



**Miller Peninsula Planning Public Comments  
September 21, 2020 –October 31, 2020**

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 familys Rving & camping.....sites with hookups. and suggested a zipline

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>

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.

Will there be a boat ramp? And if so, how will that be maintained and accessed?

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 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.

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 usage, 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 Fireweed 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>

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 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>

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>

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>

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>

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.

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.

# 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 understaffed. 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.

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>

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.

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>

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.

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.

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.

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.

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>

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.)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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>

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.

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!

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>

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 Strait. The Miller Peninsula would be an ideal location for kayakers and other boaters.



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.

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>

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.

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.

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>

PLEASE leave Miller Peninsula as it is - a wonderful undeveloped area for primitive recreation and wildlife habitat.

Please have an area for boat-in camping, such as for kayakers. Thank you.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

I 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 .

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>

KEEP the TRAIL SYSTEM on MILLER PENINSULA OPEN to HORSE RIDING!!!!

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

The bluff is an eroding feature, with inherent safety hazards to humans. Trail and access enhancement to the bluff should be avoided.

Add small restaurant with a view of the Strait.

Add safe traffic interchange at HWY. 101. Good luck with the planning.

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.

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)

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.

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.

Again keep a large part of the park primitive with trails and tent camping.

The area is within the Salish Sea. Salish is the tribal name for the area. Please support Salish Sea State Park

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.

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>

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.

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.

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.

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?
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 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.
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.
I believe the park should have as little development as possible.
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.
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe - Several of the trails that complete the system at Miller Peninsula are either partially or entirely on Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe owned property. The Tribe has supported the continuing allowance of public use on these trails. We hope that the integrated trail system, including the Pierce Road connector, can continue through a cooperative agreement between State Parks and the S'Klallam Tribe. We respect the importance and presence of the indigenous tribes on the Olympic Peninsula along with their cultural, social, and physical contributions to our communities. It is reasonable to believe their history will become an integral part of any State Park development.
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe - While we are accustomed to calling the area "Miller Peninsula State Park", we are not attached to a specific name. A tribal heritage name will do as well.
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe -There is already an issue with backing up a line of vehicles when trying to turn left off of Diamond Point Rd onto Highway 101. This is particularly true when you are towing a trailer such as with horses or RVs since you are turning into a climbing hill towards Gardiner. This can effectively hold up vehicles that wish to make the easier right turn.

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe - Public lands agencies on the North Olympic Peninsula include local, state, and federal, many of which provide campgrounds of various types. The National Park Service (NPS) is currently developing a Second Century Campground Strategy and a Campground Design Guide (open for public comment through 12/4/2020). They have contracted for two campground trends analysis studies, one with CBRE and one with CHM. While these are national studies leading to a national Design Guide, the only one of the six national pilot areas for the study that is in the Northwest is the Olympic

*Equestrian sites should provide amenities beyond basic campground services. These include a living area for the horses with horse tie-up posts away from the roadway. Ensure the horse area is somewhat level and there is proper shade during the heat of the day in these areas, either by vegetation or a shelter, and place the horse area downwind of the main camping area. Additionally, manure-specific collection areas are needed or signs indicating that visitors are to individually haul manure out of the park.*

Echoing where the original development study left off before funding was cut, our preference is a minimum of development (see Nature Within Reach below). Developed facilities other than interpretive in nature need to be minimal.

I would like it named after Dr. Eloise Kailin. Dr. Kailin saved the area from a twin nuclear power plant, an oil port, an ORV park, and a housing-recreation (actually a new city!) development. She was part of the original County committee to set aside the area for a state park. If you won't name the park after her, then I would like the name to contain the word "Salish." I suggest **Salish Sea State Park**. The site is part of the Salish Sea. "Salish" honors the tribal name of the water body, the historical name of the water body and the geographic area. (An area of the park could still be named after Dr. Eloise Kailin.)

I agree with your motto "learn, explore and recreate." But my concept is for "recreate" is quite modest. I prefer a mix of the Natural Area and Natural Forest Area zones with trails, some picnic tables throughout the property (carry out your own trash) and some porto-potties. No overnight camping.

Miller Peninsula State Park is a contiguous forest, rare in size. It contains sizeable wetlands, rare native plants, unique plant-tree clusters, and stands of naturally regenerative old growth that have federal protection. It is unique for its Douglass Fir Tree Forest, as well as for its Pacific Madrona cluster, critical bird-use areas through the ravine to the beach and along the beach, and WA State's native wild rhododendrons.

I hold concerns for the park's wildlife. Animal use and their habitat need to be assessed and understood. Large animals, like bear and cougar, will need to visit the area more often as drought escalates and food sources dwindle. They will be visiting the water more often, and the bears may find a better stock of wild food here. The more building, the more intense public use, the more disruptive for the wildlife. Though eagles are no long on the endangered species list, we should not want to endanger them in the park. Their nesting places and schedules need to be continually assessed to ensure a wide human-activity distance from them.

The park has been used as a university teaching site. This concept is what the park should be built around. It is a **Preserve to preserve** and a "**destination**" for **learning**. Classes of all ages could adopt portions of the park, monitor, study and report their findings year after year and through different seasons. Park volunteers, including students can be trained as docents to lead tours and lecture about the park's history, and wildlife. This would be low cost and low maintenance for Parks, and at the same time be a national draw and bring in good funding for Parks..

