

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

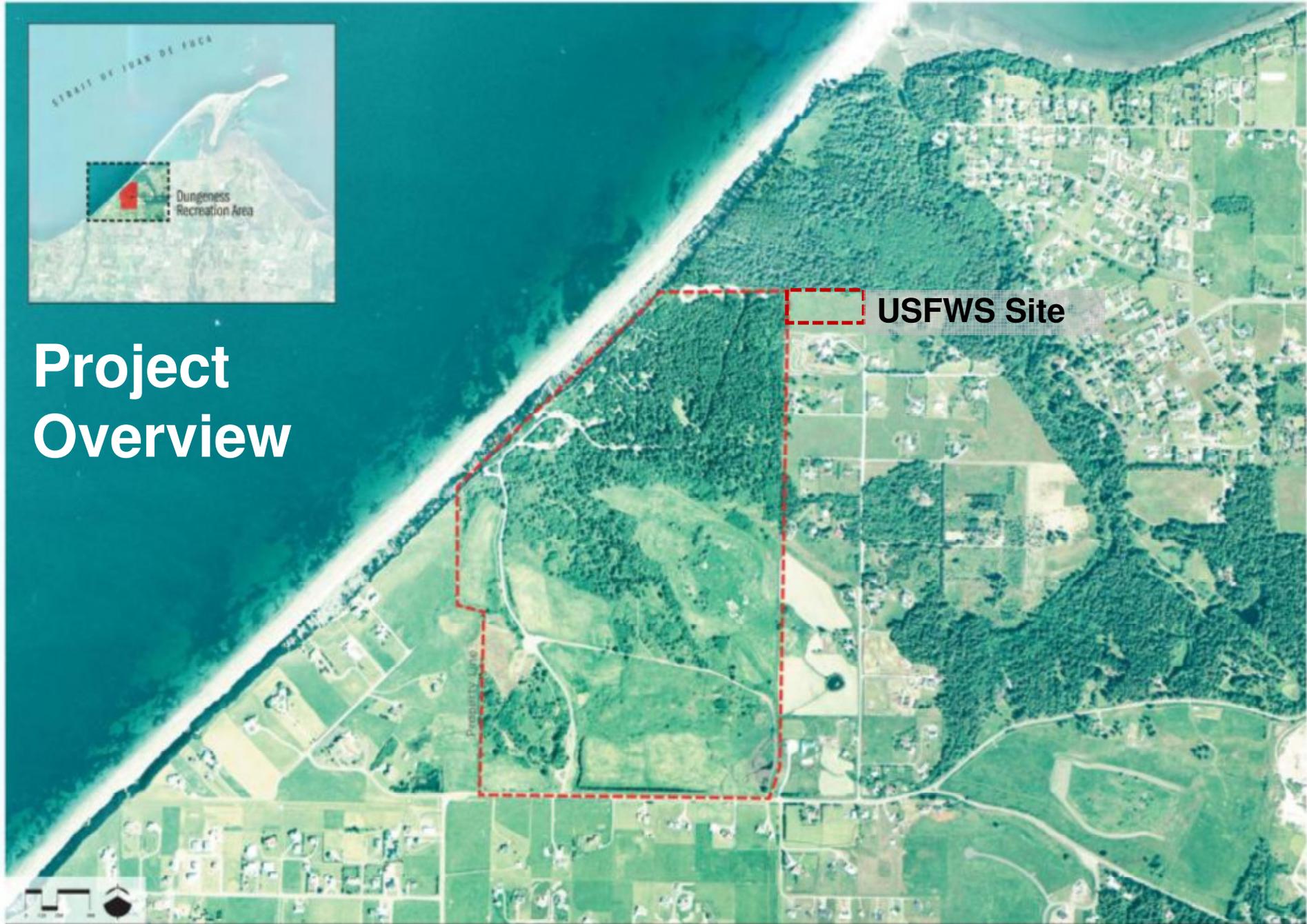


Public Outreach Meeting

October 10, 2007



# Project Overview



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Meeting Objectives:**

- Re-Introduce project; provide status report
- Summarize previous research and decisions
- Share results of public outreach
- Obtain input on draft concepts
- Help us shape the future of this park!

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Project Purpose and Scope:**

- Respond to changing circumstances/recreation demand
- Update inventories of uses and facilities and identify needed improvements
- Inventory and assess environmental values; identify enhancement opportunities
- Identify revenue generation opportunities
- Develop alternative Master Plan concepts; recommended Master Plan
- Involve agencies, interest groups, neighbors and public at key stages of Plan development

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Schedule:**

- Initiated December 2006
- Late Winter/Spring 2007
  - Inventory and Research to be completed.
  - Site Analysis underway
  - First round of public outreach
- **October 2007**
  - **Review Draft Concept Plans**
  - **Second round of public outreach**
- Winter 2007/2008
  - Recommended Master Plan
  - Final round of public outreach
  - County adoption process

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## Why Are We Here?

- Lacking a previous Master Plan, the park has developed slowly, carefully, but in a somewhat piecemeal fashion. Many factors contribute to making now the ideal time for a conscious look to the future of the park and its place in the overall recreation context of Clallam County and the Olympic Peninsula.
  - Increasing residential development surrounding park
  - Hunting lease with WDFWS up for renewal
  - USFWS plans to build new headquarters
  - Overall population growth in the Sequim Dungeness valley
  - Bluff erosion



# Existing Park Facilities



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park

- **Campsites** – 65 total
  - 8 Hike/Bike sites
- **Parking** – 60-80 total
  - Main park entrance (SW); 4-6 stalls
  - Horse Trailhead (SE); 2-4 stalls
  - Parking near bluff; 4-6 stalls
  - Refuge Area parking; 45 stalls many 19 RV capable; 2 ADA
  - New parking area below camping loops; undefined number





# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park

- **Utilities**

- Underground power (to residence and Refuge shed) parallels main road
- Underground telephone (to residence only) parallels main road
- Campground restrooms and residence served by septic tank/drain fields
- RV Dump station at main entry served by septic tank/drain field
- Water service parallels main road to picnic areas, residence, campgrounds,





# Existing Natural Resources



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park

## • Wetlands

- East side (area C1) 23 acres, locally perched wetland dominated by willows and seasonal open water areas
- SW side (area C2) identified as 2.9 acre aquifer-fed wetland, but field investigation estimates size at 0.5 acres; dominated by scrub-shrub
- SE corner (area C3) 3.4 acre locally perched wetland extending westward following an undefined channel mapped by county as a Type 3 stream (area C4)

East side dominated by cattail, rush and reed canary grass; channel to west dominated by shrub/scrub vegetation

Field investigation reveals that channel in SE corner lacks stream characteristics and is more adequately described as a wetland



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Other Natural Resources:**

- Feeder Bluff and Beaches to North
- Forested uplands on Northern Half of site
- Dry grasslands on S/SE portion of site
- Freshwater wetlands on Southern portion of site
- Diverse mix of trees, understory and shrub/scrub with few invasive species
- Although no species from the endangered species list nest within the site, several species inhabit the local area
- Majority of areas mapped as critical aquifer recharge area

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Public Outreach Process**

- Neighborhood survey distributed to 400 residents; 271 returned
- Interviews with 20 stakeholders
- March 26, 2007 public meeting attended by 110 persons
- Questionnaire posted on Web site and available at public meeting

## **Other Input**

- 10 years of camper comments
- Traffic counts
- Environmental survey and analysis
- Input from other agencies

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## Major Themes

- Community members have a strong appreciation for the Park, irrespective of how frequently they visit it.
- There is a strong correlation between those who use the Park frequently and the desire for few or no changes. Periodic or infrequent users tend to be more receptive to improvements.
- There is a significant amount of confusion about whether the DRA is a county park or part of the adjacent Dungeness Spit National Wildlife Refuge; the Park lacks an identity distinct from the Refuge.
- Community members have a generally favorable opinion of Park management and maintenance.
- Hunting is the single most contentious issue. Generally, neighbors are strongly opposed to its continuation, while hunters are concerned about the continued loss of hunting opportunities.

