



Don Hoch  
Director

STATE OF WASHINGTON

## WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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May 28, 2015

Michael Hankinson  
Park Planner 4  
Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission  
1111 Israel Road SW  
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

**RE: Fudge Point State Park Property – Cultural Resources Study for a Classification and Management Plan (CAMP) Process and Potential Development Areas, Mason County, Washington**

Dear Michael:

As you are aware, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (WSPRC) is undertaking a planning process to inform development of the agency's Fudge Point State Park lands on Harstine Island. The Fudge Point State Park property includes 141 acres of WSPRC land in Sections 7 and 18, T20N, R1W, and Section 12, T20N, R2W (Figures 1 and 2). An additional proposed land acquisition involves 47.1 acres in Sections 12 and 13, T20N, R2W. The present study addresses environmental and cultural history, as well as potential for cultural resources within existing parklands and the proposed acquisition property. A limited cultural resources survey was undertaken within 21.1 acres of existing parklands:

- A Case Inlet shoreline location of ca. 0.8 acre to accommodate a two-car Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant (ADA) parking area, ADA pedestrian beach access, and a one-car drop-off zone; and,
- An additional upland acreage of 20.3 acres for future day-use and overnight camping.

At this point in the planning process, park development is neither subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, nor the Governor's Executive Order 05-05. The present study is a component of best-practices stewardship well in advance of construction activities associated with park development.

### **Background Information**

Fudge Point State Park property is located along the eastern shores of Harstine Island overlooking Case Inlet in the Puget Trough physiographic province (Franklin and Dyrness 1988:Figure 2). Here at the southern end of the Puget Sound Basin, local landuses are primarily rural residential and limited agricultural. From a saltwater shoreline, the study area rises to a maximum height of ca. 180 feet above mean sea level. Local geography includes Holocene non-

glacial, Pleistocene glacial, and Pleistocene Pre-Vashon Stade glacial deposits. The former is represented by landslide material along the beach in the southeast area of the park. However, Vashon till and Vashon advance outwash associated with continental glaciation are the primary map units present (Logan et al. 2003).

In regard to soils, Sinclair shotty loam is the principal study-area sediment, with smaller percentages of Harstine gravelly sandy loam and Kitsap silt loam also found (Ness and Fowler 1960: Map Sheet No. 16). Sinclair shotty loam is found on gently rolling and rolling upland ground, formed in very compact Vashon gravelly glacial till (Ness and Fowler 1960:41). In regard to the ability to retain water, Sinclair shotty loam has well to moderately well-established surface drainage, but restricted internal drainage due to the presence of subsurface cemented till. Associated vegetation includes an overstory of Douglas fir, western redcedar, maple, wild cherry, and alder - with a primary understory of swordfern, Oregongrape, vine maple, salal, huckleberry, and blackberry.

Case Inlet lies within the territorial range of the broader Southern Coast Salish grouping of Twana and Lushootseed peoples. Southern Lushooseed-speaking Squaxin bands were primary occupiers of the Case Inlet area in the ethnographic period (Suttles and Lane 1990:486). As described in the twentieth century:

Practically all of the early reporters and other authorities of note such as George Gibbs, Myron Eells, Edward S. Curtis, Frederick Hodge, Leslie Spier, and William Elmendorf, locate the Squaxin Indians on the east side of the isthmus between Hood Canal and Case Inlet and the east half of Hartstene Island. The only village attributed to the Squaxin Indians at treaty time was located near the present town of Allyn on North Bay at the head of Case Inlet (Indian Claims Commission 1969:299)

At the time of the 1854 Treaty of Medicine Creek, the bands were quite small, only 40 individuals being counted by George Gibbs at that time (Gibbs 1967:41). Unlike other groups of Southern Coast Salish, Squaxin bands were primarily canoe Indians dependent upon a maritime economy and less attached to upland hunting. Fish and shellfish have long sustained the Squaxin, also historically known as the “Skwawksin” or “Skwawksnamish” and perhaps more like the Twana-speaking Skokomish on Hood Canal than other Southern Coast Salishans (Gibbs 1877:178; Robinson and Whitener 1994:616-617). Beyond protecting important fishing rights, the 1854 Treaty of Medicine Creek established three individual reservations in the Squaxin, Nisqually, and Puyallup homelands.

