

Agency Request Legislation Increasing Access to State Recreation Lands



The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) actively manages more than 1 million acres of publicly owned land and more than 600 water access sites across the state. Over the last year, WDFW saw more people getting outside for outdoor recreation than ever before. For many visitors, it was their first time recreating on WDFW-managed lands.

Problem Statement:

The Director of the State Parks and Recreation Commission has the authority to provide up to 12 free parking days per year. On those days, a Discover Pass is not required for parking at Washington State Parks. However, those free days do not apply to WDFW or Department of Natural Resource lands, often creating confusion for visitors.

Solution:

This bill would authorize the Director of the State Parks Commission to expand free access days to all state recreational lands. The expanded authority would include consulting with the director of WDFW and the Commissioner of Public Lands to designate the 12 days per calendar year where entry to State Parks and all WDFW and DNR-managed lands is free.

Expanding existing State Parks free parking days to all state recreational lands will increase access to those lands for underrepresented communities and will reduce confusion for Discover Pass holders.

For more information,
contact:

Joel Sisolak
(360) 902-2695
Joel.Sisolak@dfw.wa.gov

Tom McBride
Legislative Director
(360) 480-1472
Tom.Mcbride@dfw.wa.gov

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WA Department of Fish and Wildlife Managed Lands

