



Ginkgo Petrified Forest

EIS

Public Scoping Meeting

February 27th, 2025





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

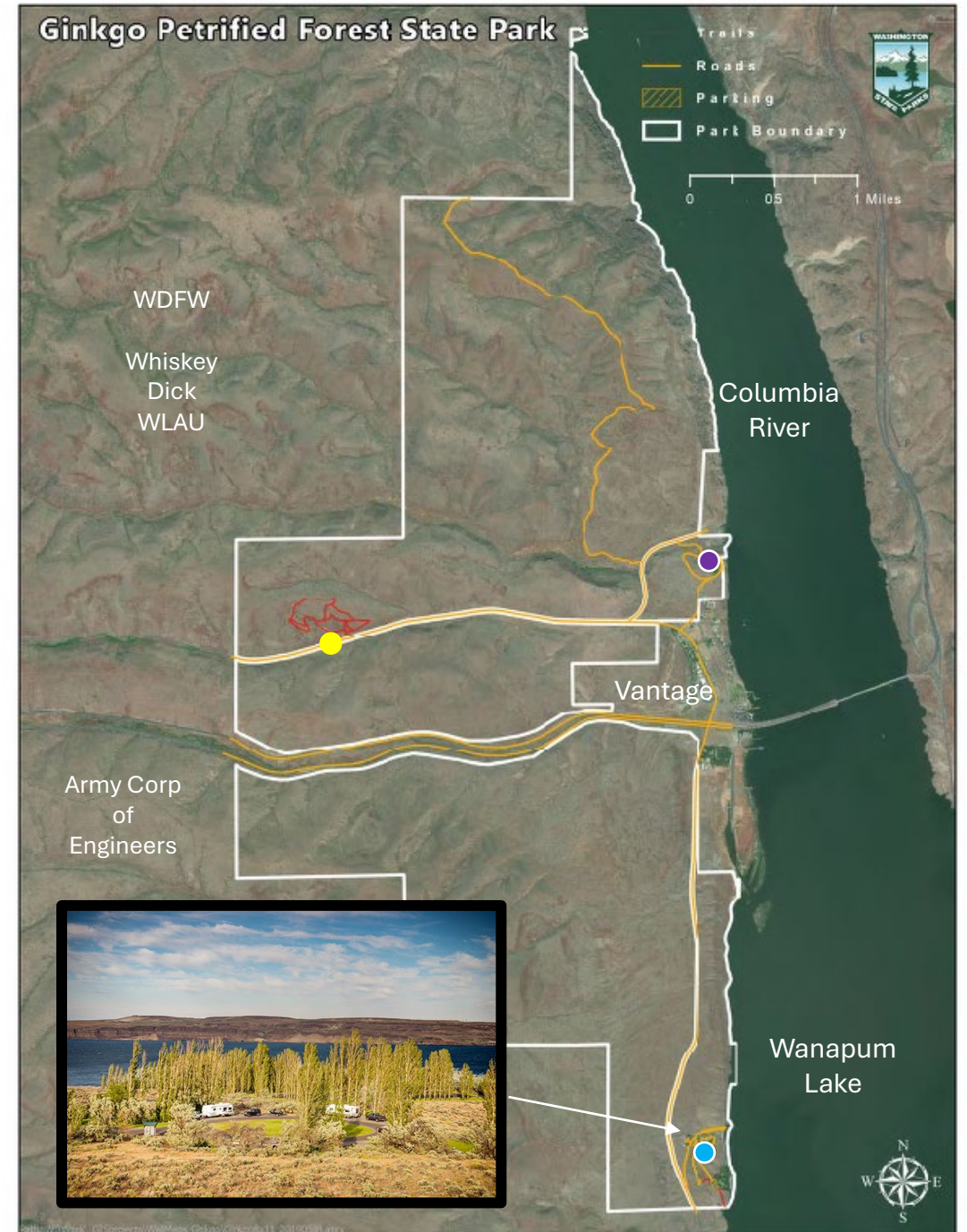
Washington's state parks will be cherished destinations with natural, cultural, recreational, artistic, and interpretive experiences that all Washingtonians enjoy, appreciate, and proudly support.



Ginkgo Location Details

- 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

Ginkgo's significance is established through innumerable Geologic Resources, remnants of the Petrified Ginkgo Forest, history of Ice Age Floods, a plethora of Cultural Heritage Resources, a long history of Historic Strategic River Crossing, site development by the CCC, and immeasurable number of Natural Resources





What is an Environmental Impact Statement?

