

Horseback riding trails would be nice they have it in our County Park Blueberry Hill I believe. I think you'd have great business year around with a lot of locals, as well as the other huge RV parks down there already in Diamond point, to go ahead and have a big screen movie theater outdoor. The boat launch is also necessary. <sup>1</sup>

Keep the mountain biking trails for day use. Add camping but no hook-ups. <sup>2</sup>

As a Diamond Point resident I would be impacted by the expansion of Miller Peninsula State Park. What consideration has been given to traffic- entrance on Diamond Point Road at Rte 101? What facilities are you planning? Would there be Rest Rooms requiring running water, septic or sewer? Is there an adequate source of water on Miller Peninsula to support this? What about Fire Fighting resources? I saw discussion about possible over night facilities I am planning on participating in your virtual meeting on Tuesday October 6th. <sup>3</sup>

Please add trails to walk our dogs. We do not have enough trails that allow us to walk our dogs on leash near Sequim. We could use some nice trails in the woods that have paths safe for walking our dogs. Please consider that when you make your design. <sup>5</sup>

They were seeking suggestions....my family ❤️s Rving & camping.....sites with hookups.....and suggested a zipline....<sup>6</sup>

We the disc golf community would love to have access to another disc golf course in this area. <sup>7</sup>

I would like to see more handicapped accessible scenic trails or walkways where a mobility scooter can go. Also benches to rest along the trails. So many trails are dirt and bumpy with roots they are barriers. It would be wonderful to have access to the water with a little ramp, wheelchairs, walkers and scooters get stuck in the sand and gravel but we enjoy looking at rocks and shells and maybe getting our toes wet too. <sup>8</sup>

Re: Proposed Miller Peninsula State Park

I am primarily concerned about fire risk.

- The biggest concern and really frightening one is **FIRE!! We do not have fire protection if a camper starts a fire and there is a forest fire. We have one road out! The nearest fire station is 5 miles away and belongs to the tribe.** Our volunteer fire station is undermanned and ill equipped for a serious forest fire.

I am also concerned about increased traffic on Diamond Point road and access to and from the highway if park plans proceed. Currently it is very hazardous turning onto highway 101 from Diamond Point road, we frequently wait for up to 5 minutes to make a safe turn. We need a traffic signal and a wider turning area and have always needed this. Since we have lived here in Diamond Point for the past 18 years, we have noticed twice the traffic the past few years and are very concerned about the additional traffic a park will bring.

- What are the plans, if any, for improved safety for our road? Will the road be improved?
- What is the benefit to our neighborhood of the park being built?

- What safety provisions are there? If not, why not?
- Will there be added police presence? If not, who would we address immediate concerns and problems to?
- How will speeders be monitored?
- Currently our local volunteers pick up litter. Will the park staff clean up litter on the road from the added traffic?
- What will the impact be on our neighborhood water supply? Electrical use?
- Were you aware that we have frequent power outages due to high winds in this area?
- Will there be a presence on site like a park officer to monitor campers?
- How will sewage be managed? Currently we have issues with drain fields.
- The bay is pristine and beautiful; how will it be protected?
- Will there be a boat ramp? And if so, how will that be maintained and accessed?

These are very real concerns and we would appreciate your serious and considerate response. <sup>9</sup>

I live in diamond point. 2 comments 1. An access trail at the corner of diamond point rd and rhododendron dr would be fantastic for us locals. I have seen a previous trail which could be easily cleared. 2. I have ridden all of the mountain bike trails in the park. These trails are hiking trails or horse trails. Only one of the trails are what I would call "made for mtb" trails. The only one I classify as "made for mtb" is hooters. There are many ravines which would make fantastic mtb trails.

Mountain biking is a growing sport. Mostly young 30 something people who are fit and have money to spend. The average price for a good mtb is around \$5,000.00. This park could be a mtb Mecca. It would bring thousands of dollars to sequim.

I would love to be on your committee and be involved in the design of trails!

I recently stumbled upon mtb trails just south of the park by cat road. I under this is DNR land. This are could dramatically improve the trail system for the park. Thank you. <sup>10</sup>

I am not happy that you plan to have overnight camping etc on the Miller Peninsula. I have appreciated the upgrades to trails with better signage, etc., but I would hate to see this area become a "destination". I live in Diamond Point, and I specifically bought property there because it is quiet, dark, and little traffic. I would not like to see the character of the area change as the trails are not overrun, and there are not lots of cars and noise coming in. The people who use the trails are generally local.

I can't really tell where you intend the camping - Cat Lake? Around the fancy parking lot that was put in a couple years ago? It would help to know that. <sup>11</sup>

We are residents of Sequim and frequent Miller Peninsula as hikers. We explore the trails and approach the Park from the established parking lot off of Diamond Point Road as well as the small turnout off of E. Sequim Bay Road.

Miller Peninsula is not suitable for overnight camping given its lack of shoreline for easy access, and given the amount of deforestation necessary to provide camping spots and parking. There is no bicycle trail into town from Miller Peninsula. Unlike Sequim Bay State Park, Miller Peninsula is isolated and without nearby amenities.

We support enhanced daytime useage, such as an amphitheater with ranger talks or other specialized topics. Deforestation would be kept to a minimum. We also support additional trail development, signage, and maintenance throughout Miller Peninsula State Park for all its users. <sup>12</sup>

I live close to S.W. corner of the Park (corner @ Burling Rd. and Firewéed Rd.). Great piece of Miller Peninsula!!! My spouse Kathy) and I walk Park near us. Perhaps significant in current configuration at "our corner" is lack of restroom facilities. (I suppose Park users simply "...go where wildlife goes... (?)." <sup>13</sup>

As a long time resident of Miller Peninsula (since 2002) I have concerns about the proposed expansion of Miller State Peninsula Park. I plan to attend your online meeting on October 6th.

Water is crucial to our survival. I live in Sunshine Acres, Diamond Point. Our community uses community wells for water. The company that manages water service for my home is Washington Water Service. Others that live nearby have Aquarius managing their water service to their homes. Several people who have Aquarius have complained to me about poor water pressure. The current Miller Peninsula Park has no water source. Are you including flushing toilets and showers in your campground planning? Have you researched what the impact of adding campgrounds requiring flushing toilets and showers will be to our water supply and aquifer?

The current entrance to Miller Peninsula Park is on Diamond Point Road- the ONLY road access to get in and out of Diamond Point. Have you analyzed the impact on traffic? Is it possible the park could be accessed from the West Side?

I have concerns about possible forest fires from campfires. I question whether our fire district has the capacity to handle this additional risk.

I hope some of my questions will be addressed in your Oct 6th meeting. <sup>14</sup>

I live in Diamond Point and have several concerns regarding the proposed Miller Peninsula State Park. My biggest concern is fire. There is only one road out of our Diamond Point neighborhood. If a camper starts a fire and it spreads we will be trapped. There are many elderly people in our neighborhood. My second concern is traffic. It is already difficult to get on the 101 from Diamond Point Road, particularly in the summer. The added traffic from the park will make it even harder. Another concern is water. Where will the park get its water supply? We have well water for our neighborhood and already have problems with water pressure. Finally, my husband and I, along with some other neighbors have been picking up trash along Diamond Point Road every month for 5 years now. We do not want to have to clean up after all the park visitors. We already get 10+ trash bags full per month. One more thing, I am a member of our local CERT, Community Emergency Response Team. In the event of the Cascadia earthquake/tsunami, the Miller Peninsula will likely be cut off from help for 30 days or more. People camping at the park would be without supplies or help. We will have a hard enough time getting to our 900+ neighbors. We do not have a fresh water source and do not have food supplies to aid people staying at the park. Please consider these things when planning. <sup>15</sup>

Dear Nikki Fields,

I've copied a letter that exactly addresses my concerns. This was earlier sent by [redacted]. I want to ditto her comments with concerns to the proposed Miller Peninsula State Park. I would add I'm concerned with petty theft

and crime with additional folks. We live in a secluded area and people often take advantage of that. Will this be addressed?

Thank you.

Discovery Bay "Re: Proposed Miller Peninsula State Park I am primarily concerned about fire risk. The biggest concern and really frightening one is FIRE!! We do not have fire protection if a camper starts a fire and there is a forest fire. We have one road out! The nearest fire station is 5 miles away and belongs to the tribe. Our volunteer fire station is undermanned and ill equipped for a serious forest fire. I am also concerned about increased traffic on Diamond Point road and access to and from the highway if park plans proceed. Currently it is very hazardous turning onto highway 101 from Diamond Point road, we frequently wait for up to 5 minutes to make a safe turn. We need a traffic signal and a wider turning area and have always needed this. Since we have lived here in Diamond Point for the past 18 years, we have noticed twice the traffic the past few years and are very concerned about the additional traffic a park will bring. What are the plans, if any, for improved safety for our road? Will the road be improved? How will speeders be monitored? Currently our local volunteers pick up litter. Will the park staff clean up litter on the road from the added traffic? What will the impact be on our neighborhood water supply? Electrical use? Were you aware that we have frequent power outages due to high winds in this area? Will there be a presence on site like a park officer to monitor campers? How will sewage be managed? The bay is pristine and beautiful; how will it be protected? Will there be a boat ramp? And if so, how will that be maintained and accessed? These are very real concerns and we would appreciate your serious and considerate response." <sup>16</sup>

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed new state park at Miller Peninsula. I have been a Clallam County resident since 1970 and have watched the economy go from dependance on paper mills, sawmills, and logging, to mostly dependance on tourism. The Olympic Peninsula has become a retirement mecca, with the largest employer being the health care system. Nearly every weekend (before the pandemic) some sort of "festival" was bringing extra traffic to Port Angeles or Sequim.

