

**PREVENT MILITARY WARFARE TRAINING IN STATE PARKS**

**WHEREAS** the Washington State Democratic Party Central Committee resoundingly passed resolution 20.02.01-957 opposing military training in Washington State Parks; <sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS** that resolution identified concerns including liability to state and local governments, Environmental Impact Study (EIS) shortcomings, and direct conflicts with Washington Administrative Code - WAC 352-32 PUBLIC USE OF PARKS<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS** military exercises in Washington 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” <sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS** in spite of thousands of public comments including over 7,000 petition signatures from every county in Washington, all 50 States in the U.S., and 36 countries <sup>4</sup>, submitted to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) that clearly register a supermajority opposed to military training in state parks <sup>5</sup>, the Commission voted 4:3 on January 28, 2020 to allow military warfare training in up to 28 Washington State Parks<sup>6</sup>;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Washington State Parks are to remain as intended: places where everyone regardless of sex, gender, race, creed, or status; can go to enjoy cultural history, camping, recreation, solitude, and the restorative qualities of nature’s splendor;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats Central Committee (WSDCC) opposes military warfare training in Washington State Parks;

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that this resolution be forwarded to all Washington State Democratic legislators, and Governor Jay Inslee - asking them to sponsor, and adopt an amendment to the Revised Code of Washington - RCW 79A.05.030 [Parks and Recreation – Powers and Duties] at (5)(a) <sup>7</sup> to add: “No concession or lease shall be granted for military training or exercises by any governmental agency, civilian or military.”

## **References**

1. WSDCC resolution 20.02.01-957 opposing military training in Washington State Parks.  
<https://www.wa-democrats.org/resolution/wsdccres-957-200201-recpass-military-training-in-state-parks/>
2. WAC 352-32 <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=352-32>
3. WAC 352-16-20 <https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=352-16-020>
4. Combined Change.org petition  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wJ1hqophBykQFI-wZuo7DPncW6S0wY9TN6HOf0opTU/edit#gid=1162028524>  
and “Not in Our Parks” petition at <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/not-in-our-parks-no-special-warfare-trainings-in-washington-state-parks>
5. Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, see Public Hearing held January 26, 2020 and public records [note: not all public records and meeting minutes have been uploaded to the State Parks website].  
<https://parks.state.wa.us/1168/Navy-training-proposal>
6. Washington State Parks news release January 29, 2021  
<https://parks.state.wa.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=674>
7. RCW 79A.05.030 <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=79A.05.030>

**ADOPTED by: Environment and Climate Caucus August 19, 2021.**

**Submitted to WSDCC for adoption consideration at their 2021 September 25-26 meeting.**

**PASSED AT THE SEPTEMBER 25 MEETING OF THE WSDCC**