A detailed document that assesses the potential environmental impacts of a proposed project, including its effects on the natural environment and potential mitigation strategies.

An EIS aims to inform decision-makers and the public about the potential environmental consequences of a proposed action and its alternatives.



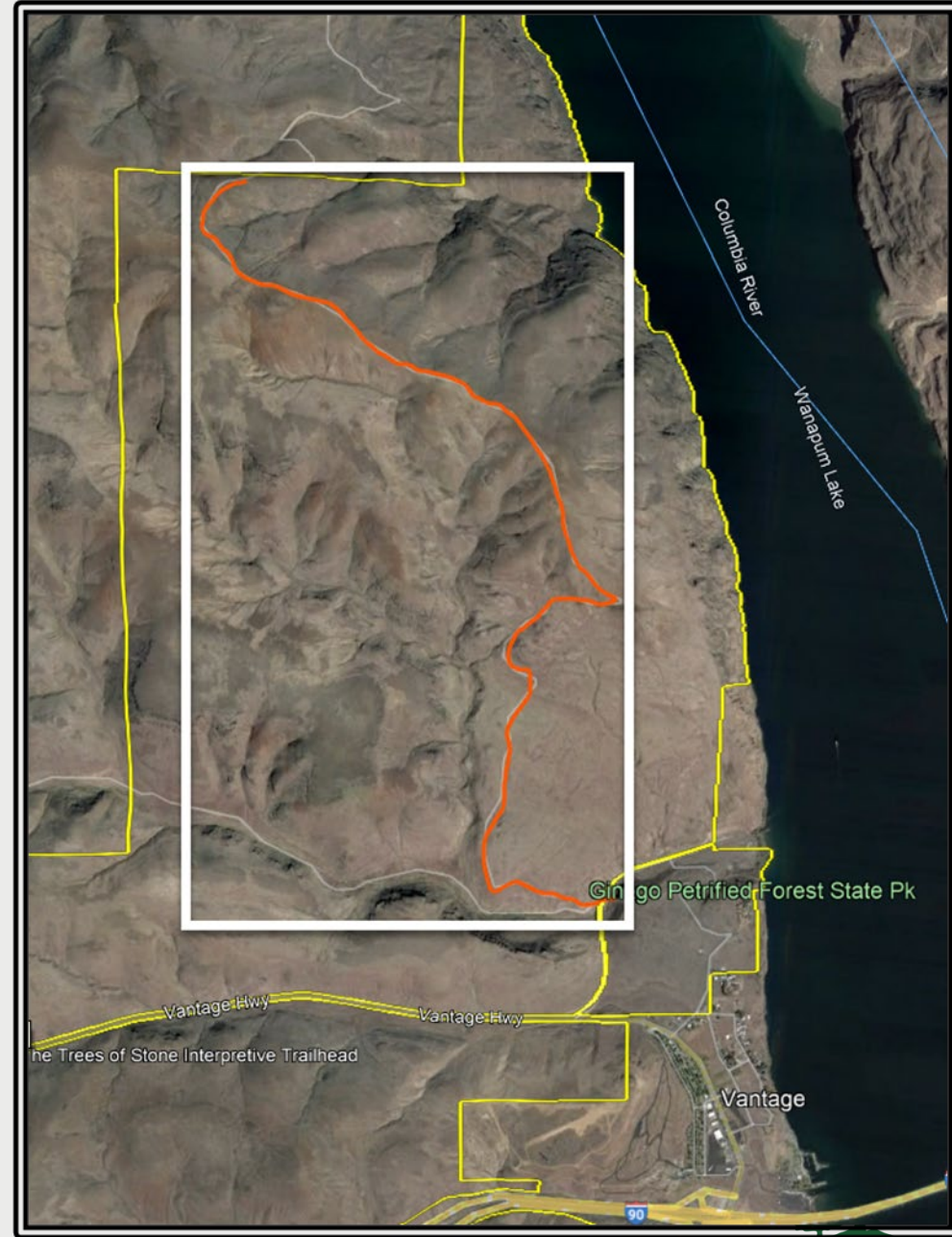
EIS Process

1. **Scoping** – Opportunity for Public Comment
2. Preparing the Draft EIS
3. **Issuing the Draft EIS** – Opportunity for Public Comment
4. Preparing the Final EIS
5. Issuing the Final EIS



Why do we need an EIS for Recreation Drive Trail?