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Major Themes, cont.**

- Camping is seen to be a critical Park feature, and while most respondents favor a mix of camping opportunities, there are mixed opinions about improvements to camping to accommodate RVs.
- There is general support for realigning the access road to move it further from the bluff and to separate bicycles and pedestrians from autos.
- Continuing residential growth around the Park is expected to result in increased Park use, conflicts with hunting, and a desire by neighbors to keep the Park “as is.”
- The majority of respondents support a balance of recreation uses and habitat protection and desire that the County avoid overdeveloping or over-commercializing the Park.

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Alternative A:** **Regional Park general concept**

- Improved or expanded facilities to accommodate the County's increasing population and neighborhood uses, as well as regional recreation uses, through:
- Continued joint access to the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge (DNWR), through the County park
- Joint County/United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) operated visitor contact/information center
- Improved camping opportunities, including RV sites and group camping
- Improved and expanded trail system

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Alternative A (cont.)**

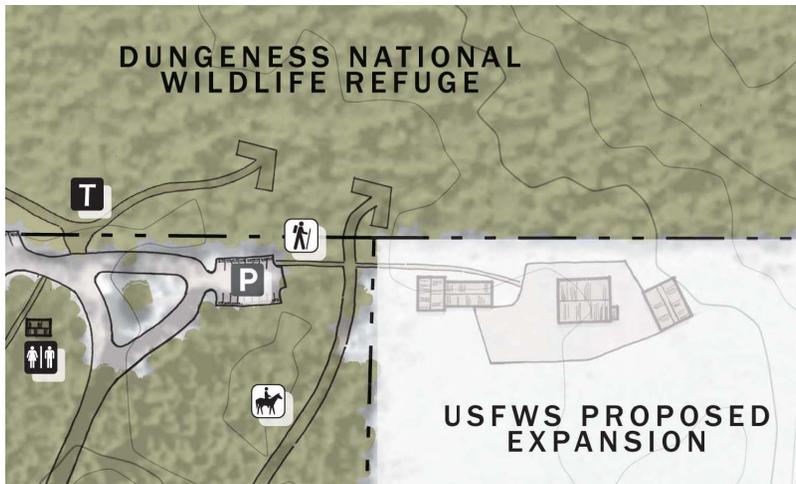
### Hunting

- Phased out over two years
- Enter new agreement with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for habitat restoration and management of specific areas if they would agree to this new program without hunting.

### Public Access

- Formal access limited to Voice of America Road
- Public access to the Refuge through the County Park
- Pedestrian path from the County Park to the new Refuge office and maintenance facilities proposed NE of the Park.

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan Alternative A (cont.)



Public Access



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Alternative A (cont.)**

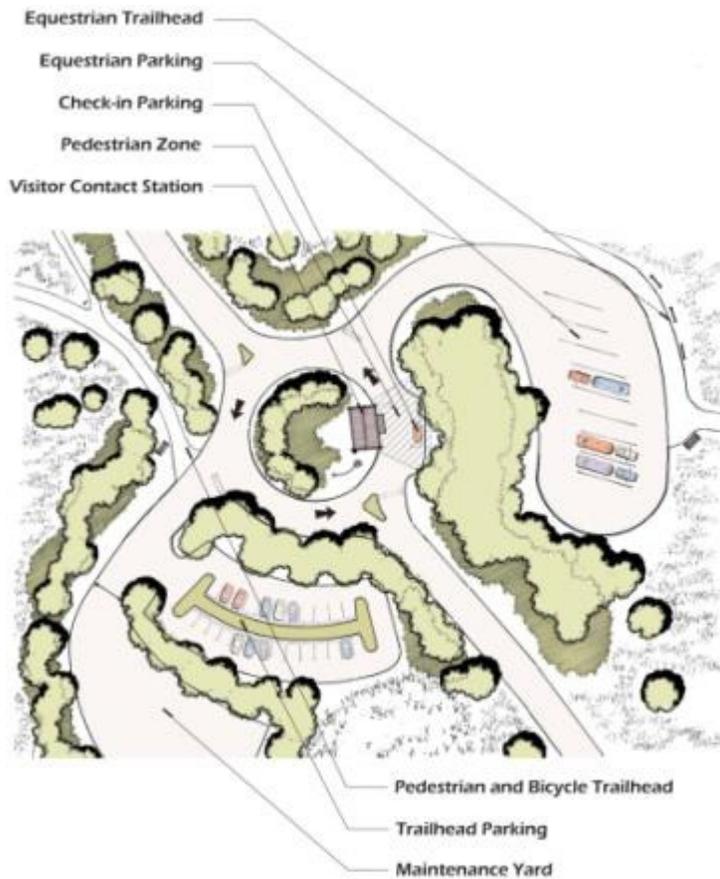
### USFWS (Refuge) Lease

- New lease or easement agreement that assigns to USFWS responsibility for restroom and refuge access facilities
- Improvements to overflow lot and overall traffic flow at entrance to DNWR parking areas

