



## MEETING NOTICE

**TUALATIN PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**November 12, 2013 - 6:00 PM**  
**Van Raden Community Center**  
**8535 SW Tualatin Road**  
**(Inside Tualatin Community Park)**

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### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

### **B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF October 8, 2013**

### **C. COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Chair
2. Council Liaison
3. Staff
  - a. Pumpkin Regatta recap
  - b. Starry Nights and Holiday Lights on December 6, 2013
  - c. Centennial Time Capsule Ceremony Thursday, December 19, 2013 at noon at the Tualatin Heritage Center
4. Public

### **D. OLD BUSINESS**

1. None

### **E. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Tualatin Capital Improvement Program  
Kaaren Hofmann will present the 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Plan
2. Oregon Statewide Outdoor Comprehensive Recreation Plan  
TPARK will review and discuss the 2013-2017 SCORP  
[http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/Pages/planning\\_SCORP.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/Pages/planning_SCORP.aspx)

### **F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. TPARK Annual Report
2. Park and Recreation Master Plan

### **G. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

### **H. ADJOURNMENT**



# City of Tualatin

**DRAFT**

## **TUALATIN PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**October 8, 2013**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dennis Wells, Valerie Pratt, Kay Dix, Stephen Ricker, Connie Ledbetter

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bruce Andrus-Hughes, Dana Paulino,

**STAFF PRESENT:** Carl Switzer, Parks and Recreation Manager

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** None

**OTHER:** None

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### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 6:06.

### **B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The August 13, 2013 minutes were unanimously approved.

### **C. COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Public – None
2. Chairperson – None
3. Staff – Staff presented an update to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual West Coast Giant Pumpkin Regatta. Stephen said he would like to race again. TPARK was invited to attend the special advisory committee meeting about Seneca Street extension. TPARK was informed that the CDBG grant application for a new fire sprinkler system for the Juanita Pohl Center was submitted.

### **D. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Trail User Counts  
TPARK reviewed the trail user count project.
2. Centennial Celebration – Time Capsule

TPARK reviewed and discussed the current planning for the Centennial Celebration and list of items that would be included in the time capsule. They were encouraged to submit a letter for posterity.

3. Tualatin Tomorrow Update

TPARK reviewed and discussed the latest planning efforts for Tualatin Tomorrow.

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

1. None.

**F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Capital Improvement Plan

**G. COMMUNICATION FROM TPARK MEMBERS (All)**

None

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. by consensus.

*The City of Tualatin's*  
**Starry Nights & Holiday Lights**

*★ Friday, December 6, 2013 5:30-8:30 pm ★*



*Join us at The Lake at Tualatin Commons for:*

- The lighting of Tualatin's floating holiday tree.*
- Children's chairs from Tualatin schools.*
- Refreshments and a visit from Santa!*

**FREE**

*The Tualatin Commons is located at 8325 SE Nyberg Street, Tualatin, OR 97062  
For more information call 503-691-3061 or go to [www.tualatinoregon.gov](http://www.tualatinoregon.gov)*





The City of Tualatin's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) establishes and prioritizes funding for projects. These projects include development of new infrastructure and improvements to existing infrastructure and facilities.

The CIP promotes better use of the City's limited financial resources, reduces costs and assists in the coordination of public and private development. In addition, the planning process is valuable as a means of coordinating development of facilities and infrastructure.

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## 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Plan

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**For questions about the CIP, contact:**

Kaaren Hofmann, Engineering, 503-691-3034, [khofmann@ci.tualatin.or.us](mailto:khofmann@ci.tualatin.or.us)

City of Tualatin, 18880 SW Martinazzi Ave, Tualatin, OR 97062, [www.tualatinoregon.gov/engineering](http://www.tualatinoregon.gov/engineering)

## DEFINITION

The CIP will include projects in excess of \$10,000 with an expected useful life of more than one year.

Smaller projects (less than \$10,000) may be combined into one larger project and therefore defined as a capital expense.

Items such as minor equipment and routine expenses will continue to be accounted for in the City's annual budget and will not be included in the plan.



## CRITERIA

A Review Team consisting of members from each department, conducts an internal project ranking process to prioritize projects to be included in the annual budget. The criteria used in this ranking includes, but are not limited to:

- Addresses health and safety concerns
- Support of Council goals
- Meets a regulatory or mandated requirement
- Considers service delivery needs
- Includes outside funding and partnerships
- Implements a Master Plan

## CATEGORIES

### FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT

Projects involving buildings, structures, equipment, and vehicles that the City owns and manages.

### PARKS & RECREATION

Projects affecting parks and open spaces

### TECHNOLOGY

Projects involving hardware, software, or infrastructure that improves and/or support technology.

### TRANSPORTATION

Projects affecting transportation such as streets, bike lanes, pedestrian crossings, paths, trails, and rail.

### UTILITIES

Projects involving the Water, Storm, and Sewer distribution infrastructure.

# SCORP

Ensuring Oregon's Outdoor Legacy



*Nature*  
**HISTORY**  
*Discovery*

**2013-2017**

**Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan**  
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

This document is part of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) process. Authority to conduct the SCORP process is granted to the Director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 390.180. This document and related appendices are prepared to comply with Chapter 630 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants Manual produced by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

The preparation of this bulletin is financed, in part, through a planning grant from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, under provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 188-578). Accordingly, all of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department programs and activities must be operated free from discrimination, on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against or who would like further information regarding the prohibition of discrimination should write to:



Equal Opportunity Program Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, 5th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005





# Foreword

Oregon's parks, public places, natural areas, and open spaces give life and beauty to our state. These essential assets connect people to the natural environment, community, and to themselves. They also make a substantial contribution to the state's economy. A recent study by the Outdoor Industry Association found that, in Oregon, outdoor recreation annually generates \$12.8 billion in consumer spending, \$4.0 billion in wages and salaries, 141,000 direct Oregon jobs, and \$955 million in state and local tax revenues. While Oregon's residents treasure and care for this outdoor legacy, they are dedicated to ensuring resources are utilized with fiscal, social, and environmental responsibility, building on the past to provide for future generations.



*Ensuring Oregon's Outdoor Legacy* constitutes Oregon's basic five-year plan for outdoor recreation. The plan also provides guidance for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program and other Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)-administered grant programs including the Local Grant, County Opportunity Grant, Recreational Trails and All-Terrain Vehicle Programs. The OPRD will support the implementation of key statewide and local planning recommendations through internal and external partnerships and OPRD-administered grant programs.

The LWCF was established by Congress in 1964 to create parks and open spaces, protect wilderness, wetlands, and refuges, preserve wildlife habitat and enhance recreational opportunities. In Oregon, LWCF funds have been a key mechanism to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation purposes. Since 1965, \$59.5 million of stateside LWCF funds have gone to eligible recreation providers in the state of Oregon.

Since 2005, funding support for the stateside program has substantially decreased. Uncertainty over yearly funding allocations could greatly impact Oregon's ability to fund projects identified in this plan through LWCF. Recent yearly stateside allocations have been insufficient to substantially address local need identified in this plan. Without question, LWCF has provided the foundation for park and recreation facilities across the nation. Full funding of the stateside program coupled with streamlining program administration will continue this tradition of federal support to local communities.

My hope is that all Oregonians involved with the administration of recreation and park facilities take time to read this important document and make use of its recommendations to support your strategic planning.

Sincerely,

Tim Wood  
Director  
State Liaison Officer, LWCF

# Acknowledgements

The following individuals developed and prepared this plan.

## Project Staff

Terry Bergerson	Project Manager and Primary Author
Lori Trump	Administrative Support

## OPRD Management

Tim Wood	Director
Chris Havel	Associate Director
Roger Roper	Assistant Director
Steve Kay	Division Manager

## Consultants

Dr. Randy Rosenberger	Oregon State University
Dr. Kreg Lindberg	Oregon State University
Tim Gallagher	Gallagher Consulting

## SCORP Advisory Committee

*(Listed in Alphabetical Order)*

Member	Organization
Ivan Anderholm	City of Hermiston
Scott Baker	Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District
Dennis Comfort	Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Brad Cownover	U.S. Forest Service
Kathy Daly	City of Ontario
Chris Dent	Bureau of Land Management
Karen Emery	Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department
Rich Hargrave	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ed Hodney	Albany Parks and Recreation
Steve Lambert	Jackson County Parks
Jay Pearson	McMinnville Parks and Recreation Department
Randy Peterson	Oregon Department of Forestry
Stephanie Redman	Oregon Recreation and Park Association
Bruce Ronning	Bend Metro Park and Recreation District
Roger Roper	Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Chuck Solin	Oregon Recreational Trails Advisory Council
Kristen Stallman	Oregon Department of Transportation
Alex Stone	National Park Service

# Executive Summary

The 2013-2017 Oregon Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), entitled *Ensuring Oregon's Outdoor Legacy*, constitutes Oregon's basic five-year plan for outdoor recreation. The plan guides the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funds that come into the state, provides guidance for other Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)-administered grant programs, and provides recommendations to guide federal, state, and local units of government, as well as the private sector in making policy and planning decisions.