The problem with an influx of visitors to the Peninsula is that our highways are grossly inadequate to handle the number of cars and trucks making this migration. The two-lane highway (101) has seen few changes since 1970. The Sequim by-pass and four lanes between Sequim and Port Angeles have helped local traffic, but have done nothing to help residents and visitors get on and off the Peninsula. There are two-hour waits on the ferries every weekend and traffic backs up 15 miles from the Hood Canal bridge. There are no alternate, parallel, secondary roads, so a fatality accident (and the ensuing investigation) leaves all traffic sitting for four hours! There is no way that the area could be evacuated, nor could emergency responders get here. (Our extensive forests could become an inescapable inferno and a major earthquake would trap thousands.) There is no way to control the growth of private enterprise (hotels, festivals) that bring people, but it is unconscionable that the state would initiate the building of a destination state park that would encourage more campers and RVs to use these already overcrowded roads.

I am totally aware that the public is clamoring for more outdoor recreation spots and they are healthy outlets for our population. The acreage on Miller Peninsula appears inviting for development, but the safety issues are of the highest magnitude! We need a four-lane highway from the ferries to Sequim before any state attractions are built that will potentially increase traffic on Highway 101. <sup>17</sup>

Hi,

The web page doesn't specifically say who these questions regarding Miller Peninsula State Park should go to so I am hoping they get to the right folks.

1. How will the state ensure the safety of the community at Diamond Point?
2. How will the park ensure that park visitors do not make life in Diamond Point unbearable due to the increase in unwanted, outside traffic from looky-loos.
3. How will we be assured that a fire in the park will not destroy our community? There is only a very small volunteer fire department and one road in and out!
4. How will beach access be monitored? Will beach walkers from the park walk into our community via beach access?
5. How many campsites are planned? Is the campground planned for the Diamond Point Road entrance? What sizes of RV camp sites are planned?
6. How will traffic be monitored/changed? Accessing Hwy 101 from Diamond Point Rd is already difficult.
7. What is the plan for the wildlife that live in the park? We know there are cougar, bear and lots of deer that inhabit that land.
8. When can we see a plan map of where and how large the state is planning to make the facilities? <sup>18</sup>

Regarding the Miller Peninsula Planning of the expansion of state Park along Diamond Point road, I would like to express the importance of installing a traffic light on 101 at Diamond Point Road. This section is already a potential accident hazard where cars are going highway speed and difficult to slow down and turn into Diamond Point Road. Coming from Sequim and trying to turn left into Diamond Point Road again is difficult as well with the same problem. With large campers, trailers and recreational vehicles coming onto Diamond Point Road in the future to visit the future camp grounds and State Park facilities, it is important to have a traffic light on 101 at Diamond Point Road for the safety of both visitors and residents. <sup>19</sup>

Ms. Fields

I am a local county manager and also a member of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington. I helped with the development of the extensive and robust trails system on the state lands at Miller Peninsula. I also helped with advocating for the funding for the parking area used by trails users.

The survey posted on the State Parks planning site worries me since it interviewed users at State Parks that don't allow horseback riding as to what they would look for at a new State Park. It is no wonder they didn't choose horseback riding. State Parks needs to be objective and not craft the narrative by selected feedback in a true public process. An actual survey of users and residents of Miller Peninsula seems like it would be equally if not more useful. Horseback riding is one of the primary existing uses of the area being designated as a new State Park, which many already feel is significantly developed.

I would like to hear how the existing trails will be preserved and the existing users not pushed out at the October 6 meeting. A significant amount of RCO funding has gone into the existing infrastructure with the intent of the recreation area's continued use for the purposes allocated.

Thank you very much for your time, and I look forward to participating in the process. <sup>20</sup>

4 October 2020

Board of Commissioners  
Washington State Parks & Recreation  
1111 Israel Road SW  
Tumwater, WA 98501-6512

Dear Commissioners,

***Economic benefits of parks***

***Study confirms state parks provide significant economic and ecosystem benefits***

Please read the above description posted on the parks.state.wa.us site and ask yourselves two questions, "What is the purpose of a park?" and "When do we sacrifice an ecosystem for economics?"

In a 2016 WA State Parks report entitled Miller Peninsula State Park Property Interim Trail Plan, State Parks staff and the Trail Advisory Group (TAG) established Trail Management Objectives for the park's trail system. Trail maintenance, signage and other related improvements were developed with volunteer organizations. Our community has held up its end of the agreement.

For those of you who do not reside on the Olympic Peninsula, this photo shows Washington State Parks already manages a nearby camping facility in a protected bay, with adequate highway access to services and accommodations for multiple use—from tents to RVs. From this aerial view, historic climate data and recent geological studies (including reports from Dungeness Wildlife Refuge, US Fish and Wildlife and Clallam County Parks), it should be obvious to each commissioner that developing another campground *closer* to an open waterway would be unsustainable - financially and environmentally.



We respectfully suggest maintaining the Miller Peninsula State Park property as a natural recreation area with the least impact on human and wildlife habitats. Our community will look forward to continued collaboration with State Parks, but prefer not to "... Pave Paradise, Put up a Parking Lot."

Thank you.

Dear State Park Planning Commission,

I have been enjoying hiking and riding our horses on the trails at Miller Peninsula State Park for several years now, and have been in the area for over 25 years. My husband used to hike the logging roads in what is now Miller Peninsula State Park when he was a kid over 50 years ago.

Thank you very much for building the wonderful trail head on Diamond Point Rd. Along with building so many beautiful trails. It has made trail access much more convenient and trail hiking and riding so much nicer.

We love the area and treasure the natural beauty and quiet serenity of the trails here.

I do have some concerns of expanding the Miller Peninsula State Park to turn it into a 'State of the Art State Park' and to accommodate campgrounds and other added activities.

1. The trails are amazingly beautiful the way they are. To lose that by expanding the park with more recreational opportunities would be a giant step back from preserving the natural beauty it has to offer. Please consider the natural environment the park has to offer now and how that would be disrupted by expansion.
2. Access into the park via Diamond Point Road is already overused. To add more cars and trailers on that road would cause even more congestion and add to the unsafe access on and off of HWY 101 along with driving along the narrow bumpy Diamond Point Road.
3. There are already facilities for camping, boating, and beach activities along that stretch of HWY 101 and along all of Olympic Peninsula that are used for the activities you state in your plan for Miller Peninsula State Park. Please consider preserving Miller Peninsula State Park to stay just trails so the beauty of the natural environment can be enjoyed for what nature has to offer. It really is an amazing place to hike and/or ride and just let yourself become one with the forest. It would be a shame to lose that to expansion. This park is the only one in our area that has just trails. It really is needed to stay just for trail activities.
4. The beach in this park is totally covered in large round slippery rocks. Once you hike or ride all the way out there it is impossible to hike on. It is more of a destination to look at and turn around to go back. At the Miller Park location it is not a walking, hiking, or riding beach. Please don't try to promote the beach destination as a place to hike or recreate at. It is very rugged and somewhat dangerous when it comes to footing.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope I was able to give you a better understanding of our treasured area and of its true value in keeping Miller Peninsula State Park natural. <sup>22</sup>

As a Diamond Point resident, I am looking forward to the new park, as an asset to our community. Several mitigating factors must be addressed to make the park a success for everyone, and still be safe for us, as existing residents.

# 1 issue is potential fire hazard to us in Diamond Point from camp fires in the park. The Diamond Point fire house is volunteer and under-staffed. Blyn Fire house is also a minimal staff. State money should support an upgrade to these facilities and staffs, or work with Clallam County to increase funding, without relying on putting the additional tax burden on county residents, who are historically reluctant to pay, on the ballot. As I drive out Diamond Point Road, through several miles of thick woods on both sides of the road, I picture the residents of California attempting unsuccessfully to flee the wildfires, like we have seen on the news the past few years. I don't want that to happen here!!! That tragedy can be avoided with proper planning: Mitigate fires before they happen.

My second, equally important issue concerns traffic on Highway 101, and the intersection at Diamond Point Road, especially during the Summer. When traffic is heaviest on Summer weekends, turning onto Diamond Point Road from East-bound 101 can already be very difficult and dangerous, with the on-coming traffic approaching at full highway speed, usually exceeding the 55 mph posted speed limit. Also, turning right out from Diamond Point Road, to west bound Highway 101 is already difficult, due to that full speed traffic approaching. Turning left, eastbound is almost impossible. If you are adding all the extra traffic from a state park, something must be done. I request a 45 mph speed zone on Highway 101 and a traffic light at Diamond Point Road, like they have in Carlsborg. With hundreds of cars coming in and out of Diamond Point Road every day, a traffic light is already justified; the addition of State Park traffic will make it far too dangerous, without a light.