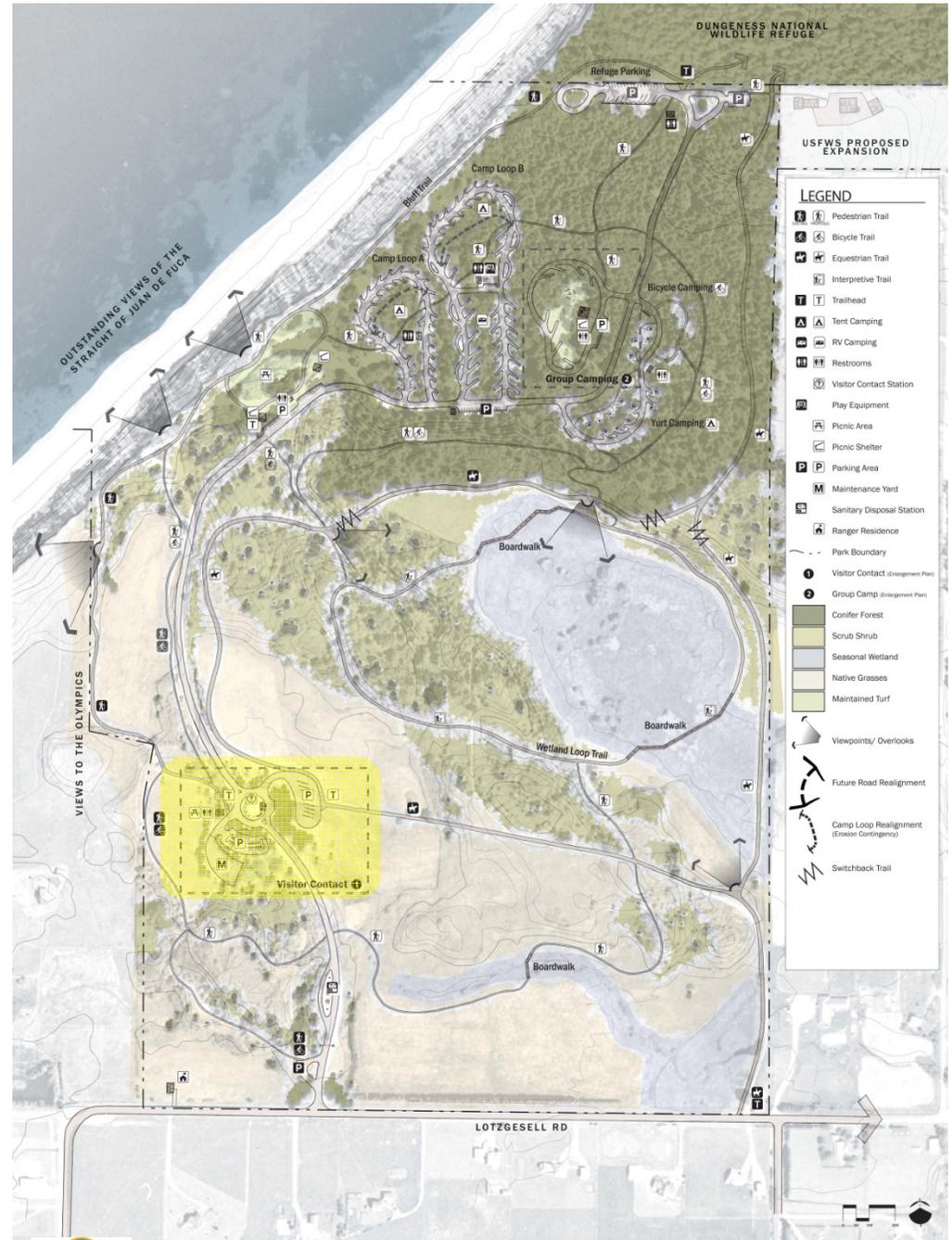
### Visitor Contact

- Jointly-operated “Visitor Contact Station” to provide visitor information, camping registration, camping reservations and other services for visitors
- Located either in the quarry area or as an island area in the road at this location
- Jointly staffed by Refuge, County and their volunteers
- Campground host program continued with at least two sites available.

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan Alternative A (cont.)



Visitor Contact Station



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Alternative A (cont.)**

### Road and Parking Improvements

- Relocation of Voice of America Road at least 200 feet away from bluff at viewpoint areas
- Improvements to the shoulders of the roadway from the second campground loop to the Refuge parking lot so that two vehicles can pass safely
- Improvements to road surface in both campground loops
- Day use parking areas at the quarry site, near realigned bluff road, and at DNWR entry
- Campground overflow and day-use parking at quarry site.

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan Alternative A (cont.)



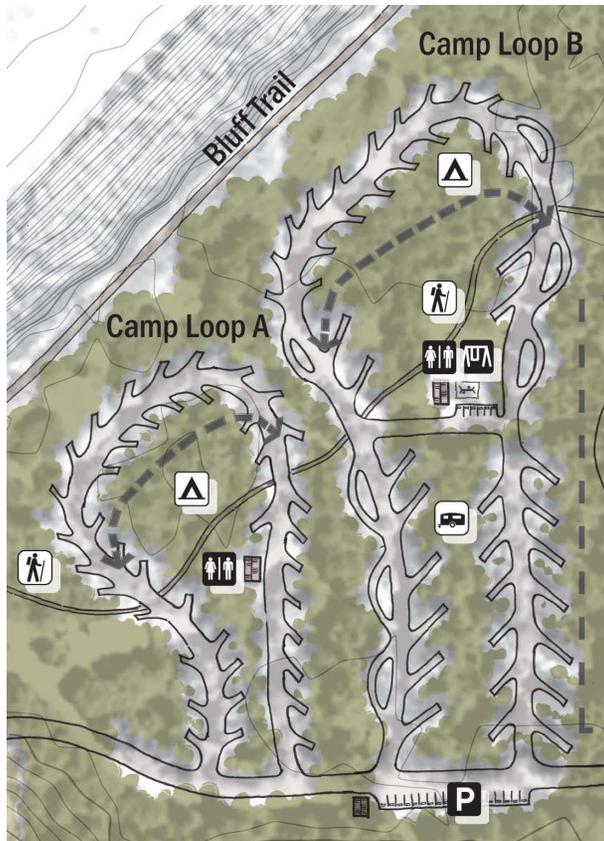
New Road alignment for Voice of America

## Road and Parking Improvements



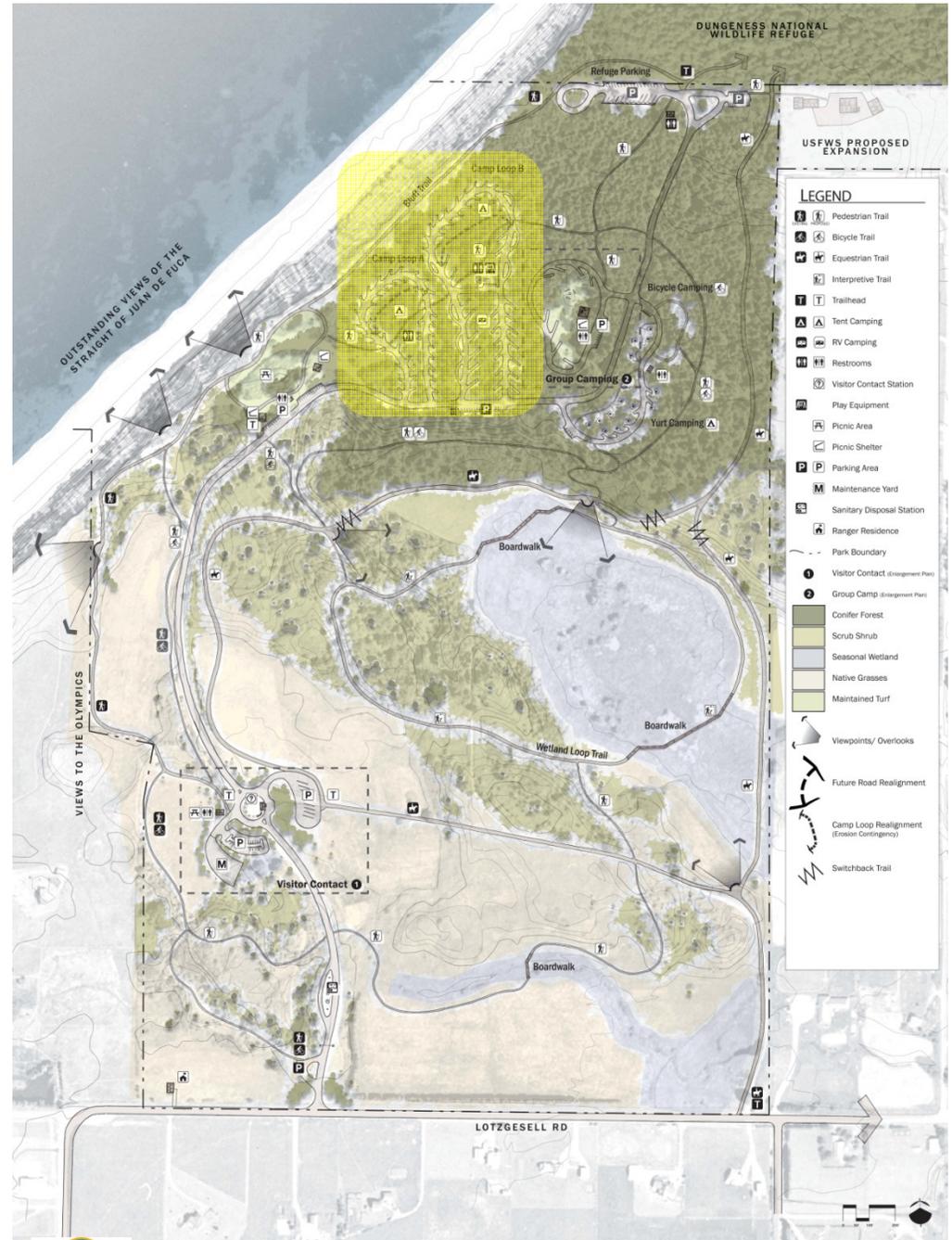
# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## Alternative A (cont.)