Besides satisfying grant program requirements, a primary intent of this plan is to provide up-to-date, high-quality information to assist recreation providers with park system planning in Oregon. As a result, a substantial investment was made to conduct a statewide survey of Oregon residents regarding their outdoor recreation participation in Oregon, as well as their opinions about parks and recreation management. The sample was designed to derive information at the county level, providing close-to-home survey results for local recreation planners to use in Oregon's 36 counties. A total of 8,860 randomly selected Oregonians completed a survey questionnaire. This is the first SCORP plan in the U.S. to provide statistically reliable survey results at the county level. A summary of statewide and region scale survey results is included in a chapter of this plan. A SCORP planning support document entitled, "Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Demand Analysis", contains the full report which includes county scale results for each of the 36 Oregon counties.

Survey results show that overall, 92% of Oregonians participated in at least one outdoor recreation activity in Oregon during the past year. Close-to-home activities dominate the total user occasions for Oregon residents since these activities can occur on a daily basis with limited travel time. Besides walking, bicycling and jogging on local streets / sidewalks; top outdoor activities include walking on local trails / paths, dog walking, and bicycling on paved trails.

Oregonians were also asked their opinions about priorities for the future. Top priority needs are for soft surface walking trails, access to waterways, nature and wildlife viewing areas, playgrounds with natural materials (natural play areas), picnic areas for small groups and off-street bicycle trails. For state park camping, drive-in tent sites had the highest likelihood of use and the highest priority need for overnight camping facilities in the state. The survey included Oregon resident opinions about value and delivery of benefits by park and recreation agencies. At the statewide level, benefits rated the highest on value and delivery include improving physical health and fitness, making your community a more desirable place to live and preserving open space and the environment. As reported by non-participants, being disabled and too old were the top two reasons why they did not participate in outdoor recreation activities in Oregon in 2011.

Since 1950, Oregon's population has increased at a faster pace than the U.S. population as a whole. Between 1950 and 2010, Oregon's population increased by 152 percent (2010 population was 3.83 million people). Although Oregon's growth rate has slowed down in recent years, in the coming years, Oregon's growth rate is expected to be higher than the national growth rate and its population is expected to reach 4.3 million by the year 2020. When conducting park system planning, park and recreation providers need to not only identify which parklands and facilities/services are important to community members, but must also define what constitutes "adequate" provi-





sion of parklands. As populations grow, available parklands need to also increase to accommodate greater outdoor recreation demand. To assist with park system planning, a chapter includes recommended Level of Service (LOS) Standards for each of 11 parkland classification types along with specific park facility types. A SCORP planning support document entitled, “A Guide to Community Park and Recreation Planning for Oregon Communities”, provides instructions for developing individual jurisdiction LOS guidelines using county-level SCORP planning information. This is critical planning information for local jurisdictions to maintain high-quality service provision as our state’s population continues its rapid growth pattern.

Oregon’s parks, public places, natural areas, and open spaces give life and beauty to our state. These essential assets connect people to the natural environment, community, and to themselves. While Oregon’s residents treasure and care for this legacy, they are dedicated to ensuring resources are utilized with fiscal, social, and environmental responsibility, building on the past to provide for future generations. OPRD is a strong proponent of sustainable parks, sometimes called Green Parks. The overall goal of Sustainable Parks is to promote the use of sustainable practices, maximize the useful life of buildings and park facilities, and enhance

the natural environment. A chapter on sustainable park systems creates a vision for the development of sustainable park systems in Oregon for use by federal, state, and local units of government as well as the private sector, in making policy and planning decisions. Sustainability recommendations are also included for applicants to consider for grant project proposals. A SCORP planning support document entitled, “Developing Sustainable Park Systems in Oregon,” provides specific recommendations for local agencies to establish and monitor their own sustainable performance improvement systems and incorporate sustainable practices in design, construction and maintenance of park projects.

The planning effort also identified five top statewide issues effecting outdoor recreation provision in the state of Oregon. Those issues include:

- Provide adequate funds for routine and preventative maintenance and repair of facilities.
- Fund major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities at the end of their useful life.
- Add more recreational trails and better trail connectivity between parks and communities.
- Recognize and strengthen park and recreation’s role in increasing physical activity in Oregon’s population.
- Recommend a standard set of sustainable park practices for outdoor recreation providers.

As we prepare for a more sustainable future, Oregon's park providers must also address a number of current management challenges. A slowing economy, increasing fuel prices, higher priority for funding (e.g., transportation, health, and education), and stagnant or declining tax revenues have contributed to park budgeting challenges as they attempt to continue providing recreation services for a growing and changing population. According to recreation providers, continued heavy use and inadequate maintenance are taking a toll on our outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure across the state. It also appears that a much greater investment is needed in major rehabilitation projects to protect and upgrade existing outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure in the state. A number of strategic actions are included for addressing these challenges along with other statewide issues.

In addition to materials in this plan, a series of support documents are included on a disk at the back of the plan. Those documents include:

- A Guide to Community Park and Recreation Planning for Oregon Communities;
- 2011 Oregon Statewide Outdoor Recreation Resource/ Facility Bulletin;
- Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Demand Analysis;
- Developing Sustainable Park Systems in Oregon;
- Oregon Administrative Rules for Distribution of LWCF Funding; and
- Oregon Wetlands Priority Plan.

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## **APPENDICES (ON ATTACHED DISK)**

- A A Guide to Community Park and Recreation Planning for Oregon Communities
- B 2011 Oregon Statewide Outdoor Recreation Resource/Facility Bulletin
- C Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Demand Analysis
- D Developing Sustainable Park Systems in Oregon
- E Oregon Administrative Rules for Distribution of LWCF Funding
- F Oregon Wetlands Priority Plan

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# Introduction CHAPTER ONE

## PLAN INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this planning effort was to provide guidance for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program and information and recommendations to guide federal, state, and local units of government, as well as the private sector, in making policy and planning decisions. It also provides guidance for other Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)-administered grant programs including the Local Grant, County Opportunity Grant, Recreational Trails and All-Terrain Vehicle Programs. Besides satisfying grant program requirements, the primary intent of this plan is to provide up-to-date, high-quality information to assist recreation providers with park system planning in Oregon. In addition, it provides recommendations to the Oregon State Park System operations, administration, planning, development, and recreation programs.

This document constitutes Oregon's basic five-year policy plan for outdoor recreation. It establishes the framework for statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation planning and the implementation process. In conjunction with that purpose, it is intended to be consistent with the objectives of the LWCF Act of 1965, which, as its title implies, is to conserve and make available for public enjoyment as much of the nation's high-quality land and water resources as may be available and necessary to meeting the nation's outdoor recreation needs.

### The Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was established by Congress in 1964 to create parks and open spaces, protect wilderness, wetlands, and refuges, preserve wildlife habitat and enhance recreational opportunities.

The LWCF has two components:

- A **federal program** that funds the purchase of land and water areas for conservation and recreation purposes within the four federal land management agencies; and
- A **stateside matching grants program** that provides funds to states for planning, developing and acquiring land and water areas for state and local parks and recreation areas.



### The Federal LWCF Program

Funds appropriated for the federal program are available to federal agencies including the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management for the purchase of land and water areas for conservation and recreation purposes. These funds are used for public acquisition of special lands and places for conservation and recreation purposes; public acquisition of special lands and places for conservation and recreation purposes; public acquisition of private holdings within National Parks, National Forests, National Fish and Wildlife Refuges, public lands managed by the Bureau of Land management, and wilderness areas; public acquisition areas key to fish and wildlife protection; and public acquisition as authorized by law.

Federal LWCF program funds are distributed following an annual process of prioritizing regional land acquisition needs for each eligible agency. After taking into account a variety of factors such as cost, probability of development, and local support, they develop prioritized "wish lists" that are forwarded to their Washington, D.C. land acquisition headquarters. The headquarters staff identifies its priorities and sends them to the Land Acquisition Working Group, comprised of the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; and the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land Management; and the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Nature, Resources, and the Environment. The working group sends the prioritized agency lists to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) at the completion of the congressional session. OMB critiques and returns the list and, following a final appeal process by the agencies, the fiscal year's land acquisition funding amount is presented as part of the President's budget.

### The Stateside LWCF Grant Program

Those funds appropriated for the stateside matching grants program can be used to acquire land for parks and recreation purposes; build or redevelop recreation and park facilities; providing riding and hiking trails; enhance recreation access; and conserve open space, forests, estuaries, wildlife, and natural resource areas through recreation projects. In most years, all states receive individual allocations of stateside LWCF grant funds based on a national formula, with state population being the most influential factor.

The LWCF Act requires that all property acquired or developed with LWCF funds be dedicated in perpetuity exclusively to public outdoor recreation use. The law further states that no property can be converted to a different use without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. When an organization wants to convert land to another use, consultation with OPRD is required prior to requesting approval from the National Park Service. Property converted from recreational use must be replaced with land of at least current fair market value and of equivalent recreational utility. Proposals to resolve conversions from recreation use will be consistent with the evaluation of new grant proposals. Proposals will be evaluated based on their consistency with the evaluation of new grant proposals. Proposals will be evaluated based on their consistency with SCORP priorities and/or consistency with project priorities identified through a local public planning process.

### Qualifying For LWCF Funding

To qualify for stateside LWCF funding, each state must prepare a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years. In Oregon, the plan functions not only to guide the LWCF program, but also provides guidance for other OPRD-administered grant programs including the Local Grant, County Opportunity Grant, Recreational Trails, and All-Terrain Vehicle Programs. Finally, the plan provides guidance to federal, state, and local units of government, as well as the private sector, in delivering quality outdoor recreational opportunities to Oregonians and out-of-state visitors.

