

**Chapter 352-16 WAC**  
**NAMING OF STATE PARK AREAS AND THE LAND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM**

Last Update: 12/18/95

**WAC**

352-16-010 352-16-020 352-16-030	Naming and classification of state park areas—Commission action. Land classification system. Management within land classifications.
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**WAC 352-16-010 Naming and classification of state park areas—Commission action.** (1) All areas dedicated for public park purposes, excluding separately located administrative areas, and under the ownership and/or management of the Washington state parks and recreation commission, shall be defined as state park areas.

(2) The official name of any state park area shall generally include in it the term "state park."

(3) The official naming of any state park area shall be the function of the commission: Provided, That the commission may not change any name established by the legislature, including specified conservation areas, seashore conservation areas and other recreation and open space areas.

(4) The official land classification, or reclassification, of any state park area, pursuant to WAC 352-16-020, shall be the function of the commission: Provided, That the director shall have authority to manage, on an interim basis, state park areas in accordance with any appropriate land classification prior to final commission action.

(5) Any named or unnamed state park area may have one or more land classifications within its boundary.

(6) Land classifications defined in this chapter shall apply throughout Title 352 WAC.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.51.040(1), [43.51.]045, [43.51.]050, [43.51.]060(1), [43.51.]061 and [43.51.]395. WSR 96-01-078, § 352-16-010, filed 12/18/95, effective 1/18/96; Order 7, § 352-16-010, filed 4/1/70.]

**WAC 352-16-020 Land classification system. State park areas** are of statewide natural, cultural and/or recreational significance and/or outstanding scenic beauty. They provide varied facilities serving low-intensity, medium-intensity, and high-intensity outdoor recreation activities, areas reserved for preservation, scientific research, education, public assembly, and/or environmental interpretation, and support facilities. They may be classified in whole or part as follows:

(1) **Recreation areas** are suited and/or developed for high-intensity outdoor recreational use, conference, cultural and/or educational centers, or other uses serving large numbers of people.

(2) **Resource recreation areas** are suited and/or developed for natural and/or cultural resource-based medium-intensity and low-intensity outdoor recreational use.

(3) **Natural areas** are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural processes and/or features of significant ecological, geological or paleontological value while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses.

(4) **Heritage areas** are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of unique or unusual archaeological, historical,

scientific, and/or cultural features, and traditional cultural properties, which are of statewide or national significance.

(5) **Natural forest areas** are designated for preservation, restoration, and interpretation of natural forest processes while providing for low-intensity outdoor recreation activities as subordinate uses, and which contain:

(a) Old-growth forest communities that have developed for one hundred fifty years or longer and have the following structural characteristics: Large old-growth trees, large snags, large logs on land, and large logs in streams; or

(b) Mature forest communities that have developed for ninety years or longer; or

(c) Unusual forest communities and/or interrelated vegetative communities of significant ecological value.

(6) **Natural area preserves** are designated for preservation of rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological, natural historical or similar features of scientific or educational value and which are registered and committed as a natural area preserve through a cooperative agreement with an appropriate natural resource agency pursuant to chapter 79.70 RCW and chapter 332-60 WAC.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.51.040(1), [43.51.]045, [43.51.]050, [43.51.]060(1), [43.51.]061 and [43.51.]395. WSR 96-01-078, § 352-16-020, filed 12/18/95, effective 1/18/96. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.51.040 and 43.51.045. WSR 84-08-016 (Resolution No. 74), § 352-16-020, filed 3/27/84; Order 31, § 352-16-020, filed 3/28/77; Order 18, § 352-16-020, filed 2/1/74; Order 7, § 352-16-020, filed 4/1/70.]

**WAC 352-16-030 Management within land classifications.** (1) The director shall develop management guidelines for each land classification listed in WAC 352-16-020. The guidelines shall provide specific direction for each classification, outlining the philosophy of each classification, its appropriate physical features, location, allowed and prohibited activities, and allowed and prohibited developments.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow uses that are otherwise prohibited, nor prohibit uses that are otherwise expressly allowed, by the commission, this code or by statute.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.51.040(1), [43.51.]045, [43.51.]050, [43.51.]060(1), [43.51.]061 and [43.51.]395. WSR 96-01-078, § 352-16-030, filed 12/18/95, effective 1/18/96.]