- ❖ We need to understand the impacts of partially or fully limiting vehicular use to natural, cultural, and recreational resources.
- ❖ This EIS will help our land managers understand the impacts of partially or fully limiting vehicular uses as well as the natural and cultural resources impacts. This process is estimated to take between 10 and 12 months.





What Will the EIS Analyze?

- The EIS will analyze four alternatives including a no action alternative for Recreation Drive Trail.
- This EIS will only be analyzing impacts surrounding the Recreation Drive Trail and trailhead.
- Alternatives will offer varying ranges of protection of natural and cultural resources that include elements focusing on recreation opportunities along the trail.

The next four slides will introduce you to the details of each alternative to be analyzed.



Alternative 1

No Action



<u>Trail Corridor</u> Land Classification	Current Management Not Classified
Allowable Recreation Activities	Vehicle Access Restrictions Trail limited to administrative, scientific activities, agency issued access permit for properties owners and OPDMD (other power-driven mobility device), hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, No vehicle weight Limit
Non-Allowable Recreation Activities	Public motorized access
Management Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Monitoring • Traffix counter consistency • Fencing replacement • Hell’s Kitchen gate and fencing replacement • Placement of Carsonite posts – no trail widening – no off-trail use • Call in phone number for access



Alternative 2

Limited Access



<u>Trail Corridor</u> Land Classification	Natural Area
Allowable Recreation Activities	Low intensity Administrative vehicle access only, scientific activities, hiking, snowshoeing; mountain biking
Non-Allowable Recreation Activities	Public motorized access Equestrian Uses
Management Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional staff required • Cultural and Natural Resources monitoring to support timely adaptive management • Adaptive Management • Traffic Counter at both ends • Fencing replacement • Hell's Kitchen gate and fencing replacement • Road improvements including signage • Develop a robust permitting system



Alternative 3

Permitted Conditional Access



Trail Corridor Land Classification	Resource Recreation
<p>Allowable Recreation Activities</p>	<p>Low- medium intensity permitted vehicle access. Equestrian, hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing, interpretive Vehicle weight limit</p>
<p>Non-Allowable Recreation Activities</p>	<p>Non-permitted access</p>
<p>Management Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional staff required • Cultural and Natural Resources monitoring to support timely adaptive management • Adaptive Management • Conditional access • Traffix Counter at both ends • Fencing replacement • Hell’s Kitchen gate and fencing replacement • Road improvements including signage • Develop a robust permitting system • Permitted/Fee (pays for roadway maintenance)



Alternative 4

Seasonal Access



Trail Corridor Land Classification	Resource Recreation
Allowable Recreation Activities	<p>Medium -high intensity; Limited OHV and Vehicle Access – thru access for hunting, Scientific, administrative, permitted property owners, OPDMD, equestrian, hiking, mountain biking; snowshoeing; interpretive</p> <p>Vehicle weight limit</p>
Non-Allowable Recreation Activities	<p>Vehicle access outside of open season</p>
Management Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional staff required • Cultural and Natural Resources monitoring to support timely adaptive management • Adaptive Management • Traffix Counter at both ends • Fencing replacement • Hell’s Kitchen gate and fencing replacement • Road improvements including signage • Develop a robust permitting system • Need WAC -Need tool to enforce • Dynamic annual planning based on needs





Scoping – Open House Meeting

- ❖ The scoping phase of an EIS initiates participation by the public, tribal governments, and other local, state and federal agencies to comment on the proposal's alternatives, impacts, and potential mitigation measures to be analyzed in the EIS.
- ❖ **Comment Period: February 20 – March 24, 2025**
- ❖ Please send comments on to ginkgoEIS@parks.wa.gov





Scoping – Virtual Public Meeting

A second public scoping meeting will be held on **March 13, 2025**, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. virtually.