Let's face it, the North Olympic Peninsula human population is growing and open space, including private property, is narrowing. More and more water will be sought for private uses and fire fighting. A plan like I suggest places less burden on Parks for water and other utilities, as well as staff loads.

It is too bad Parks didn't purchase the Cat Lake property, a perfect camping area and already cleared. Perhaps the owner would sell it. It was so long on the market that he bought it for half the original asking price.

Another idea that BCHW-PNC would like to see implemented is a camping area set aside for horses. Currently, only Riverside State Park near Spokane has facilities to accommodate horse-camping in State Parks. Miller Peninsula would be a perfect place to introduce these accommodations for citizens on the west side of the State.

There is a safety need to involve WSDOT for redesigning the intersection of Diamond Point Road at Highway 101 to reduce congestion for turning vehicles. It is already a difficult intersection for horse trailers and RV's to negotiate onto and off the highway, and to add more density with expanded

restrictions are placed on multi-use, it would be very small, perhaps the ADA trails only.

JD: The Forest Service has an excellent resource called [Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads, and Campgrounds](#). The best example of a horse camp layout I can offer is LeBar Horse Camp on the Skokomish River. It has cable High Lines in each camp well behind the picnic table and fire ring, pull through and flat parking area and probably 30 feet between camp sites.

A Horse camp needs a horse water source, loop trails, manure bunker and a vault toilet. Primitive is better. No hook ups.

Horse camp needs to be a separate loop altogether from the people campground. Not sure how to compute a distance but plenty of space. Last thing I would want while horse camping is having kids riding their plastic trikes with streamers and bells riding through my horse's high line area. At the horse campground itself ideal distance between horse camp sites is about 30 feet. Again this is the way LeBar is laid out. And it is generous. The people campground there is about an 1/8th of a mile away.

DH: A good horse camp needs "pull through" parking, at least 2 corrals each, a picnic table, and fire ring, vault toilets, potable water, and nearby "vaults" to deposit horse bedding and manure.

TM: Stock rig pull through parking, stock water, each site having 2 or 3 pens available or high line where stock can be safely tied. Manure bunkers. Kiosk explaining trails, 3S Stop-Stand-Speak and LNT education. Fire pit, picnic table, and restroom. Common shelter area for group activities.

JD: Horse water source, manure bunkers equidistant from each site, vault toilette, cable high lines in each camp site and an area with a hitch rail in your camp site where a rider can tack her horse and a mounting block or equivalent in camp.

DH: Vault toilets and potable water should be available within an easy walking distance. A sewage dump station should be available somewhere at the park for Living Quarters trailers to use. (Water, sewer, and electricity to each site would be very nice, but the cost may be prohibitive because the sites need to be more spaced than RVs. Horse campers will come even if the sites are somewhat primitive.)

MR: Vault Toilets, water, corrals, hitching rails, drive thru camping spots.

SK: Consider having half the campsites with corrals and half more primitive with either a highline or room for portable corrals. Parking and/or tent sites need to be adjacent to stock areas with separate stock areas for each site. Equestrians need to be able to keep sight on their animals from their sleeping/eating area.

DH: I think there should be 10 horse camp sites. There must be a reservation system so that campers are assured of a space. (You cannot haul horses for 4 hours or more and not be sure you will have a place for them.) A system needs to be developed so that no one group can monopolize the available spaces.



TM: Camp areas could be near each other but stock camping should be separated from other camping. They can be within sight of each other. It could allow interaction with other campers as folks today don't get to see stock much less interact with them. Stock campers are usually friendly folks and may not mind talking to youth about their stock.

JD: Hope that it changes as little as possible. Concern that as density builds horses will be excluded.

DH: That it can be developed without significantly changing the character and use of the existing trail network. I think most equestrians would like to see a "horse camping" opportunity available as they are very difficult to find and these trails are excellent for a multi-day adventure.

TM: offering full up camping and hiking/riding opportunities. Providing two different beaches to explore – cobble and sand. Each presents new things to see and learn about. Multi use trail system where visitors can learn to respect and interact with each other. ADA accessible trails.

DH: Keep development of campsites and new recreational opportunities on the east side of Diamond Point Road and away from the existing multiuse trail system currently in use. Put a couple more vault toilets out along the existing trails. (Suggest: Near the Beach Trail, near the picnic table area at Manzanita & Fireweed Road on the west gate edge of the park, at the bicycle parking on E. Sequim Bay Road.)

MR: To leave it as undeveloped as possible.

SK: Horse trailer parking is frequently full in the summers and on weekends. Need to ensure ample parking for day use equestrians as well as for horse campsites; especially if RVs increase their usage of the day use parking.

MR: Too much development, too many rules, too many restrictions for horseback riders. We have lost many, many opportunities on the Peninsula in parks which have been so encumbered with rules and too much development that we have been squeezed out and no longer have access.

SK: Traffic and congestion. Safety accessing Highway 101 and in the advent of fire.

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.

DH: I think a typical trip would be a couple with a horse trailer, 2 – 4 horses, maybe a camper, tent, or LQ horse trailer. They would stay at Miller for 3 or 4 days and ride the trails that exist on the property. It is likely that friends might want to occupy 2 or more campsites and ride out together. A few people might haul out one day to do a back country day trip to the Tubal Cain/Buckhorn Pass ride in ONF or haul to Dan Kelly Road and ride the Olympic Adventure Route Trail for the day.