Camp loops Road Improvements

### Road and Parking Improvements



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan Alternative A (cont.)



Redevelopment of Quarry Site

## Road and Parking Improvements



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Alternative A (cont.)**

### Interpretive Plan

- Park-wide interpretive plan addressing bluff erosion, park history, relationship to DNWR, wetland habitat and other natural areas, birds and other wildlife, etc.

### Bluff Trail System

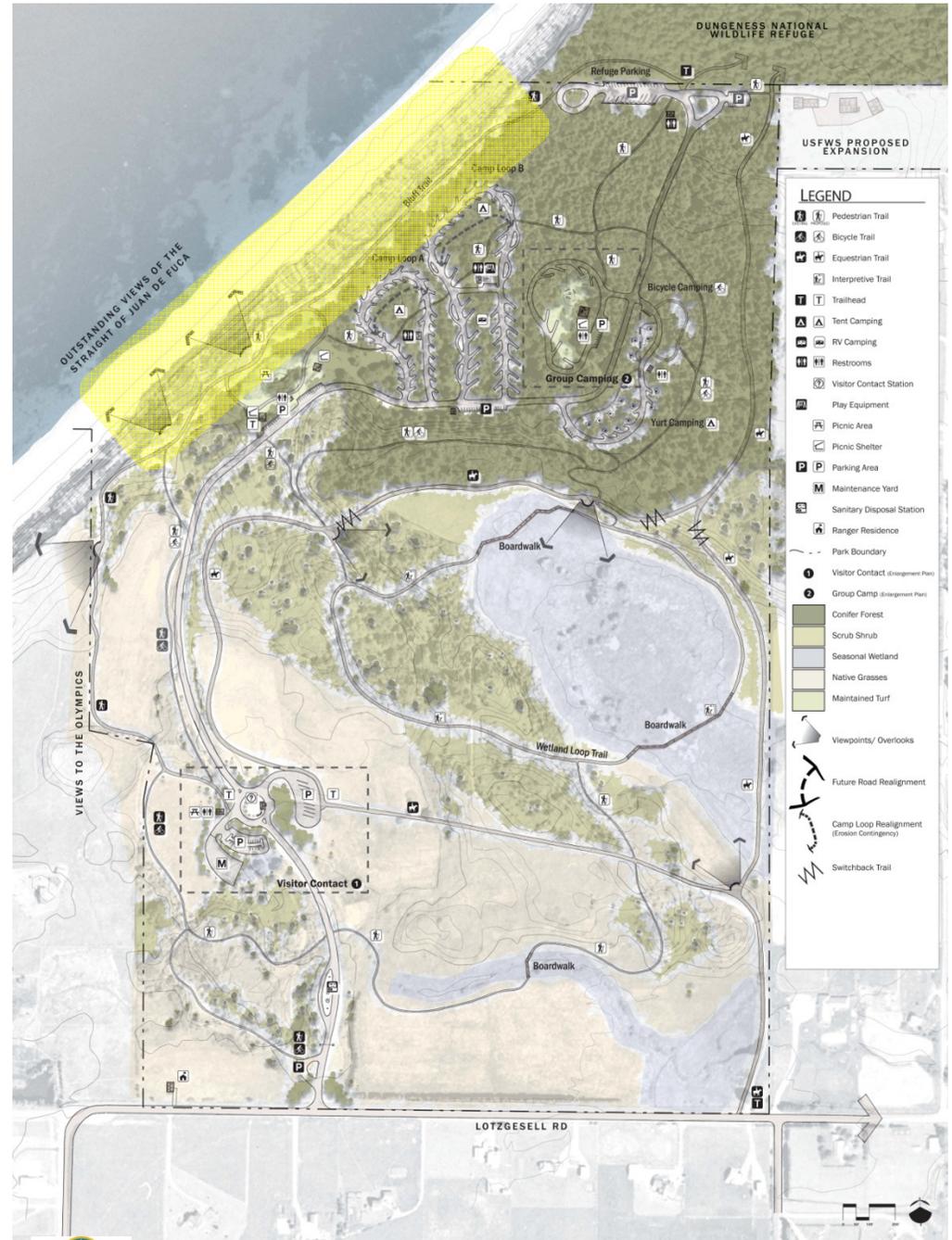
- Bluff Trail - Improvements and realignment of bluff trail system as needed
- Improvements and relocation of existing picnic sites along the bluff trail as needed
- Relocation of scenic viewpoints on the north side of the access road as needed to respond to ongoing erosion and to road realignment
- Improvements to trail viewpoints

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan Alternative A (cont.)



Bluff Trail with Updated Overlooks

## Bluff Trail System



Alternative A

Dungeness Recreation Area Master Plan

September 2007

Greenworks, P.C. - Landscape Architecture - Environmental Design

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Alternative A (cont.)**

### *Other Trails*

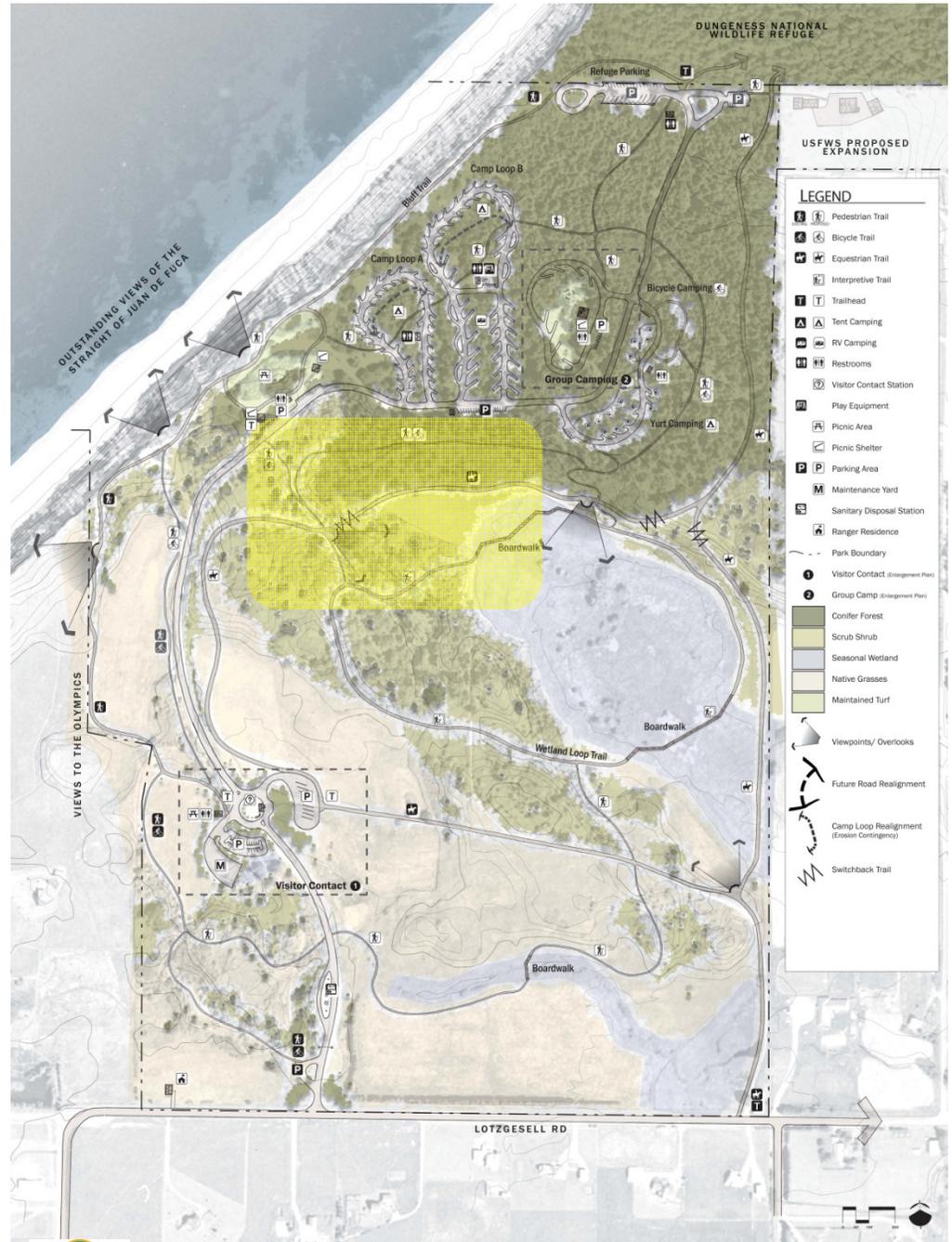
- Separated bicycle/pedestrian paved trail from the Park entrance to the campground and Refuge parking lot
- Equestrian loop trail from horse unloading area near the park entrance to Refuge trail head
- Relocation of a portion of the horse trail along the Northeast boundary line of the park moving trail section to the west and away from the fence line and neighboring property
- Improvements to existing trails throughout the park establishing of loop trails where feasible
- Wetland boardwalk trails
- Signage and bollards that provide trail system information
- Viewpoints and interpretive signage (low-key, no large signage) along the trail system