### Legal Authority

To be eligible for assistance under the Federal Land and Conservation Fund Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-578; 78 Stat. 897), the Governor of the state of Oregon has designated the Director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department as the official who has authority to represent and act for the State as the State Liaison Officer (SLO) in dealing with the Director of the National Park Service for purposes of the LWCF program. The SLO has authority and responsibility to accept and to administer funds paid for approved projects.

Authority to conduct the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan process is granted to the Director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 390.180. Authority to recommend and promote standards for recreation facilities, personnel, activities and pro-

grams is granted to the Director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 390.140. This document and related appendices were prepared to be in compliance with Chapter 630 of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants Manual. Federal acceptance of the States comprehensive outdoor recreation planning process is a prerequisite for Oregon's establishing and maintaining eligibility to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund program.

The Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 736, Division 8, Distribution of LWCF Funding Assistance to Units of Local Government for Public Outdoor Recreation establishes the State Liaison Office, when distributing federal Land and Water Conservation Fund monies to the state agencies and eligible local governments, and the process for establishing the priority order in which projects shall be funded. See the support document entitled "Oregon Administrative Rules for Distribution of LWCF Funding" in the attached disk for the Oregon Administrative Rules used by OPRD when distributing stateside LWCF grant monies. These rules are also available online at: [http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars\\_700/oar\\_736/736\\_008.html](http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_700/oar_736/736_008.html).

## THE PLANNING PROCESS

### Background

The last Comprehensive Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan for Oregon was completed by the OPRD and accepted by the National Park Service (NPS) in January 2008. With the completion of this plan, the state maintains eligibility to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund up to July 31, 2013.

OPRD began the current SCORP planning process in October, 2010. An initial planning task was to identify the most important issues in Oregon related to outdoor recreation. Critical issues identified and addressed in this plan include providing adequate funds for routine and preventative maintenance and repair of facilities, funding major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities at the end of their useful life, adding more recreational trails and better trail connectivity between parks and communities, recognizing and strengthening park and recreation's role in increasing physical activity in Oregon's population, and recommending a standard set of sustainable park practices for outdoor recreation providers. Since the primary intent of the plan is to provide information to assist recreation

providers with park system planning in Oregon and promote the use of sustainable practices, the plan has been titled, *Ensuring Oregon's Outdoor Legacy*.

## COMPONENTS OF THE PLANNING EFFORT

The following section includes a brief description of the major components of the planning effort.

### SCORP Advisory Committee

Early in the planning effort, OPRD established a 20-member SCORP Advisory Committee to assist the department with the planning process. Members of the group represented various organizations including local, state, and federal recreation providers, recreational user groups, and universities. During the planning effort, committee members were asked to assist OPRD with the following SCORP related tasks:

- reviewing the basic planning framework;
- determining the basic planning outline;
- identifying significant statewide outdoor recreation issues and strategic actions;
- reviewing survey instruments, research findings, and reports;
- determining Open Project Selection Process criteria for evaluating grant proposals for the LWCF grant program; and
- reviewing the planning documents.

The initial full Advisory Committee meeting was held on May 6, 2011. Objectives of this meeting included:

- identifying the types of information to include in the SCORP plan;
- reviewing initial statewide participation survey instruments and methods; and
- identifying top statewide issues.

A final full committee meeting was held on January 31, 2013. Meeting objectives included:

- reviewing and providing feedback on research findings;
- reviewing proposed guidelines for park system planning;
- reviewing proposed statewide issue action items; and
- reviewing LWCF grant evaluation criteria concepts.

A number of subcommittee meetings were held over the course of the planning effort. One subcommittee meeting was held on March 17, 2011 to review survey questionnaires for the outdoor recreation demand survey. Two subcommittee meetings were held on January 26, 2012 and May 23, 2012 to assist with the development of the chapter on sustainability. A final subcommittee meeting was held on March 13, 2013 to develop a set of OPSP criteria for inclusion in the plan.

### A County-Level and Regional Planning Approach

For the first time, the Oregon SCORP provides survey, needs assessment, and inventory information for each of the 36 counties in the state. This information is also provided for the 11 distinct planning regions (see Figure 1).

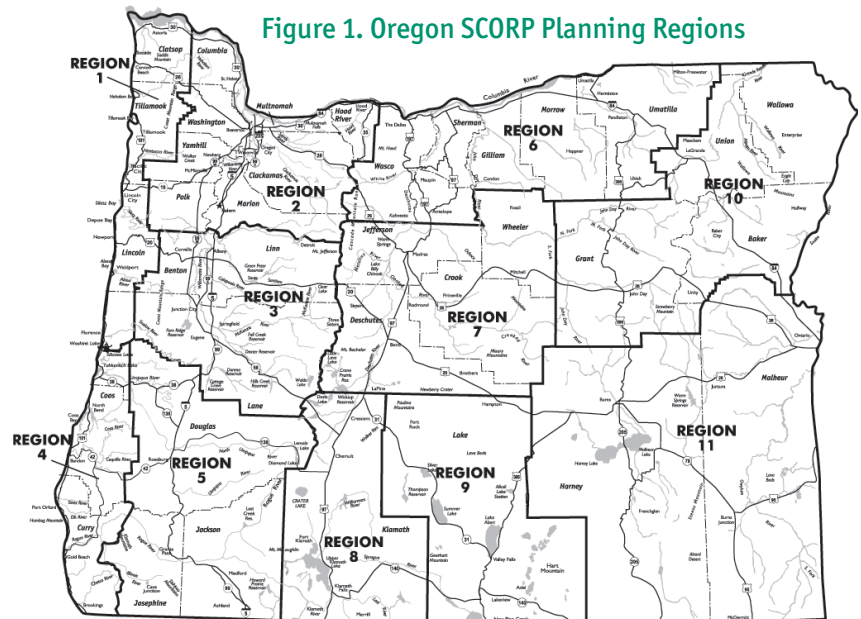


Figure 1. Oregon SCORP Planning Regions

### Oregon Outdoor Recreation Resource/Facility Inventory

A comprehensive inventory of the supply of existing outdoor recreation resources and facilities is an essential tool for outdoor recreation planning in the state. During a period from November 1, 2010 to March 31, 2012, OPRD staff collected outdoor recreation resource and facility information from public and private-sector recreation providers in the state. In total, outdoor recreation resource and facility information from 1,771 public and private-sector recreation providers was collected. Results are presented at the statewide scale, SCORP region scale and county scale. A document entitled “2011 Oregon Statewide Outdoor Recreation Resource/ Facility Bulletin” was completed and distrib-

uted in August 2011. The document is also included as a support document to this plan and is included in a disk at the back of the plan.

### **Recreational Roles**

OPRD has a state mandate to identify public and private-sector outdoor recreation provision roles in Oregon. Two reporting methods were used to gather role information from major recreation provider agencies and organizations in the state. The first was a Public/Private-Sector Recreation Roles Matrix, where providers reported the types of resources, facilities or services their agency/organization is responsible for providing in Oregon. The second was a set of essay questions to gather more in-depth outdoor recreation roles information. This information was used as a basis for determining outdoor recreation provision roles in Oregon.

### **Oregon Outdoor Recreation Survey**

OPRD contracted with Oregon State University (OSU) to conduct a statewide survey of Oregon residents regarding their 2011 outdoor recreation participation in Oregon, as well as their opinions about parks and recreation management. A primary objective of the survey involved estimating demand for 70 outdoor recreation activities in Oregon. The sample was developed to derive information at the county level. Results of the survey are provided at the statewide scale, SCORP region scale, and county scale. Results of this survey provide recreation planners across the state with up-to-date recreation participation and needs information for use in local and regional planning. A summary of statewide and region scale survey results is included in a chapter of this plan. A SCORP planning support document entitled, "Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Demand Analysis", contains the full report which includes county scale results for each of the 36 Oregon counties.

### **Outdoor Recreation Trends**

Accurate information about recreation use and trends is important for making defensible recreation planning decisions. A chapter highlights national and statewide outdoor recreation trends including information related to activity participation, demographic changes, visitation and license and registration sales. Major federal and state agency, county, municipal and special district organizations responses to questions on how their role might change in the next five years are also included.

### **Recreational Needs Assessment**

Two methods were used to identify need for additional recreational facilities in Oregon. The first method was a component of the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Survey. Oregonians were asked their opinions about priorities for the future. Respondents were asked to rate several items for investment by park and forest agencies using a 5-point Likert scale (1=Lowest priority need to 5=Highest priority need). The second method involved a survey of Oregon public recreation providers to identify recreational need. Two separate survey instruments were used for the survey, one completed by recreation providers with the majority of their managed parklands located within an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), unincorporated community boundary, or a tribal community; and the other by recreation providers with the majority of parklands outside of such boundaries. Of the 432 providers contacted, 219 completed the survey for a 51% response rate. Respondents were asked to rate the importance of county-level funding need for a variety of recreation projects in their jurisdiction in the coming five years.

### **Oregon Parkland Classification System and Suggested Level of Service Standards**

To assist with park system planning in Oregon, this chapter includes recommended Oregon Level-of-Service guidelines for each of the 11 standard parkland classification types along with specific park facility types. While these statewide guidelines provide a useful framework for evaluating jurisdiction resources, it is recognized that individual jurisdictions will need to develop their own LOS standards that reflect their unique conditions, resources and needs. Towards that end, a SCORP support document, A Guide to Community Park and Recreation Planning for Oregon Communities, provides instructions for developing individual jurisdiction LOS guidelines using county-level SCORP planning information.