The existing trail head parking for horse trailers, off Diamond Point Road, should left as is for horse users. I recommend the new entrance for the new park should, instead, go at the end of first straightaway off Highway 101. Then park user traffic can see the park signage and entrance coming up far ahead of them, and they do not have to take that first, blind, 90 degree turn. This would make it easier for the larger motor homes and fifth wheels to enter the park. After the straightaway, from the first 90 degree turn and on, Diamond Point Road is much less substantial, and not built for the heavier traffic of the park. Please consider locating the entrance at the end of the straightaway.

This park will be large enough to have space and terrain for all types of users. Existing trails should remain in the park for all users, and be improved upon, where possible. You should provide for everything from walk-in tent sites, to large trailer/motor home sites with full hook-ups. Small cabins or yurts should be considered.<sup>23</sup>

Hi there. I am an avid horseman and go to Miller park all the time, year round!! The trails at Miller Peninsula are important to me as an equestrian, the perfect place to exercise, stretch the horse and relax in the beautiful trails. Hikers are friendly and welcome horses on the trails. In addition I hope the planning committee takes from this public forum ideas of what added development is compatible with horseback riding I think there are many ways that hikers and horseman, camper and cyclists can get along just fine in this environment.

Make no mistake though as an equestrian it's vital that we Keep the maximum number of trails at Miller Peninsula available for horseback riding, it's important to my riding providing exercise for my horse and studying nature with so many parks siding with their need or ways to increase revenue it always seems to crunch out horseman..always. Why? Please do not or you should not forsake those of us who enjoy these parks as they are .just to make maximum revenue. Miller is simply serene. The trail systems that the BCHW helped to carve out and continues to maintain are important to me as a member of that organization, I wouldn't even mind to contribute to a horse riding pass. We have so little terrain to enjoy in JeffCo as it is.

Thank you for listening <sup>24</sup>

Dear Planning Department for Miller Peninsula State Park,

Please keep as many trails open as possible to equestrian's. Miller Peninsula is one of the few place with a significant trail system we have access to on the Olympic Peninsula. My friends and I have enjoyed riding many miles there. I am happy the area will be able to be appreciated by more people as you plan its future use, but as you consider its development, please keep in mind the many equestrians who have ridden and helped maintain the area's trails for years.

I ride professionally for a living, working with everyday horses and helping their owners with their trail riding skills and basic horsemanship. Please feel free to contact me if you feel it would be at all helpful. <sup>25</sup>

There is a growing disc golf community here. We are always looking for more places to play, and Miller peninsula would be great! If properly designed and developed it would not interfere with other park activity, and could host A tier tournaments, bringing lots of tournament traffic and revenue in on a yearly basis. I would be happy to assist in planning and developing on the disc golf side, if it were to become reality. <sup>26</sup>

We are on a private water supply. The city water doesn't extend out here. How will you get water for the facility, campground. ? <sup>27</sup>

Dear Ms Fields:

I was not able to attend the meeting last night, but I am writing not only for myself and my family, but the whole congregation of horse owners and riders in Jefferson, Clallam, and Kitsap Counties as well as others.

In the planning of this park there appears to have been no provisions for horses at all. This is cutting an entire demographic on the Peninsula. With rapidly shrinking wild spaces open to horses, the Miller trails have been extra nourishment in this Time of Covid.

Horsemen and women have been a part of our history and culture for a long time. We respect the trails (re trails like the Larry Scott) and we are careful of walkers and dogs. The Back Country Horsemen code of politeness and ethics is standard for most riders. Who wouldn't follow these guides when we love the outdoors so much?

Let me speak for all of us this morning in that we need to have a voice here. Those trails are sacred to us. To take them away from horsemen would be a sorry reflection of the values and wilderness and parks of Washington State. <sup>28</sup>

I own two horses and board a third. I have enjoyed riding on the Miller Peninsula trails for many years. Please keep the trail system in your planning and include equestrians, their horses, and parking needs. It is the only place where we can park our rigs and trail ride locally. <sup>29</sup>

thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am a horseback rider and currently ride at Miller Peninsula State Park about three times a month.

This remarkable trail system provides easy and safe trailer parking (Thank you) and miles of trail that give a horseback rider a chance to spend hours in the saddle making the trip from Port Townsend worth it. Apart from the ODT I know of no other trail in Jefferson or Clallam County that provides this unique experience.

Please in your planning do not diminish this fantastic trail system. I would be willing to pay more than my Discover Pass fee to be permitted continued use of these trails. <sup>30</sup>

Nikki,

Thank you for the presentation last night and the opportunity to provide input. Unfortunately, I suspect that my input will wind up being some of the input that is ignored. I strongly favor doing nothing to the Miller Peninsula area other than trail upgrading.

As was mentioned several times in the presentation, almost 3,000 acres of undeveloped land is more than just nice – it is spectacular! So, why spoil it by developing it? 3,000 acres of undeveloped area provides an ideal habitat for wildlife; 3,000 acres of chopped up areas, not so much.

A large part of the draw of the Miller Peninsula is the fact that it is there. It is easily accessible and largely undisturbed. Unlike most of the other hiking opportunities on the Olympic Peninsula, it is not necessary to drive many miles of rough, gravel roads to reach an undeveloped trail head; Miller Peninsula is accessible by paved roads and has a paved parking area. I can leave my house and be at the trailhead in 30 minutes. With any of the development proposed, the undisturbed aspect of the area will be ruined and the 3,000 acres of pristine beauty will be gone.

I have hiked the Miller Peninsula several times, including just yesterday. (You can read my trail reports on the WTA Trail Report web page as well as reports from several others. My reports are kalsequim). While not seeing a great deal of use, (one of its benefits), Miller Peninsula is regularly visited by many of us who truly enjoy an opportunity to commune with nature, not hundreds of other people, whether on foot, horseback or bicycle. People with RV's, ATV's, motor bikes, etc. need to have areas for their form of recreation, but those of us who love the undisturbed deserve to have our areas, also. And the Miller Peninsula is our area.

There are currently 3 problem issues with Miller Peninsula which I call the 3 M's – maps, mud, and mosquitoes. The current map of the trails is not accurate – there are trails that are not on the map and all things on the map are not really located where they are shown. Many areas of the trails become very muddy whenever there is rain, especially the West Diamond Point Trail, which is one of the main trails

from the parking area to anywhere else in the park. During much of the Spring and early Summer, hiking at Miller Peninsula presents a risk of loss of blood due to the thousands of swarming mosquitoes. Maps can be corrected; mud can be alleviated through better drainage and walkways; but thousands of mosquitoes will quickly make an otherwise lovely place very undesirable. Once the word got around about the mosquito problem, many people would no doubt opt for another place to go with their RV's, ATV's, etc., which would mean the development done for their benefit would be wasted.

I suggest that the trails at Miller Peninsula be upgraded to address the problem with mud; maps be re-drawn to accurately show all of the trails and proper locations of kiosks, etc.; and the Miller Peninsula be dedicated to an area, a very large area, with multi-use trails that is truly undisturbed and undeveloped. A good name for such a State Park would be "Trails State Park". Hiking is such a popular activity in Washington that I am certain that many Washingtonians, as well as others from other states, would come to Trails State Park just for the opportunity to hike an area of truly undisturbed beauty.

Thanks again for the information and opportunity to provide input. <sup>31</sup>

Miller peninsula trails are wonderful for riding with horses and the large horse community of this area would love to continue to have access to this property. Personally these are my favorite trails for bringing green horses or green riders, due to the easy terrain and endless loops of trails. <sup>32</sup>

I seriously question a decision to proceed on a Miller Peninsula State Park for a variety of reasons not the least of which is spending a reported \$40 million for development. And this does not take into account costs to maintain such a facility.

More serious needs exist in our state for use of public funds. The deteriorated infrastructure across the state which include our roads, bridges, schools and public buildings should take precedent over developing and maintaining another state park. Homelessness and drug addition disasters our society is currently experiencing should take priority over another state park. Loss of taxpaying small businesses amid the Covid-19 and expected years for economic recovery make your proposal, to me, ridiculous.

There is need for funding proper forest management and wildlife habitat protection especially in light of now all too common wildfire devastation. Has increased potential for forest fires and habitat degradation been properly considered?(And, no, it cannot all be attributed to climate change.)

I see the Miller Peninsula State Park proposal as misguided and misdirected, making me wonder what other motives may be driving it...perhaps further bureaucratic expansion and/or departmental competition for funds. I believe there is no excuse for squandering these funds now, or perhaps ever, given our society's greater and pressing needs.

Reassessment of the Commission's priorities should be required. If we cannot properly maintain our state's physical assets and meet our societal needs now, how can you justify further liability? The forested land as it now exists is not endangered and will continue to provide benefit as a carbon sink and wildlife habitat for years in the future. I just cannot see that further development on the Miller Peninsula best serves our state's economic and environmental future.

And, yes.....I live on the Miller Peninsula.

Electronic copies to:

Washington State Legislators

Clallam County Commissioners <sup>33</sup>

As an equestrian I am deeply concerned over the lack of inclusion for horseback riding in the proposed Miller peninsula state park plan.