The meeting link can be found on the Ginkgo Planning Page
<https://parks.wa.gov/about/strategic-planning-projects-public-input/projects/ginkgo-petrified-forest-state-park-planning>

Comment period has been extended to **5:00 p.m. March 24, 2025.**

Please send comments on to ginkgoEIS@parks.wa.gov



Present Day Managed Access



- **Pedestrians open- no permit needed**
- **Bicyclists open- no permit needed**
- **Cultural practices- call for access**
- **Disability access- call for access**
- **Scientific research- call for access**
- **Property access- call for access**



Springtime Driving Impacts



Summertime Driving Impacts



Winter and Fall Driving Impacts



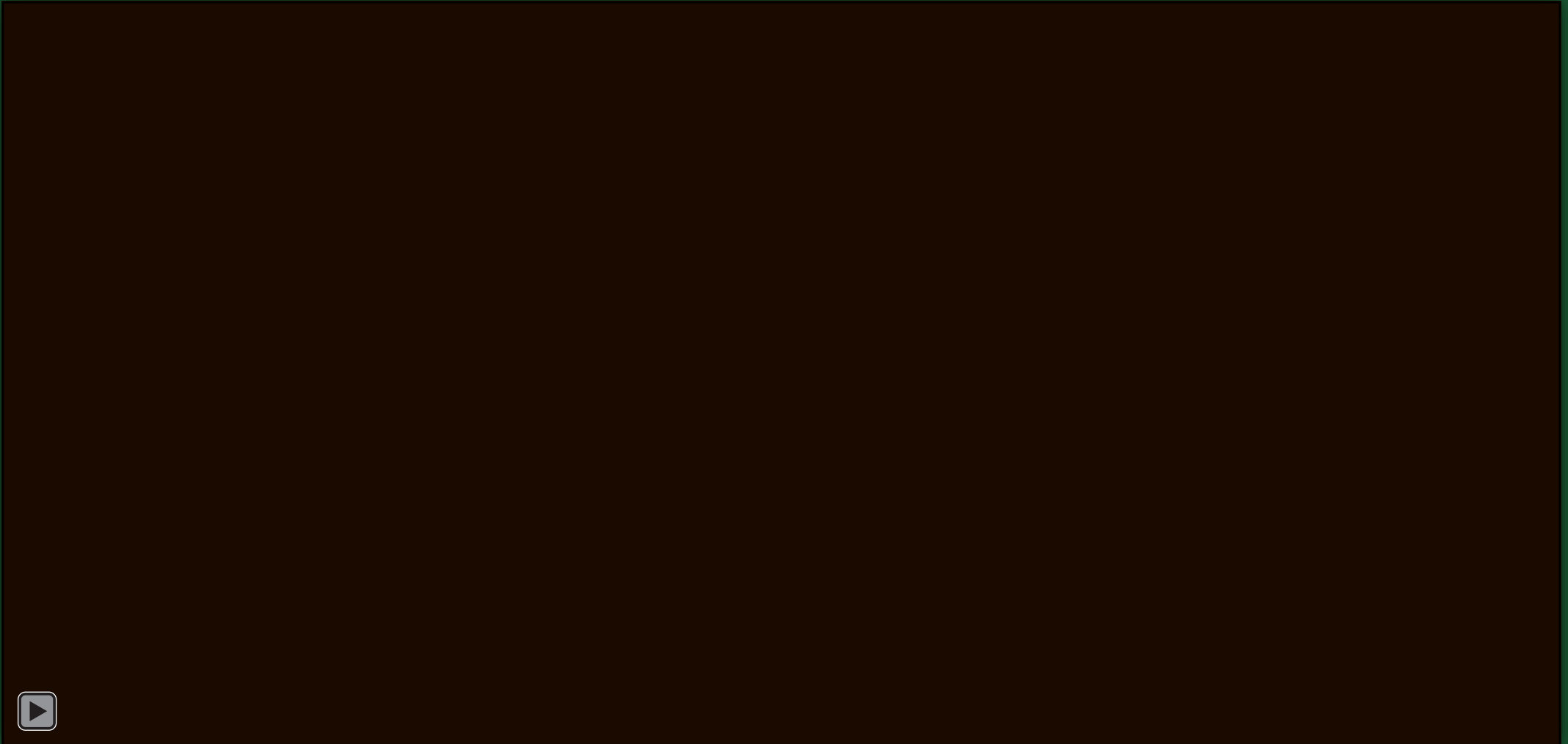
Illegal Access To The Property During Closures



Illegal Off-Roading 4x4, UTV



Illegal off-roading UTV



Natural and Cultural Resource Theft



Vandalism of Cultural Resources



