of why you have let the park get to this point. Why would you spend so much money on septic pumping for years instead of just fixing the pump which is no where near any "comprised" areas. Why you are spreading rumors of tribal situations when that was all done prior to opening for 7 years. Why did you not accept the money from FEMA to repair/replace the sea wall. Why the sudden out of no where closer of the park? What is really going on?⁴⁷

Dear Commission Members,

As a resident of Camano Island and supporter of the state park, I ask the commission to set a pathway for a long term solution that allows the current cabins to remain open while the long term plans are being worked out.

We were told at the public hearing in Stanwood that Cama Beach State Park Cabins bring in nearly \$1 million dollars annually. Residents want to know why there are no funds available to make necessary repairs on the cabins, sea wall, and septic system. We consider it gross mismanagement of funds if a given percentage of the money received has not been designated just for Cama Beach SP. Maintenance deferred always costs more than real time repairs. The state has known about the sea wall and septic for a number of years and yet did nothing even as the problems grew worse. The cabins look battered because the state irresponsibly did nothing to maintain them or the grounds. Those failures are not caused by lack of funds when the park is making nearly \$1 million a year! The current issues are a matter of negligence.

Yes, water levels are rising, but that alone is not the reason for this considered closure. Failure to address problems as they were noted is the root cause. It is disingenuous to suggest otherwise.

Further, the Cama Beach Cafe is an absolute treasure on the island. The closure of the cabins threatens the longevity of this very unique cafe, robbing visitors and island residents of a wonderful dining experience and likely putting Chad out of business.

You can and must do better than make a list of expensive repairs and then throwing in the towel without even trying to fix the concerns. Between the annual income and island good will there is no reason not to make the cabins operational again. Then put the wheels in motion to build new cabins higher up, leaving the beach front for water and learning activities. Cama Beach State Park is more than wooded trails and historic cabins. It is a wonderful place for outdoor education and recreating. This is a place where children will learn to respect and care for the natural world.

Please, Please, Please do the right thing and make repairs at a level that allows the park to be fully functional while also planning and building for the long range future.

Sincerely, ⁴⁸

We are very sad to hear that it is even being considered to not make the necessary investments into the Cama Beach Cabins and infrastructure. Understanding that the financial costs are significant, there are many other factors to consider. We have been very fortunate to have gone to the Cama Beach every year with a group of other families for over 12 years in a row. Our children literally have spent every memorial day weekend there together until last year when things were shut down.

As an avid State Park user and huge fan of our WA State Parks, Cama Beach is truly the gem of the park system in my opinion. I have been to almost every single State Park in the system and only one or two parks comes close to Cama. No where else would a family be able to sleep in a bed and hear the waters of puget sound lapping all night long. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching all kinds of families at Cama who would never consider pitching a tent all of a sudden find a way to like like a king/queen for a night sleeping in the rustic cabins on the waters of Puget Sound. Watching incredible sunsets, watching whales go by and not worrying about having to pack up, drive home, or pitch a tent. The Center for Wooden Boats on site is a true gift to the Camano community as well as the entire State for visitors to the Park.

Through the mission of the parks, Cama truly meets the interest of getting our residents to special and disappearing places. I would encourage the Park system to not focus on the long list of needs, but instead look from a lens of what is already in place. The history, the sold out capacity all summer, the center for wooden boats, the still workable infrastructure and the endless list of fans. There is so much to build "on", that all energy should be on "in which order should we attack these needs". Out of the box thinking (and funding) may need to be pursued, but all of us who support and love our parks will greatly appreciate the potential to sleep on the shores of Puget Sound (in a bed, with electricity).

Sincerely,⁴⁹

please do not close these cabins!! start a fund; people will join to save them! i stayed there in the early 50's as a very small child, and my dream is to stay there again. please keep that dream alive for me and so many others. davi g our heritage is worth it when so much is being lost.
thank you⁵⁰

How about making repairs in sections? Like starting with the Sea wall and Septic system and surrounding cabin. Then when finished opening it up and start repairing another section. To much to ask? You could get Summer help with State Park volunteers, seek donations for building materials. Seek Carpenters with experience to lead the funded projects. All donating time using 100's and 1000's of volunteers to help restore the facilities. Because, if we don't then it will just go back to the State and they will do nothing and it will get worse. Not to include the Rat population. Or they sale it to a rich entity to make it a Rick man's resort that's private only for select individuals. I admit the State of Washington is not doing anything for the Ferry System and it's in serious decline. Is that what our official leaders are doing, nothing? We, as Washington residence should all be involved and take action to avoid this kind of infrastructure waste and decline. It takes away from our resources and revenue for Washington residence. We need to fix the problem and not let it go to waste⁵¹

I just wanted to say how much I enjoy the cabins at Cama Beach. We would continue to stay there even if the price had to increase to keep them open. Also the cafe is amazing and I truly want them to stay in business.

