

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park

Planning Update

For Kittitas County PLAC
October 16, 2023

Presented By Lauren Bromley and
lead planning team members





This Presentation Will Cover:

- ❖ Our Vision and Mission
- ❖ What Makes Ginkgo Special
- ❖ Current Park Happenings
- ❖ What is a CAMP and why we need it
- ❖ CAMP Alternatives
- ❖ What is an EIS and why we need it
- ❖ Planning Timeline
- ❖ Future Comment Opportunities
- ❖ Closing and References





Washington State Parks

MISSION

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission cares for Washington's most treasured lands, waters, and historic places. State parks connect all Washingtonians to their diverse natural and cultural heritage and provide memorable recreational and educational experiences that enhance their lives.

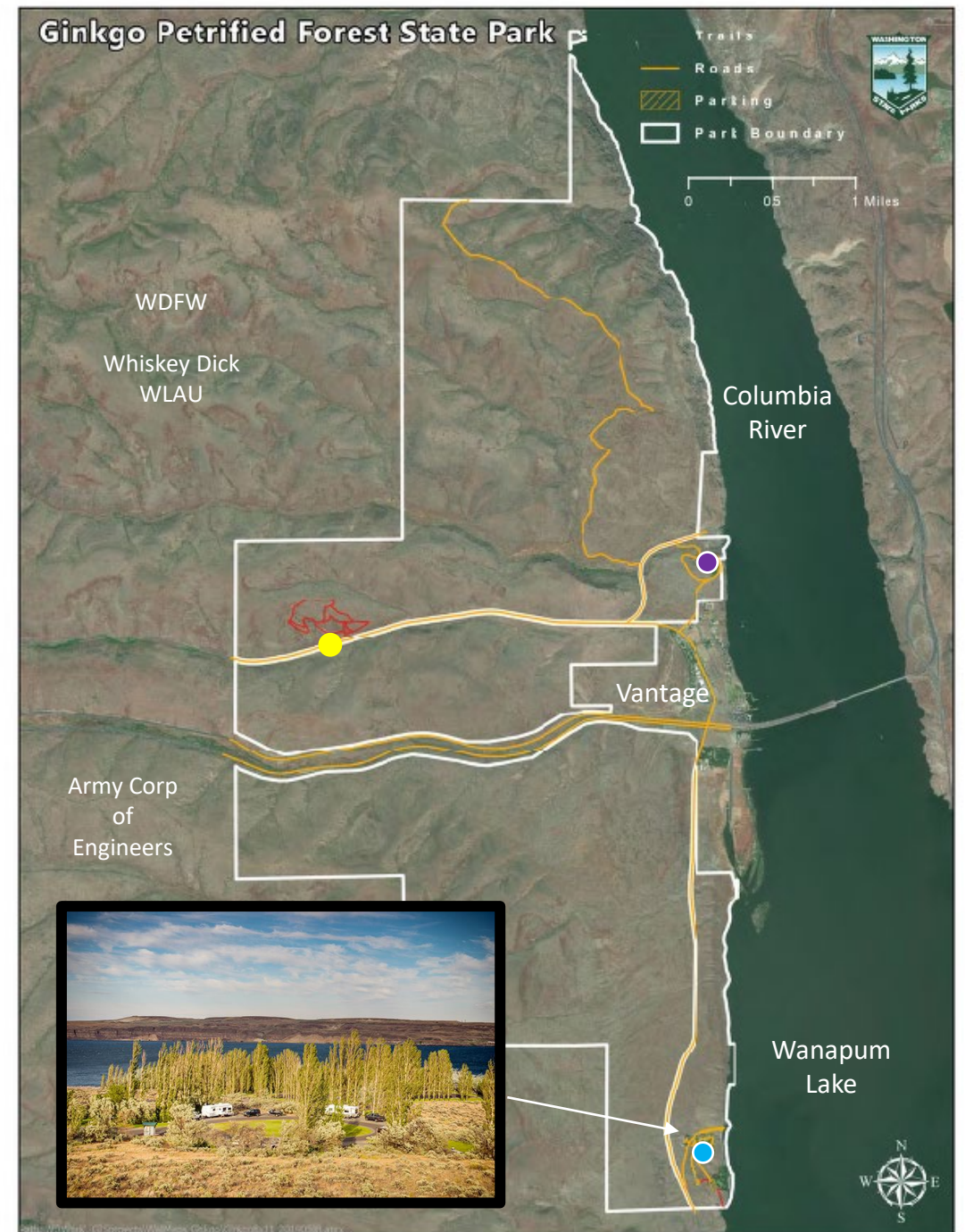
VISION

Washington's state parks will be cherished destinations with natural, cultural, recreational, artistic, and interpretive experiences that all Washingtonians enjoy, appreciate, and proudly support.

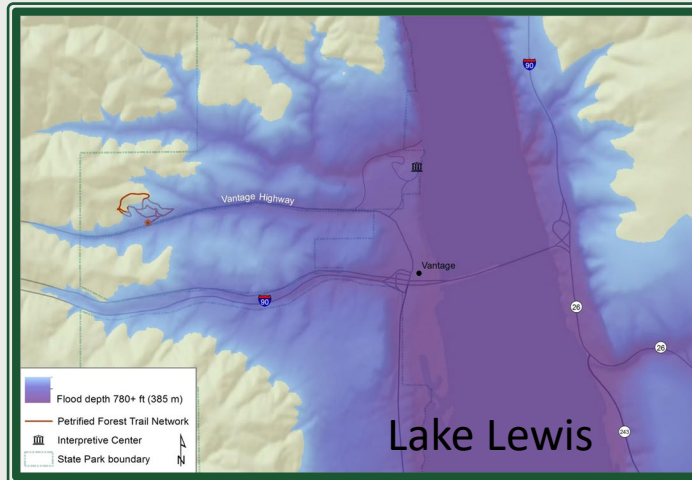


Why Ginkgo Petrified Forest Is So Special

- 7,184 acres
- 27,000' of freshwater shoreline (~5.12miles)
- National Natural Landmark
- Ginkgo Petrified Forest Interpretive Center
- Trailside Museum and Trees of Stone Interpretive Trail
- Wanapum Recreation Area



Geologic Resources



Ice-rafted erratic rocks remaining from Ice Age floodwaters thousands of years ago.