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan Alternative A (cont.)



New Multi-modal Trail systems

## Other Trails



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Alternative A (cont.)**

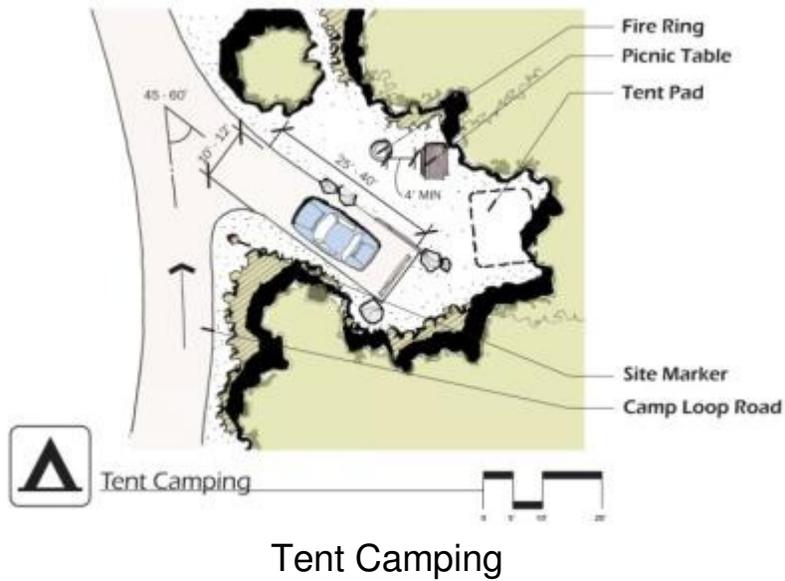
### Camping

- Two campground loops retained, with one loop retained for tent/car camping and the other converted to RV sites with electrical hook-ups & hard surface site pads – # of campsites maximized
- 6-12 yurt campsites with adjacent parking
- Bicycle camping area expanded with appropriate services
- Group camping area improved with power, water and other services
- Implement a reservation system

### Day Use Facilities

- Group picnic area with shelter located away from the campground
- Common parking area with trailhead access at quarry area

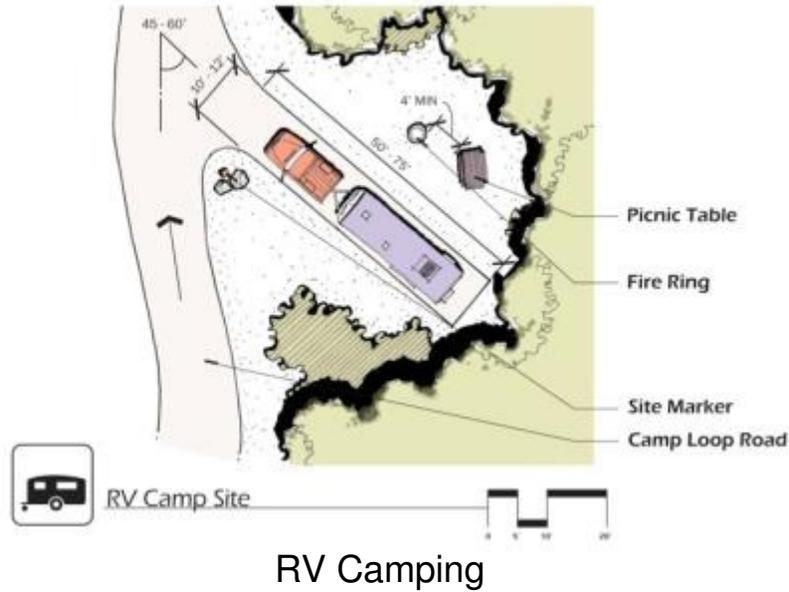
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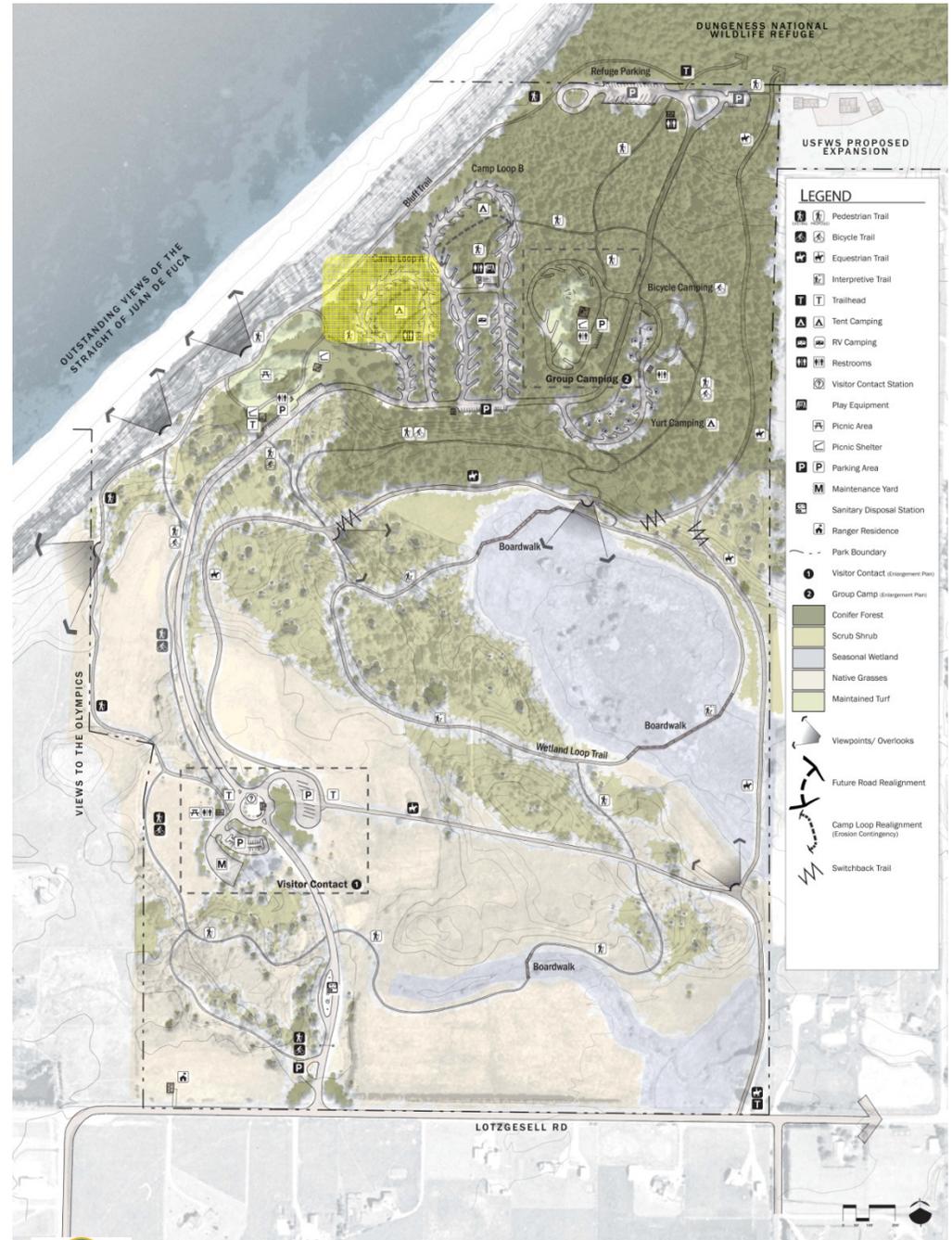
## Camping