### **A Guide to Community Park and Recreation Planning for Oregon Communities**

This guide (a support document to this plan) is provided to assist units of local government in Oregon (cities, counties, special districts, ports and regional districts) with a small staff, or no permanent staff at all, in preparing a park and recreation plan for their jurisdiction.

## Developing Sustainable Park Systems in Oregon

OPRD contracted with Gallagher Consulting to write a report that creates a vision for the development of sustainable park systems in Oregon for use by federal, state, and local units of government as well as the private sector, in making policy and planning decisions. A chapter in this plan summarizes a vision, mission, goals and objectives for sustainability in Oregon park systems. Sustainability recommendations are also included for applicants to consider for grant project proposals. A SCORP planning support document entitled, “Developing Sustainable Park Systems in Oregon,” provides specific recommendations for local agencies to establish and monitor their own sustainable performance improvement systems and incorporate sustainable practices in design, construction and maintenance of park projects.

## Outdoor Recreation Issues and Actions

The plan also identifies key recreational issues that will affect the future of outdoor recreation in the state and appropriate actions to resolve them. Early in the planning process, OPRD conducted a needs assessment survey of public recreation providers in the state. A set of questions allowed respondents to rate the level of importance of issues effecting recreation provision in the state. Survey results were presented to members of the SCORP Advisory committee during the May 6, 2011 meeting. A voting process was used to identify top issues to address in the plan. A set of strategic actions for addressing each statewide issue were finalized during the January 31, 2013 SCORP Advisory Committee Meeting.

## LWCF OPSP Criteria

To allocate LWCF funds in an objective manner, a set of Open Project Selection Process criteria were developed for evaluating statewide LWCF grant proposals. Sixty-five percent of the total points available are tied directly to findings from this SCORP planning effort.

## Oregon Wetlands Priority Plan

The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-645) requires each state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan to include a component that identifies wetlands as a priority concern within the state. A support document to the plan describes a brief history of wetland protecting in Oregon, current wetland protection strategies, and a priority listing of regions/watersheds for wetland restoration/acquisition. In Oregon, wet-

land protection typically occurs with private or public funding under the direction of the Oregon Department of State Lands. To maximize flexibility when selecting a replacement property, LWCF sponsors may choose to purchase wetlands prioritized for habitat or water quality needs when they are resolving conversions.

## SCORP Planning Website

Early in the planning process, OPRD staff developed a SCORP planning website for people across the state to access current information about the 2013-2017 SCORP planning process. One of the primary objectives of the website was to disseminate research and report results. The website address is: [http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/Pages/planning\\_SCORP.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/Pages/planning_SCORP.aspx).

# Recreation Provider Roles CHAPTER TWO

## INTRODUCTION

A variety of local, state, and governmental agencies; and commercial, private, and nonprofit entities have a role in planning for, providing, and managing recreation and open space resources and services in the state of Oregon. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has a state mandate to identify and clarify public and private-sector outdoor recreation provision roles in the state. Towards this effort, OPRD used two reporting methods to gather role and provision information from each of the major federal and state agencies, county, municipal and special recreation district organizations, and private-sector industry representatives across the state.

## REPORTING METHODS

The first reporting method was a Public/Private-Sector Recreation Roles Matrix, where representatives were asked to enter a specific code letter into each matrix box corresponding to the type of recreational resource, facility or service their agency/organization/industry is responsible for providing in Oregon. The code letters used for recording role information included the following:

- M Major Provider.** Direct relationship to mission; currently providing facilities; provides substantial share of regional supply.
- S Secondary Provider.** A current supplier; is secondary or supportive to its primary mission.
- F Funding only.**
- L Licensing.**

A second method included essay questions designed to gather more in-depth outdoor recreation role information. This information will allow for a better understanding of the current roles of major recreation providers in the state of Oregon.

- Question 1: Please describe how your agency/ organization/ industry's current role in providing outdoor recreational resources, facilities, and programs in the state of Oregon.
- Question 2: Please describe any gaps in the supply of outdoor recreation resources, facilities, and programs (in the state of Oregon) that you are aware of.

The final roles matrix is included in the following section entitled, "Public/Private Recreation Roles Matrix." Following the matrix is a section entitled, "Provider Roles," including an analysis of current recreation provision roles in the state including provider responses to known gaps in the supply of outdoor recreation resources, facilities and programs in the state of Oregon.

## PUBLIC/PRIVATE RECREATION ROLES MATRIX

The Public/Private-Sector Recreation Roles Matrix is intended as an easy-to-use reference tool for information regarding the different types of recreational resources, facilities and services provided by recreational agencies/ organizations in the state of Oregon. Role information included in the matrix was submitted to OPRD from agency/organization representatives in the state.

**Table 1. Public/Private-Sector Recreation Roles Matrix**

RESOURCE/FACILITY/SERVICE	FEDERAL						STATE						OTHER				
	BLM	BOR	NPS	USACE	USFS	USFW	DSL	MARINE BD	ODF	ODPW	ODOT	OPRD	COUNTY	MUNICIPAL	SPEC DIST	SCHOOLS	PRIVATE
Dispersed recreation areas	M	S	S	S	M	S	S		M	M		S	S				
Scenic river corridors (Federal/State)	M		S	M	M	S	S	S	S			M					
Scenic highways	S		S	S	M	S					M						
Backcountry byways	M			S	M	S	S		S								
Wilderness areasdesignated	M		S	S	M	S											
Wilderness areasunder review	M		S	S	M	S											
Wildlife refuges or special wildlife management areas	S	S	S	S	S	M	S		S	M							
Wildlife viewing areas	M	S	S	S	S	M			M	M		S					
Areas where hunting is allowed	M			S	M	M	S		M	M			S				
Highway dayuse parks/ rest areas	S	S	S	M	S	S			S		M	M	S				
Lodges/resorts		L	S	L	L	L	S					S			S		M
Cabins/yurts/teepees, etc.	S	S		L	L	S	S					M	S				M
Concessions (souvenirs, food, gas, etc.) regardless of ownership		L	S	L	L	S	S		S			M	S				M
Camping sites (RV) Full hookup/Electrical	S	S		S	S							M	M		S		M
Camping sites (RV) Group	M	S	S	M	S							M	M				
Camping sites (RV) Dispersed (non-designated)	M	S		M	S	S	S		M	S		S	S				
Camping sites (Tent) Electrical/Water	S	S	S	M	M				M			M	M				M
Camping sites (Tent) Group	M	S	S	M	M	S			S			M	M				M
Camping sites (Tent) Dispersed	M	S		S	M		S		M	S		S	S				
Camping sites Horse camps	S	S	S	L	M	S			M			M	S				
ATV trail system	M				M	S	S		M			F	M				
Designated 4x4 motorized trails	M				M				M			F					
Designated motorized riding areas (including snowmobiles)	M				M				M			F					
OHV staging areas	M				M				M			F					
Trailsmotorcycle	M				M				M	S		F					
Trailshiking/mountain bike	M	S	S	S	M	S	S		M	S		M	M	S	M		
Trailsnature/ interpretive	M	S	M	M	M	M	S		M			M	M	S	M	M	
Trailshistoric	M	S	S	S	M	S	S		S			M	S		S		
Trailswater	M	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S			M	S		S		

**M** Major Provider      **F** Funding only  
**S** Secondary Provider      **L** Licensing



**Table 1. Public/Private-Sector Recreation Roles Matrix (continued)**

RESOURCE/FACILITY/SERVICE	FEDERAL						STATE						OTHER				
	BLM	BOR	NPS	USACE	USFS	USFPW	DSL	MARINE BD	ODF	ODPW	ODOT	OPRD	COUNTY	MUNICIPAL	SPEC DIST	SCHOOLS	PRIVATE
TrailsCross-country skiing	S		M	S	M	S						F	S				M
TrailsBridle	M		S		M	S			M			M	S	S	M		
Picnic sitesnonreservable	M	S	M	M	M				M	S		M	M	M	M		
Picnic sitesgroup-reservable	M	S	S	M	S				S			M	M	M	M		
Cultural/historical sites	M	S	M	S	S	S	S		S	S		M	S	S	M		S
Museum/Interpretive Building/Visitor Centers	M	S	M	M	S	S	S		M	S		M	S	S	M		M
Interpretive sites/kiosks	M	S	M	M	M	S	S		M	M	S	M	M	S	M		
Beach access (fresh & saltwater)	M	S	S	M	S	S	S		S	S		M	M	M	M		S
Boat accesses/ramps/docks	M	S	S	M	M	M	S	F	S	S		M	M	M	M		M
Fishing access (piers, shoreline trails, etc.)	M	S	S	M	M	M	S		S	M		M	M	M	M		S
Snowparks	M		S		M							F	F	S			
Downhill ski areas (commercial)					L												M
Greenways				S								M	M	M	M		
Parkways				S								F	S	M	S		
Neighborhood recreation parks (Serving a single neighborhood)		S		S								F		M	M	M	
District recreation parks (Serving 3 or more neighborhoods)				S								F	M	M	M		
Large urban parks (100 acres or more with scenic value)												S	M	M	M		
Large extraurban parks and reservations												M	M	S	S		
Children’s equipped play areas (swings, slides, etc.)		S		S								F	M	M	M	M	
Trailscommunity	S	S		S								F	M	M	M	M	
Golf courses				L								F	S	S	M		M
Sports fields/athletic courts		S		L								F	M	M	M	M	M
Swimming pools		L										F	M	M	M	M	M
Community recreation programs				S			S						S	M	M	M	
Festivals/events	S	L	S	S	L	S			S			M	S	M	M	S	M
Guiding (rafting, fishing, hunting)	M	S			L	L	S	L	S					S	S		M

**M** Major Provider                      **F** Funding only  
**S** Secondary Provider                **L** Licensing

## PROVIDER ROLES

The following section includes a description of the role of outdoor recreation providers in the state of Oregon and reported gaps in the supply of outdoor recreation resources, facilities, and programs.