Cultural Significance



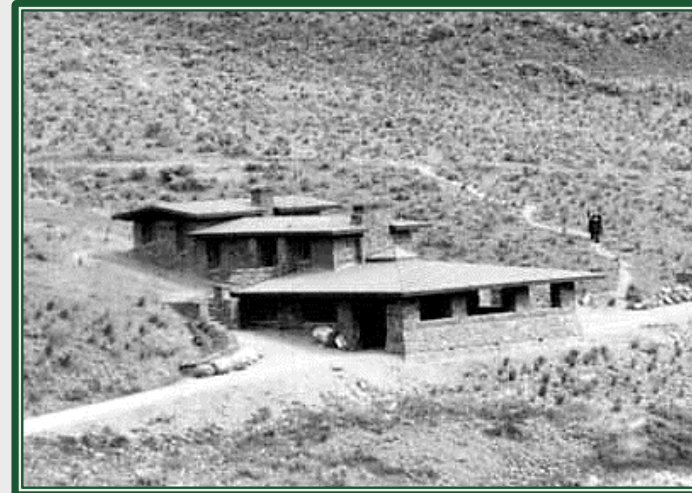
*We are Wanapum.
We never signed a treaty.
We never fought a battle.
We have always looked after the land
and the land will always look after us.
We have always been here
and we will always be here.*





Historical Significance

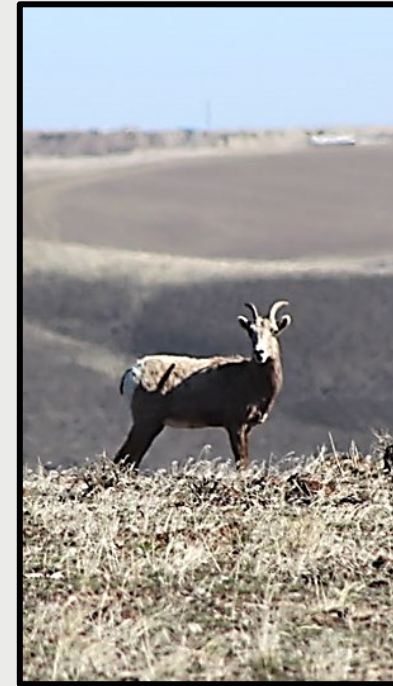
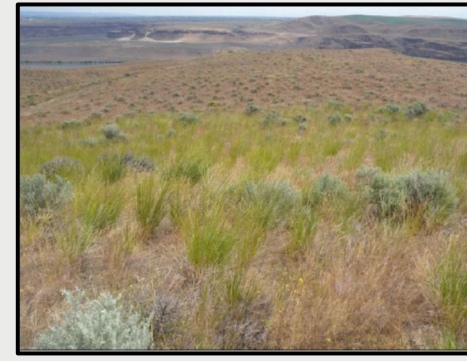
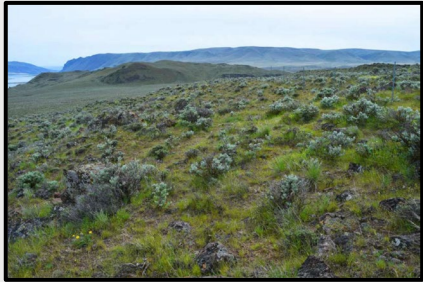
- Strategic River Crossing
- Hydropower Era
- Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)



Priority Plant & Animal Species

Multiple Species of Greatest Conservation Need have been identified at Ginkgo, including:

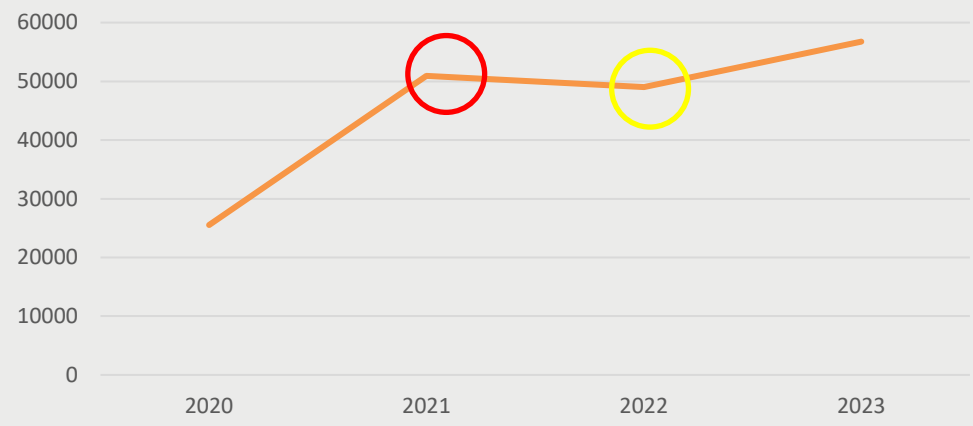
- Bald eagles
- Golden eagles
- Ferruginous hawk
- Short-eared owl
- Loggerhead shrike
- Sage thrasher
- Sagebrush sparrow
- Black-tailed jackrabbit
- Bighorn sheep
- Striped whipsnake
- American badger
- Townsend's big-eared bat
- Washington ground squirrel
- Sagebrush lizard
- Side-blotched lizard



