

## **APPENDIX I: Evaluation Criteria/Decision Tool for Exemptions**

### **Evaluation/Decision Tool for Exemptions and Discount Programs for Recreation Offered by State Agencies**

This tool was developed by the Exemption Work Group as part of the collaborative process. It is a tool to evaluate existing exemptions or discount programs and also provides a template for evaluation of similar programs, if proposed by the legislature in the future. Discount programs are distinguishable from exemptions because they are not designed to benefit any specific population (see *Volunteers*, pg. 6). The information populating this document is the result of a wide array of research undertaken by the center and includes information from interviews held with various organizations that frequently interface with the beneficiary populations.

## Disability Pass

Exemption/Reduced Fee Program:	What are the <b>eligibility requirements</b> ? Who is the intended beneficiary?	1. Washington state residents (minimum three consecutive months) who are legally blind, profoundly deaf, developmentally disabled, or who meet the disability definition used by the U.S. Social Security Administration.
	What is the <b>benefit provided</b> (free/reduced access/activity pass, where valid, etc.)?	1. Valid on State Parks land only. 2. Provides: free day-use entry, boat launching and trailer dumping. 50% discount on camping and moorage.
	<b>Duration</b> (annual, lifetime, or seasonal):	1. Disability Pass can be granted for 1 or 5 years. 1-year passes are typical for temporary (as opposed to permanent) disabilities.
Principle (Intent or purpose):	(honorary, need-based, social equity, incentive)	

Simplicity:	<p><b>Application process</b>, including cost to beneficiary, if applicable:</p>	<p>1. An application form is found on the State Parks website and must be mailed with potential 30-day processing delay. Alternatively, a Permanent Disability Parking Permit may also be used, accompanied by a photo ID and shown to a park ranger.</p>
	<p><b>How is/will exemption be used by beneficiaries?</b> (i.e. do they get a pass, show proof of eligibility, can make camping reservations)?</p> <p>(some programs require proof of eligibility, then provide a pass; others just require proof of eligibility)</p>	<p>Pass program OR display blue/red disability pass OR disability license plates</p> <p>RE plates/disability pass: out of state vehicles may utilize benefit</p>
Consistency:	<p><b>Applicability to other state land</b> management agencies' recreation lands?</p>	<p>1. Only valid on State Parks lands.</p>
	<p><b>Consistency with other state and federal agencies'</b> exemption/reduced fee programs?</p>	<p>Federal agencies provide free Interagency Access Pass for U.S. citizens with permanent disabilities.</p>
Equity:	<p>What <b>barriers</b> to accessing/using public lands are <b>unique</b> to the intended beneficiary?</p>	<p>Considerations: Usability and quantity of ADA approved facilities</p>

	<p><b>How does (or will) the reduced fee/exemption minimize barriers?</b> Other ways that the land management agencies could serve this population?</p>	<p>Reduces financial barriers to accessing WA state public lands.</p> <p>State land management agencies could provide more or better ADA approved infrastructure.</p>
	<p><b>Other beneficiary populations</b> situated similarly?</p>	
Fiscal health of agencies:	<p><b>Administrative cost</b> to agencies? Can these costs be measured?</p>	<p>1. Unknown</p>
	<p><b>Lost revenue</b> for agencies?</p>	<p><i>2017 Est.</i></p> <p>1. Camping Subsidy Cost Estimate: <b>\$513,807</b> 2. Lost Revenue Cost Estimate: <b>\$1,682,194</b> 3. Total Direct Cost: <b>\$2,196,000</b></p>
Performance Measures:	<p><b>size of beneficiary population</b></p>	<p>2017 estimate (State Parks): 442,198, less 91,732 veterans with 30% disability rating = remaining total 350,457.</p>

	Are there (public/private or inter-agency)?	
	Changes in <b>population and usage over time</b> (if available)	1. State Parks estimates participation rate, based on general population participation. - 2017: 350,457 x 16% participation = <b>56,073</b>
Other considerations:	Are there <b>opportunities for partnerships</b> (public/private or inter-agency)?	
	<b>Potential for 'unintended consequences'</b> (such as over-use/abuse)?	
Notes:		

