

Paula Spina
Crockett Farm, LLC
P.O. Box 250
Coupeville, WA 98239-0250
206-265-0981
paulaspina.wa@gmail.com

December 30, 2020

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Jessica Logan, Environmental Program Manager
P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

via: <http://bit.ly/ParksSEPA>; SEPA@parks.wa.gov

RE: Naval Special Operations Training SEPA

Dear Ms. Logan and Commissioners:

I am the owner and manager of the Historic Crockett Farm located within the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, Coupeville, Washington. Our mission is the preservation of our local pioneer history by maintaining and providing for the public use of the historic structures at the Farm. Many of our guests enjoy Fort Casey and Fort Ebey State Parks while they are visiting us. My partner and I also frequently use our state parks here on Whidbey and on the Peninsula. It is inconceivable to me that you are considering granting a permit to the U.S. Navy to use our state parks for commando training. This permit request must be rejected.

The Navy's plan is to insert trainees into our state parks to observe and stalk simulated human targets – us. They specifically want to use our parks, instead of their own military reservations, because they want to use civilians as props. This is completely unacceptable. Our state parks are for peaceful civilian use and are essential for public health, especially now with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our parks must remain civilian. The Navy has no real need to use our state parks, and certainly does not need to use our civilians as part of their training. Any insertion of commandos into enemy territory would likely face enemy soldiers on alert, not unsuspecting civilians. Trainees should therefore be going up against professional soldiers during training exercises, not civilians.

Congress has provided the military with millions of acres reserved solely for training purposes. Putting military trainees, with realistic looking weaponry, in close proximity to unaware civilians is a recipe for deadly conflict. In North Carolina a deputy sheriff killed one and seriously wounded another military trainee in a similar situation. Who pays in the event of a tragedy? We do, the citizens of Washington State. In the North Carolina case the local county had to pay out \$750,000 in damages. Our state and local governments are already under dire financial distress.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
December 30, 2020
Page 2

State park users should not be required to become military props as a condition of entry and use of our parks, and should never be exposed to potential danger or liability while using our parks. Accordingly, I implore you to reject this Navy request and to restore all of our state parks to civilian use only. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paula Spina", with a large circular flourish at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paula Spina
Personally and on behalf of
Crockett Farm, LLC

PS:sh