

1 **Resolution to End Parking Fees at**
2 **All Washington State Parks**

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4 **WHEREAS**, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, with the
5 agreement of the legislature, instituted day-use parking fees in all Washington State
6 Parks, and

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8 **WHEREAS**, those fees have not produced the promised revenue, and

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10 **WHEREAS**, the costs of raising the fees and revenue have been higher than anticipated,
11 and

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13 **WHEREAS**, attendance at Washington State Parks has dropped significantly and not
14 recovered as anticipated, and

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16 **WHEREAS**, cost benefits to the State of Washington, to parks employees and to the
17 citizens and taxpayers from this trial program are highly questionable, and

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19 **WHEREAS**, most Washington State Parks are in rural areas and accessible mainly by
20 personal vehicle, and

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22 **WHEREAS**, rural economic development depends heavily on parks and recreation for
23 the tourism component of rural economic diversification, and

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25 **WHEREAS**, counties and cities of the State of Washington have been negatively
26 impacted by the shift of many recreation services from state parks with parking fees to
27 free county and city parks with resulting commensurate UNFUNDED costs to local
28 governments, and

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30 **WHEREAS**, we believe that the people should have free access to the recreation and
31 parks properties they own,

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33 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the WSDCC strongly urges that Governor
34 Christine Gregoire, the Washington State Legislature and the Washington State Parks
35 and Recreation Commission end the failed experiment in parking fees at all Washington
36 State Parks, GIVE THE PARKS BACK TO THE PEOPLE and fund parks and parks'
37 maintenance through regular legislative budget and appropriations and,

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39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the WSDCC strongly urges that Governor Christine
40 Gregoire, the Washington State Legislature and the Washington State Parks and
41 Recreation Commission seriously consider adopting a similar fund raising plan to that
42 of the state of Montana (see attachment A).
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45 Submitted to the WSDCC for consideration at its November 12, 2005 meeting in Ocean
46 Shores by the Jefferson County Democrats and Central Committee (Date Submitted
47 10/25/2005)

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49 Referred to the WSDCC with a recommendation of "Pass" by the Resolutions
50 Committee at its November 12, 2005 meeting in Ocean Shores.

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52 Passed by the WSDCC at its November 12, 2005 meeting in Ocean Shores.