Since moving to Port Townsend 20 yrs ago I have observed equestrians being involved in trail development, maintenance, weed control, and basically any project required to keep the decreasing existing trails open.

This piece of land is an extremely important parcel to our equestrian community. It is one of the only local parcels with safe parking and enough space to ride for hours. Most equestrians are respectful of nature and love the land we ride through.

Please include us in your development plan.<sup>34</sup>

Nikki,

I've heard rumor of the horse trail being excluded from the Miller peninsula plan. The back country horseman have been clearing trails on public lands for a long time at no cost to the public and should not be excluded. Many other horseman use these trails as well. 4H is but one example. Horses great add to the economy and aid in the agricultural base of the community.

Please help keep us from being excluded.<sup>35</sup>

New bluff trail:

The new trail suggestion is for a companion bluff trail to go from the current beach trail starting about where today's bluff trail drops off the bluff and meets with the beach trail. The new trail would climb up the hillside using an old roadbed towards the north and east. Then along the bluff heading east ( towards the Diamond Point community) and circling south to join other existing trails.

So - it is a companion to the existing bluff trail but on the bluff to the east side of the existing beach trail.<sup>36</sup>

Dear Park staff,

I am very interested in the planning for this project as I am a horse rider and have enjoyed the trails in the park on many occasions. I sincerely hope that the final plan includes trails open to horse riding. In my best world you would also have a horse camp!<sup>37</sup>

Andree Hurley, Executive Director, Washington Water Trails Association (WWTA), and I would like to recommend that the State add kayak camp sites and launch points into the Miller Peninsula State Park planning. WWTA has informed me that they have an interest in expanding to the west and the Miller Peninsula property provides a great opportunity to do so.

Please let me know what I might do to assist with making this idea a reality.

Thank you.<sup>38</sup>

I am very concerned that the park will remain open to horseback riding and having good parking space for horse trailers to park. I love this park and my husband and I enjoy riding there. It has beautiful and safe trails.

We are avid horse people and for us it provides our main source of recreation. We also believe strongly in helping to maintain the trails, clean pathways, cut fallen branches, and do whatever we can do to make the experience rewarding for all.

There are very few places available to go for horse back riding locally so this area is extremely important to us.

Please don't forget us as you plan and develop this property. We are not just summer users, we ride all year long in the winter too. Our presence helps protect the park by having more eyes on it. <sup>39</sup>

It's great the way it is now! Gives locals a respite from super crowded spots in the summer months <sup>40</sup>

Has there been any consideration of building a disc golf course? A really nice course could be built there. It takes about 30-40 acres for a course. Cost for equipment is under \$15k. Rainshadow disc golf park is nearby and having a couple courses in the same area would make the place a big draw for disc golfers. Thanks. <sup>41</sup>

Dear Ms. Fields:

I am writing in support of keeping the trails at Miller Peninsula open to horses. The trails there are so important to all of us who ride our horses there. It is one of the few places in Jefferson and Clallam and surrounding counties where we can safely ride. We share the trails respectfully with hikers, bicyclists, dog walkers and families with children. Riding for us is a way for our soul to be nourished by the wonder of nature while our spirit is connected to our equine companion. I hope that Washington State Parks recognizes the importance and value of continuing to provide trails for us and our beloved horse companions. <sup>42</sup>

My family owned property on the Miller Peninsula since 1958. We have always enjoyed the beautiful nature area now known as Miller Peninsula State Park.

I am very concerned about your plans to develop this Park into a multi use campground. It would be a shame to take this beautiful nature area and develop it. Is there any possibility this area could stay as a day use only park. Maybe add picnic areas, more parking and restrooms. But do not develop it. This land is way too precious to develop into anything beyond trails and picnicking. I believe the monies you want to spend on a state of the art campground at the Miller Location could be put to much better use maintaining and upgrading the camping parks and trails in all your parks that you have now.

Thank you for reading my concerns. <sup>43</sup>

I have lived in Sequim since 1990. I am an avid cyclist, hiker, and kayaker. There are currently very few boat-in campsites along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. I believe Miller Peninsula State Park would be an optimal location for boat-in camping. Boat-in camping is a badly needed, low-cost but high-benefit amenity!

Thanks for considering this suggestion. <sup>44</sup>

As a kayak camper I would love to have access to boat\_in camping on the Miller Peninsula. Please strongly consider. Thank you. <sup>45</sup>

Hi,

I think a boat in camping facility at the Miller Peninsula would be a wonderful addition. There aren't many camping opportunities for boaters and kayakers on the Straight. The Miller Peninsula would be an ideal location for kayakers and other boaters.

thanks very much, <sup>46</sup>

To Whom It May Concern,

In Miller State Park, we truly have a nature park with 20 miles of trails and 3 miles of beach, and there's so much to preserve. Please strengthen, not weaken, support for this unique park, and ensure a thorough investigation of the forest's natural resources and animal-supporting habitat be done before any development planning is undertaken. This should be done with the very least impact to the area. This park is a wonderful science-based-educational site for classes and organizations, over the years, to study and document.

The 2,880 acres is a unique Douglas Fir tree forest and contains sizable wetlands, rare native plants, unique plant-tree clusters, stands of federally protected naturally regenerative old growth, and a large cluster of madronas. There is a particular eagle and crow flyway through the parkland. Eagles nest in the park and line snags along the park boundaries facing the water of the Strait and Discovery Bay.

These features, as well as water availability, must be respected before planning can be considered.

Considering the threats from the Climate Crisis, including drought concerns and increased storm events, the continuity of this forested land should be retained.<sup>47</sup>

I urge you to include boat-in campsites in the Miller Peninsula site plan. There are presently very few sites on the Strait of Juan de Fuca for paddlers, small boat camping. It would be a great addition and make the waterfront at least somewhat accessible at the site.<sup>48</sup>

We truly have a nature park with 20 miles of trails and 3 miles of beach. There is so much to preserve. Please join in and support that a thorough investigation of the forest's natural resources and animal-supporting habitat be done before any planning, and then with the very least impact to the area. This could be a wonderful science-based-educational site for classes and organizations, over years, to study and document.

The 2880 acres is a unique Douglas Fir tree forest and contains sizable wetlands, rare native plants, unique plant-tree clusters, stands of federally protected naturally regenerative old growth, and a large cluster of madronas. There is a particular eagle and crow flyway through the parkland. Eagles nest in the park and line snags along the park boundaries facing the water of the Strait and Discovery Bay.

These features, as well as water availability must be respected before planning can be considered.

With CO2 and drought concerns, the continuity of this forested land should be retained.

Please consider renaming the park Salish Sea State Park.

Let's protect this Preserve. Trails, some picnic tables and a few porto-potties may be sufficient.<sup>49</sup>

Please include in planning a water-access campsite for non-motorized boats. Sequim Bay SP and Fort Warden SP are both nearby and both have water-access camping. Fort Worden is part of the Cascadia Marine Trail which stretches from Shelton to the Canadian border, offering overnight sites at more than 60 locations.

When people travel by human or wind power, their options for launching, landing and overnight shelter are limited by the distance they can propel themselves. If the weather turns against them, or a particular campsite is full, having additional options is important and can reduce risk.

The Cascadia Marine Trail is one of the world's foremost paddling destinations. Only a few places have a resource approaching the size, the natural beauty, and the cultural significance of the CMT. This is a

resource WA State should cherish, protect and expand whenever possible. A Miller Peninsula CMT site would be a fantastic addition! <sup>50</sup>

It would be awesome if you included some boat camping where you could kayak to some place on the Miller peninsula and have a campsite. That'd be really fun and a really unique thing for our area. Thank you! <sup>51</sup>

Please extend the bicycle trails located on the west side of the park or add other bicycle trails. love the park <sup>52</sup>

#### COMMENTS ON STATE PARK DEVELOPMENT

I like the State Park as it is currently - not developed, just trails, some signing, trailhead with parking. I prefer that it remain that way and that acreage (habitat) not be destroyed and developed. The majority of undeveloped land in the North Olympic area is higher elevation south of Hwy 101, Forest Service and Park Service. Yes that provides opportunities but more limited in winter conditions and further to drive. The majority of land north of Hwy 101 is private and as you know being developed over time. Opportunities for undeveloped recreation on public lands there is limited and often crowded and getting more crowded. Habitat for wildlife is disappearing such as winter range, for lower elevation birds and just in general for all species in the lowlands. I like Miller Peninsula as it is now - trails for hiking, fairly good solitude and good habitat for wildlife and birds. Most people who use it are happy with it as it is. Why does every piece of State Park land have to be developed? Why cant we have areas that are just trails and habitat? Why do we have to always cater for needs for outdoor visitors and the area economy? What about needs of locals who need areas to walk, exercise and enjoy nature. Im just a old guy who likes to walk, take his dog, look for birds and enjoy nature. If there is really a need for more developed camping and whatever other developed facilities you are proposing, why cant it be done on private land? If there really is a need for such, some private enterpriser will build it and manage it since if it is really needed and if it benefits the economy then someone in private sector would do it for profit. Miller Peninsula offers also very good habitat for wildlife and a variety of bird species - part of your job should be preserving and maintaining it. We do not have to build and develop to facilitate for every type of developed recreation need. PLEASE leave Miller Peninsula as it is - a wonderful undeveloped area for primitive recreation and wildlife habitat. <sup>53</sup>

