

STATE PARKS and CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

Until the legislative session now underway in Olympia is complete there is not much to report.

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission held a meeting on March 24th in Olympia and park fees was one of the topics. This meeting was more of a fact-finding session and nothing was determined. There will be another meeting the latter part of May where new fees or fee increases should be decided.

If SSB 5622, the Discover Pass Bill, is passed then a review of all fee policies will probably take place. Under WAC 352-32-250 (Standard fees charged) there are certain instances where registered overnight guests have additional fees waived and the impact of the Discover Pass on these waived fees has yet to be determined.

While there has yet to be direct mention of increasing overnight moorage rates for Marine State Parks the probability of, at some point, these fees being reviewed and subject to increase is fairly certain. There are two main reasons for the fee review:

1. The State's budget problems
2. Park moorage fees have not been reviewed or increased since 2003

Boaters using State Parks Annual Moorage Permits are reminded that, if possible, they should register when they stay at a park dock or buoy. Registering helps Parks if there is a need to locate a boater and also helps Parks keep track of park usage. Registering is not required at parks where no overnight fee is charged.

State Parks has explained that the shorter length restriction (36 ft.) on the mooring buoys around Blake Island is an attempt to reduce buoy loss. Apparently the increased tidal and wave action around Blake has placed additional strain on the buoy mooring tackle and buoys are breaking loose. Parks are reviewing whether or not the restriction needs to continue to be placed on all of Blake's buoys.

At this time there are no proposed changes to the procedures or required documentation for boater when returning to the US from Canada. **There is a change however for those boaters who wish to obtain an I-68.**

To obtain an I-68 a boater must already have and present, when applying, a WHTI (Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative) compliant document. This means a US Passport, US Passport Card, Enhanced Driver's License or Trusted Traveler Program Card.

More information can be found at www.getyouhome.gov or at www.cbp.gov and click on travel.

This information is current as of April 9, 2011.