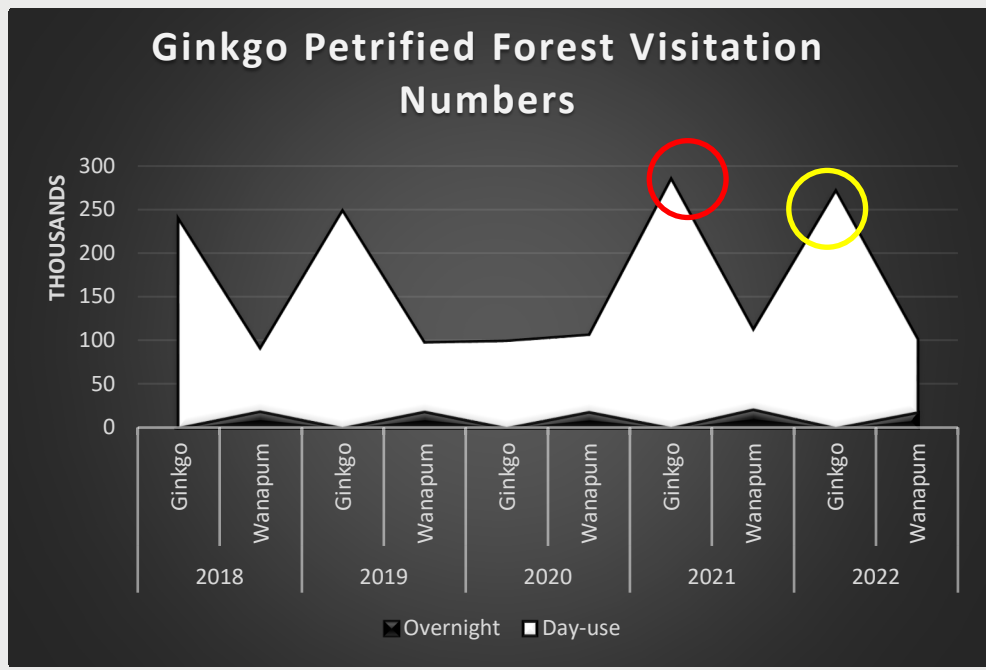
Current Park Happenings



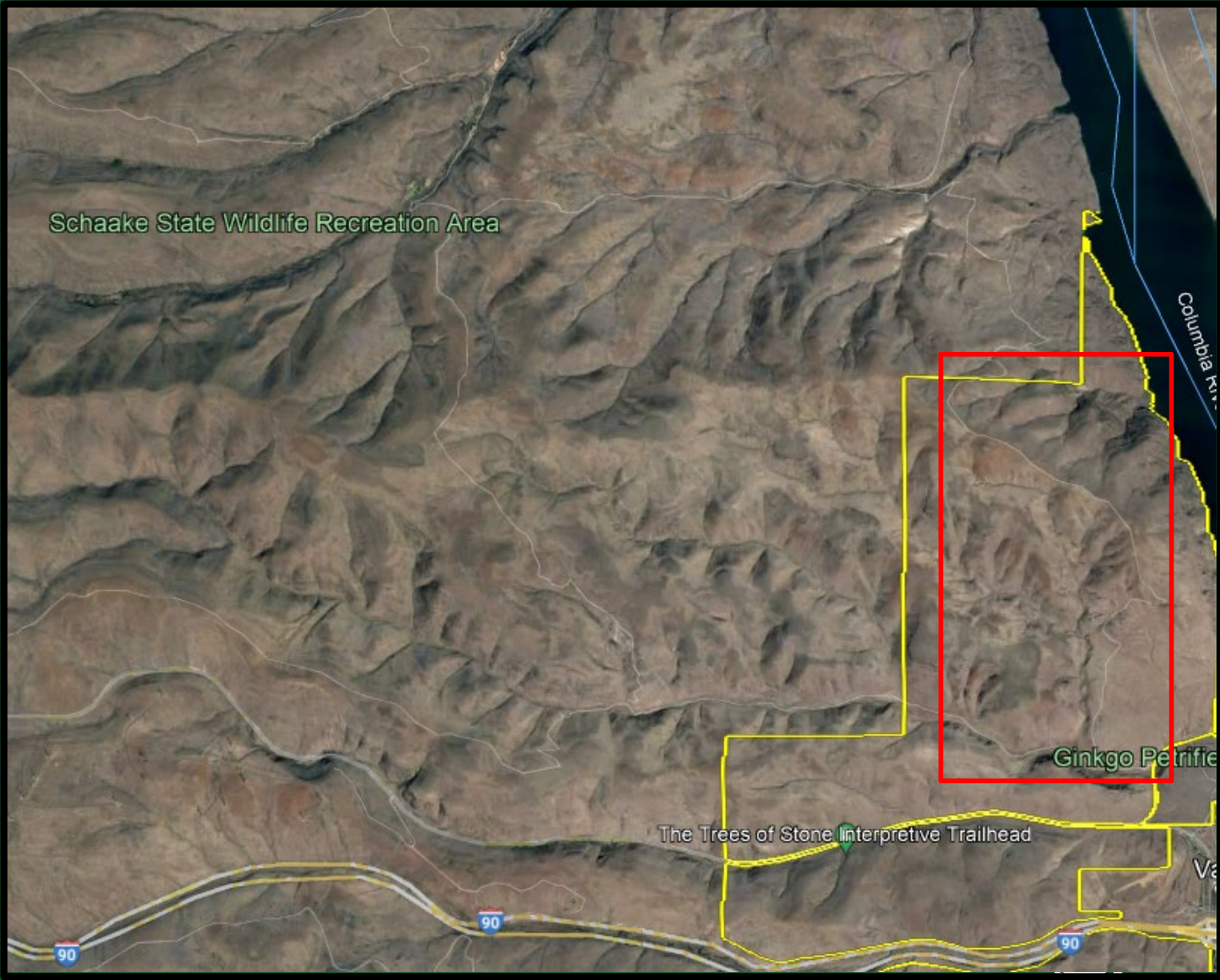
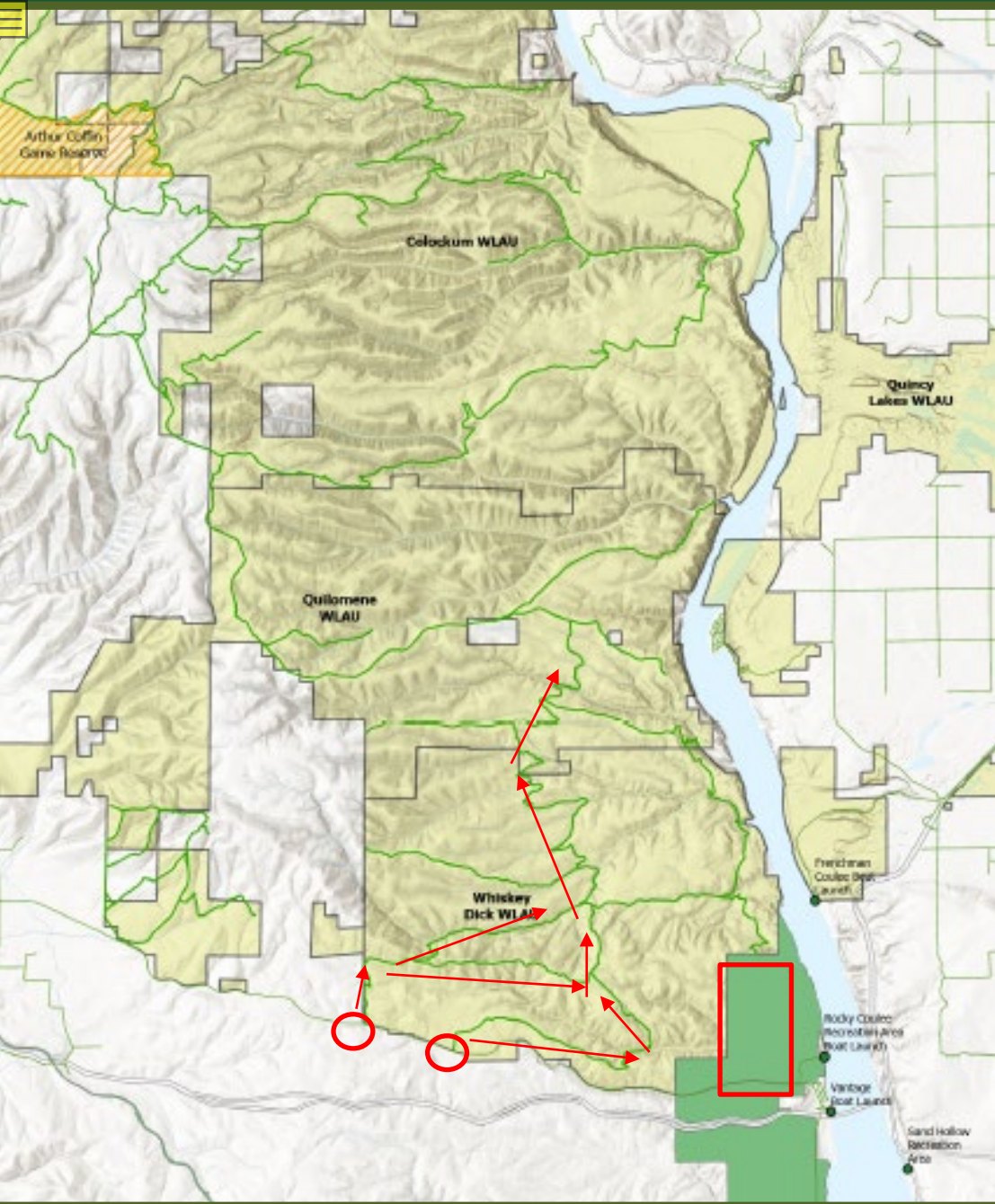
Ginkgo Petrified Forest Visitation Numbers (Day Use)



Ginkgo Petrified Forest Visitation Numbers



WDFW Roads



Recreation Drive Trail access and OHV usage





Violations







Resource Theft



Vandalism of Cultural Resources



What's CAMP and why do we need it?

Classification and Management Plan (CAMP)

CAMP Products include:

- **Land Classification** - which involves zoning or classification of park lands
- **Long-Term Boundary** – this looks at the big picture of lands surrounding the park
- **Management Plan** - describes the principal features of the park, sets park-wide management objectives and outlines specific approaches and prescriptions in response to issues identified through the planning process.



Ginkgo

EIS and CAMP - Restart

Where we left off:

Stage 1 & 2: Completed. First draft of alternatives developed.