Please have an area for boat-in camping, such as for kayakers. Thank you. <sup>54</sup>

As a regular visitor to Miller Peninsula State Park over the past two decades, I've grown to appreciate its superb value as an oasis of rain shadow ecology amidst ever-increasing exurban development along its periphery. I strongly feel that new infrastructure within the park should be very limited. The irreplaceable attributes of this property lie within its natural features. New facilities such as parking lots, campgrounds, conference centers, pavilions, etc. can only degrade these features and should be discouraged. However, despite all of the regrettable development occurring on the Miller Peninsula, there remains an opportunity to increase the acreage of the state park by acquiring private land and state trust land parcels south/southwest of the existing boundaries, including the Cat Lake area. This additional acreage, which has been largely cut over in the recent past, would potentially offer a defensible option for new state park facilities as it is allowed to recover naturally. Consideration should also be given to relatively small demonstration projects of prescribed burning within the park in order to gauge the potential for restoring the landscape to some semblance of its pre-European settlement conditions. Finally, regarding a name change, I have never disliked the current name, given its specificity to the local geography. I do

understand that there is some movement toward renaming the park "Salish Sea State Park," but I believe this to be a poor choice. The Salish Sea is a vast body of water and its moniker denotes far, far more than just the Miller Peninsula alone. Use of "Salish Sea" in this regard is as generic and nondescript as renaming Olympic National Park's coastal strip "Pacific Ocean National Park." The new name should, instead, be unique to the more or less immediate geographic area, and ideally also with a hint of poetry. I understand that "Rain Shadow State Park" has also been proposed, which strikes me as far superior to "Salish Sea," insofar as it pertains directly to the local/regional ecology, while also being particularly pleasing as it rolls off the tongue. "Rain Shadow" has soulfulness and built-in romanticism, while "Salish Sea" sounds as if it were processed through one too many focus groups. <sup>55</sup>

I would love to see boat-in only campsites. There are many kayakers and boaters in the area and very few spots to boat in and camp along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. <sup>56</sup>

As a long life long resident of Clallam County and lifetime equestrian, please maintain horse trails in the park plan. Most of us equestrians have lost miles of trails due to growth, small lot residents and gentrification of the county and towns. Miller Peninsula has been the last bastion for trail riders that is accessible front country riding and a trail system suitable for senior citizens. Hundreds of horse riders live near Miller Peninsula and more are moving here. Equestrian activities bring many equestrian tourists to the peninsula and the horse industry adds considerably to the agricultural economy ( as well to the economy of all business owners). We need accessible trails and a trail system of miles which are almost nonexistent from our area now.

Please no motorized vehicles, including e-bikes. These travel way too fast to be safe for hikers and horses. <sup>57</sup>

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this planning process for development of Miller Peninsula State Park. I have enjoyed horseback riding on the wonderful trail system there for over 15 years, and have volunteered to maintain and build trails there with Back Country Horsemen of WA for as long

I consider Miller to be a beautiful and unique location for riding, or any other pursuit using trails, because it offers such easy access to a wonderful array and variety of trails. These trails look and feel like back country trails yet are close to US Hwy. 101 with a wonderful trailhead parking lot with trailer parking. Most destination trailheads on the Northern Olympic Peninsula give access to one trail, especially front country trails. Backcountry trails may possibly connect to others but are usually located miles from paved roads on poorly maintained gravel roads, with limited or no facilities for trailer parking.

I urge you to develop this park minimally, with any infrastructure being built in a way that complements and enhances the enjoyment of the natural beauty of this place. Any camping facilities should include stock facilities, including highlines, corrals, and pull-through campsites.

The trail system that exists there now should be maintained and expanded where appropriate, with continued partnership with BCHW (Peninsula and Buckhorn Range Chapters), W.T.A. (which is another organization of which I am a member) and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, on whose lands many of these trails extend and connect to other areas, as well as other local communities and organizations.

I look forward to seeing the plan develop as you continue to work on enhancing this valuable community resource.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. <sup>58</sup>

Priority for this park should be providing quiet nature experiences while protecting the forest, wetlands, native plants including madronas along with wildlife and views. With concerns related to CO2 and

drought, maintaining the forested land is especially essential. The suggestion of Salish Sea State Park seems a good one, giving recognition to the tribal name for the area. <sup>59</sup>

Please preserve our horse trails. Any overnight camping should be stock friendly. A carriage trail loop around the park would be wonderful. <sup>60</sup>

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this planning process for development of Miller Peninsula State Park. For over 15 years, I have enjoyed horseback riding on the wonderful trail system at "Miller" as many of us tend to call it. The State lands and the adjoining Tribal lands make possible wonderful horseback riding as well as bicycling and walking/hiking. I've contributed volunteer time, too, to help keep maintain those trails. As you consider future plans for this area, please keep the trail experience unchanged. Miller lands provide a wonderful almost "back country" experience - and without having to drive for hours over rough roads. Whatever the ultimate development is, I sincerely hope that whatever camping experience you incorporate does not detract from that "pocket of wilderness" feeling that exists on the trails there. And please keep horseback riding part of the overall experience. Again, thank you. <sup>61</sup>

I, [name redacted], have been ridding my horses on miller park for over 27 years and enjoy it very much. Please included horse trail in your plans. Thank you. <sup>62</sup>

The Miller Peninsula property has a unique "personality" that needs to be honored. The trails are back country-like, yet are readily accessible. The trail system was thoughtfully developed and has been maintained by volunteers and must be preserved. With the severe cutbacks in trail maintenance and access in the Olympic National Forest, this is a key destination for horse back riding as well as hiking and mountain biking. Camping facilities for stock users need to be included. <sup>63</sup>

Ms Fields;

That lovely trail picture you have at the top of the Miller page... those trails exist in large measure due to the consistent dependable capable conscience efforts in manpower, equipment and devoted time by the members of the equestrian community. It's quite startling that it could not be remembered to include equestrian in your survey of users.

**KEEP the TRAIL SYSTEM on MILLER PENINSULA OPEN to HORSE RIDING!!!!** <sup>64</sup>

Nikki: Hello! I was unable to attend the recent meeting, though I wanted to reach out and share my experiences regarding Miller Peninsula State Park.

As a resident of Jefferson County and someone who uses Miller for trail riding on horseback, it's one of my favorite places to ride. The access to trails and wide open public spaces connected to the park are a couple of the many reasons why I frequent this park and hope that will be kept in consideration as plans to develop that area progress. There are fewer and fewer places locally that are accessible, not private nor as safe to ride, due to numerous motorized vehicles, bikers, hikers, etc., as Miller is. The access that this park provides is of great value to myself and others who I ride with, and I hope that all those who recreate in that area will be taken into consideration in future decision making and development.

Thank you! Should you have any additional questions, I'd be happy to continue the conversation. <sup>65</sup>

As a semi regular hiker in Miller Peninsula State Park the past 7 years, I am thankful for the improvements made in the signage on the trails. I think that is mostly due to work by the Backcountry Horsemen. I wish to have equestrian interests included in future plans for the park, although I am not a horse rider. I look forward to another access to the beach, with the new acquisition on the north shore. I

believe it would be good to provide a camping area, as long as the needs of local residents as long as road congestions is taken into consideration. Perhaps limit the number of camping sites.<sup>66</sup>

Greetings,

As a avid outdoor enthusiast and local North Olympic Peninsula resident I wanted to express support for water access camping for the future Miller Peninsula State Park. In particular I'd like to see design features that support non motorized vessel camping. While camp sites really close to the water would be difficult due to limited beach access, providing a storage area near the water for canoes and kayaks would be reasonable. This would allow more area slightly further up the ravine to be set aside for camping sites. Having hiked and biked over most of the trails in the park I also hope you keep the park accessible to as many users as possible.

Thank you for your time and feel free to email me if you want more feedback.<sup>67</sup>

Having attended the October 6 presentation by the Washington State Parks Commission I would like to submit the following comments.

1. The purpose of the meeting was misleading. According to the invitation and the information provided changes to the Miller Peninsula SP(MPSP) are in Stage 1 with the purpose of understanding what is important to park community, what to change or save in the park, what issues to consider during the planning process. The forum was to “identify hopes and concerns” of the public.

However the November 21, 2019, “Item E-2: Park Acquisition and Development Strategy - New Park Selection - Requested Action” states in the “EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This item asks the Commission to select the Miller Peninsula property for development of a new full-service state park. This item advances the Commission’s strategic goal: “Provide recreation, cultural, and interpretive opportunities people will want.” (Page 1). And the document goes on to state: “While in need of refreshing, planning already completed for the Miller Peninsula provides a starting point from which to resume the park development effort.” and concludes: “Staff recommends that the Commission select Miller Peninsula as the next full-service state park and direct staff to develop an updated vision and principles to guide park planning, design, development, and operation. Staff should then proceed with park master planning and preparation of a predesign report.” (Page 3) Underlining added.