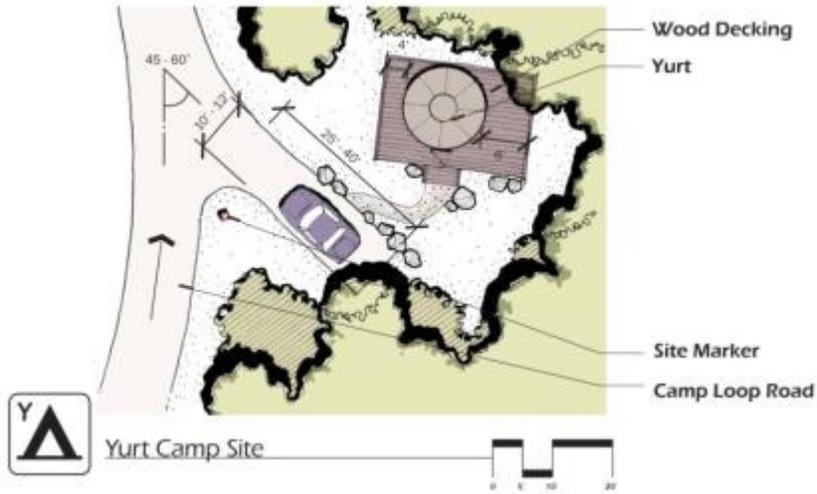
# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan Alternative A (cont.)



## Camping



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan Alternative A (cont.)



Yurt Camping

## Camping



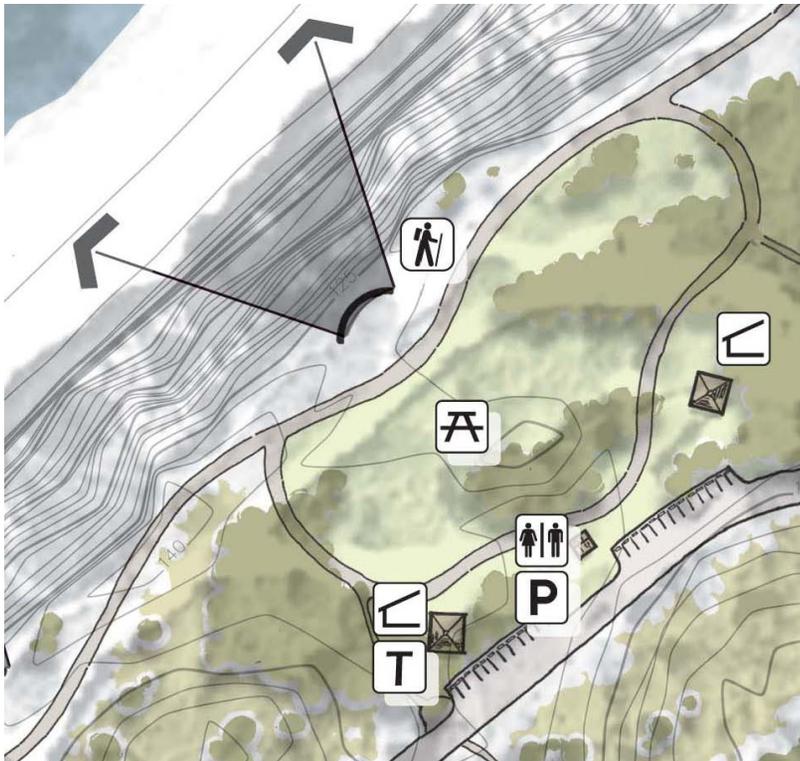
**LEGEND**

- Pedestrian Trail
- Bicycle Trail
- Equestrian Trail
- Interpretive Trail
- Trailhead
- Tent Camping
- RV Camping
- Restrooms
- Visitor Contact Station
- Play Equipment
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Parking Area
- Maintenance Yard
- Sanitary Disposal Station
- Ranger Residence
- Park Boundary
- Visitor Contact (Emergent Park)
- Group Camp (Emergent Park)
- Conifer Forest
- Scrub Shrub
- Seasonal Wetland
- Native Grasses
- Maintained Turf
- Viewpoints/Overlooks
- Future Road Realignment
- Camp Loop Realignment (Erosion Contingency)
- Switchback Trail