Stage 3 Preferred Alternative: Project put on hold

Current Status:

- Engaging Tribes in October
- Onboarding EIS Consultant in Oct/Nov
- Planning update to Kittitas County on October 16th
- EIS Public Scoping and public meeting
- Drafting EIS Analysis Dec 2023- Oct 2024
- Preferred Alternative and drafting CAMP document



Issue Identified During CAMP planning

Damage to other natural resources including rare plants

Motorized access – road is deteriorating, forcing vehicles off the road, expanding the potential footprint for natural resource impacts

Vandalism of petrified wood, degradation at the trailside museum trail

Illegal hunting

Fire access

Private property access

PUD asked state parks to consider management of other PUD rec sites in the past

Trailside museum is intended to be used for interpretive purposes – classroom space, etc., not intended for future residence

Grant County PUD

Illegal collection of petrified wood

Rocky Reach campground – agreement to managed with parks division and natural resources division

Property is intact shrub steppe with significant cultural, geologic, historical and natural resources – not many of these in the state

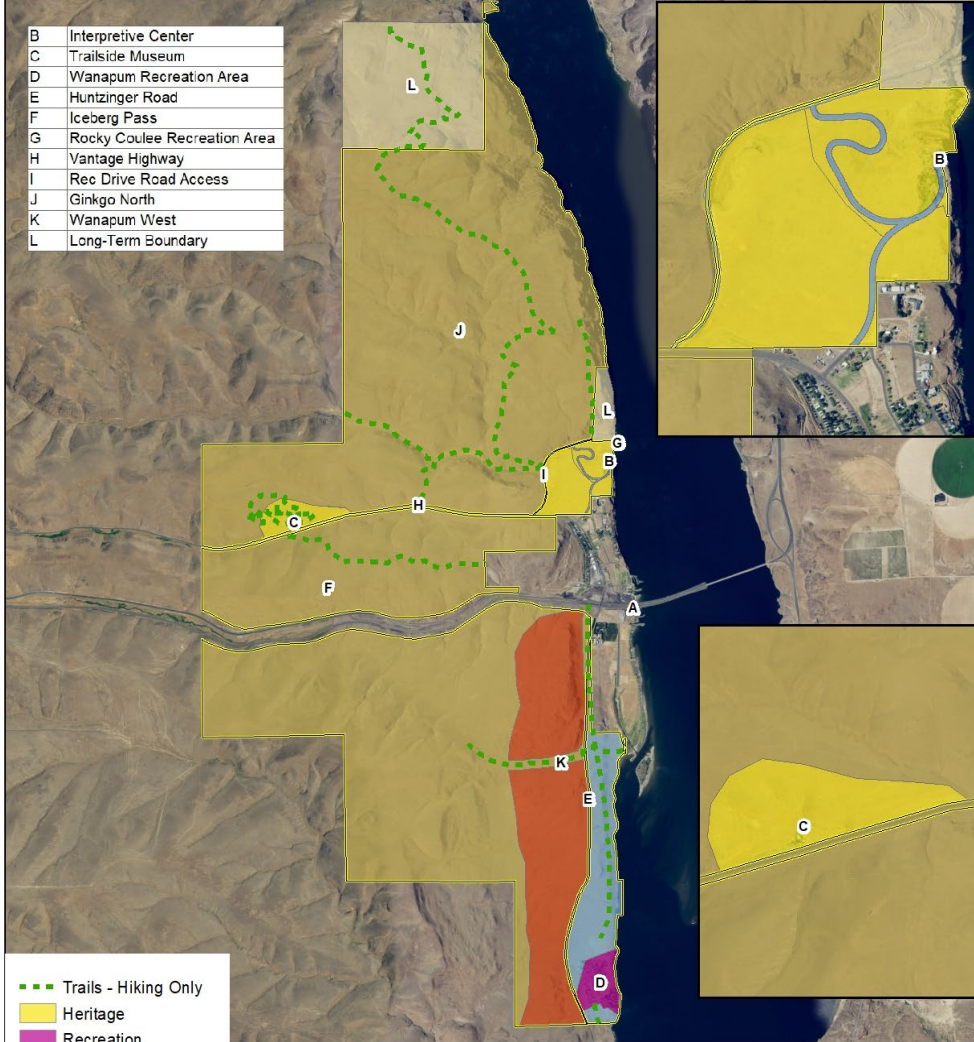
Designated as a Natural National Monument; however, this doesn't provide any protection or rules regarding use or access



**Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park CAMP
Alternative Approaches
National Heritage Theme**

ALT1

B	Interpretive Center
C	Trailside Museum
D	Wanapum Recreation Area
E	Huntzinger Road
F	Iceberg Pass
G	Rocky Coulee Recreation Area
H	Vantage Highway
I	Rec Drive Road Access
J	Ginkgo North
K	Wanapum West
L	Long-Term Boundary