It appears that the process has advanced well beyond Stage 1. The public who cared enough to attend your information forum received more of a “sales pitch” for a project already in progress.

2. The meeting did not include discussions of other developments that would be more protective of a valuable forest land. These could encourage only day use hiking and limited primitive camping; offering public educational opportunities and scientific observations; and delegating the park as a forest preserve with opportunities to study an extensive second-growth forest without human disruption.

3. Finally, as a taxpayer, state parks user and an RV camper I would rather you spent your limited funds on maintaining existing parks. Especially when faced with past budget reductions and significant future cutbacks due to corona virus.<sup>68</sup>

Good morning,

I am a 37 year resident in Jefferson County, and have enjoyed many years horseback riding all around the area. Miller Peninsula among the favorites. Please consider that there are fewer and fewer places to haul in, park and enjoy a beautiful ride in the area, and want the horse riding community to be considered in the Miller Peninsula planning.

Thank you <sup>69</sup>

I would highly recommend including a kayaking camp site at the Miller Peninsula Park; similar to the Kenny Point park on Marrowstone Is.

There is a shortage of marine camping opportunities on the Straits of Juan de Fuca so providing such a camp site would be a great asset. <sup>70</sup>

There are some really unique areas, like the Madrona grove on the east side and the big Douglas fir forest closer to the beach of the Miller Peninsula State Park. Before sacrificing this natural area to an RV park there should be scientific observations and data analysis of bird populations, wildlife corridors and rare native plant communities that will be sacrificed to development.

As lands are developed there is a precipitous decrease in the acreage of publicly accessible natural areas with primitive trails North of Highway 101 in Eastern Clallam County. Tourism goals of increased campsites can be accomplished in less natural areas.

Other considerations opposing development include balancing the recreational opportunities of the community versus creating a destination park when Highway 101 already has traffic congestion. Climate change is already stressing available water supply on the Miller Peninsula.

In building back better from the Covid-19 pandemic Washington State must have the goal of Net Ecological Gain. I oppose the development of Miller Peninsula State Park as a "destination park" and support preservation of publicly accessible natural habitat in our community. <sup>71</sup>

Dear Parks Planning,

First, I want to express my sincere gratitude to you for engaging the public in the planning process for Miller Peninsula. I trust that you will make the best decisions around the plan based on many sources of information, including public input.

I've reviewed the public documents on your Miller Peninsula webpage. If you adhere to the recommendations provided in the Opportunities and Constraints Memorandum (2006), then disturbance to important ecosystems will be significantly less than if you ignore them. Specifically, avoid any development of the shoreline, which is an especially important habitat for eagles, marbled murrelets and other protected species. There is already public beach access at nearby Gardiner Beach and at Sequim Bay State Park. The latter would make a much better place for a kayak rental concession as the surrounding waters are more protected and less dangerous than the open water of the strait for unskilled paddlers. And the State Parks just invested in reinforcing the shoreline there, which is eroding due to the development. Don't make the same sort of mistake on Miller Peninsula.

Please don't "pave paradise to put up a parking lot."

Thank you for your consideration and for inviting the public to be part of this process. I look forward to seeing a development plan in harmony with nature. <sup>72</sup>

Park Name: I would suggest you contact the local Tribes to see if there is a previous name to this piece of property. If not, I would give them the option of coming up with names, or have one that contains Salish in the name.

Uses: I agree with the uses of "learn, explore, and recreate." I would keep recreating to a minimal footprint. No overnight camping, or limit it to 5 or 6 walk up campsites. Bathroom facilities should be added.

Analysis: A very clear and transparent process needs to happen. All animal and flora habitat should be mapped and analyzed. Areas with contiguous forested areas need to be preserved as best as possible. Areas that are already impacted need to be looked at for light recreation. Teaching areas (areas where ecological processes are unique and pristine) need to be identified to give our future generations good examples of what was here throughout the peninsula and areas where restoration can happen, would also be great teaching areas. All of this information needs to be made public.

If we can all take into considerations what the impact would be to the 7th generation, and act to protect them, then our actions will have been thoroughly thought out.<sup>73</sup>

The second growth forest in Miller Peninsula should have a chance to mature into older growth forest. If one looks at the forests in Ft. Flagler and Ft Worden it's possible to see protected second growth in a State Park. The areas east of Port Angeles have little older, low elevation forest left due to development. The protection of the existing forest in such a prime location will provide essential habitat as well as an opportunity for humans to visit this habitat on a limited controlled basis. The protection that State Park status would provide is important. If any camping, parking, etc. is built, it should be done in areas that are already cleared. As there is already an existing trail system it should not be necessary to clear forests for new trails. The pressure to turn the Miller Peninsula area into a high traffic campground should be resisted. There are many other areas that are already developed and have easy access to roads, water, sewer for campgrounds.

Maintain wildlife habitat should be a priority for a potential Miller State Park.<sup>74</sup>

Dear Ms Fields. I hope that it is not too late to offer a comment or two concerning future development of the state parks land on the Miller Peninsula. This 3000 acre parcel is very unique since there are very few large wooded tracts of land that are along the coast of the Salish Sea and yet readily accessible to the public. This piece of land already contains numerous hiking trails that are heavily used by the public. These trails should be maintained and improved by the state parks. Furthermore, I believe that it would be a bad idea to bisect the forest with roads or to construct roads along the bluff overlooking the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Any sites for car camping should be concentrated in a few spots and should be limited to the periphery of the park land. The integrity of the forest should be maintained. We don't need more cement . We don't need more trees cut down for the sake of automobiles. We do need more forests that are easily accessible to the public. Please keep the forest intact.<sup>75</sup>

I have lived in Sequim for 34 years and frequently visit the Miller Peninsula.

My concerns about development of this site are as follows.

1. The highly developed areas should be restricted in size and adjacent to existing road infrastructure.

2. The existing trail system is wonderful for many types of users. I would not like to see trails enhanced for vehicle or other motorized traffic. The network of minimally sized trails work well and holds much opportunity for visitors.
3. The bluff is an eroding feature, with inherent safety hazards to humans. Trail and access enhancement to the bluff should be avoided.
4. The shoreline is mostly cobble, which indicates a relatively high energy shore. Its tolerant of physical disturbance but not good for walking, is not easy to access for emergency response, and holds relatively little in terms of easily accessible biota for viewing. There are some large intertidal and nearshore boulders that used to host abalone. This shore will not support much harvest by humans. This should be prohibited or discouraged. Trail enhancement to the beach should not occur.
5. Basically, I would like to see a relatively small footprint if this park is to be developed for camping.

Thank you for this opportunity to help shape the park's future. <sup>76</sup>

Hello -

I have lived in the Sequim area for about four years and have enjoyed Miller Peninsula Property especially the system of hiking trails and the rhododendrons in bloom. The property has the potential to be a special place. After watching the online meeting here are some quick thoughts:

- Connect to the Olympic Discovery Trail.
- Allow closer and easier access to the bluff view and beach trail.
- A visitor/nature/native heritage center overlooking the Strait of Juan de Fuca. People could attend workshops in the park and stay at Ramblewood.
- A small restaurant with a view of the Strait.
- A safe traffic interchange at HWY. 101.

Good luck with the planning. <sup>77</sup>

Hi, I'm writing to ask that the Miller Peninsula trails remain open to equestrians, and that the Parks Service supports keeping the trail system interconnected with the trails on the neighboring property owned by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Recently the privately-own land where I often ride my horse has changed hands (from Pope Resources to Rayonier), and I and a lot of the other riders I know are worried about whether we will still be allowed on their property in the future. If we do lose public access to those trails and logging roads, Miller Peninsula will one of a very limited number of places where I can go ride on trails, that's close by and has good trailer parking. I would strongly support keeping the Miller Peninsula trail system open to horses anyway, but the risk of losing public access to the Rayonier lands makes me even more concerned about the future of horse use on State Parks lands. Please continue to allow horses on the trails at Miller Peninsula, and keep the good trailer parking area available to riders. <sup>78</sup>

I hope you plan the Miller Peninsula State Park property from the perspective of stewardship. Conserving this forest & trails for people of the future when the rest of Miller Peninsula is filled with houses. Teach people they are visitors to this place that is home to plants and animals. Educate people about all the interconnected life from huge trees to soil microbes. Help visitors discover this land was formed by glaciers and has long been inhabited by the S'Klallam. Foster visitor's curiosity, observation and spending quality time outside in a forest. Help people unplug & turn off electronics.

I hope you will

Keep the existing trail system and allow bikes, horses and walkers.

Develop only on the perimeter of the park property.

Limit development in size and scope.

Limit vehicles & vehicle roads on the property. Make the property available by trails. Make some trails for disabled.

Have the beach available by trail only. (For vehicle/boat access to beach & water use Sequim Bay State Park)

Use only plants native to Miller Peninsula! The trees in the center of the Diamond Point Parking area don't look like anything I have seen on Miller Peninsula.

Realize this is a low rainfall area. Plan to conserve water use and teach visitors to do it too! Have a rain garden and a rain water collection system

Make a camping area for tents, with a central covered area for cooking/eating in poor weather & central dish washing station to minimize food scraps attracting animals.

Make a separate camping area for bikers/walkers from the Olympic Discovery Trail.