## Disabled Veterans Lifetime Pass

Exemption/Reduced Fee Program:	What are the <b>eligibility requirements</b> ? Who is the intended beneficiary?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Washington State resident min. of 3 consecutive months.</li> <li>2. Service-related disability of 30% or greater.</li> <li>3. Proof of 30 percent or more service connected disability may be in the form of an award letter or letter of certification on letterhead stationery from the Veterans Administration or the Department of Veterans Affairs.</li> </ol>
	What is the <b>benefit provided</b> (free/reduced access/activity pass, where valid, etc.)?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Valid on State Parks land only.</li> <li>2. Free entrance, camping / moorage, campsite reservations through State Parks central reservations system, watercraft launching, trailer dump and day-use entry.</li> <li>3. Valid year-round.</li> </ol>
	<b>Duration</b> (annual, lifetime, or seasonal):	Lifetime Pass
Principle (Intent or purpose):	(honorary, need-based, social equity, incentive)	Honorary

Simplicity:	<p><b>Application process</b>, including cost to beneficiary, if applicable:</p>	<p>1. Granted by State Parks with documentation of age, service and disability. An application form is found on the State Parks website and must be mailed with potential 30-day processing delay.</p> <p>2. Pass is free to qualifying individuals, a \$15 fee applies for lost card.</p>
	<p><b>How is/will exemption be used by beneficiaries?</b> (i.e. do they get a pass, show proof of eligibility, can make camping reservations)?</p> <p>(some programs require proof of eligibility, then provide a pass; others just require proof of eligibility)</p>	<p>Pass program, ID required</p>
Consistency:	<p><b>Applicability to other state land</b> management agencies' recreation lands?</p>	<p>1. Only valid on State Parks lands.</p>
	<p><b>Consistency with other state and federal agencies'</b> exemption/reduced fee programs?</p>	<p>a) Federal agencies do not have an exemption/reduced fee program for veterans.</p> <p>b) Federal agencies provide free Interagency Annual Pass for current U.S. military members and their dependents.</p>
Equity:	<p>What <b>barriers</b> to accessing/using public lands are <b>unique</b> to the intended beneficiary?</p>	<p><u>Considerations:</u> Usability and quantity of ADA approved facilities</p>
	<p><b>How does (or will) the reduced fee/exemption minimize barriers?</b></p> <p>Other ways that the land management agencies could serve this population?</p>	<p>Reduces financial barriers to accessing WA state public lands.</p> <p>State land management agencies could provide more or better ADA approved infrastructure.</p>

	<b>Other beneficiary populations</b> situated similarly?	<i>Why does this pass program only apply to veterans who are disable with a 30% service related disability? Why not all disabled veterans? Or all veterans?</i>
<b>Fiscal health of agencies:</b>	<b>Administrative cost</b> to agencies? Can these costs be measured?	1. Unknown
	<b>Lost revenue</b> for agencies?	<p><i>2017 Est.</i></p> <p>1. Camping Subsidy Cost Estimate: <b>\$2,369,818</b></p> <p>2. Lost Revenue Cost Estimate: <b>\$440,314</b></p> <p>3. Total Direct Cost: <b>\$2,810,132</b></p>
<b>Performance Measures:</b>	<b>size of beneficiary population</b>	<p>1. There are approximately <b>564,864</b> veterans residing in Washington. Of these <b>91,711</b> have a service-related disability rating of 30% or greater (Audette &amp; Stenovec, 2017).</p> <p><i>Note: State Parks reports slightly higher figure: <b>91,732</b></i></p>
	Are there (public/private or inter-agency)?	