A number of Native American place names are associated with the eastern shore of Harstine Island, but none are specific to Fudge Point. Nevertheless, a native word meaning “bait” is applied to the vicinity of Ballow, WA to the north of the study area and Buffington’s Lagoon (Waterman n.d.:110). McMicken Island retains a native place name, as well.

Harstine Island commemorates Lieutenant Henry J. Hartstene or Hartstein of the US Exploring Expedition under Commander Charles Wilkes in 1841 (Hitchcock and Wingert 1979:13-14; Meany 1923:110). Likewise, Wilkes also acknowledged shipmate Lieutenant A.L. Case with the “Case’s Inlet” waterway. Meany (1923:39) observes that one area of the inlet was previously known by the name “*Squakson*,” no doubt a reference to the resident native peoples.

Lands in the study area were initially reconnoitered by the General Land Office (GLO) in 1854. Soils within T20N, R1W was ranked second- or third-rate rolling ground, being mostly clay, sand, and gravel - although its abundant fir, cedar, and hemlock were evaluated as good quality for lumber, timbers, and spars (GLO 1854a). No settler improvements were observed in or near the present study area at that time. In T20N, R2W, the GLO observed similar conditions at Sections 12 and 13 (GLO 1854b).

Study area property left the public domain in two distinct ways; as Military Patent land relating to the Scrip Warrant Act of 1855 or as Railroad Grant Patent land associated with the Northern Pacific Railway (NP) dated to July 2, 1864. The latter involves Fudge Point State Park land adjacent to the saltwater, while the former applies to the rest of the study area, including the proposed acquisition property. NP railroad interests had no roadbuilding plans in this locale and likely sold the land to incoming settlers at a later date – a bonus of their generous federal land grant. Adjoining property was claimed by homesteaders or Cash Entry patentees John G, Buffington, Moses Sutton, and William McKinzy.

Military Patent land or military bounty land was a less common means of land acquisition in Washington. In effect, a veteran with service active to 1855 or his heirs could obtain 160 acres of public domain land in select areas as a reward for military service. Such scrip warrants were transferable and many patents went to warrant brokers, who it turn sold them to bargain-conscious land buyers.

Acreage in the southwestern portion of the study area was issued to one “Kinarle” a Native American child and heir of “Coniba Yahola,” the latter serving as a Private in General William McIntosh’s Brigade of Creek Indians during the 1st Seminole War (1817-1818) in Florida. Native fighters were recruited to aid the US Army and were granted many rights and privileges of regular troops. However, The Scrip Warrant Act of 1855 was the first time land to Native American veterans was available on a large scale, those serving in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, and/or Indian conflicts between 1775 and 1855. It seems unlikely that the Southeast-based youngster Kinarle or his guardian Silas Wilcox relocated to Harstine Island. More probably the patent passed to a warrant broker for cash payment.

Mason County’s first settlements were in tidewater areas where logging and/or lumbering were significant early industries. The relatively small county was established in 1854 and although traditional agriculture values have been historically minor, “tree farming and farm forestry” have been high (Washington State Department of Agriculture 1958:1). Harstine Island soils are generally ranked with fair to poor productivity; hence farming overall was a secondary occupation.

The study area was surveyed and its timber resources evaluated by Mason County in 1910. Specific survey remarks include the “whole section logged over,” “This section has been logged over. Old logging. Growing up with small firs, hemlocks and alder brush,” and “Brush on upland is small firs, hemlocks (dense), light brush, sallal and huckleberry” (Mason County Assessor 1910). Based on those assessments, it is probable the land was logged in the latter nineteenth century, and neither quantity nor quality was yet profitable by 1910.