### Federal Agencies

Federal recreation providers in Oregon include the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Forest Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The federal government has a statutory responsibility for development of facilities and programs that provide public opportunities that are not, or cannot, be made available by state or local governments. Federal roles in outdoor recreation include the management of federally owned properties such as parks, forests, wildlife refuges and reservoir areas, and the administration of financial and technical assistance programs to aid state and local agencies and private citizens. Traditionally in the state of Oregon, federal agencies have provided resource based activities such as camping, picnicking, fishing, hunting, boating, swimming, and trail use.

### Bureau of Land Management

The BLM in Oregon and Washington boasts a wide range of programs and initiatives that put keen focus on good stewardship of the lands entrusted to its care. Alongside local partners, cooperating agencies, and active volunteers, the BLM is committed to ensuring that our spectacular views, abundant fish and wildlife habitats, productive timberlands, exciting recreational opportunities, functioning rangelands,

and healthy watersheds will be nourished to thrive for generations to come.

Public lands in Oregon offer unlimited recreational opportunities. Visitors can picnic in lush forests in western Oregon one weekend and then explore the most remote wildlands east of the Cascades the next. Recreation settings include evergreen forests, high desert vistas, exotic lava flows, rugged river canyons, coastal headlands, and rushing whitewater rapids. Combining these natural wonders with the multitude of cultural destinations such as historic trails, ranches, and archaeological sites makes Oregon and its public lands some of the most diverse and exciting in the United States. And outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, and boating draw visitors from local communities as well as from around the world. Fees are required at certain recreation sites, for competitive events as well as for commercial recreation activities.

The primary goal for Oregon BLM is to provide a diverse array of high quality recreation experiences that our public lands can offer and sustain.

Oregon BLM manages a myriad of recreation experiences and opportunities including campgrounds, picnic areas, hiking, biking, historic trails, wild and scenic rivers, back-country byways, off-highway vehicle (OHV) areas and watchable wildlife areas. These opportunities consist of:

- 64 campgrounds
- 16 picnic areas
- 450 miles of trails
- 9 Wilderness areas
- 81 wilderness study areas
- 25 Wild and Scenic Rivers
- 1 National Scenic Trail
- 2 National Historic Trails
- The Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area
- The National Historic Trail Interpretive Center

For the year 2011, over 8 million visits occurred on BLM lands in the state of Oregon. The fee revenue collected at recreation sites and special events was over \$1.4 million. All fees collected on BLM lands in Oregon are returned to the site where the collection occurred. The fees are then used for administration, facility improvements, and new project development.

The BLM manages public lands throughout Oregon, potentially serving a wide spectrum of demands and groups. Meeting the recreational needs of special populations continues to be challenging given that many agencies are struggling to meet basic recreation facility and resource protection needs under current federal, state and local budget constraints.

Gaps in the supply of outdoor recreation resources, facilities, and programs include:

1. An apparent lack of recreational opportunities and facilities near large and growing urban areas. An example would be the growing demand for motorized and non-motorized trail systems. Intermixed private and public land ownership patterns and environmental concerns often make supplying new facilities for such activities very challenging in these and other areas.
2. A growing demand for educational and interpretation opportunities related to natural, cultural, and historic resources across many demographic groups (age, race, ethnic, and physical ability, etc.) The need for additional and more diverse education and interpretive facilities and programs is especially pronounced in urban areas where populations tend to be more diverse and where opportunities to access natural areas and open space is more limited.
3. Oregon offers a diverse spectrum of recreation opportunities and a wide variety of information resources. However, reaching and connecting the public with the information about where to go, how to prepare, what to expect, and appropriate recreational use ethics once they get there still seems to be an unmet need for many land management agencies. This communication gap seems to be most pronounced in the large and diverse populations residing in urban areas.

### Bureau of Reclamation

The Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) was created to help sustain the economy, improve the environment, and improve the quality of life in the 17 Western States by providing reliable supplies of water and energy. Since 1902, Reclamation has developed an infrastructure of dams, hydroelectric power plants, and water conveyance facilities to help accomplish this task. This infrastructure also provides flood protection, fish and wildlife habitat, river regulation, water quality protection and improvement, and recreation. Reclamation plays a major role in meeting

the increasing public demands for water-based outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities. The 289 recreation areas developed as a result of a Reclamation water project are among the Nation's most popular for water-based outdoor recreation. Reclamation projects include approximately 6.5 million acres of land and water that is, for the most part, available for public outdoor recreation.

Annually, over 90 million visitors participate in a wide variety of activities including camping, boating, fishing, hunting, wind-surfing, sailing, picnicking, wildlife viewing, swimming, and sightseeing. Additionally, visitors enjoy the many facilities such as marinas, campgrounds, lodging, food service, rental equipment, and golf courses that are provided by approximately 225 concessionaires. The Reclamation project areas that do not have developed recreation facilities often provide the visitors with dispersed recreational opportunities such as hiking, bird watching, photography, and sightseeing. Reclamation works with Federal and non-Federal partners to provide quality recreation opportunities throughout the 17 Western States. These partners have been, and will continue to be, the primary providers of recreation and concession-managed activities at authorized Reclamation projects. In addition to offering water-based outdoor recreation opportunities, these recreation areas often include important natural and cultural resources and provide unique educational and interpretive opportunities. Eleven (11) Reclamation water projects have been designated as National Recreation Areas that are managed by the NPS or USFS.

Reclamation also assists local communities in attracting recreation-related investments and involves local citizens in the decision-making process to ensure recreation developments meet public needs and expectations.

Goals and objectives for recreation management include:

- Effectively protecting our nation's natural resources while accommodating the recreation desires of the public.
- Ensuring that recreation and concessions activities are developed, maintained, rehabilitated, and offered on a consistent basis to the public through self-management and the use of managing partners.
- Maintaining a customer service focus to ensure a positive public image of Reclamation and the Federal Government.

Reclamation has 16 water projects in the state of Oregon that include 24 reservoirs or lakes that provide significant

recreation opportunities. Reclamation has entered into management agreements for most of its recreation facilities with federal, state, or county agencies.

The basis for conducting recreation activities on Reclamation land and water areas comes from a variety of sources, including:

- Original Reclamation authorizing legislation that included recreation as a project purpose.
- Subsequent recreation-related legislation at an existing Reclamation project.
- General legislation that applies to Reclamation and some of the other Federal land management agencies.
- Code of Federal Regulations and Executive Orders that, in some instances, apply specifically to Reclamation or in some instances multiple Federal agencies.

The Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965, Public Law 89-72, 79 Stat. 213 allows Reclamation to seek qualified non-Federal public partners to manage recreation at its water projects through a management agreement and to cost share in planning, developing, operating, and maintaining the leased areas. Public Law 89-72 also allows Reclamation to transfer recreation and other land management responsibilities to another Federal agency if such lands are included or proposed for inclusion within a national recreation area, or are appropriate for administration by another Federal agency as part of the national forest system, as a part of the public lands classified for retention in Federal ownership, or in connection with an authorized Federal program for the conservation and development of fish and wildlife. Due to the increases in the public demand for outdoor recreation and the changes in the economic climate for Reclamation's non-Federal managing partners, Public Law 89-72 was amended by Title XXVIII of Public Law 102-575. Title XXVIII, among other things, updated the old provisions and changed some of the cost share requirements of Public Law 89-72 to allow the Federal Government to share a greater financial burden for recreation development and management. This program provides funds to non-Federal government agencies on a 50-50 cost-sharing basis. The non-Federal agency then administers the recreation development, absorbing the costs of operation and maintenance. Out of 24 sites in Oregon, 21 sites are managed by State, Federal, or local partners and the remaining 3 sites are jointly managed by Reclamation and a Federal or non-Federal managing partner.

Common managing partners for Reclamation in Oregon include the United States Forest Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department, and other County parks.

Gaps in the supply of outdoor recreation resources, facilities, and programs include:

1. The continued and increasing need for accessible facilities and opportunities for an aging population.
2. Water-based recreational opportunities seem to be receiving increasing pressure and demand, particularly in more arid regions.
3. Aging infrastructure and an increase of deferred maintenance items poses the risk to the public health and safety and adversely impacting the recreating experience.
4. Decreasing Federal and non-Federal agency budgets while the demand and use of recreational opportunities increase.

### National Park Service

Mission Statement: The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Goals:

- Preserve park resources;
- Provide for public enjoyment and visitor experience of parks;
- Strengthen and preserve the natural and cultural resources and enhance recreational opportunities managed by partners.

