



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

EASTERN REGION HEADQUARTERS • OPERATIONS DIVISION

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November 27, 2006

Jason Spadaro
SDS Lumber Company
PO Box 266
Bingen, WA 98605

Dear Mr. Spadaro:

With regard to the potential Broughton Landing development, the following is an assessment of benefits and impacts to Spring Creek Hatchery State Park.

Due to world class windsurfing and kite boarding conditions at Spring Creek Hatchery State Park, parking at the park reaches capacity over 50% of the days between mid- June and mid- August, due to winds created by thermal heating of lands east of the Cascade Mountains. Parking capacity can be reached as early as 10 am.

When parking capacity is reached, the potential to serve more recreationists still exists at the site, both on the water and on land, as indicated by public comments regarding the quality of the recreational experience.

For this reason, State Parks continues to support the master plan concept of a highway underpass for pedestrian use, with additional parking on the Broughton Lumber site. The need for this additional parking is increasing, as more visitors to the State Park arrive by motor home, consuming a greater parking area per recreationist.

Beyond windsurfing, the State Park provides recreational opportunities for short hikes, picnicking, views of natural resources, birding, nature photography, and relaxing in a natural setting. Three of these activities are in high demand, with continued rapid growth in popularity, as identified in Washington State's SCORP. Broughton Landing development has the potential to draw more visitors to these opportunities. These opportunities exist year round, including when the wind does not blow.

It is also potential for a network of trails, involving Broughton Landing lands, State Park lands, and US Fish and Wildlife lands to provide hiking and interpretation opportunities that would not be available through a single entity.

Mr. Spadaro
Page 2

With limited budgets, government agencies alone will not be able to meet the recreational demands of the future. Private – public partnerships have the potential to provide significant public service improvements.

State Parks looks forward to continuing to work with you to explore opportunities to maximize public recreation benefits.

Sincerely,



Jim Harris
Region Manager