I hope this helps even in the smallest,⁵²

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that significant challenges have been identified in the preservation and maintenance of the historic cabins at Cama Beach State Park. I understand that the challenges and significant costs associated with this are leading the state to consider permanently closing them. I am writing to voice my opposition to this decision. My family and friends have made Cama Beach and its cabins our summer "home" for many years where we have gathered together, created memories and given ourselves a restorative retreat away from the constant hustle and bustle and stress of our daily lives. Cama Beach has given our kids a place to go to unplug, be outside exploring nature, and create lifelong memories. This place is more than just a park, it is a lasting part of us and our community. Countless people have experienced the joy of getting to spend time at the waterfront cabins, fire pits, learning about nature from the staff, shopping in the camp store, and more. I can also tell that the staff who service the park also have found a home here. I can't reinforce enough how unique this experience is for our state. Losing these cabins means losing a vital part of the parks system for Washington state that has no comparison. I strongly urge you to keep the Cama Beach State Park historical cabins open to the public. It's loss to the community would be significant.

Thank you,⁵³

Hi-

My name is [x] and I'm 11 years old and I live in Seattle. I love Cama Beach! It's been the most important part of the summer for the past 6 yrs. I love Cama because my family and five other families go there every year. We bring our bikes and bike around the entire property from morning until sunset plus, we buy sodas, candy, and ice cream from the store and we have s'mores every night with everybody! We also fly kites and skip rocks on the water and sometimes even go swimming! We eat every meal together everyday and play tons of games and board games.

I'd really love if you didn't close it, because this year we had to go somewhere else and It wasn't the same. So please don't close the park!

P.S.

Please open Cama Beach cabins soon or I might grow up!⁵⁴

Stop closing everything that YOU ALLOWED TO DESTROY!!!! GET DOING YOUR JOB AND FIX AND REPAIR!!!!!!!⁵⁵

<https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/historic-cabins-beloved-state-park-may-be-closed-forever/281-61bb6356-2dc9-4bb5-9521-1f6addab360c>

Originally from Washington. We have those in Alaska, too. It's the tent-and-RV crowd. Camping and outdoors, hunting and fishing and trapping, are and ought to be wonderful healthy whole-family activities to be treasured and enjoyed by all.

There's too much etatism or fascism, communism, ecoterrorism, and "the state" as such involved at work here. Prostitution and human trafficking have largely replaced healthy and fitting outdoor family activities which do and ought to naturally include children. A few bad apples and corrupt cops ruin it for everyone. Too bad.⁵⁶

I worked on developing the project back in 2001. I remember how important the refurbishment of the cabins and opening up the motor resort to the public was to the family that donated the facility to State Parks. It would be a shame not to fix up the cabins and keep them serviceable and available to the public. They are an integral feature that makes up the historic nature of this site. Please do what you can to obtain funding for the cabins. Thank you⁵⁷

Dear Planning Committee Members,

The various state parks and cabins on the coast of Washington is what makes our coast so unique and historic. Enough of our history is being erased. Please do not let this park be a part of that.

Lifelong Washington state citizens,⁵⁸

Good morning,

I am emailing to voice my opinion that Cama Beach State Park cabins should be fixed and kept open for the public. They are a treasure and have been around since the late 1930s for people to just relax in a Casual laid-back atmosphere that is so different than a luxury resort.

Our public open spaces are a valuable asset to our state and the small community where it is located.

It seems the price to update them is small compared to the loss that all of us will experience if they are gone.⁵⁹

Hello,

Just read article about State park Cama cabins that have been closed. I am sure septic system can be engineered to reopen cabins. Have you given thought to let a company lease the cabins to get them reopened. I feel the longer you keep them closed and not rehab the cabins they will be demolished in 2 years.

I would like to lease the cabins, so they will be preserved instead of demolition.

Sorry this happens all too often in the United States where historical structures and history can be demolished with no thought of the history.

Thank you ⁶⁰

Hi Washington Parks Dept:

I am writing to urge Washington State Parks to repair & rehab the beach cabins & surrounding area at Cama Beach State Park.

These cabins are a piece of Washington's history, they are enjoyed by many people, and they bring in a considerable amount of revenue for the Parks Dept.

I believe that repairs to the cabins, seawall, and septic & electrical systems can be accomplished while still addressing Tribal & environmental concerns.

I'm sure it will not be inexpensive, but a few years of the \$1M+ annual revenue from the Park's cabins should cover the costs.

Thank you for your attention, ⁶¹

Just a suggestion but maybe ask for volunteer labor and donation of supplies or use of local supplies. ⁶²

Cama Beach Cabins rival those at Camp Curry in Yosemite, the Cabins of Yellowstone and Grand Cabin.

These precious cabins are irreplaceable and must be saved for future generations!

As stewards of these jewels, the park system must "Find a Way".

PLEASE SAVE THESE HISTORIC CABINS!!!! These cabins would likely qualify for National Historic Status! PLEASE find a way!!!!

I am a District 41 resident and voter! ⁶³

Cama beach is one of the best parks to hike to. It is an education for us all that can not ever be replaced. Let's keep our memories of what a simpler life once was. A place to breathe. ⁶⁴

I have family members who live on Camano Island and have this visited the park on numerous occasions. I have even made the wooden boats for my grandchildren during the summers. I suggest that if the cabins will not be used for public use that they be open for sale for Camano Island homeowners so they can place them - not as a primary residence- but as a treasured piece of history to be maintained and not destroyed. This may help heal any wounds people may have about the destruction of these cherished park cabins. If they are maintained on the island of their original placement, it would show that the planners do have the interest of the island residents at heart too. ⁶⁵

Cama beach should NOT be sold to the Indian nation for casinos ⁶⁶