Objectives: Every visitor should enjoy national parks and their resources. People visiting parks should enjoy both their activities and their accommodations. Park facilities and services include campgrounds, roads, and trails, water systems, hotels, stores, and boat tours. Visitor surveys and focus groups are used to evaluate specific aspects of park visits and to provide critical information in managing these facilities and services. The Park Service intends to have a 95% satisfaction rate with its facilities, services and recreational opportunities.



The National Park Service manages the following areas in Oregon:

- John Day Fossil Beds National Monument in Grant and Wheeler Counties – preserving and interpreting the post-dinosaur fossils of the John Day Basin – one of the most scientifically significant paleontological deposits in the world.
- Crater Lake National Park in Klamath, Jackson, and Douglas Counties – preserving and interpreting the deepest lake in the United States formed in the caldera of ancient Mount Mazama.
- Lewis and Clark National Historic Park in Clatsop County – preserving and interpreting the 1805-1806 winter encampment of the 33-member Lewis and Clark Expedition.
- Oregon Caves National Monument in Josephine County – preserving and interpreting a fabulous marble cave created by natural forces over hundreds of thousands of years in one of the world's most diverse geologic realms.
- Three sites that are units of the Nez Perce National Historic Park in Wallowa County – commemorating the legends and history of the Nee-Me-Poo (or Nez Perce) Indians and their interaction with explorers, fur traders, missionaries, soldiers, settlers, gold miners, and farmers who moved through or into the area.
- The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail – Working to protect, connect, promote and assist managing partners to increase interpretation and recreational opportunities along the Lewis and Clark NHT.

The Park Service provides interpretive waysides, nature trails, visitor centers, wilderness hikes, accommoda-

tions, campgrounds, and information centers. Collectively the agency receives 840,000 visitor days in the state (John Day Fossil Beds NM- 148,000; Crater Lake National Park- 424,000; Lewis & Clark NHP- 192,000; Oregon Caves NM- 76,000). All sites have accessible interpretive media and facilities.

Gaps in the supply of outdoor recreation resources, facilities, and programs include:

1. Sites that effectively interpret the important contributions of Chinese in Oregon's history of mining and other labor intensive endeavors.
2. Sites that effectively interpret early sheep and cattle ranching in Oregon.
3. Sites that interpret the Great Basin physiographic province.
4. Sites that interpret the Great Ice Age Floods in the Columbia Gorge.
5. Sites that effectively interpret the Lewis and Clark NHT, while providing public information on how the public can vicariously experience the Lewis and Clark NHT.

### US Army Corps of Engineers

Mission Statement: The Army Corps of Engineers is the steward of the lands and waters at Corps water resources projects. The Corps Natural Resources Management Mission is to manage and conserve those natural resources, consistent with ecosystem management principles, while providing quality public outdoor recreation experiences to serve the needs of present and future generations.

In all aspects of natural and cultural resources management, the Corps promotes awareness of environmental values and

adheres to sound environmental stewardship, protection, compliance, and restoration practices. The Corps manages for long-term access to, and use of, the natural resources in cooperation with other Federal, State and local agencies as well as the private sector. The Corps integrates the management of diverse natural resource components such as fish, wildlife, forests, wetlands, grasslands, soil, air, and water with the provision of public recreation opportunities that contribute to the quality of American life.

Program Objectives:

- To provide a quality outdoor recreation experience which includes an accessible and healthful environment for a diverse population;
- To increase the level of self-sufficiency for the Corps recreation program;
- To provide outdoor recreation opportunities on Corps of Engineers administered land and water on a sustained basis; and;
- To optimize the use of leveraged resources to maintain and provide quality public experiences at Corps water resources projects.

Agency’s role in providing outdoor recreation opportunities in Oregon:

- There are 20 Water Resource Projects that provide recreation opportunities in Oregon.
- 98 recreation areas are located on Corps lakes in the state. Thirty-four percent (33) are operated by the Portland District.
- The District manages over 119,000 acres of land and 100,000 acres of water.
- Over 22 permanent park rangers are employed in the Portland District.
- In Oregon, the Corps manages 292 campsites, 615 picnic sites, 35 boat launch lanes, 11 swim areas and has 9 miles of hiking and nature trails.
- In 2001, the Corps had approximately 9,672,000 visitors and collected \$240,300 in user fees in Oregon – some of these areas along the Columbia River are in Washington.
- The Corps operates 11 visitor information centers in Oregon.
- Major recreation opportunities include picnicking, camping, fishing, hiking/walking, sightseeing, non-pool swimming, bicycling, boating, water skiing, hunting, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, roller-blading, mountain biking and others.

- Corps of Engineer recreation and administrative programs include providing universal accessibility, protecting and eliminating aquatic plants, challenge cost share agreements, management and agreements involved with contributions/donations, law enforcement agreements, cooperative agreements (48+), cultural resource protection, fire protection, interpretation/outreach programs, development and updating of master plans, visitation collection and reporting, pest control management and eradication, real estate management, Lewis and Clark, facility modernization, career development and recruiting, project security, shoreline permits and management, a unified sign program, facility standard design, collection and management of user fees, park ranger uniforms, recruitment and development of volunteers, wetland protection, wildlife management and protection and a host of other smaller programs.

Partners in recreation and natural resource program management include, but are not limited to:

- Linn County Parks and Recreation
- Lane County Parks and Recreation
- US Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- Port of The Dalles
- Port of Arlington
- Boardman Park and Recreation District
- Port of Umatilla
- Linn, Marion, Wasco, Morrow, and Benton Counties
- Oregon State Police
- Lane County Adult Corrections Department
- Looking Glass Youth and Family Services
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Northwest Youth Corps
- Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development Area Incorporated

Gaps in the supply of outdoor recreation resources, facilities, and programs include:

1. ADA/ABA accessible recreation facilities and opportunities for wheelchair users, and the visually impaired.

## US Forest Service

**Mission Statement:** The National Forest Service mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. In the context of providing a framework for sustainable outdoor recreation, that mission includes providing for the settings and opportunities that are ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable.

Goals and emphasis areas include:

- Improve settings for outdoor recreation;
- Improve visitor satisfaction with our facilities and services;
- Improve educational opportunities for the public about the values of conservation, land stewardship, and responsible recreation;
- Strengthen our relationships with private entities and volunteer-based and nonprofit organizations;
- Establish professional managed partnerships and intergovernmental cooperative efforts.

The Forest Service is the largest single outdoor recreation provider in Oregon, offering a full range of recreation experiences on treasured lands that brings health and vitality to individuals and communities and showcases our country's natural abundance and scenic beauty.

- National Forests in Oregon offer 5 peaks over 10,000 ft. elevation, over 1,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers, 2,090,000 acres of Wilderness, over 530,000 acres of other congressionally designated areas, and 12,900 miles of trail.
- The top activity in Oregon, by percentage of participation during National Forest visits, continues to be viewing natural features and scenery. Other top activities include hiking and walking, relaxing, viewing wildlife, and driving for pleasure. The top five primary reasons for visiting are hiking/walking, viewing natural features/scenery, downhill skiing, fishing, and relaxing. (National Visitor Use Monitoring, reporting period 2006-2009).
- There were 9.6 million total forest visits to National Forests lands in Oregon. Two-thirds of our visitors are male, 97% are white, and the remaining race/ethnic-

ity represented include Hispanic/ Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, and Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander (National Visitor Use Monitoring, reporting period 2006-2009).

Gaps in the supply of outdoor recreation resources, facilities, and programs include:

- Long distance trail opportunities that connect people with nature. These include connections between urban trails and backcountry networks as well as long distance trail opportunities in the backcountry with hut to hut type shelter experience for hikers and equestrian use.



- Recreation programs and visitor services that respond to changing population demographics and demand for outdoor recreation, including: the amount and distribution of fully accessible facilities; winter recreation travel analysis; bi-lingual interpretation and signage; 'just in time' information in the platforms of contemporary technology (smart phones, etc.); youth engagement programs that connect with the way they want to experience and play in the outdoors (challenge courses, geocaching, etc.); and large group camping and more 'comfortable' camping opportunities (yurts, cabins, etc.)
- Sustainable planning and design that adapts and restores our recreation facilities and settings to provide for quality experiences. This would include a gap in opportunities for solar power and reclaimed materials to help renew our brand of facilities that fit in the landscape and demonstrate contemporary sensibilities to our environment.

## US Fish & Wildlife Service

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

2011 National Wildlife Refuge System Vision: A Connected Conservation Constituency. “We seek to make wildlife conservation more relevant to American citizens and foster their engagement in and support of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Recommendations include expanding community partnerships; encouraging volunteerism; embracing urban America; telling the conservation story in new ways; enhancing opportunities to connect people and nature; and embracing, elevating and holding our interpretation and environmental education programs to the highest scientific standards”.

The goal of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to provide high-quality wildlife-dependent recreational activities on the 18 national wildlife refuges in the state of Oregon.

Current Role: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Wildlife Refuge System has six priority recreational uses:

- Wildlife Observation
- Wildlife Photography
- Wildlife Interpretation
- Environmental Education
- Hunting
- Fishing

These six uses were designated as priorities in the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act passed by Congress in 1997. Other outdoor recreational activities may be permitted on national wildlife refuges if they are determined to be appropriate and compatible with purpose(s) the refuge was established for. All recreational uses, even the six priority uses, must be determined to be compatible with refuge establishment purposes, so not all of the priority recreational uses may occur on every refuge.