While Mason County land examiners only documented rough logged-over land in the study area, the nearby Ballou vicinity in Section 12, T20N, R2W was a rural center with a school, the John G. Buffington sawmill, county road, logging railroad spurs, orchards, agricultural fields, and gardens (Mason County Assessor 1910). Individual settler improvements included log houses; frame houses; shake barns, granaries, and stables; milk and chicken houses; and/or rail fences. Examiners valued the Buffington sawmill modestly at \$500.00.

By 1935, lands within the study area were in private ownership or that of the Puget Mill Company (Metsker 1935:2, 6). The latter is perhaps best known for its historic lumber operations and company town at Port Gamble, WA. Twenty years later, private holdings in the study area increased as the lumber company sold off acreage (Metsker 1955:2, 6). Walter Scott, Jr. owned all of the study area by 1969, land that later passed to his son Russell and was subsequently sold to the WSPRC for park development (Metsker 1969:2, 6).

### **Survey Research Design**

The study area was examined via pedestrian survey by a WSPRC archaeologist and parks planner with transects spaced less than 10 meters (33 feet) apart. Shovel testing was not employed during the survey. WSPRC staff also completed a site search of Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) databases. Additionally, background information was collected from WSPRC Headquarters, the Southwest Branch – Regional Archives and the Washington State Library in Olympia, WA, and the Internet.

### **Results**

Although the study area contains a limited number of older spring-board tree stumps, these are ubiquitous logging features of western Washington forests and typically not recorded as cultural resources (Figure 3). Otherwise, evidence of modern logging and the presence of modern logging/access roads are defining characteristics of the study area (Figures 4-6). The study area lacks mature trees other than the occasional large conifer or maple. It is likely the study area has been commercially logged as three successional events. No significant cultural resources, either historic or prehistoric, were observed.

A lack of cultural resources may relate to a substantial distance from saltwater shorelines for a majority of the study area and a preponderance of unlikely environments. However, the east-facing edge of the uplands overlooking Case Inlet does appear to have potential for pre-contact use as flattish or level ground overlooking saltwater. Archaeological investigations should be undertaken in this area - in advance of future day-use and campground development.

In regard to review of DAHP databases, the study area does not contain any previously recorded cultural resources. Two recent cultural resources surveys of littoral zones in Sections 6 and 7, T20N, R1W and Sections 1 and 12, T20N, R2W (Major 2014), and Section 7, T20N, R1W (Kiers and Trautman 2014) were negative for identifying cultural resources.

### **Management Summary**

Neither prehistoric nor historic cultural resources were identified by survey of the study area for the Fudge Point State Park planning process. Excepting the edge of the uplands overlooking Case Inlet mentioned above, a majority of the study area is ranked as having low probability to

contain significant cultural resources. Similarly, the proposed acquisition property also appears to have low potential. No additional cultural work appears warranted at this time. This report is being submitted to appropriate agency personnel for planning and documentation purposes. Please contact me at [charles.luttrell@parks.wa.gov](mailto:charles.luttrell@parks.wa.gov) should you have questions or comments regarding this report.