	Changes in <b>population and usage over time</b> (if available)	1. State Parks extrapolates participation rate, based on general population participation. -For 2017: 91,732 x 16% participation = <b>14,677</b>
<b>Other considerations:</b>	Are there <b>opportunities for partnerships</b> (public/private or inter-agency)?	
	<b>Potential for 'unintended consequences'</b> (such as over-use/abuse)?	
<b>Notes:</b>		

## Foster Home Camping Pass (Benefit)

Exemption/Reduced Fee Program:	What are the <b>eligibility requirements</b> ? Who is the intended beneficiary?	1. Eligibility requirements are state residency plus Foster Care ID and Foster Home License. Foster parents or caregivers must be accompanied by the foster child(ren).
	What is the <b>benefit provided</b> (free/reduced access/activity pass, where valid, etc.)?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid on State Parks land only.</li> <li>Provides: free campsites and day-use entry, free use of boat launches and pump-outs.</li> <li>Valid year-round.</li> </ol>
	<b>Duration</b> (annual, lifetime, or seasonal):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No physical pass is distributed (hence, benefit).</li> <li>Benefit is granted as long as household is recognized as a foster-care home.</li> </ol>
Principle (Intent or purpose):	(honorary, need-based, social equity, incentive)	To make it easier for parents to take their foster child(ren) outside.
Simplicity:	<b>Application process</b> , including cost to beneficiary, if applicable:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no application process, eligibility is based on household foster-care status.</li> <li>Eligible participants making reservations do not pay for camping but are charged the reservation fee (\$8 online, \$10 by phone) to hold sites in the reservation system.</li> </ol>

	<p><b>How is/will exemption be used by beneficiaries?</b> (i.e. do they get a pass, show proof of eligibility, can make camping reservations?)</p> <p>(some programs require proof of eligibility, then provide a pass; others just require proof of eligibility)</p>	Benefit: foster care providers must show certification AND have foster child(ren) present; not a pass program
Consistency:	<p><b>Applicability to other state land management agencies' recreation lands?</b></p>	1. Only valid on State Parks lands.
	<p><b>Consistency with other state and federal agencies' exemption/reduced fee programs?</b></p>	Federal agencies do not have an exemption /reduced fee program for foster families.
Equity:	<p>What <b>barriers</b> to accessing/using public lands are <b>unique</b> to the intended beneficiary?</p>	<u>Considerations:</u> Financial ability for foster families to take foster child(ren) to State Parks or go camping
	<p><b>How does (or will) the reduced fee/exemption minimize barriers?</b> Other ways that the land management agencies could serve this population?</p>	Reduces financial barriers to accessing WA state public lands.
	<p><b>Other beneficiary populations</b> situated similarly?</p>	
Fiscal health of	<p><b>Administrative cost</b> to agencies? Can these costs be measured?</p>	1. Unknown

<p><b>Lost revenue</b> for agencies?</p>	<p><i>2017 Est.</i></p> <p>1. Camping Subsidy Cost Estimate: <b>\$145,635</b>                  2. Lost Revenue Cost Estimate: <b>\$13,565</b>                  3. Total Direct Cost: <b>\$159,199</b></p>	
<p><b>Performance Measures:</b></p>	<p><b>size of beneficiary population</b></p>	<p>2017 State Parks estimate: <b>1884 households with 1+ child(ren)</b></p>
	<p>Are there (public/private or inter-agency)?</p>	
	<p>Changes in <b>population and usage over time</b> (if available)</p>	<p>1. State Parks extrapolates a participation rate, based on general population participation.</p> <p>- 2017: 1,884 x 24% = <b>452</b></p>

Other considerations:	Are there <b>opportunities for partnerships</b> (public/private or inter-agency)?	
	<b>Potential for 'unintended consequences'</b> (such as over-use/abuse)?	
Notes:		

## Limited-Income Senior Pass

Exemption/Reduced Fee Program:	<p>What are the <b>eligibility requirements</b>? Who is the intended beneficiary?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. WA residents aged 62 and over with annual income of \$40,000 or less.</li> <li>2. Applies to combined income of married couples.</li> <li>3. Applicants who own property must also meet the requirements for a property tax exemption under the Revised Code of Washington 84.36.381.</li> </ol>
	<p>What is the <b>benefit provided</b> (free/reduced access/activity pass, where valid, etc.)?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Valid on State Parks land only.</li> <li>2. Free access, free watercraft launching &amp; trailer dumping. 50% discount on nightly camping and moorage.</li> <li>3. Valid year-round.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Duration</b> (annual, lifetime, or seasonal):</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When the pass is issued it becomes a permanent pass, valid so long as the qualifying criteria continues to be met by the pass holder</li> </ol>
Principle (Intent or purpose):	<p>(honorary, need-based, social equity, incentive)</p>	

