

SENATE RESOLUTION
8625

By Senators Pearson, Rolfes, Smith, Kline, Hargrove, Padden, Dammeier, Holmquist Newbry, Schoesler, Hasegawa, Hewitt, Parlette, Hatfield, Kohl-Welles, Schlicher, Honeyford, Eide, Fraser, and Bailey

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

WHEREAS, Washington was the fourth state in the country to establish a statewide park system in 1913, and the park system is an expression of deeply held Washington values – public lands, adventure, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Parks acquires and operates park lands in one of the most ecologically diverse states in the nation and offers a variety of recreation activities, including hiking, biking, camping, boating, winter recreation, and much more; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Parks also acquires, operates, enhances, and protects a diverse system of natural, cultural, and historical resources, including iconic geologic sites, 35 heritage areas, interpretive centers, and 700 historic structures, which together tell the story of our state; and

WHEREAS, These treasures that are cared for, operated, and preserved by Washington State Parks must be protected for future generations of Washingtonians; and

WHEREAS, Washington's 117 state parks are all over the state, with parks within an hour's drive of almost all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Parks receive approximately 40 million visits a year, and visits generate \$30 million in direct annual state tax receipts and contribute significantly to the economic health of local communities and economies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the significance of Washington State Parks to the state's economy, citizens, and quality of life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate celebrate the 100th birthday of Washington State Parks.

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
do hereby certify that this is a true and
correct copy of Senate Resolution 8625,
adopted by the Senate
March 11, 2013

HUNTER G. GOODMAN
Secretary of the Senate