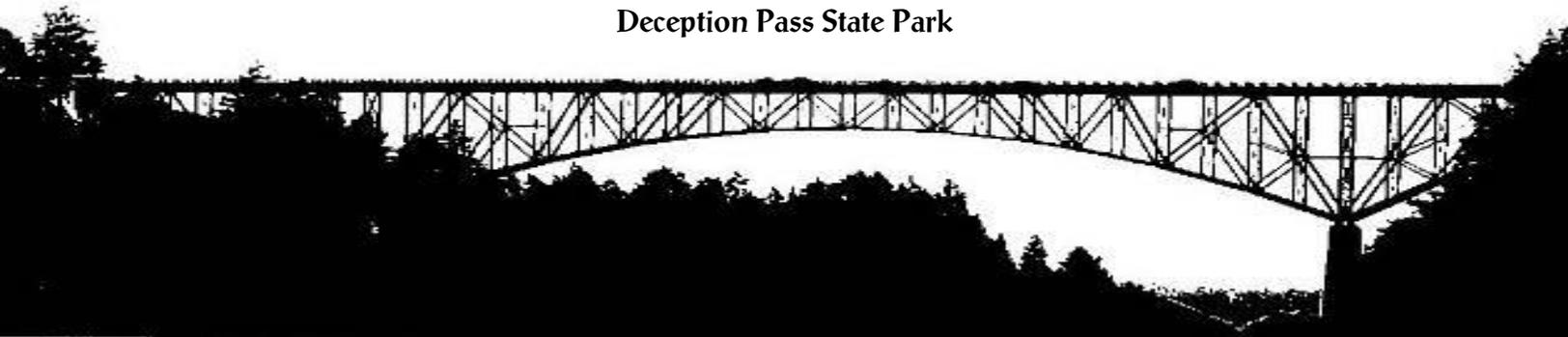


The Bridge

Interpretive Newsletter

Deception Pass State Park



Mapping the Park

Our current park map (the one we sell brochures of in the Welcome Booth) was created back in 2006. A lot has changed since then.

For one, the park is bigger now. We've added land on the eastern end of Hoypus Point and on Ben Ure Island, acquired the Quarry Pond Campground, and we now co-own Kiket Island with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

There's also more stuff in the park itself. We have 60 new campsites, a Park Administration building off of Highway 20, a group meeting room on West Beach, and (as of this month) a classroom on Rosario Beach (see pictures on the next page). The trails by Pass Lake have become a loop, and there's a new, secluded gateway to Hoypus.

We've lost some things too. The old growth forest above North Beach was recently described by a visiting arborist as a "nursing home for trees." Many of the towering Cedars and Firs are afflicted with laminated root rot, and others are simply getting old. Unfortunately, we had three group camps located in this area and the danger posed by falling limbs and even whole trees became too great to ignore. We hope to find a location for new group camp sites in the future. The current map also lists a Visitor's Center slated to open in 2007. The funding for this project was later cut.

Trying to update the park map to reflect these changes (and many others) was a more difficult task than I anticipated and I gained a lot of respect for cartographers in the process. It took a lot of time to make even the smallest alterations. But when it comes to maps, details matter, so I did my best to ensure that everything appears as it should.

Still, what struck me the most about this process was everything that had to be left out. At its most basic level, a map is a visual representation of an area—a landscape transferred onto a piece of paper or a computer screen. As a basic navigational guide, the new park map should serve visitors well. Parking, trails, picnic shelters and tide pools are all easily located. But no map can predict where an eagle might be perching or guide you to the rush of life at a freshly fallen tree, and no map could capture the character of an 800 year-old Douglas Fir. To know a map is not to know a place.

Deception Pass is filled with moving parts and natural enigmas. So buy a map (the money stays in this park), but don't be bound to it—sometimes exploration is the best form of navigation.

You Can Help!

The new official park map will be placed on the kiosks throughout the park and sold in brochures. I want to make sure that it's as accurate and useful as possible. This will be the orientation map for the whole park. Check out the latest version and let me know what you think. Here's how:

1. Follow this link to view the updated park map: bit.ly/v8VOju
2. Click "Download original" (upper right corner) to download a high-quality .pdf version.
3. Send your comments, questions and suggestions to sam.wotipka@parks.wa.gov

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Ongoing and Future Projects

🌲 Now that I have (almost) completed an updated version of the park orientation map, I will soon begin working on three area-specific maps with extra information and details. There will be enlarged maps for the Fidalgo portion of the park (Bowman, Rosario, and Pass Lake) the Widbey portion (Goose Rock, North Beach, and West Beach), and Hoypus Point Natural Forest Area.