Simplicity:	<p><b>Application process</b>, including cost to beneficiary, if applicable:</p>	1. Granted by State Parks with documentation of income
	<p><b>How is/will exemption be used by beneficiaries?</b> (i.e. do they get a pass, show proof of eligibility, can make camping reservations)?</p> <p>(some programs require proof of eligibility, then provide a pass; others just require proof of eligibility)</p>	Pass program, ID required
Consistency:	<p><b>Applicability to other state land management agencies'</b> recreation lands?</p>	1. Only valid on State Parks lands.
	<p><b>Consistency with other state and federal agencies'</b> exemption/reduced fee programs?</p>	<p>Federal agencies do not have an exemption/ reduced fee program for low income individuals.</p> <p>Federal agencies provide free Interagency Senior Pass for U.S. citizens age 62 or over. \$80 Lifetime Senior Pass or \$20 Annual Senior Pass</p>
Equity:	<p>What <b>barriers</b> to accessing/using public lands are <b>unique</b> to the intended beneficiary?</p>	<p>Considerations:</p> <p>Financial ability to access WA state public lands.</p>

	<p><b>How does (or will) the reduced fee/exemption minimize barriers?</b> Other ways that the land management agencies could serve this population?</p>	<p>Reduces financial barriers to accessing WA state public lands.</p> <p>State land management agencies could provide support or funding for alternative methods of transportation to trailheads, such as buses from urban areas.</p>
	<p><b>Other beneficiary populations</b> situated similarly?</p>	<p><i>Why does this pass program only apply to low-income seniors, rather than all seniors? Or all low-income individuals rather than just seniors?</i></p>
Fiscal health of agencies:	<p><b>Administrative cost</b> to agencies? Can these costs be measured?</p>	<p>1. Unknown</p>
	<p><b>Lost revenue</b> for agencies?</p>	<p><i>2017 Est.</i></p> <p>1. Camping Subsidy Cost Estimate: <b>\$89,853</b> 2. Lost Revenue Cost Estimate: <b>\$1,483,613</b> 3. Total Direct Cost: <b>\$1,196,395</b></p>
Performance Measures:	<p><b>size of beneficiary population</b></p>	<p>1. 2017 estimate: <b>230,530 low income senior households.</b></p>
	<p>Are there (public/private or inter-agency)?</p>	

	Changes in <b>population and usage over time</b> (if available)	1. State Parks extrapolates a participation rate, based on general population participation. - 2017: 230,530 x 16% participation = 36,885
Other considerations:	Are there <b>opportunities for partnerships</b> (public/private or inter-agency)?	Could partner with organizations already providing alternative methods of trailhead transportation.
	<b>Potential for 'unintended consequences'</b> (such as over-use/abuse)?	
Notes:		

## Volunteers (Complimentary Discover Pass)

Exemption/Reduced Fee Program:	What are the <b>eligibility requirements</b> ? Who is the intended beneficiary?	1. All Washington State residents are eligible to complete program requirements to receive this pass.
	What is the <b>benefit provided</b> (free/reduced access/activity pass, where valid, etc.)?	1. Valid on State Parks land only. 2. Provides: free day-use entry.
	<b>Duration</b> (annual, lifetime, or seasonal):	Annual Pass
Principle (Intent or purpose):	(honorary, need-based, social equity, incentive)	