The national wildlife refuges in Oregon provide:

- Opportunities to view and photograph wildlife in their natural habitats in ecosystems that range from the off-shore rocks, reefs and islands along the coast,



to the wetlands of the Willamette Valley and the sage-steppe environment of the Oregon high desert.

- Wildlife related interpretive and environmental educational programs on animals and habitats ranging from shore and seabirds along the Oregon coast, to the waterfowl along the Willamette and Columbia Rivers and the large mammals and migratory and upland bird species in the high desert.
- High quality hunting opportunities are available on eleven refuges in Oregon and fishing opportunities are available on nine refuges. Various species of fish are permitted to be taken or caught and released, according to Oregon State Regulations. Upland birds, waterfowl and mammals are permitted to be taken if compatible with refuge purposes and in accordance with Oregon State Regulations
- In 2011, 1,095,000 people visited national wildlife refuges and our one national fish hatchery in Oregon. The majority of those viewed the marine mammal life and seabirds of the Oregon Islands NWR, which stretches from the California border to Tillamook Head.
- The only designated wilderness area on Oregon refuges is the Oregon Islands Wilderness. It’s closed to the public. It includes 17 acres on Three Arch Rocks NWR and 480 acres on Oregon Islands NWR. It consists of 2,400 islands along 300 miles of coast within 3 miles of shore.
- There are two (2) wilderness study areas on Oregon refuges: Malheur (Malheur NWR) – 30,000 acres, proposed 1969, and Poker Jim Ridge (Hart Mountain NAR) – 16,462 acres, proposed 1972.



- The following sites are on the National Register of Historic Places: Klamath Marsh – 1 archaeological site (Gupquanski Cremation Site), Malheur NWR – Double-O Ranch Site, P Ranch, Sod House Ranch, and 3 archaeological sites (Site 35 HA-1263, Site 35-HA-403, and the Squaw Pit Village Site) William L. Finley NWR – John Fiechter House.
- McKay Creek Paleontological site is a designated National Historic Landmark.
- Historic trails crossing national wildlife refuges in Oregon: William L. Finley NWR – Oregon Trail, and Lewis and Clark NWR – Lewis and Clark Trail.
- The national wildlife refuges in Oregon are major providers of resource protection, and because wildlife and its habitat are the highest priorities for the National Wildlife Refuge System, some areas are closed to public use seasonally or permanently. National wildlife refuges have federally commissioned refuge law enforcement officers on staff to enforce federal laws and regulations. USFWS Division of Law Enforcement Special Agents assist refuge officers as needed or requested. Every summer national wildlife refuges in Oregon hire high school students to work in the Youth Conservation Corps.

The USFWS works closely with other Federal agencies, OPRD, counties, cities and other groups with recreational facilities near national wildlife refuges in Oregon, so it can inform the recreating public where these facilities are if they are not available on the refuges themselves.

Gaps in the supply of outdoor recreation resources, facilities, and programs include:

1. A lack of consistency from refuge-to-refuge in communications and basic services available to the public about a variety of outdoor recreational resources, facilities and programs available to them.
2. A need for more staffing at visitor services facilities at refuges in Oregon on weekends and holidays to handle peak visitation.

### State Agencies

State recreation providers in Oregon include the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon State Marine Board, Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Forestry and the Oregon Division of State Lands. Traditionally, the roles of state government include managing, protecting and conserving the state's natural and cultural resources,

and to provide outdoor recreation, environmental education, and cultural/historical interpretation.

Towards this effort, state agencies:

- operate and maintain a system of public lands, including state parks, forests and wildlife management areas;
- monitor, conserve, and enhance the quality of rivers, streams, lakes, public and private lands, coastal marshes, wetlands, bays, beaches, and Pacific coastal waters;
- manage and regulate fishing, hunting, and boating opportunities and activities;
- assist public and private entities in providing quality outdoor recreation activities; and
- cooperate with other governmental entities in these areas.

As far as its direct programming efforts, the primary responsibility of the State is to provide resource-based outdoor recreation. It accomplishes this through the acquisition of land and development of facilities necessary to make natural and cultural outdoor recreation resources of regional or statewide significance available to the public. State agencies assume a role as a bridge between the large, nationally significant parks managed by the federal government and the close-to-home recreational facilities traditionally provided by local governments.



## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Mission Statement: “Provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.”

The following principles and vision statements are included in the agency’s Centennial Horizon planning document.

- Primary Principle 1: Save Oregon’s special places.  
Vision: The state is endowed with wild, rural and urban areas interconnected with systems of trails, parks, natural areas, heritage sites, coastline and rivers that are accessible and healthy. This integrated system is seamless, regardless of landowner or boundary.
- Primary Principle 2: Connect people to meaningful outdoor experiences.  
Vision: Inspire people to connect with Oregon’s landscapes, heritage and culture.
- Primary Principle 3: Taking the long view.  
Vision: People will reap the benefits of today’s park system knowing that tomorrow’s park system will be there for future generations, healthy and vibrant.
- Supporting Principle 4: Engage people through education and outreach.  
Vision: Our visitors experience a sense of discovery and connection to our parks that inspires their life-long stewardship of Oregon’s natural, cultural and historic places.
- Supporting Principle 5: Build the State Park system with purpose and vision.  
Vision: Oregon is transformed into a seamless, borderless recreation area.
- Supporting Principle 6: Attract and inspire partners.  
Vision: Our partners’ goals and OPRD’s goals are reached together, through shared, mutually beneficial projects that add up to more than the sum of their parts.
- Supporting Principle 7: Prioritize based on the vision.  
Vision: OPRD routinely demonstrates creative, collaborative solutions to business challenges.
- Supporting Principle 8: Oregon’s parks will be tended by people who love their work.

Vision: All people who work or volunteer on behalf of Oregon’s parks are honored to represent them.

OPRD currently manages approximately 105,684 acres public recreation land, including high-quality natural resource areas, important historic areas and scenic viewpoints. The State Park System contains 233 park sites, with approximately 82% (191 sites) having developed recreational facilities including:

- 191 park sites with day-use areas (including 43 group picnic areas, 78 picnic shelters and 21 swimming areas),
- 57 park sites with camping opportunities,
- 47 park sites with water-based facilities (e.g., docks, boat ramps, launch sites),
- 13 park sites with meeting halls,
- 57 visitor access sites on the Willamette River Greenway,
- 500 miles of trails,
- 23 hiker/biker camps,
- 8 horse camps,
- 190 yurts, 90 cabins, 4 teepees, 3 covered wagons,
- 1 rock climber bivouac camp,
- 1 large historic youth camp,
- 5 marinas,
- 2 historic inns, and
- 1 large conference center.

*(Note: Concession management is used for a limited number of facilities such as the conference center and some marina facilities.)*

The State Park System hosts approximately 40 million day-use visitors and 2.3 million campers annually. These visitors include Oregonians who live nearby, and those who travel across the state to stay at a park as their primary vacation destination. Recent OPRD visitor surveys report that approximately 1/2 of all campers and 1/3 of day-use visitors were from out-of-state, mostly from the states of California and Washington. Visitors also travel from all over the U.S. and many foreign countries to enjoy our state parks. Visitors also reflect the wide range of racial/ethnic diversity found in these places of origin.



OPRD administers the following programs:

#### Natural Resource Management Programs

1. Ocean Shores - OPRD is charged with the protection and preservation of the recreation, scenic, and natural resource values found on Oregon's ocean shore. OPRD is charged with regulating vehicle use, camping, and other recreational activities on Oregon's ocean shore.
2. Oregon Recreation Trails – OPRD is responsible for planning and developing a statewide system for non-motorized trails serving the recreation needs of the state's population centers and accessing remote rural areas. A seven-member citizens' Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council, appointed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission, helps provide a forum for generating and sustaining trail concepts.
3. Scenic Waterways - The program strives to achieve a balance between protecting the river's natural resources and the equally valuable lives and plans of the people who live along them. OPRD regulates activities such as cutting of trees, mining, construction of roads, railroads, utilities, buildings, or other structures within 1/4 mile of the bank of Oregon's designated scenic waterways.
4. Deschutes River Recreation Area - The lower 100 miles of the Deschutes River is the only Oregon river designated as a state recreation area. In addition, this reach of the Deschutes is a state scenic waterway, a federal wild and scenic river and a tribal wild and scenic river for the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation. The river is internationally renowned as a whitewater boating and fly fishing river. It is managed for its natural and recreation values under a cooperative management agreement involving the state of Oregon, Bureau of Land Management and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.
5. Willamette River Greenway Program - The Greenway vision was a 215 mile long linear park from the river's mouth to Cottage Grove and Dexter dams upstream from Eugene. The Greenway was established in 1967 to protect and preserve the natural, scenic, and recreational qualities of lands along the Willamette River and administers over 8,000 acres of Greenway property. These lands range from large acreage major destination parks and campgrounds like Champoeg, Willamette Mission and Elijah Bristow, to small acreage, undeveloped parcels that provide natural habitat and remnant samples of the gallery forests and other flora and fauna once prevalent along the Willamette prior to European settlement. Many Greenway parcels are accessible only by boat, further insuring the visitor solitude in nature.
6. All-terrain Vehicle (ATV) Program – OPRD has administered the state ATV program since January 1, 2000. Responsibilities include issuing permits for operating ATVs on public lands, coordinating safety education and administering ATV grant projects. A 15-member All-terrain Vehicle (ATV) Advisory Committee was established by state law to recommend safety requirements, off-highway vehicle classifications and improvements in ATV use on public lands. A subcommittee evaluates ATV grant program funding proposals.
7. Oregon Scenic Bikeways Program – The program's vision is to provide a high-quality system of cycling routes that inspire people to experience Oregon's

natural beauty and cultural heritage by bicycle and offers economic and social benefits to the state's communities, residents, and visitors. Program goals are to showcase the state's outstanding natural and built environments; feature a variety of pleasant sensory experiences; present varying recreational challenges for cyclists; promote cycling as a healthy outdoor recreation activity; follow routes that combine low traffic, slower vehicular speeds, and good cycling facilities (lanes, shoulders, signage, etc.); foster strong grassroots support for Scenic Bikeways through active local proponent groups that develop, sustain, and actively promote them; meet or exceed Scenic Bikeway travelers' expectations by providing and maintaining consistent, high-quality cycling-specific information; offer a broad range of benefits to the regions and communities through which the bikeways pass; and complement and coordinate with other cycling programs and initiatives developed under private, local, state, regional and federal auspices. An 11-member Scenic Bikeways Advisory Committee evaluates potential routes and makes recommendations to the OPRD Director and the Oregon Recreational Trails Council.