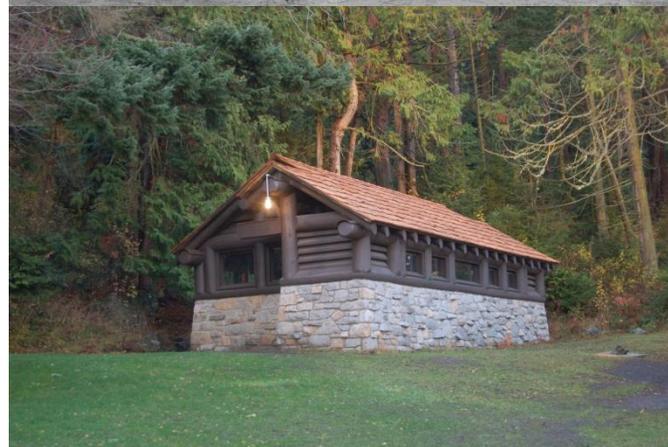
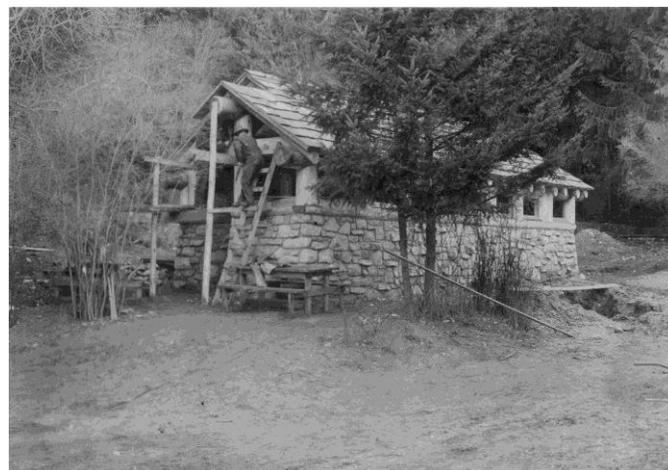
🌲 The project to create some interpretive signage for the old CCC incinerator at the Cornet Bay Retreat Center has morphed into a slightly larger venture. Ranger Kim Horton and I are now developing a series of four signs to be placed around the Retreat Center that will detail the presence of the CCC throughout the park and at Cornet Bay in particular. We've been plumbing the archives at the park and found some very interesting info and pictures.

🌲 The new classroom at Rosario Beach is complete! In addition to getting the room prepped for school groups, I'm also working with members of the Deception Pass Park Foundation and Beach Naturalist Sammie Kempbell to come up with ways to use the building with visitors in the spring and summer. A mini-interpretive center, perhaps?

🌲 A target species list for *Wildflowers of Deception Pass* will be posted online in the next month or two (see November issue of the Bridge for more info).

🌲 Jack and I are working together to develop a passport-type scavenger hunt activity to encourage visitors to check out some of the oft-neglected areas of the park. (Have you ever been to Ginnett? Or the bog on Hoypus Hill?) The details are still being hammered out, but the end product may involve smartphones...

🌲 A Boy Scout in Oak Harbor has graciously agreed to take on the construction of new benches for our amphitheater as an Eagle Project. This will be a BIG undertaking. If you know of a business or individual that might be willing to donate materials or money to this project, please contact me.



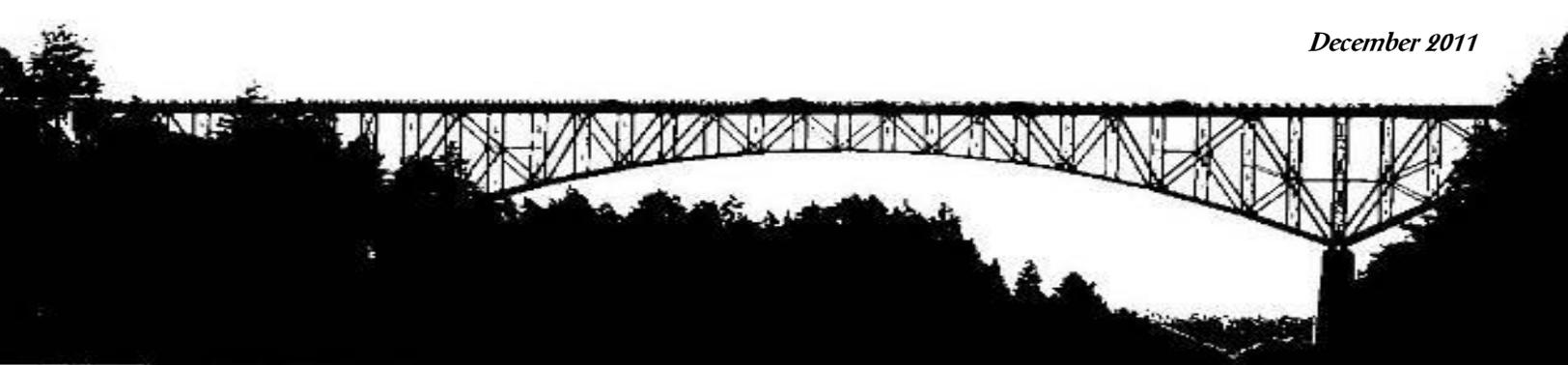
The Rosario Washroom (top, 1930s) and the Rosario Classroom (bottom, present).

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Where in the Park?



Be the first person to correctly guess where in the park the above picture was taken and win a prize. Be as specific as possible. Send answers to sam.wotipka@parks.wa.gov. One answer per person, please.

Hint: this picture was taken at approximately 10:15am.

Words of Wisdom

"It's not down on any map; true places never are."

- Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*

School Trips at Deception Pass

Tide pool season is fast approaching. Although high tides are currently obscuring the tide pools at Rosario Beach during the day, come spring they'll be back in the sun. Classes have already begun making reservations, so contact us soon to ensure a day with a low tide.

Of course tide pools aren't all that Deception Pass has to offer. We've also got beaches, sand dunes, tide pools, old growth forests and freshwater lakes. You couldn't ask for a better outdoor classroom.

If you are a teacher or know a class interested in taking a field trip to Deception Pass State Park, please contact Interpretive Services to schedule a visit.

Park Fact of the Month

In order to avoid potential conflicts due to cultural differences, Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees from the East and West Coasts were placed in separate camps. The camp at Rosario Beach was primarily made of men from Washington and Oregon, while men at the Cornet Bay camp were from eastern states like New York and New Jersey.

Contact Info

If you would like to schedule an interpretive program, or if you have any questions about interpretive or educational services at Deception Pass State Park, contact us at sam.wotipka@parks.wa.gov or (360) 675-3767 ext. 31.

