



20 January 2004

Mr Rex Derr, Director  
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission  
P.O. Box 42650  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear members of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission,

**Re: The transfer of Old Man House State Park to the Suquamish Tribe**

Greetings. I am writing you as the Executive Director of Earth Ministry, a Christian, environmental non-profit in Seattle. Earth Ministry has about **1500 members** and works with **104 congregations** located in the **Puget Sound area**.

The reason for this letter is to ask you to transfer Old Man House State Park to the Suquamish Tribe. The park, which is the historic home to the Suquamish people, has deep historic and cultural significance to the Tribe.

The tribe has agreed that the land will remain a park, open to all. The Tribe recently completed an extensive community involvement process, in which all members of the community were given opportunities to comment on how they would like the park managed. The resulting Park Management Plan, which incorporates hundreds of comments from all parts of the community, demonstrates that under Tribal administration the park will continue to provide a valuable amenity to the larger community while also returning this important cultural and historic site to its rightful owners.

You have the opportunity to return this land in 2004, 100 years after it was taken from the tribe. Please right an historic wrong by taking action on this small but significant piece of land.

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Roger Hudson  
Executive Director

6512 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave NW Suite 317 Seattle, WA 98117-9923 (206) 632-2426  
emoffice@earthministry.org www.earthministry.org

---