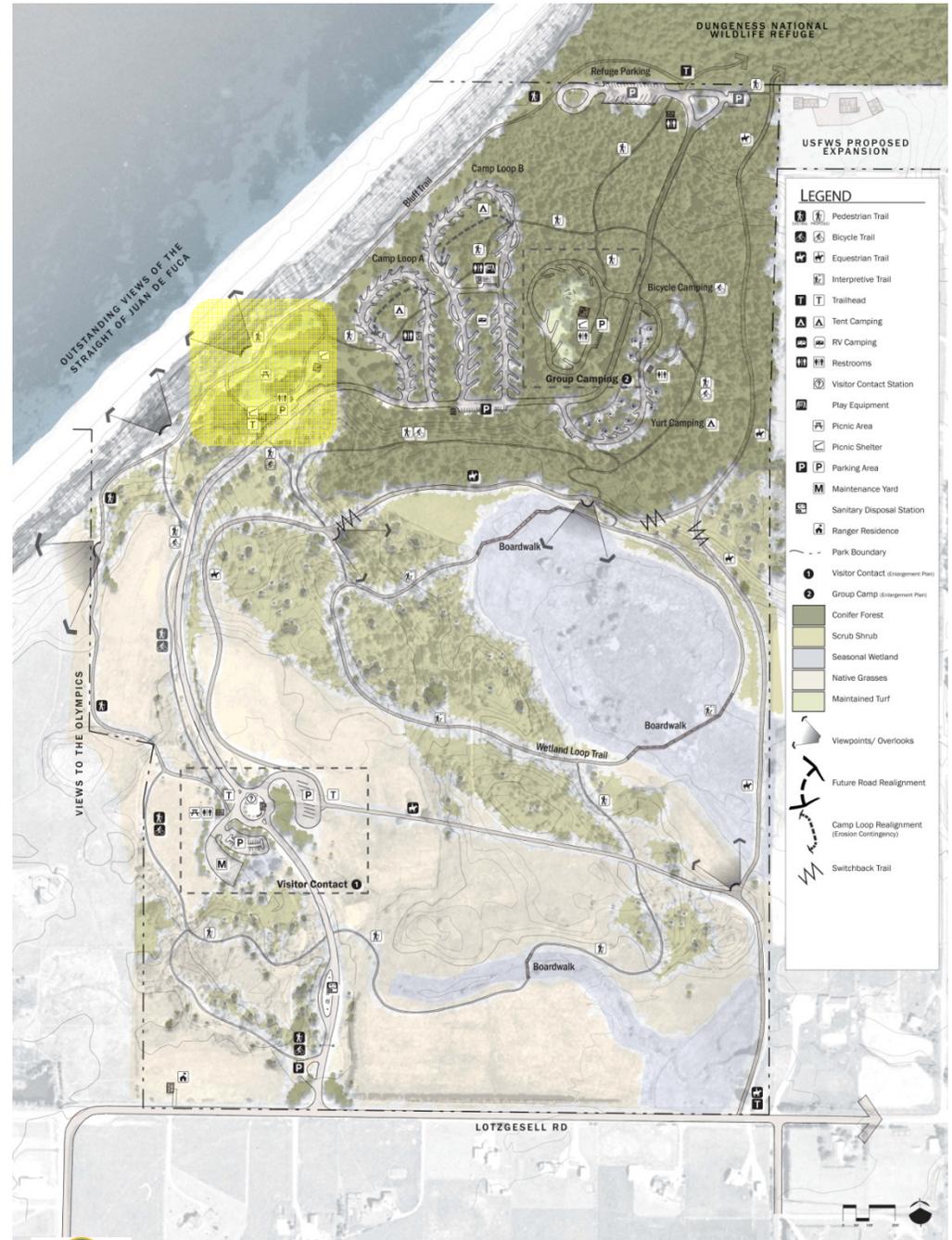


# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan Alternative A (cont.)



New Day Use Facilities

## Day Use Facilities



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Alternative A (cont.)**

### Management/Maintenance Facilities

- Relocate ranger residence to southwest corner of Park
- Registration booth at campground entrance replaced by joint Visitor Contact Station at quarry site
- Maintenance facilities relocated to quarry site

### Vegetation Management and Habitat Restoration

- Opportunities investigated to enhance & preserve seasonal wetlands
- Opportunities investigated to manage water flows to large perched wetlands in central eastern and southeastern portions of the Park to enhance seasonal open water areas
- Vegetation restoration at quarry area and plateau above quarry area

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Alternative B: County Park general concept**

- Limited improvements to accommodate additional local growth and recreation use through:
- Ongoing hunting continued through the end of the existing lease (at which time the BCCC will need to determine if hunting will be terminated or continue with restrictions and management terms)
- Retention of current mix of camping opportunities
- Improvements to the trail system

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Alternative B (cont.)**

### Hunting

If hunting lease is renewed these changes **may** apply:

- New leases limited to five-year terms
- WDFW to accept larger management role and maintain farming and habitat production areas
- WDFW to develop better farming practices for habitat production
- Deer hunting prohibited
- Elimination of duck hunting
- Pheasant hunting limited to Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, with no Sunday or holiday hunting.

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Alternative B (cont.)**

### Public Access

- Formal access limited to Voice of America Road
- Public access to the Refuge through the County Park
- Pedestrian path from the County Park to the new Refuge office and maintenance facilities proposed NE of the Park

### USFWS Lease

- New lease or easement agreement that assigns to USFWS responsibility for restroom and refuge access facilities
- Improvements to overflow lot and traffic flow at entrance to Refuge parking area

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Alternative B (cont.)**

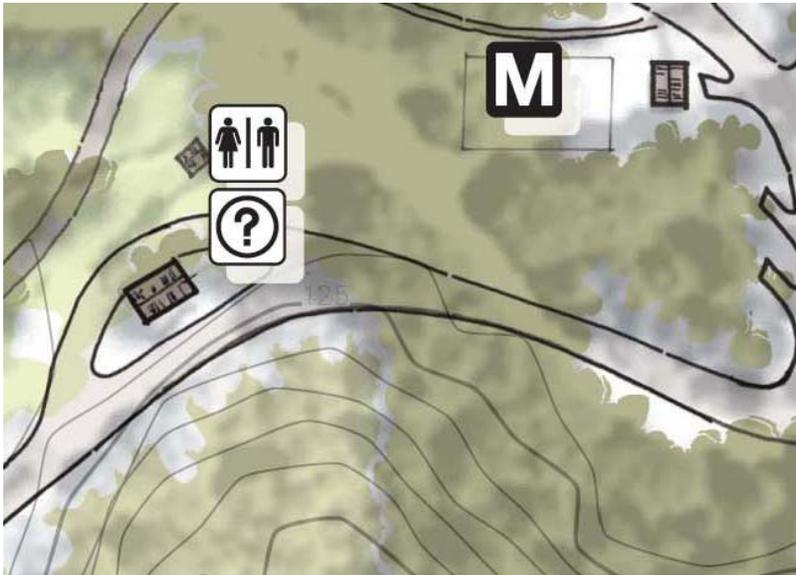
### Visitor Contact

- Campground host; no Visitor Contact Station.

### Road and Parking Improvements

- Relocation of Voice of America Road at least 200 feet away from bluff
- Improvements to the shoulders of the roadway from the second campground loop to the Refuge parking lot so that two vehicles can pass safely
- Improvements to road surface in both campground loops.
- Day use parking areas at the quarry site, near realigned bluff road, and at Refuge entry
- Campground overflow and Day-use parking at quarry site.

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan Alternative B (cont.)



Camping Host



Visitor Contact



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Alternative B (cont.)**

### *Interpretive Plan*

- Park-wide interpretive plan addressing bluff erosion, park history, relationship to DNWR, wetland habitat and other natural areas, birds and other wildlife, etc.

### *Bluff Trail System*

- Improve and realign bluff trail system as needed to respond to ongoing erosion
- Improve and relocate existing picnic sites along the bluff trail as needed to respond to ongoing erosion
- Relocate scenic viewpoints as needed to respond to ongoing erosion and to road realignment
- Improve trails from viewpoints to Park entrance, Picnic areas and campgrounds

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan Alternative B (cont.)