Have food storage boxes at each campsite. Educate & enforce no food or dishes left unattended or they will be confiscated. Train the people from day one!

Focus on outdoor exhibits & activities.

Be a Dark Sky Park. Plan lighting to minimize, point down, use auto timers & red light to not interfere with star gazing.

Get visitors invested in the park through volunteering, it makes the park more personal and respected. Consider weekend/week long volunteer workparties. Give volunteers group camping, a park pass and/or a regular campsite at another time.

Use volunteers to continue trail maintenance & building, get more projects done, perhaps starting with making a group campsite? Also removing scotch broom and tansy and helping collect appliances and other trash still scattered around the property.

Consider ways to get low income urban people to use the park. Especially young people.

Consider partnering with local groups for walks & talks (Olympic Peninsula Audubon, Salmon Coalition, Native Plant Society, Quimper Geological Society, North Olympic Land Trust, Jefferson Land Trust, Nancy Slick Native Plant instructor for Peninsula College, S'Klallam tribe, WDFW, Peninsula Trails Coalition for the Olympic Discovery Trail)

Consider partnering with REI for classes held at the park to teach people new skills.

Be innovative

Use alternative energy, be energy efficient

I am concerned about having overnight lodging and restaurant/food service built in the park. This should be done outside the park property.

Keep it simple, affordable to build & for users and educational

Suggested name Discover State Park

Discover.... the forest, curiosity, your connection to nature, yourself all at Discover State Park <sup>79</sup>

What I'd like for the Park:

It's a large area so much of it in trails.

Tent camping similar to Sequim Bay SP but with more space between sites. Access the park from the south and east side of the park

Keep the boating, clamming, and beach walking type of activities at Sequim Bay SP; where facilities presently exist. If it's felt necessary to expand such facilities, build new on Discovery Bay as needed.

Put any restaurants, hotels, tent cabins, learning centers, etc. on the east side of the park.

Keep the horse activity where is; accessed off of Diamond point Road,

Again keep a large part of the park primitive with trails and tent camping. <sup>80</sup>

a thorough study of the forest's natural resources and animal-supporting habitat should be done before any planning, and then with the very least impact to the area.

## RENAMING THE PARK

The area is within the Salish Sea. Salish is the tribal name for the area. Please support Salish Sea State Park <sup>81</sup>

Development of Miller State Park is not in the best interests of wildlife on Miller Peninsula, nor for those park users who enjoy spotting such wildlife.

Miller Peninsula is the last, large, intact and readily accessible public forest along the Strait of Juan de Fuca for a distance of about 60 miles. As such, it is one of the best places on the entire Olympic Peninsula for casual park users to see the wildlife of the Pacific Northwest.

Miller Peninsula currently is a haven for a great variety of wildlife. Sightings in this and recent years have included black bear, cougar, deer, coyotes, bobcats, grouse, eagles, several species of owls and many other species. Calypso orchids and numerous other wildflowers populate the forest floor.

In addition to providing a sizable wildlife habitat, Miller Peninsula also serves as a significant migration corridor for animals moving down the Jimmycomelately Creek valley through Miller's forests to the shoreline of the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Any development of Miller State Park cannot help but have a profoundly disruptive and negative effect on wildlife habitats, populations, and migration routes of Miller Peninsula. Development of campgrounds and RV sites would put many more bikers, domestic dogs, vehicles and noise onto trails and old logging

roads, all of which would scare away the wildlife that can now routinely be sighted and enjoyed by current low-level recreational users.

Please let MSP remain a haven for wild fauna and a park for those who enjoy seeing them without the rigors of hiking into the back country.<sup>82</sup>

I have learned that you are accepting comments/input through today (10-31-2020).

As a resident of Sequim, WA since 1993, I have visited and hiked in the Miller Peninsula State Park(MPSP) and appreciated its natural, undeveloped state. I believe that because of the close proximity of the Sequim Bay State Park, the planning for MPSP should NOT involve additional camping or structural facilities, but instead have some addition of interpretive signs regarding its vegetation/wildlife habitat features. Perhaps like the Audubon/ Railroad Bridge Park in Sequim, besides signs, some picnic tables, and a few "port-a-potties" could be provided, plus notices to pack any garbage/wastrels back out.

Of the already suggested names, I favor Salish Sea State Park.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thought about this important public resource.<sup>83</sup>

I applaud the approval of this park. I'd like to see the State Parks here focus less on human recreational spaces, of which we have so many, and more on habitat conservation. Our state's forests are so very important and every acre is precious in this regard. My opinion is that development should be minimal and focused on strategic use of natural trails to provide access to the wonderful bounty of older forested acreage. My family would love to visit such a state park. Thank you.<sup>84</sup>

Western Washington needs a State Horse Camp, much like the wonderful one at Riverside State Park. Like that one, you can expect a great deal of support from Back Country Horseman. Admittedly, Miller Peninsula is no where near the acreage of Riverside, which in part, I do not support the entire Miller property to be made into a full scale State Park. There are numerous locations on the Olympic for camping and outdoor recreation that forbids stock use. As a family, we take advantage of probably all of them from FT Warden to the Olympic National Park. But as an enthusiast equine owner, I appreciate the Miller State lands for diversified and, at times, more challenging trails.

I moved here from Pennsylvania, in a large part, due to the opportunities offered to me as a horseback rider. Riding in heavily used parks is not only less same, but not as pleasurable when one has to be aware of so many unexpected actions exhibited by other land users not familiar with horses. There are some horse that you can take anywhere and there are solid; but others still need to be worked with so they are not spooked by any number of unfamiliar stimulations. It is vital to the continuance of the equine community that we have a place like Riverside within a much shorter distance from home.

I have on occasion gone to Riverside, but it is quite an undertaking. My husband and I are being considered as hosts this coming summer. We would love to host at Miller.<sup>85</sup>

After having seen the Miller Peninsula State Park Property Long Range Planning Event Hope's and Concerns Conference I have the following thoughts:

1. A "Destination" Park offering full amenities, water, electrical, and sewer hook up will certainly result in more people, more traffic, more congestion, more pollution to the Miller Peninsula.

2. What is an appropriate level of development, for whom and what purpose? The mission and vision of our State Parks tells me how one ought to proceed:

## 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."

Shouldn't the words cherished and preserved be inserted somewhere in there? After all we can't enjoy and appreciate and support something very long if we don't save it!

3. Let's save it from ourselves. Some of the most memorable and pleasurable experiences I've enjoyed in Parks were when trails, campgrounds, bathrooms, boat launches, lakes, or water ways were inhabited by the fewest people having and leaving the least amount of impact.

Many if not most of the Parks I have car camped at have sites that remind me of apartment complexes. It is almost as if the goal was to extract as much money as possible from as little space as possible. Campsites can be designed with more space and vegetation for privacy. Prohibit Generators from whining at all hours of the day, Keep lights and signs to a minimum. Have rangers do patrols with quiet electric vehicles. eg. electric golf carts or bikes.. Quiet hours are enforced quietly.

Prohibit the use of pesticides, herbicides for weed and pest management on all roads, forests, trails and lawns, buildings, playgrounds, etc. Many of them cause cancer. Prohibit the use of leaf blowers as they are a serious contributor to pollinators deaths and make loud noises.

Encourage the use of non powered tools when possible for maintenance of shrubbery and tree limbing.

Provide for beach access by trail for hikers. Prohibited equestrian access to the shoreline. Dogs on leashes at all times.

Provide for a small boat launch?

There is nothing wrong with maintaining the name Miller Peninsula State Park. Let it stand like the trees once did! <sup>86</sup>

I'm a resident of Port Townsend, and appreciate having a big wild bloc of land for hiking and getting out into nature. With 20 miles of trails and 3 miles of beach, this park should be preserved in its current undeveloped state.

The 2880 acres is a unique Douglas Fir tree forest and contains sizable wetlands, rare native plants, unique plant-tree clusters, stands of federally protected naturally regenerative old growth, and a large cluster of madronas. There is a particular eagle and crow flyway through the parkland. Eagles nest in the park and line snags along the park boundaries facing the water of the Strait and Discovery Bay.

These features, as well as water availability must be respected before planning can be considered.

With CO2 and drought concerns, the continuity of this forested land should be retained. <sup>87</sup>

The name of the park, Miller, was named after a logger of the area. I suggest that a more appropriate name would be in honor of the native peoples who resided in the area since time immemorial. Salish is the tribal name for the area; therefore I suggest Salish Sea State Park. 😊

Let's preserve this Preserve. Trails, some picnic tables and a few porta-potties would be sufficient. <sup>87</sup>

I am not sure if my comment from yesterday went through so I am sending again. I ride my horse on the trails at Miller state park almost weekly and urge you not to exclude equestrians from access to the trail system as part of your planning. This trail systems is one of the best places for equestrians on the Olympic Peninsula.

Thank you for listening to our voices and addressing our concerns for continued trail access. <sup>88</sup>

I am a 25 year resident of Bainbridge Island and am a camper, backpacker, cyclist and kayaker. I have several comments about the Miller Peninsula State Park planning:

1. Thanks to all who plan and manage our state parks system!! They are wonderful places and deserve more funding. I am a social scientists at the U of WA, studying the benefits of parks & rec experience for human health, and (as we've seen with COVID) quality outdoor spaces are more than nice to have, they are essential for the wellness of WA residents.