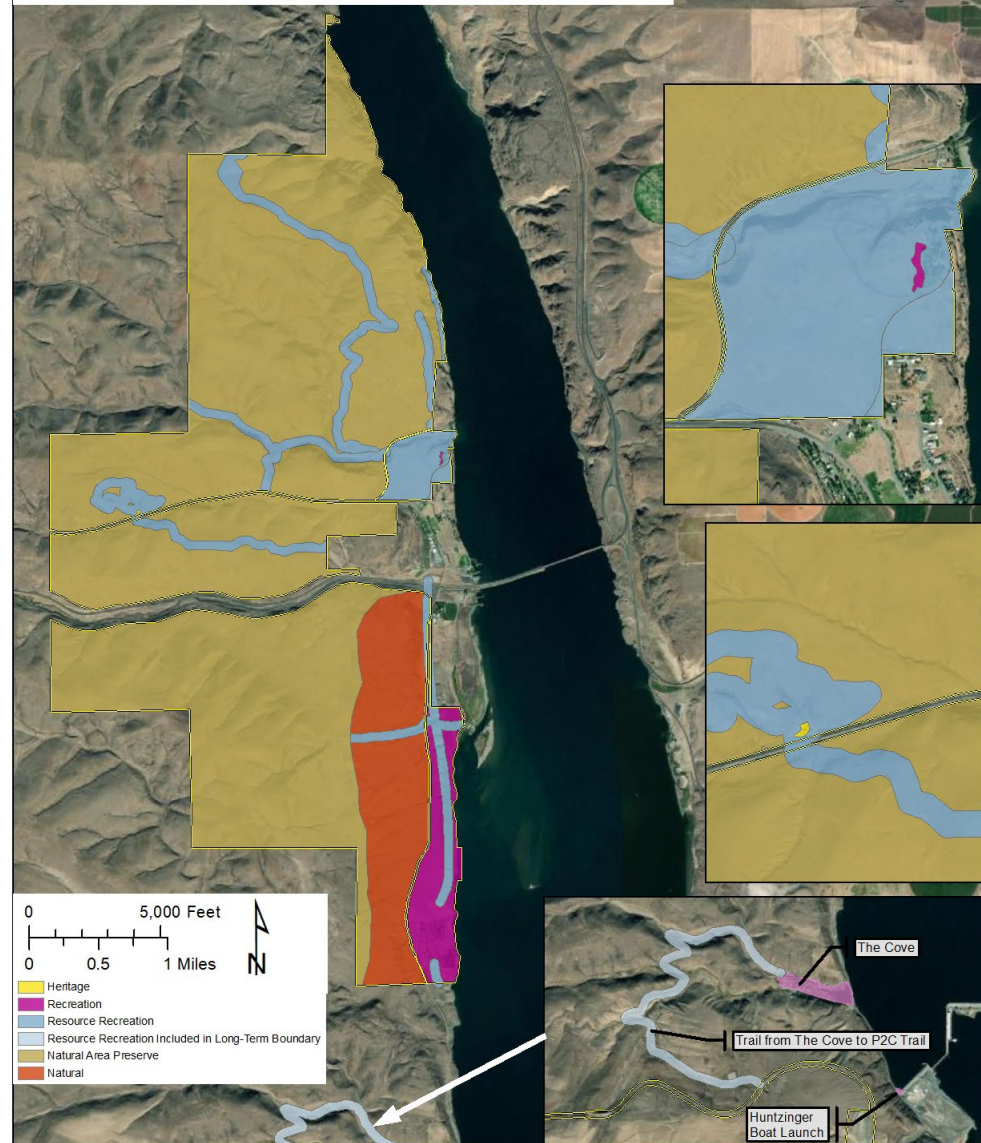
---	Trails - Hiking Only
Yellow	Heritage
Orange	Recreation
Light Blue	Resource Recreation
Tan	Natural Area Preserve
Light Tan	Natural Area Preserve Included in Long-Term Boundary
Red	Natural

CAMP Alt 1: National Heritage Theme

- Recognizes rare biological and geological features, cultural resources
- Natural Area Preserve
- Heritage classification at Trailside and Interpretive facilities
- Wanapum is status quo
- Long term boundary areas
- Recreation Trail closed to motorized vehicles



**Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park CAMP
Alternative Approaches
Enhanced Recreation Theme ALT2**



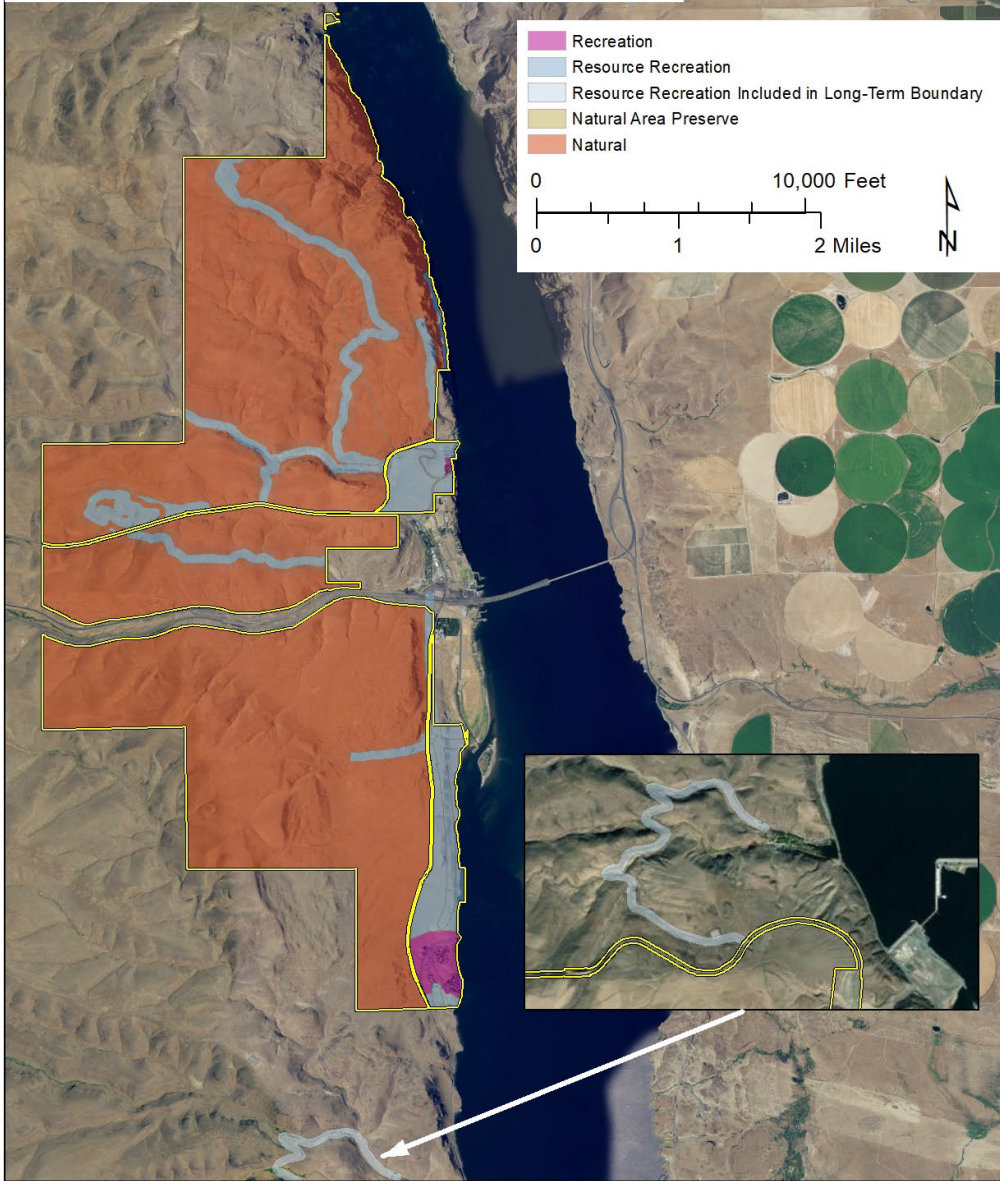
CAMP Alt 2: Enhanced Recreation Theme

- Recreation areas expanded
- Hiking and biking trails
- Heritage for CCC buildings
- Expanded camping north of I-90
- Log trail enhancements
- Hiking trails south of I-90
- Recreation adjacent to Vantage Bay
- Management of The Cove and Huntzinger boat ramp
- Recreation Trail allows limited use by motor vehicles



**Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park CAMP
Alternative Approaches
Trails Emphasis Theme**

ALT3



CAMP Alt 3: Trails Emphasis Theme

- Comprehensive trail plan
- Bicycle base camp – links to regional trails
- New trailheads
- Local and cross-state trail connections
- Natural Area land classification
- Existing permit system for motorized access
- Expanded water and trail-based recreation at Wanapum





What is an EIS and Why Do We Need It?

- Informs the public about the development and engineering of the built environment.
- Reveals details about the environmental health and development of a specific area in a comprehensive report.



Washington State Legislature Recognizes the following responsibilities:

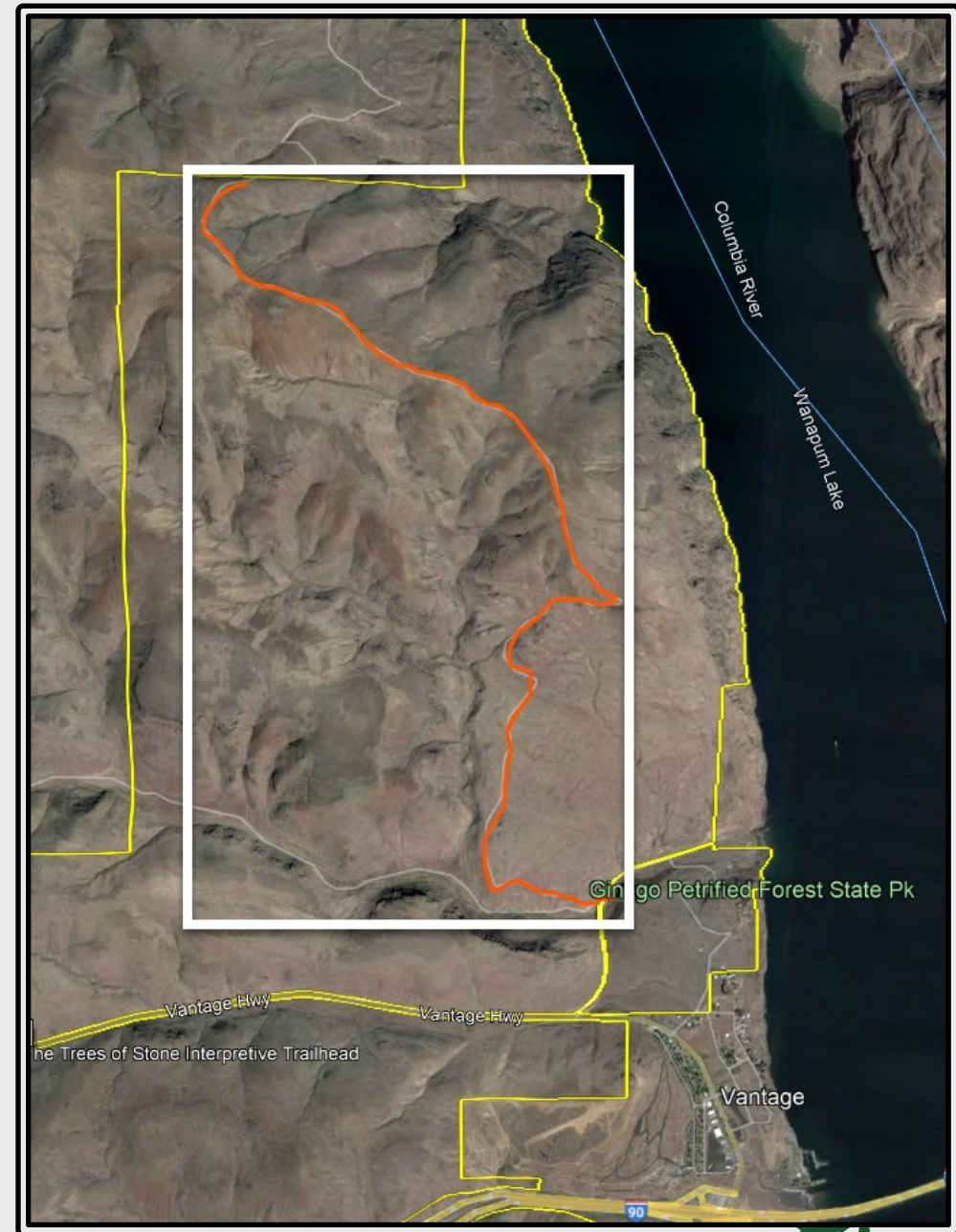
RCW 43.21C.020

- ❖ Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation and risk to health or safety
- ❖ Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage;
- ❖ The legislature recognizes a fundamental right to a healthful environment and has a responsibility to contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the environment.



