PROCLAMATION



"Washington State Parks a Happy 100th Birthday"
March 2013

WHEREAS, the Washington State Park system, one of the oldest, largest and most beautiful state park systems in the country, turns 100 years old on March 19, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Washington established a statewide system of parks in 1913 as an expression of deeply held values of a public access, adventure, recreation and preservation; and

WHEREAS, nearly every county in the state is home to at least one of Washington's 117 state parks, and almost every citizen in the state has a state park within an hour's drive from home; and

WHEREAS, more than a third of the Washington state park system's 110,000 acres was donated by citizens committed to a statewide system of parks; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Parks also protects a vast collection of natural, cultural and historical resources that tell the story of our state, as a legacy to future generations; and

WHEREAS, ours is one of the most ecologically diverse states in the nation, and Washington State Parks offers a diverse array of recreational activities, including hiking, biking, camping, boating, winter recreation and much, much more; and

WHEREAS, state parks, such as Lake Easton, John Wayne Pioneer Trail, Gingko Petrified Forest, Olmstead Place, Iron Horse and Wanapum State Parks in (or near) Kittitas County deliver public benefits that include health, education, environmental stewardship and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Washington state parks receive approximately 40 million visits a year and generate $30 million in tax receipts, also contributing significantly to the economic health of our county and local communities; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Centennial 2013 Plan has brought together Commission, staff, partners and policymakers to enhance the park system in preparation for its Centennial year,

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Commissioners of Kittitas County, do hereby wish Washington State Parks a Happy 100th Birthday and urge all citizens to celebrate this momentous Centennial 2013 year by getting out and enjoying events and outdoor recreation activities in our state parks in 2013.

Proclaimed this 19th day of March 2013.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Obie O'Brien, Chairman

Paul Jewell, Vice-Chairman

Gary Berndt, Commissioner

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SEAL KITTITAS COUNTY WASHINGTON

Attest:

Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board - Deputy