2. The link to the October 6 meeting archived recording did not work, despite me trying multiple ways to access. I am disappointed as I wanted to learn about the latest planning ideas. Consider loading archived recordings to You Tube (or other readily accessed social media) for future public viewing.

3. I have experienced the Miller Peninsula property as a hiker, and a kayaker along the length of the property shoreline.

4. I suggest using an ecosystem services lens to plan the park. Most of the state parks are highly improved for public use, such as extensive paving, marina space, and total shoreline access. Given the size of the parcel and remnant wild-ish forest and shoreline areas I suggest that ecosystems quality be maintained. Specifically:

- use the different zones of the site to illustrate forest harvest and recovery

- if there is a boat launch and marina, emphasize the distance buffers of Protection Island, as casual boaters may not be aware of the nesting and seal activity there

- maintain the integrity of the forest for habitat, as I have observed unique birds (rhinoceros auklets and murrelets) adjacent to the shore of the park space while kayaking, suggesting the important interplay of Miller Peninsula and Protection Island for marine-based wildlife - and the kelp beds just off the shore are unusually nice

- protect the wonderful (almost magical) madrone forest on the East Diamond Point Trail

5. In summary, while I can't speak to the development program of the site (as I couldn't review the public meeting recording) I encourage a development approach for this site that may differ from the WA state

parks legacy. We are in an era of environmental challenge - climate change, biodiversity reduction, reduced human connections to nature. This site has the capacity to absorb human activity, but in a way that doesn't compromise ecosystems completely. Many state parks emphasize human access and service and don't appear to recognize (and certainly not optimize) local ecologies. This site presents many opportunities for visitors to simultaneously use, learn and steward.

Please contact me if you'd like additional details about these comment. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. <sup>89</sup>

Miller Peninsula is such a treasure for locals on the north Olympic Peninsula. It's conveniently located and great for an afternoon hike or weekend trip. Please do not create a large campground there. It will ruin the feel of the park. It is too small to have a large campground on the property and still be able to hike and get away from the noise of the campground. There are plenty of hotels and campgrounds on the peninsula for people to use. The roads and parking lots on Miller Peninsula cannot handle park traffic. There are a lot of private properties and homes next to the park and increase usage will lead to increase trespassing.

The park also has an interesting plant community with some species that you don't see in other spots on the peninsula, like hairy manzanita, buffaloberry and the madrone forest. These are important plant communities and I hope the State Parks plans on protecting them.

I believe the park should have as little development as possible. <sup>90</sup>

The Miller Peninsula contains interesting and unusual plant communities. Washington State Parks should do extensive surveys and environmental impact statements to minimize visitor impacts to these communities. A large campground would have an extensive footprint and irrevocably alter the ecosystem of the park. I believe that the park should be day-use only. The roads and the surrounding communities cannot handle an influx of traffic, especially RVs.

Nature is an escape from modern life and a reminder that humans are not the center of the world, but rather a part of a larger whole. I was concerned about a statement during the October 6 presentation when a gentleman quipped that a meaningful experience with nature took a lot of planning. No it does not. Keep human impacts to a minimum and allow visitors to immerse themselves in the forest and ocean and they will connect to nature. Please allow this to continue to occur on the Miller Peninsula. <sup>91</sup>

My interest is seeing a little development as possible, directing the RV camping to private & already existing facilities and keeping the use at Miller peninsula as light as possible. <sup>92</sup>

Hello Ms. Fields,

As home owners living adjacent to the western side of the Miller Peninsula State Park, we are glad to provide our input concerning future development to the area. We are fortunate to be able to enjoy the park as a conservatory of natural beauty including its wildlife habitats, forest ecosystems, natural water areas, seashore and cliff habitats. We are writing not as NIMBY's but as citizens of Washington State and the

world, who are concerned about climate issues and are asking you to put into practice the policies around climate/forest concerns which your department states as goals.

We are submitting our request that the area be designated as part of the *State Park Natural Forest Area*.

As your research into the components affecting designation go forward we are certain you will tackle the concerns of residents on both the east and west side of the park, including access, fire danger, water concerns, forest/wildlife habitats, high bank cliff erosion, seashore erosion and sea shore wildlife.

Access roads are small, already crowded and with no room for expansion. This becomes concerning to area residents as we only have one, two-lane road in/out of the peninsula.

Already cars can line East Sequim Bay Road when the park access parking lot is full, creating dangerous road conditions. In the event of an emergency, the road would be considered very hazardous.

In regard to the physical park area, we ask that as guardians of the state park system, you consider creating a park site that is unique for this area. We are lucky in Washington to have so many wonderful recreational opportunities. With this unique and roughly unspoiled area on the Miller Peninsula, you have a chance to broaden the scope of opportunities that Washingtonians have to enjoy our wonderful parklands and to create this space as a unique park environment, as a natural forest area.

We believe, using your definitions, this area represents “ *Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value*” with the relatively unspoiled coastline and its inherent wildlife populations and forest community.

The shoreline at the park contains falcon nesting areas, otter families, swallow nesting sites, deer and cougars among other species. “*Public access into these areas emphasizes appreciation of nature through experiencing nature. The principal function of these areas is to assist in maintaining the state's bio-diversity while expanding human understanding and appreciation of natural values.*” “*State Parks Natural Forest Areas have a variety of topographic and vegetative conditions.*” “*Desirably, they are part of a large system of open space, wildlife habitat, and vegetative communities that provide a good opportunity for long-term ecosystem sustainability.*” “*.. recognizing that maintenance of bio-diversity is one of the primary functions of their classification. When classifying specific park areas, consideration must be given to the ability to adequately manage the areas against undesirable human encroachment.*”

Washington is taking the need for climate change decisions seriously. Deforestation, cliff erosion, habitat disruption are all issues for alarm while considering development on Miller Peninsula.

We believe the state parks system should also consider the disruption that altering these forest, wetland and seashore habitats will create. The cliffs on the shore are extremely vulnerable to erosion. As residents, we witness every year the sloughing of many areas along this coastline. Trails to the beach, docks and more human encroachment will only exacerbate this issue, no matter the care that is taken in construction of a beach trail/dock area. We see this already in other areas of our county and parks system.

Groundwater issues on the peninsula are also already of great concern for residents and have an impact on the overall health of the ecosystem. These existing issues will not improve but only worsen, as development and climate change accelerates. Infrastructure and water usage for large numbers of campers, rv and general users will exacerbate these water concerns.

Fires are also climate related and a growing concern. Campers allowed to have fires are not only a ticking time bomb for the entire peninsula, but unnecessary as we try to reduce carbon output.

We acknowledge it is an exciting proposition as park stewards to contemplate creating a new park, but we ask that you take a moment to consider creating an alternate park experience for visitors. It can be marketed as a **unique** kind of park experience with relatively easy access to unspoiled forest and coastline environments. Bears, cougars, deer, coyote, rabbits, falcon, eagle, otter, puffins, swallows geese, herons all currently inhabit this environment. Unique destination tourist spots are very lucrative and for Washington state to create such a distinct spot would be a tourist bonus. Indeed, day use fees could be collected.

Not every park has to be the same. Please consider creating a unique park environment, a natural forest area, that will attract users **because of its uniqueness**. In so doing you will be adhering to stated goals of addressing climate change issues, enhancing species and forest diversity, allowing people to appreciate nature by experiencing a natural area and allowing a natural landscape to exist within itself for the people of our state, now and in the future. <sup>93</sup>

Hello Nikki, thank you for taking these citizen comments.

Miller Peninsula is an embarrassment of riches. 3000 acres critical for habitat and one of the best places for social distancing and utter solitude.

The concern is that it will be cut up into developed sections accommodating RV and auto camping. The debate as to whether it's justified or not to change the land to accommodate these recreational amenities could be bypassed altogether through a much more simple series of goals, which I will lay out.

Adjacent to the parklands is a large area known as Cat Lake. I understand that Washington State Parks owns some of it currently.

Why not buy the entire area and make it the campground area? The road runs in a circle around the lake, it's absolutely perfect logistically. It would make much more sense to negotiate purchase of the area instead of spending more resources to develop raw land on the existing park parcels.

Put a levy on the ballot, people love Miller and want to see it for generations to come.

Lobby the Washington State Legislature. Why is it Parks and Recreation doesn't have a dedicated lobbying group to speak for the people who enjoy their public lands?

The other suggestion along with purchasing Cat Lake is to also add the property where the existing Pacific Aerospace business operates, just off Diamond Point Road. This would make an excellent administrative headquarters. A longtime Washington State business possibly looking to retire from the industry, perhaps they might be open to negotiating a sale, adding the needed acreage to the proposed park while leaving intact the lands adjacent which people have fought to conserve the past 50 years.

Please consider these two options: Purchasing the Cat Lake area, and also the land owned by Pacific Aerospace, leaving the current Parklands intact for hiking, horseback riding and mountain bike riding, and thus we would meet the goal of having a world class camping facility and wilderness recreational area which would satisfy all parties.<sup>94</sup>