

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Contingency Plan – State Agency Operations
As of March 16, 2015

Category	Washington State Parks Response
<p>1. Services funded by appropriations in the enacted transportation budget.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motor Vehicle Account (108) <p>Road maintenance – primarily non-staff costs.</p> <p>While this activity is an important aspect for park maintenance, it does not fall into the categories of constitutional mandates, federal law, or necessary for the immediate response to public safety issues or catastrophic loss of state property.</p>
<p>2. Services that do not require an appropriation, such as from non-appropriated funds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State Parks Education and Enhancement Account (08P) ▪ Boating and Safety Education Certification (09B) ▪ Parks Improvement Account (159) <p>Services include public education, boating safety certification, and purchase of merchandise to sell. Majority of costs are in goods and services, with the remainder in staff costs.</p> <p>These activities are important aspects of running the parks and the boating safety program, but do not fall into the categories of constitutional mandates, federal law, or necessary for the immediate response to public safety issues or catastrophic loss of state property.</p>
<p>3. Services that must be continued based on certain constitutional mandates and federal law, with the caveat that agencies will consult their assigned assistant attorney general for clarification.</p>	<p>State Parks staffs and manages the state-wide system of state parks. While these services contribute to the local and state economy through tourism dollars and contracted work they do not fall into the category of constitutional mandates or federal law. (See additional comments below)</p>
<p>4. Services necessary for the immediate response to issues of public safety, or to avoid catastrophic loss of state property.</p>	<p>State Parks staffs and manages the state-wide system of state parks. Activities include maintenance of public water systems and wastewater treatment facilities which support public safety and law enforcement presence that contributes to public safety and protection of state property. These activities have been deemed to not meet the definition of being needed for the immediate response to public safety issues or catastrophic loss of state property. (See additional comments below)</p>

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- 1) The bulk of State Parks costs are associated with park management for both operating and capital activities.
- 2) State Parks derives a significant portion of its operating dollars from user fees. State Parks is also the primary provider of State recreation opportunities, providing a significant service to the public. A shut-down of the park system would adversely impacts thousands of people who have reservations for overnight stays and other facilities, and people who are planning to attend events. The negative economic impact to the agency and local economies would be very real due to loss of revenue. And, the operational costs to the agency of a shut-down would be significant due to the need to publicize park closures, contact reservation holders, and contact event planners, concessioners, contractors and others.
- 3) Park rangers provide a much needed presence on park property to provide customer service, ensure public safety, and prevent misuse and vandalism of facilities and land. They also provide a law enforcement presence to ensure legal behavior to protect the public. While these activities may not meet the definition of being needed for the immediate response to issues of public safety or to avoid catastrophic loss of state property - it is possible that our staff may be needed to respond to an unforeseen, emergency situation. We are open to that discussion at the appropriate time.