Sincerely,

Charles T. Luttrell  
State Parks Archaeologist

Enc.: Figures 1-6

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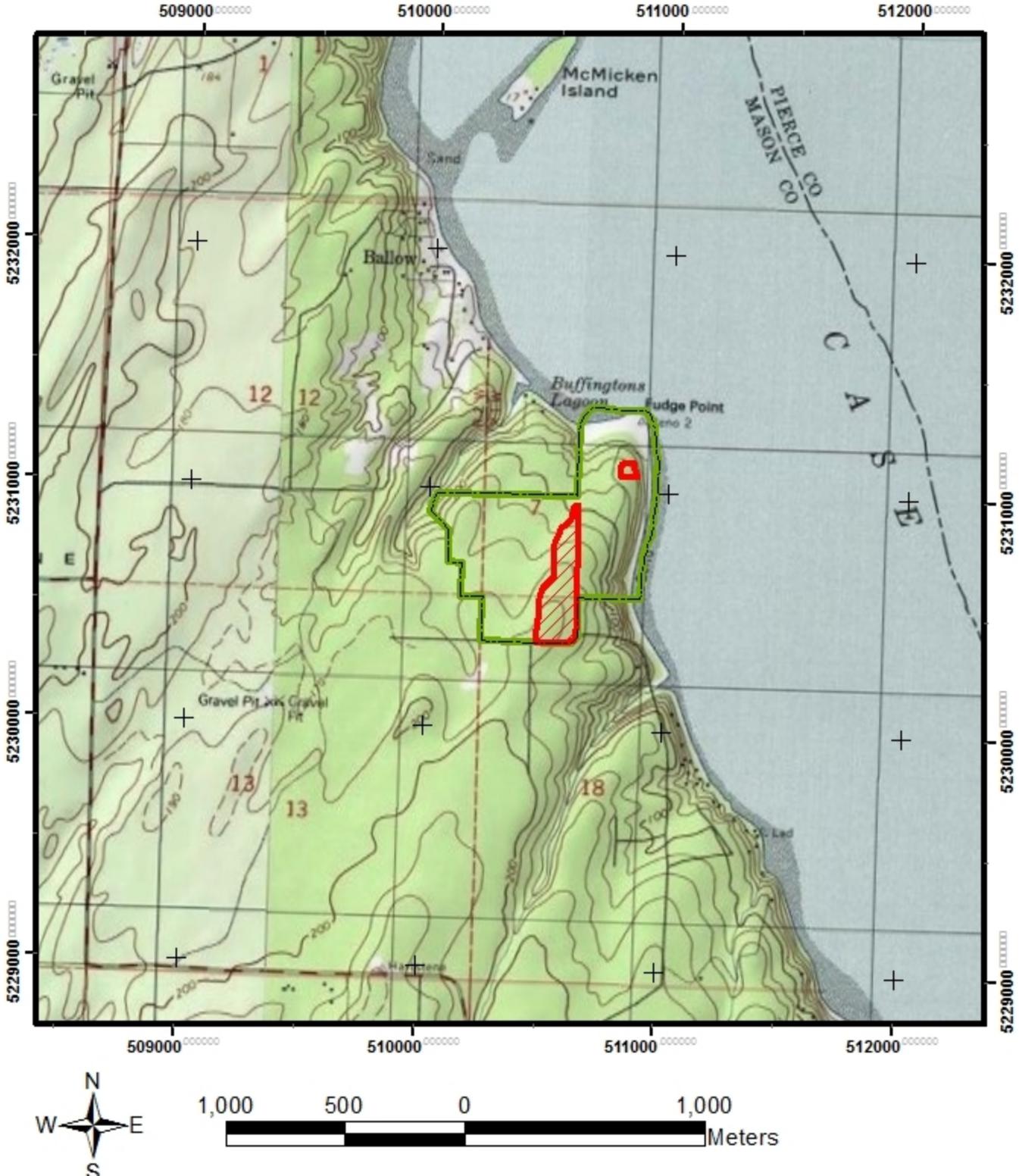
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2011 USGS Longbranch, WA 7.5' (Topo) Quadrangle  
 Park Boundaries from WSPRC  
 Scale 1:24,000 feet

- Legend**
- Park Boundaries
  - Survey Areas

**Figure 1.** Location of study area at the Fudge Point State Park Property





*Figure 3. Spring-board tree stump in an upland portion of the park, looking northeast (2015).*



*Figure 4. Typical access road within the park, looking west (2015).*



*Figure 5. Proposed ADA-compliant parking area, looking south (2015).*



*Figure 6. View of upland forest in the proposed development area, looking east (2015).*