

From: Hoch, Don (PARKS)
To: Schumacher, David (OFM)
Cc: Heuschel, Mary Alice (GOV)
Subject: State Parks Contingency Plan
Date: Monday, June 17, 2013 4:46:55 PM

David Schumacher,

I have concluded from meeting with my agency Executive Management Team that Parks will generally not meet any of the four criteria provided to continue services. This result would be suspending employment of all State Parks' staff and the closure of all park facilities. However, as the situation evolves, we may meet the criteria in #4 regarding public safety or avoiding catastrophic loss of state property if such a situation should arise. We assume a mechanism will be established to approve response to certain types of incidents that may be unforeseen at this time and will await that discussion.

We fully understand that each state agency provides an important service to the State of Washington but believe it is our obligation to provide you with additional information as to the consequences of such a comprehensive shutdown. Additionally, Parks is primarily a fee for service agency and this is the peak of our revenue season. This revenue would provide us with adequate resources to continue operations if we were able to attain spending authority. We will provide this information and more analysis of implications to you tomorrow separately.

Currently, due to advance reservations in our 117 parks we will need to notify the public of this potential shutdown in order to provide them with ample opportunity to cancel reservations and make alternative plans. We intend to send notification to all camping reservation holders on Monday, June 24. Event holders, concessionaires, business owners and contractors will need to be notified by June 21. As an example, Fiddle Tunes is an international event held at Fort Worden June 30-July 7 which would need adequate time to prepare. We will await these notifications until we hear more on Wednesday.

Don

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From: [Hoch, Don \(PARKS\)](#)
To: [Schumacher, David \(OFM\)](#)
Subject: Concerns from State Parks
Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 10:35:59 PM

David Schumacher,

As a follow up to my message yesterday I had committed to providing you with additional information about some of the impacts of a comprehensive shutdown of Washington State Parks. Not surprisingly, more visitors come to state parks in summer than in any other season of the year. They come for the day and they come to camp or stay in a cabin, yurt or vacation house. They come for special events including festivals, weddings and family reunions. Because summer is the busy season, the agency earns half of its revenue from July through September. The impact of a shut-down of the park system during the first week of July would have a significant impact on the public and on the ability of the agency to bring in the fee revenue on which it depends.

As I stated yesterday we would need to start contacting affected parties as early as Friday, June 21. Those with overnight reservations would be notified Monday, June 24. At this point Parks will experience a significant fiscal impact even if the legislature were to agree on a budget later next week as many cancellations will have already occurred and alternative vacation plans made.

Some estimated impacts of a shut down during the first week of July include:

- 6,888 current camping and cabin reservations representing 23,989 nights of stay would have to be contacted, reservations cancelled and reservation and camping fees refunded. These also include reservations of vacation houses and group facilities booked for weddings, family reunions, camps and other significant family and community events. Other campers making last minute reservations and those arriving to camp on a first-come first-served basis would also be turned away. In total, an estimated 125,000 people planning to stay overnight would be impacted.
- An estimated 1 million visitors coming for the day to one of 117 state parks would be turned away.
- Special events in many parks would need to be cancelled, affecting visitors, sponsors and vendors alike.

One example is Fiddle Tunes, a festival and series of workshops that takes place each year since 1977 at Fort Worden and is scheduled for June 30-July 7 this year. The event features artists from around the world and attendees from all over North America. Approximately 500 people stay and eat at the Fort for the duration and the two largest concerts typically sell out to crowds of 880 each.

- A total of \$1.7 million in lost State Parks revenue is anticipated. This includes Discover Pass, camping, cabin, group facilities, special event, camp store and other related fees. Surrounding community businesses that benefit from state parks would also be effected.
- Additionally, we can anticipate vandalism and misuse of park facilities during any time where staff is not present as has been the case in other states under similar circumstances. This places natural, cultural and historical resources at risk; some of which can never be replaced.

Also concessionaires, contractors, and others that have contractual agreements would have to stop their work.

I look forward to additional communication on the matter tomorrow and will continue to work with your office prior to moving forward with any public announcements. I appreciate the enormity of the issue at hand and thank you for considering these public impacts.

Thank you again for all you do,

Don