

Comments from Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park CAMP Public Meeting
Held February 13, 2020 at Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA

Trails and Access

<p>Need to acquire Stockdale property on north side of Rocky Coulee adjacent to new camping area. This property is a primary hiking access to this portion of park. (Trade a piece of property south of Vantage to make it happen, next to Vantage Bay subdivision).</p>
<p>The N.S “tour” road must stay open. Most users are very responsible and will continue to protect the road and is nearby resources. No need to keep the gate closed!</p>
<p>Leave the access road open from Recreation Dr. to WDFW lands. This is a great way to access the lower areas of WDFW land for hunting when the upper areas drift shut with snow. This road is the only way into the lower cayuse, Whiskey Dick, and Skookumchuck drainages. I have used this area year-round, 40 plus years. We use this road by Jeep, horse and bicycle at different times of the year.</p>
<p>Improve the recreation access road or create a trail that is mountain bikeable so bikers can access the area to the north.</p>
<p>Recreation Drive gate is the only access road to many thousands of acres during the winter. It’s the best access often times during the rest of the year. Hunting and hiking access is very important and would be adversely impacted by any change to the current access program.</p>
<p>Keep the main north/south road open with maintaining the key-code gate but close the numerous east-west peripherals.</p>
<p>Access road/gate off recreation drive needs to remain open. In particular open to private landowners who would no longer have access to their properties.</p>
<p>Trail: Please work with Grant County PUD to restore the trail that starts at Recreation Drive at the river’s edge and goes upriver. It is an old trail that went about 2 miles to old pictographs now under water. Trail is best seen from river. Evidently the first section is on private land.</p>
<p>I want to see the primitive road from Recreation Drive to DFW and DNR lands remain open so law abiding citizens can enjoy nature and our public lands</p>
<p>Want access road to stay open. Always been open for motorized access.</p>
<p>No off-road use of Rocky Coulee.</p>
<p>Leave the access road from Recreation Drive through the easterly end of the park up to the north boundary of the park open as it is. We travel the road occasionally and it is often the only way to access the WDFW green dot road system in the Cayuse Canyon vicinity. We have seen no evidence of off-road travel along the access road.</p>
<p>Acquisition of trails. Protection of stumps.</p>

Park Operations and Facilities

Any picnic and covered facilities added to the rec area will be most used and appreciated.
Need bike racks to encourage both road bike/mountain bike access.
Need to rebuild fences that were burned in Rocky Coulee to prevent motorized access from west. Need a gate (with combination lock) on green dot road accessing park from Cayuse Canyon. Nothing stops the dirt bikers.
Elk guzzler on south (illegible) at I-90 – replacement. Gate for access to log.

Long Term Boundary

Consider working with Grant Co. PUD and private landowner to improve old trail that goes from Recreation Drive at the river, upriver about 2 miles to underwater pictographs. Trail best seen from river.
Makes sense to add small Stockdale parcel that is just N of the end of the road – prevents development issues.
Keep the road! Not convinced that the park needs more ground. AND don't give up any!
-Keep the road to Malaga closed, at least during the wet season -Mountain bike maps that are accurate, maybe loop including Fish and Wildlife -Appreciate the revegetation attempts
Try to connect the Palouse to Cascades to state park on west side of river (helps build positive support for trail).

Beverly Bridge

How to upgrade the surface of the Palouse to Cascades Trail west of Beverly Bridge so it is mountain bikeable.
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Natural Resources

How to create a more fireproof landscape? → Reduce cheatgrass to increase native sage and grasses.
Keep access low – roads are spreading out – erosion, damaging wildflowers Cactus much more abundant where there aren't people. Rare Sheridan's hairstreak Mountain lions – verified tracks. Rare allium in sand just north.
Close non-admin motorized access to DFW lands December thru July each year: winter range, bird nesting, deer fawning.

Explore having green-strip fire breaks along fire-prone boundaries near Vantage and I-90. Consider coordinating wildlife habitat restoration with volunteers and non-profits.
-Preserve shrub steppe/enhance ecosystem. -Preserve/enhance shoreline riparian habitat. -Park has amazing habitat for migratory songbirds and waterfowl.
-Good habitat -Fire is an issue -Wanapum - nice riparian area. -Coyote Willow. -Airport going in at horse/winery area – see county. -Vantage Bay -Co-management -DFW Starting their own planning process

Geology and Cultural History

How to better tell the ice age flood story with trails to erratics – either at the Natural Area, or Iceberg Pass.
Protect standing petrified log (bigger buffer with WDFW land?) Problem: People are pecking away at it.
Consider interpretation of area north of Rocky Coulee in tributary canyon.
Stewardship of cactus and other unique species.

Wanapum Recreation – Camping, Day-Use and Water Access

Need more primitive campsites – how to add these?
Another campground.
Leave boat launch open year-round. It’s used winter months by many waterfowl hunters and fisherman. Having to use the Vantage launch and running down river can be very dangerous during bad winter windstorms.

Recreation/Day Use of Ginkgo

Preserve habitat within recreation area (shrubs) which migratory birds use.
I enjoy the hike into Hell’s Kitchen area. Great winter and early spring walk.
-Duck hunting and fishing along and from the river -Wildlife watching -Petrified forest visits
Hikers, bikers, horse/mule riders need to buy Discover Pass.
User built trail from Rocky Coulee north. Would be great to extend, even to WDFW property.