



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Ferry Naming Requirements and Process

What do I need to do to propose a name for a new ferry?

You can propose a name for a new ferry by submitting the following information to the Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) offices:

- Identify the lead/ sponsoring entity along with the ferry name being proposed.
- Establish eligibility - Identify how the proposal conforms to WSTC guidelines as indicated in the “WSF Vessel Naming Policy” (*outlined below*).
- Provide background and make a case for the proposal.
- Establish and identify widespread support for the proposal
 - Can be done via letters of support from local, regional, and state bodies and officials.

What is the WSTC’s process for naming a ferry?

- WSTC will issue a public request for naming proposals well in advance of a planned ferry naming action, establishing critical dates, deadlines, and requirements.
- Once the deadline for naming proposals has passed, the Commission Ferry Team will review all proposals for compliance with established guidelines to determine eligibility.
- Sponsors of proposals that are found to not be eligible will be notified electronically and in writing.
- Eligible proposals will be shared with the full Commission for their information.
- Eligible proposals will be sent to the FAC Executive Council and WSF for review and input - they must respond within 30 days.
- Concurrent to the FAC and WSF review, information on eligible proposals will also be posted for 30 days on the WSTC web site for public information and input via the “transc” email address or mail.
- If possible, a survey of the eligible names will be taken via the F.R.O.G. panel.
- Upon completion of the above steps, eligible proposals will be advanced to the full Commission, along with all input received and a Commission Ferry Team recommendation on the preferred name.
- Final action taken by the full Commission.

What are guidelines the Commission uses in determining a proposal’s eligibility as well as selecting a name?

At a minimum, the following guidelines will be used to assess ferry name proposals:

- Names for ferries should carry statewide significance and represent our state’s image and culture.
- Specifically, names should represent such things as: state adopted symbols, tribal names, names of bodies of water, geographic locations, cities, counties, or relate to nautical heritage, etc.
- Consideration will be given to the consistency with existing WSF fleet names. (*NOTE: All but two current vessels have tribal names: the Rhododendron and the Evergreen State.*)

- Names should have broad familiarity, be easy to pronounce, are non-offensive and meet ethical standards.
- Names with commercial overtones or names honoring or commemorating individuals should be avoided, but will be considered upon very careful review. In these cases, the following guidelines will apply:
 - The individual must be deceased for at least 20 years.
 - They must have enduring fame and have played a significant historical role in the region and/or state.

Can a name be proposed at anytime?

The WSTC will issue a public notice requesting ferry name proposals a few months in advance of naming a new boat. Proposal should be submitted by the identified deadline.

If name proposals are submitted during a time in which the WSTC is not requesting them, the proposals will be kept on file for future naming actions. The WSTC will not consider or process them until a public notice requesting name proposals has been issued.

Are all proposals advanced through the entire review process or are they screened for eligibility? How will I know if mine gets advanced or not?

All proposals submitted by the established deadline will be reviewed and screened for eligibility. To be eligible, proposals must meet the guidelines as indicated in the Commission's "WSF Vessel Naming Policy"

Sponsors of proposals found to not be eligible will be notified in writing within a few weeks of the proposal submittal deadline.

Aside from the Commission, who else will get to review and offer input on name proposals?

Input on all eligible proposals will be sought from Washington State Ferries, the Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) Executive Council, and the general public. Input will be gathered for about a one month period.

Additionally, the WSTC has established a "Ferry Team" made up of three Commissioners who will serve as the lead members in reviewing all the proposals, all the input gathered, and recommending the final name to the full seven-member WSTC.