Bluff Trail with Updated Overlooks

## Bluff Trail System



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Alternative B (cont.)**

### *Other Trails*

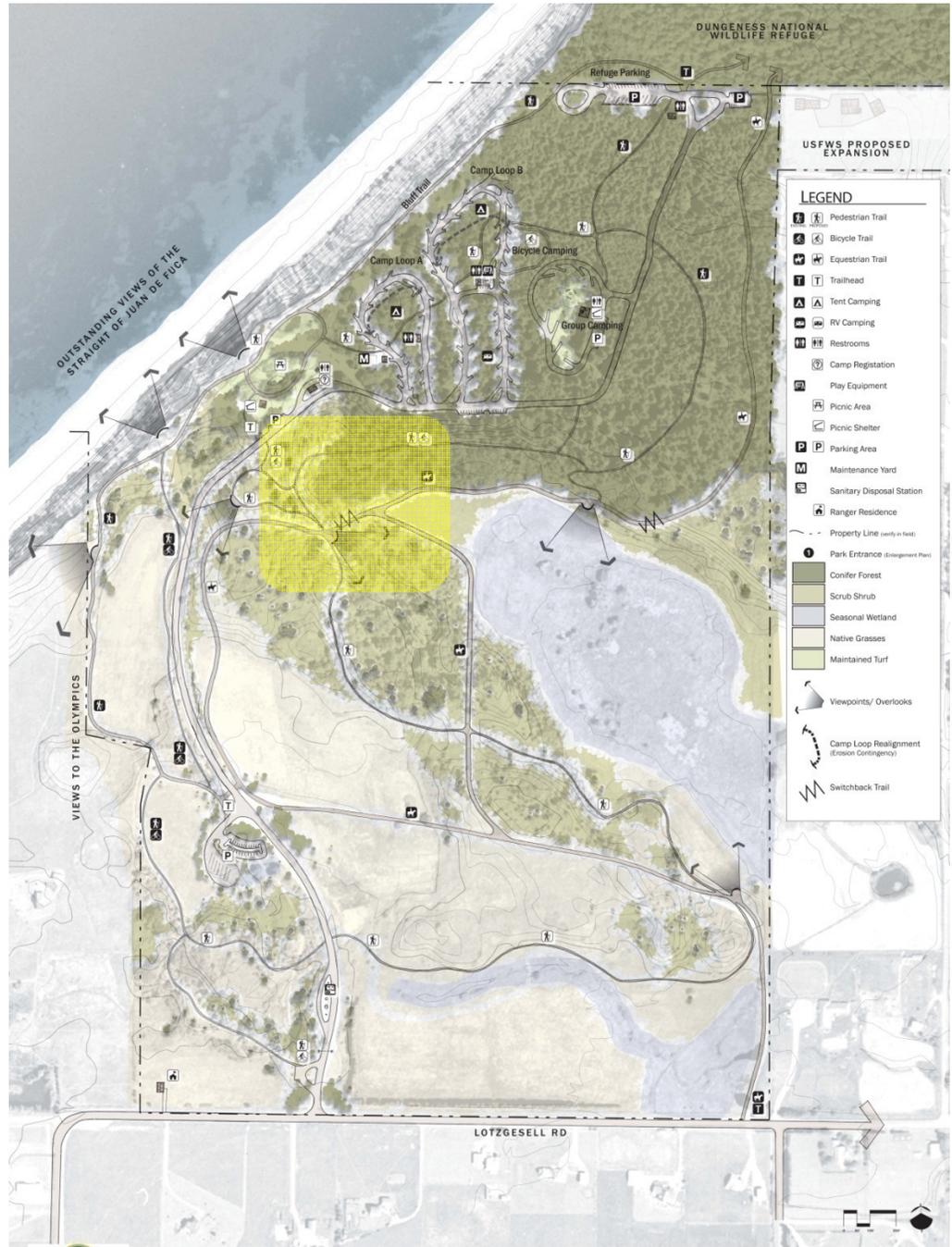
- Separate bicycle/pedestrian paved trails from the Park entrance to the campground and NWR parking lot
- Equestrian loop trail from horse unloading area near the park entrance to DNWR
- Signage and bollards that provide trail system information
- Viewpoints and interpretative signage (low-key, no large signage) along the trail system
- Consider relocation of some portions of the trail system that run very close to adjacent properties and fence lines.

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan Alternative B (cont.)



New Multi-modal Trail systems

## Other Trails



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Alternative B (cont.)**

### Camping

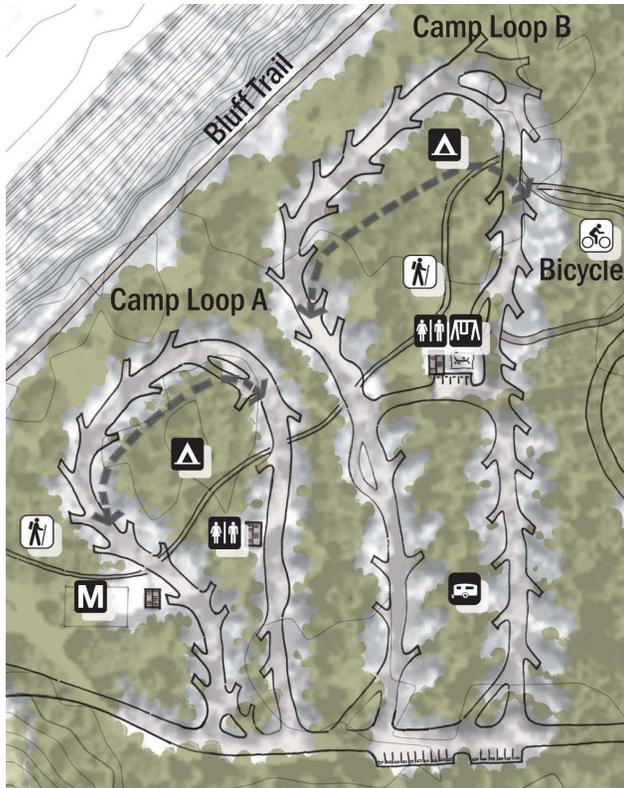
- Two campground loops retained; with consideration given to adding hook ups to RV site & improvements to the bike camp sites and group camp area – campsite #'s roughly same as present
- Reservation system
- If future revenues are needed to maintain the park facilities consideration would be given to some expansion to number of campsites available

### Day Use Facilities

- Group picnic area improved
- Common parking area with trailhead access at quarry area

# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## Alternative B (cont.)



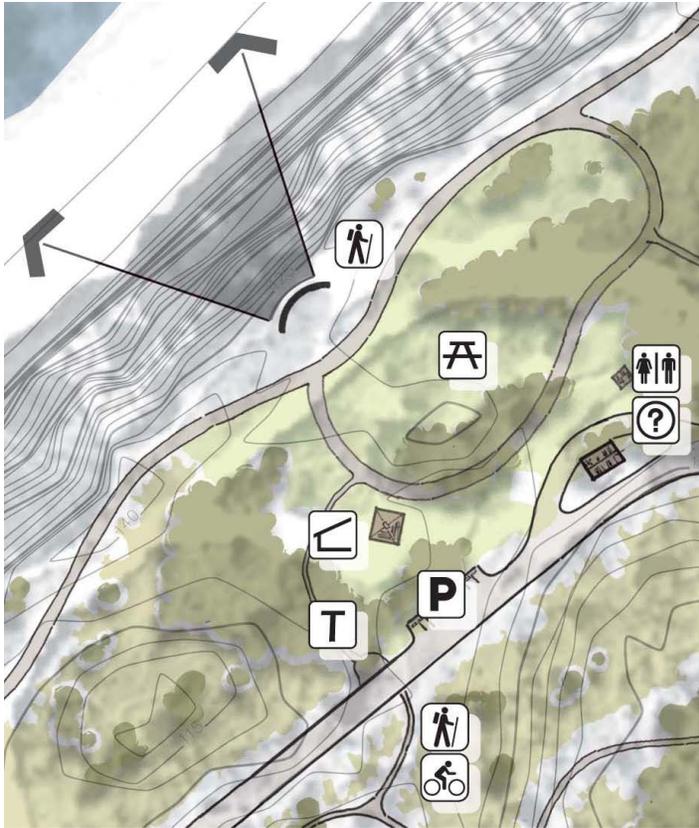
Camping

Camping



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## Alternative B (cont.)



New Day Use Facilities

### Day Use Facilities



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

## **Alternative B (cont.)**

### Management/Maintenance Facilities

- Park manager residence relocated when road improvements are needed due to bluff erosion
- Maintenance facilities relocated to quarry site in conjunction with relocation of residence.

### Vegetation Management and Habitat Restoration

- Opportunities investigated to recreate seasonal wetlands
- Opportunities investigated to increase water flows to large perched wetlands in central eastern and southeastern portions of the Park to ensure seasonal open water areas
- Vegetation restoration at quarry area and plateau above quarry area



# Next Steps



# Dungeness Recreation Area County Park Master Plan

- **Next Steps:**
  - Draft proposed Master Plan
  - Solicit input on proposed Master Plan
  - Complete Master Plan Report for County
  - Adoption
- **We want your input!**