



## Support for DAHP Retaining Department Status

The 2009-2011 Governor's budget proposes to consolidate the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation with the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission. The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation opposes this move for the following reasons:

- **Moving DAHP into State Parks makes no sense from an administrative standpoint:**
  - DAHP has federal and state responsibilities for the protection of Washington's historic and cultural resources. A move to State Parks places these responsibilities in an agency that does not report directly to the Governor.
  - DAHP operates at a high level of efficiency since becoming independent in 2005. It risks being subject once again to unnecessary indirect costs and administrative bureaucracy if moved to another agency.
  - DAHP has regulatory responsibility over State Parks, therefore an entirely new administrative system for appeals, penalties and permitting would have to be developed and defined in the RCW.
  - Parks' IT system does not have the capacity to meet DAHP's massive storage needs to house the GIS systems, cultural resources documents, photos, and internet portals used by state and local governments, tribes, and private land developers.
  - A move to Parks could impede the process to receive federal historic preservation funds. Experience shows that it could take 2 to 3 years for the Federal system to adjust to the State changes.
  
- **Moving DAHP into State Parks will cost money, not save money:**
  - DAHP's rent for office space will increase by \$212,000 per year. Additional costs will be incurred for re-branding as a State Parks program – funding that is better spent on programs and support for local governments.
  - Estimated cost to rewrite rules for administrative appeals and hold public hearings: \$80-\$100,000. If any outside entity contests the rules changes, the cost could rise to \$200,000.
  
- **Moving DAHP into State Parks will result in decreased funding and support to local governments:**
  - Since gaining agency status in 2005, DAHP has increased its ability to pass on federal funding to cities, counties and non-profit organizations to support local preservation efforts.
  - Increased administrative costs will result in less Federal funding to pass through in grants, thereby limiting local governments' abilities to support needed preservation projects.
  - Capital grant programs currently administered by DAHP, including the Historic County Courthouse Rehabilitation Program and Heritage Barn Program, are used to match federal funding the department receives annually, in turn allowing local governments to fully participate in Certified Local Government grant programs. If these capital grant programs are moved out of DAHP as proposed, local governments will be required to provide their own match, decreasing the ability of localities to participate.

*The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation is Washington's statewide, non-profit historic preservation advocacy organization dedicated to saving the historic places that tell our collective stories and to promoting sustainability, economic development, and community vitality through the adaptive reuse of historic buildings. Since our founding in 1976, the Washington Trust has provided critical support to local communities as they work to save the places that matter to them.*

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