What will the Ginkgo EIS Analyze?

- ❖ The EIS will analyze six different alternatives for Recreation Drive Trail.
- ❖ We must understand the recreational impacts of partially or fully limiting vehicular use to natural and cultural resources.
- ❖ Once defined, an EIS consultant will facilitate our public process.
- ❖ The EIS will take approximately 10-12 months to complete

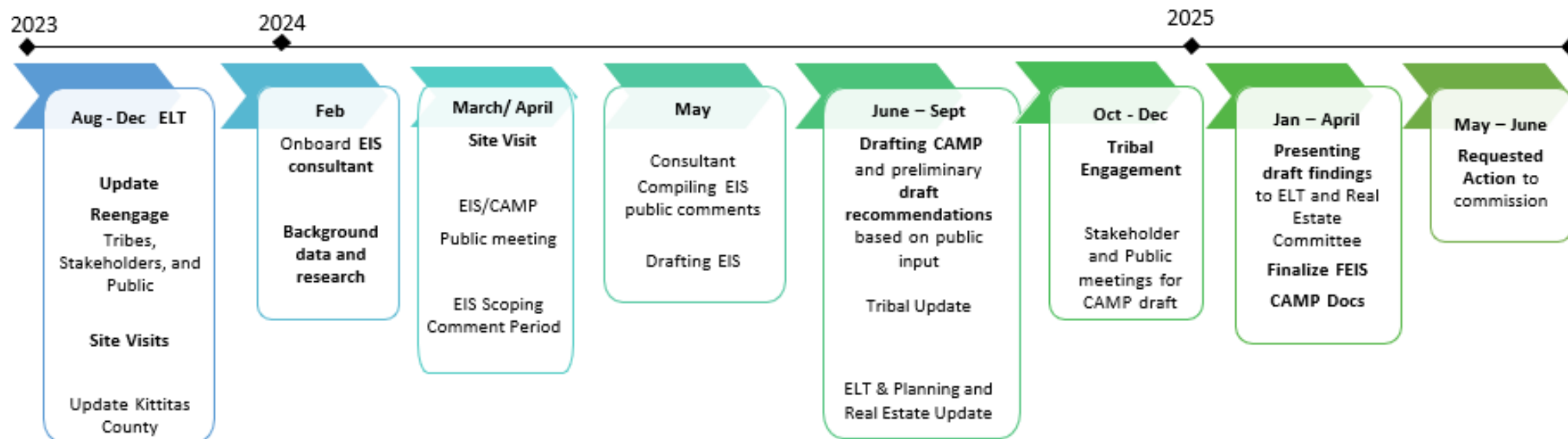




2023-25 Planning Timeline for Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park EIS and CAMP



(Environmental Impact Statement & Classification and Management Planning)



Opportunities for Comment:

- EIS/CAMP Public Meeting and 30-day public scoping period
- Review of draft CAMP preliminary recommendations and EIS findings (Online 30- day review and comment period)
- May – June 2025 - Present to Parks Commission





THANK YOU



Archeology Reference

Selected Federal Laws on Archaeology:

- [Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979](#)
- [Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974](#)
- [Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act](#)
- [National Historic Preservation Act](#)
- [Executive Order 05-05](#)
- [Guidance to EO 05-05](#)
- [Frequently Asked 05-05 Questions](#)
- [Archaeological Sites and Resources \(RCW 27.53\)](#)
- [Archaeological Excavation and Removal Permit \(WAC 25-48\)](#)
- [Abandoned and Historic Cemeteries and Historic Graves \(RCW 68.60\)](#)
- [Registration of Historic Archaeological Resources on State-Owned Aquatic Lands \(WAC 25-46\)](#)
- [Aquatic Lands - In General \(RCW 79.90.565\)](#)
- [Archaeological Site Public Disclosure Exemption \(RCW 42.56.300\)](#)



Historic Preservation References

Washington State Laws on Historic Preservation:

- [Executive Order 05-05](#)
- [Guidance to EO 05-05](#)
- [Frequently Asked 05-05 Questions](#)
- [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation \(WAC 25-12\)](#)
- [Abandoned and Historic Cemeteries and Historic Graves \(RCW 68.60\)](#)
- [Washington State Historic Building Code \(RCW 19.27.120\)](#)
- [Heritage Barn Program \(RCW 27.34.400\)](#)
- [State Historical Societies - Historic Preservation \(RCW 27.34\)](#)

Selected Federal Laws on Historic Preservation:

- [36 CFR Part 60 \(National Register of Historic Places\)](#)
- [36 CFR Part 61 \(Procedures for State, Tribal, and Local Government Historic Preservation Programs\)](#)
- [36 CFR Part 63 \(Determinations of Eligibility for Inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places\)](#)
- [36 CFR Part 65 \(National Historic Landmarks Program\)](#)
- [36 CFR Part 68 \(The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties\)](#)
- [Section 106](#)
- [Section 304 NHPA Guidance from ACHP](#)
- [Professional Qualification Standards](#)
- [Executive Order 11593 \(Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment\)](#)
- [Executive Order 13006 \(Locating federal Facilities in Historic Properties\)](#)
- [Other Federal Laws](#)

