



January 24, 2025

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Attn: Becki Ellison
PO Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504
commission@parks.wa.gov

RE: Comment regarding Miller Peninsula Presentation on Jan 29th

Thank you very much for your time working on the future of Miller Peninsula. Staff have generously provided time to consider the desires of users and the local community. Planner Lauren Bromley has always been willing to listen to us as the planning unfolds. For us, we are in the 2nd effort by State Parks to make Miller Peninsula an official State Park.

Our Peninsula Chapter of Back Country Horsemen has been a key partner to State Parks over the time since State Parks acquired the Miller property. We were very involved in the development of the Interim Trails Plan and the creation of the parking area on Diamond Point Rd. Members of our chapter continue to provide routine maintenance on the trails, including removing fallen trees and tread maintenance. Peninsula Chapter members built the ADA trail out of the parking lot.

We have noticed in the Update Presentation the two Alternative Land Class Proposals. These differ from other draft ones that showed trail corridors as Resource Recreation through and Natural Areas including Natural Forest. These new ones do not show that, which is a concern to us since many trails we maintain, and use are in the Natural Forest zones for both Alt 1 and Alt 2. Historically with State Parks, horseback riding isn't permitted in Natural zones including the Natural Forest zone but can be permitted in certain cases by Director permission (WAC 352-32-070 (4)). We ask that all trails at Miller that pass through Natural Forest zones continue to be recognized as open to horseback riding or corridor zoned as Resource Recreation.

We look forward to continuing to assist with sustaining recreation on the Miller property. It is the high point of trail riding on the North Olympic Peninsula, enjoyed by many horseback riders, bicycle riders, hikers, and neighbors.

Sincerely,

Theresa Percy, President
Peninsula Chapter, Back Country Horsemen of Washington

