Long-term planning begins for North Beach area state parks

Local News

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OLYMPIA - March 06, 2009 - The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is beginning a process that will lead to land-use plans for North Beach area state parks, including Ocean City, Pacific Beach, Griffiths-Priday and Damon Point the Seashore Conservation Area in Grays Harbor County. The public is invited to a workshop from 7 to 9 p.m., March 18, in the Ocean Shores Convention Center, 120 W Chance a La Mer NW, Ocean Shores.

The workshop is the first step toward a comprehensive plan for the parks. The Classification and Management Plan (CAMP) will address overall visitor experiences, natural resources, use of the park buildings, recreation areas and trails and other topics of interest to the community. The meeting will address the overall CAMP process and the public's hopes and concerns for the parks. "Our future budget is uncertain at this time, but we want to keep on schedule to complete an important goal for the Centennial 2013 plan," said Brian Hovis, parks planner.Project information and a link to the North Beach area state parks are available online at http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/northbeacharea/. The site is regularly updated to include notices of workshop actions the public can attend. To be added to the mailing list or for special accommodations in order to attend the workshop, contact Brian Hovis at (360) 902-8635 or E-mail: NorthBeach.Parks.Planning@parks.wa.gov.The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to creating land-use plans in all 120 state parks in the system. Land-use plans will help State Parks preserve and protect lands while offering appropriate recreation opportunities for the public. So far, about half of the parks have complete plans in place. The commitment to land-use plans for parks is part of the Commission's Centennial 2013 Plan, an initiative to prepare the park system for its 100th birthday and a second century of service to citizens. Information about the Centennial 2013 Plan is available online at http://www.parks.wa.gov/Centennial2013/. The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission manages a diverse system of more than 121 parks and several recreation programs, including long-distance trails, boating safety, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. The 95-year-old park system will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2013.