

Resolution Opposing Military Training in Washington State Parks

WHEREAS in 2015 the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) issued a 5 year permit that waived an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and granted U.S. Naval training exercises at five Washington State Parks (Blake Island, Fort Flagler, Illahee, Mystery Bay, and Scenic Beach),

WHEREAS that permit expires on April 30, 2020 and the U.S. Navy is preparing to request a new permit that will expand the number of state parks used;

WHEREAS, the permit ~~contract language~~ places liability on Washington's State and local governments for costly tort lawsuit damages;

WHEAREAS, authorizing military warfare training exercises in state parks directly conflicts with RCW 352-32 PUBLIC USE OF PARKS rules regarding: Firearms, Other weapons, Management guidelines, Camping, Special recreation events, Technical rock climbing, Intimidation, etc.;

WHEAREAS, military exercises in state parks directly conflicts with WAC 352-16-20 "State park areas are of statewide natural, cultural and/or recreational significance and/or outstanding scenic beauty. They provide...areas reserved for preservation, scientific research, education, public assembly, and/or environmental interpretation, and support facilities";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Party opposes the use of military training in Washington State Parks;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOVED, that this resolution be forwarded to Governor Inslee and to state legislators asking them to oppose military training in state parks and to require state agencies and commissions to adhere to state statutes and environmental impact study decision requirements.

Adopted by the Washington State Democratic Party Environment and Climate Caucus 2020 Jan 17. Contact Steve Verhey, ECC Chair - (509) 899-4956 or Angie Homola, Resolutions Chair (360) 632-3016

References: 1. Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission 2015 May 1 permit no. #P999999NAV1

2. Naval Special Warfare Group Three - Proposal NSW Training Within the Pacific Northwest 2019 Aug 15

Submitted by the Washington State Democratic Party Environment and Climate Caucus to the WSDCC for consideration at its February 2, 2020 meeting in Vancouver, Washington. (Date Submitted 01/17/2020)

This Resolution was **PASSED** by the WSDCC on February 2nd, 2020