

March 27, 2007

Notice of Final Determination  
Cypress Island Comprehensive Management Plan  
SEPA File No. 07-010301

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources issued a  Determination of Non-significance (DNS).  Mitigated Determination of Non-significance (MDNS),  Modified DNS/MDNS, [on January 3, 2007] for this proposal under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and VAC 197-11-340(2).

This threshold determination is hereby:

Retained.

Modified. Modifications to this threshold determination include the following:

Withdrawn. This threshold determination has been withdrawn due to the following:

Delayed. A final threshold determination has been delayed due to the following:

Summary of Comments and Responses (if applicable):

**A summary of comments received during public review and associated responses are attached.**

Responsible Official: Rich Doenges

Position/title: Aquatic Resources Division Manager

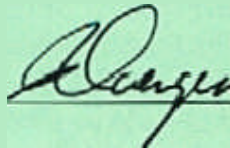
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Date:

4/2/07

Signature:



There is no agency SEPA appeal.

### Comments regarding visitor **use of Cypress Island**

- Continue to allow site to be used by kayakers in the future.
- Consider campsite registration process to better manage campsites.
- Limit group size.
- Develop a few group campsites at newly acquired Secret Harbor School site.
- There needs to be someplace for kayakers to come ashore on West Side of Island.
- Allow fires within fire rings on Strawberry Island.
- Consider posting public information about invasive species threats to the Island.
- Communicate with youth groups using Cypress and Strawberry Island to determine their needs before setting group size limits.
- Gathering firewood should be prohibited, only allow fires with wood brought from off site.

### DNR Response

DNR will continue to allow use of campsites on Cypress Island, but is revising group size limits to help further protect the fragile ecosystems on the island. DNR is also considering using a campsite registration process for Cypress Island, and is working on the logistics of such a process. The groups sizes recommended for Cypress Island in the Comprehensive Management Plan were modeled after standard group size limits for Wilderness Areas. DNR will develop a restoration and development plan for recently acquired Secret Harbor properties, group campsites may be considered during that planning process, however, no decision has been made, and a similar public process will be carried out when restoration plans for the Secret Harbor site are developed. Lack of safe public access due to the geography of the island along with efforts to avoid conflict with private ownership will continue to limit public access sites on the west side of Cypress Island. DNR has determined that camp fires will be prohibited on Strawberry Island due to the impacts of firewood collection and the potential threat of wildfire.

### Comments by Cypress Island Property Owners

- Requiring property owners to access DNR-managed lands through approved access points will burden landowners, especially on the northwest side of the island where no public access exists.
- Salmon net pens should not be allowed within the Cypress Island Aquatic Reserve.
- Property owners should be allowed to maintain mooring buoys within the Aquatic Reserve.
- Emergency Access to the airstrip should be allowed for property owners.
- Figure #4 does not accurately identify private ownership of tidelands in Strawberry Bay.
- Decommissioning of existing logging roads impacts the ability of disabled individuals to use the island.
- County land use designation should be more thoroughly documented in management plan.
- "Every Reasonable Effort" should be changed to Every Effort, in relation to prevention of private property damage as a result of wildfires.

### DNR Response

DNR has several established public access points on Cypress Island. Public access will be limited on the northwest side of the island due to the areas highly sensitive habitat.

DNR established specific management requirements that apply to the existing salmon net pen operation in the comprehensive management plan, found in section 5, page 34-38, that focus on habitat improvement and environment protection.

The management plan identifies private mooring buoys for property owners on Cypress Island as an approved use. Guidelines in the plan establish the use of low impact moorage systems. The management plan specifies that DNR will work with Cypress Island land owners to establish a mooring buoy management plan that will provide for environmental protection and assurances for moorage into the future for property owners.

Approved administrative access, including emergency use, will continue to be provided on Cypress Island.

DNR feels that private and state-ownership are adequately documented throughout the Comprehensive Management Plan.

Current county and state surveys of tidelands in Strawberry Bay indicate that private ownership extends from the uplands to the government meander line (which coincides with the mean high water line) and that the tidelands are state-owned.

Barrier free facilities are provided at public access points including Pelican Beach and Cypress Head

DNR is required by law to decommission old logging roads. Through the decommissioning process, several of the old roads will be changed to trails for public access. Decommissioning of the roads to a primary trail standard still allows for vehicle (ATV type) use for emergency and approved purposes.

Retaining the term "Every Reasonable Effort" is appropriate for fire suppression and prevention guidelines. DNR must consider the safety and welfare of wild land fire fighting crews. Fire suppression efforts will be directed toward protection of lives first, then property, then resources.

### **Comments Regarding Madrona Community Water System**

- Madrona Community has a DOH approved "Class A" water system that falls within WAC 246-290. This needs to be recognized in the plan and DNR needs to comply with the provisions of the WAC.
- The plan should include the entire Madrona Community Inc.'s "Watershed Control Program".
- DNR should maintain access for the Madrona Community to the watershed that serves the community water system.

### **DNR Response**

DNR agrees that resolving the Madrona Community's water issues is important, but more appropriately resolved through commitments for future discussions and possibly through the establishment of specific agreements and not through the Cypress Island Comprehensive Management Plan.

DNR will continue to work with the Department of Health to clarify our role in the Madrona Community, Inc.'s "Watershed Control Program" and DNR's responsibilities under the referenced WAC's to ensure that water quality on Cypress Island in general, and around Cypress Lake in particular is not compromised.

DNR will continue to work with the Madrona Community to ensure that they have the necessary access to the watershed serving the community water system. This access will be for administrative purposes only by DNR and the Madrona Community and will not be for general public use and access of Cypress Island NRCA.