<b>Simplicity:</b>	<b>Application process</b> , including cost to beneficiary, if applicable:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To obtain a Complimentary Discover Pass individuals must register and be approved by a state agency. Vouchers are retained upon volunteering time to Discover Pass-eligible projects (“Volunteering on Washington State Recreation Lands,” 2017). Vouchers are then sent to the address listed on the bottom of each voucher. If more than 24 hours equivalent is earned, extra vouchers can be saved and redeemed in subsequent years. Married couples may combine hours (Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, 2017).</li> </ol>
	<b>How is/will exemption be used by beneficiaries?</b> (i.e. do they get a pass, show proof of eligibility, can make camping reservations)?  (some programs require proof of eligibility, then provide a pass; others just require proof of eligibility)	Pass program
<b>Consistency:</b>	<b>Applicability to other state land management agencies'</b> recreation lands?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discover Pass grants access to all state-managed lands (State Parks, DNR, WDFW).</li> </ol>
	<b>Consistency with other state and federal agencies'</b> exemption/reduced fee programs?	<p>In addition to this complimentary Discover Pass, 2 other volunteer passes can be obtained to facilitate outdoor recreation in Washington.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Northwest Forest Pass (USFS lands) requires 16 hours.</li> <li>The Interagency Volunteer Pass (all federal lands, nationwide) requires 250 volunteer hours.</li> </ol>

Equity:	What <b>barriers</b> to accessing/using public lands are <b>unique</b> to the intended beneficiary?	
	<b>How does (or will) the reduced fee/exemption minimize barriers?</b> Other ways that the land management agencies could serve this population?	Reduces financial barriers to accessing WA state public lands.
	<b>Other beneficiary populations</b> situated similarly?	
Fiscal health of agencies:	<b>Administrative cost</b> to agencies? Can these costs be measured?	1. Unknown
	<b>Lost revenue</b> for agencies?	<p><i>SB5200 Fiscal Note (2017)</i></p> <p>1. Volunteer data based on five-year average number of complimentary passes issued each year (486 passes), multiplied by base price (\$30) for Discover Pass</p> <p>2. Total Direct Cost: \$14,580</p>
Performance Measures:	<b>size of beneficiary population</b>	1. All Washington State residents are eligible to participate.

	Are there (public/private or inter-agency)?	
	Changes in <b>population and usage over time</b> (if available)	1. SB 5200 reports an average of 423 complimentary discover passes issued per year (across 5 years of data), with married couples qualifying an estimated 63 additional complimentary passes are issued annually = estimated total of 486 households receiving this pass.
Other considerations:	Are there <b>opportunities for partnerships</b> (public/private or inter-agency)?	
	<b>Potential for 'unintended consequences'</b> (such as over-use/abuse)?	
Notes:		

## TEMPLATE

Exemption/Reduced Fee Program:	What are the <b>eligibility requirements</b> ? Who is the intended beneficiary?	
	What is the <b>benefit provided</b> (free/reduced access/activity pass, where valid, etc.)?	
	<b>Duration</b> (annual, lifetime, or seasonal):	
Principle (Intent or purpose):	(honorary, need-based, social equity, incentive)	
Simplicity:	<b>Application process</b> , including cost to beneficiary, if applicable:	
	<p><b>How is/will exemption be used by beneficiaries?</b> (i.e. do they get a pass, show proof of eligibility, can make camping reservations)?</p> <p>(some programs require proof of eligibility, then provide a pass; others just require proof of eligibility)</p>	

Consistency:	<p><b>Applicability to other state land</b> management agencies' recreation lands?</p>	
	<p><b>Consistency with other state and federal agencies'</b> exemption/reduced fee programs?</p>	
Equity:	<p>What <b>barriers</b> to accessing/using public lands are <b>unique</b> to the intended beneficiary?</p>	
	<p><b>How does (or will) the reduced fee/exemption minimize barriers?</b> Other ways that the land management agencies could serve this population?</p>	
	<p><b>Other beneficiary populations</b> situated similarly?</p>	
Fiscal health of agencies:	<p><b>Administrative cost</b> to agencies? Can these costs be measured?</p>	
	<p><b>Lost revenue</b> for agencies?</p>	
Performance Measure	<p><b>size of beneficiary population</b></p>	

	Are there (public/private or inter-agency)?	
	Changes in <b>population and usage over time</b> (if available)	
Other considerations:	Are there <b>opportunities for partnerships</b> (public/private or inter-agency)?	
	<b>Potential for 'unintended consequences'</b> (such as over-use/abuse)?	
Notes :		