### **Cultural Resource Management Programs**

Oregon's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was established in 1969 as part of the Oregon State Highway Division to administer the federal preservation programs set forth by the National Historic Preservation Act. Today, the Oregon SHPO is an integral part of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, comprising the agency's Heritage Programs Directorate alongside State Parks heritage staff, the Oregon Heritage Commission, the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries, the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council, and the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation.

SHPO has a limited regulatory role, but its' primary focus is outreach—assisting city planners and other officials, property owners, and preservation groups in finding forward-thinking solutions to better protect and preserve Oregon's cultural resources. The OPRD director is Oregon's designated state historic preservation officer. The assistant director for Heritage Programs serves as deputy state historic preservation officer.

SHPO programs include:

1. National Register of Historic Places – SHPO accepts and submits nominations of historic properties in Oregon to the National Register, which is maintained by the National Park Service. The office has

processed Register listings for almost 2,000 Oregon properties and 123 historic districts since the program's inception in 1971.

2. Special Assessment for Historic Properties – SHPO accepts annual applications from owners of properties listed in the National Register seeking a “freeze” on assessed property values. To qualify for this tax incentive program, applicants must make significant rehabilitation investments in their historic properties. Established in 1973, the state program is the oldest of its kind in the nation.
3. Archaeological Services – Under state law, SHPO is responsible for issuing excavation permits, which are required for excavations on public lands and any digging within existing archaeological sites on private lands. SHPO archaeologists also provide education on cultural heritage issues.
4. Historic/Prehistoric Survey and Inventory – SHPO develops and maintains inventories of historic resources and archaeological sites based on information from local governments and federal agencies.
5. Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit – Requests are reviewed by SHPO for a 20-percent income tax credit available for rehabilitating income-producing historic properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
6. Section 106 Review and Compliance – SHPO reviews the effects of federal projects on cultural resources either listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.
7. Certified Local Governments – SHPO coordinates this preservation partnership program, passing through a percentage of its federal allotment to local governments to fund preservation projects and local incentive programs throughout the state.
8. Technical Assistance – Property owners, local governments, federal agencies, and developers tap SHPO staff expertise for on-site “building doctor” assessments, technical information on building materials, and “how-to” advice on rehabilitation projects. Properties do not have to be listed in the National Register to obtain this assistance, which also includes access to technical briefs and articles and on-line contractor directory.
9. Grants – “Preserving Oregon” grants are offered every other year by the SHPO for bricks-and-mortar preservation projects for private and publicly owned properties listed in the National Register.

## Recreational Grant Programs

1. Land and Water Conservation Fund - Federal money distributed by OPRD for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of park and recreation areas and facilities. Eligible agencies include City and County Park and Recreation Departments, Park and Recreation Districts, Port Districts, Native-American Tribes, Metropolitan Service Districts and state agencies including the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Division of State Lands.
2. Local Government Grants Program - Provides funding for the acquisition, development and rehabilitation of park and recreation areas and facilities. Eligible agencies include City and County Park and Recreation Departments, METRO, Park and Recreation Districts, and Port Districts.
3. County Opportunity Grants Program - Provides funding for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation and planning for county park and recreation sites that provide, or will provide, camping facilities.
4. Recreational Trails Grants Program - Provides funding for maintenance, development, acquisition and construction of new and existing trail facilities.
5. All-Terrain Vehicle Grants Program - Provides funding for acquisition, development, education and safety, first aid and police services, and operation and maintenance associated with providing riding opportunities.

## Outreach Programs

1. The Beach Safety Program - The Beach Safety Education Coordinator works with safety advocates, educators, and private citizens to develop curriculum, messages, and materials designed to inform and educate the public about beach safety. The program uses television and newspaper advertising along with personal appearances, business partnerships and other methods to share the beach safety message.
2. Interpretive Programs - Most State Park campgrounds provide a full schedule of evening campground programs, guided walks and talks as well as children's activities through the Jr. Ranger program during the summer season. In addition, several parks have visitor centers, museums, and exhibits highlighting the cultural and natural history of that particular park.

OPRD has a mandate (by state law & rule) to be the recreation advocacy agency for the state of Oregon. As such, it's responsible for administering a number of federal and state grant programs providing funds to local recreation providers for the development of recreational opportunities in the state. OPRD recently completed a regional and statewide inventory of outdoor recreation resources and facilities, a participation survey of resident outdoor recreationists, and a recreational resource and facility needs assessment as part of the SCORP planning effort. OPRD also facilitates the 28-member Oregon Outdoor Recreation Council, providing the opportunity for outdoor recreation leaders from federal, state, and local agencies and university experts to convene on a quarterly basis and discuss outdoor recreation issues in Oregon.

OPRD works with other recreation providers to offer the most efficient and effective approach for managing various recreation sites/areas in the state. For example, OPRD manages several state parks that are located on federal lands with multiple-agency ownership. In addition OPRD works with federal and local providers in reviewing recreational planning documents (in a reciprocal manner) for the development of additional recreational resources/facilities.

Gaps in the supply of outdoor recreation resources, facilities, and programs include:

1. Increasing costs to maintain aging parks pose a serious threat: deferred maintenance, the bane of every successful park system. OPRD has made real progress on maintenance projects deferred before 1999, but still needs to address the growing maintenance needs of facilities established since then.
2. Lottery revenue is down 13% from its peak in 2007-09, and a \$7+ million drop in Lottery Funds in 2013-15 from projections will reduce funding for state parks and grants.
3. Communities want to celebrate their roots and heritage, but need expert advocates who can help them turn good ideas into great ones.
4. If personnel costs continue to rise, and revenue continues to fall, and unanticipated unfunded programs are added, something has to give. State park and heritage programs that serve Oregon communities will reach fewer people.

## Oregon State Marine Board

Mission Statement: “The Marine Board is Oregon’s recreational boating agency . . . dedicated to safety, education and access for all boaters.”

The Marine Board consists of five volunteer citizen members who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. In addition to Board members, a staff of thirty-eight full-time employees carries out the business of the agency. The power and duties of the Board are contained in Oregon Revised Statutes Title 52, Chapter 704 - Outfitters and Guides and Title 61, Chapter 830 - Small Watercraft. The Board’s administrative rules are located in Chapter 250 of Oregon Administrative Rules. The agency has a single office located at 435 Commercial St. N.E. in Salem, Oregon.

The Marine Board registers and titles motorboats, sailboats over twelve feet in length, floating homes, boat-houses and houseboats. The Board also licenses Ocean charter boats and guides and outfitters operating in the state. The Board sets equipment and operating requirements for recreational watercraft operating on Oregon’s water and shares concurrent jurisdiction with the U. S. Coast Guard on federally navigable waterways. The Board has also entered into law enforcement compacts with adjoining states to enforce common boating laws on boundary waters such as the Columbia River.

State boating laws are enforced by the Oregon State Police and County Sheriffs under contracts funded by the Marine Board. Marine officers are trained and certified by the Board at an annual marine law enforcement academy. In addition, additional training programs in boat handling, alcohol and drug recognition testing, accident investigation, and other specialties are sponsored by the Board throughout the year. The Board also provides boats, equipment and supplies to support marine officers in the field.

The Board provides grant funds to local governments, port and park districts, and other state agencies to provide boating access and support facilities such as boat ramps, boarding floats, parking, restrooms and waste disposal systems. Design and engineering expertise and technical assistance is also provided to grant applicants and sponsors by Board facilities program staff. The Board administers federal funds provided to Oregon through the Clean Vessel Act, providing grant assistance to government agencies and qualifying private marinas for pumping stations and containment systems to receive waste from boat holding tanks and portable toilets. The Board also issues permits for polystyrene

foam floatation used in new or significantly remodeled floating structures, which, by state law, is required to be fully encapsulated.

Oregon’s Mandatory Boater Education Law requires all Oregon recreational powerboat operators to carry a “Boater Education Card” showing they have completed a basic boater education course or have passed an equivalency exam. This applies to operators 16 and older running any type of watercraft greater than 10 horsepower, and youths 12-15 operating any type of power boat. Under the program, a boater must be at least 12 years old to obtain a boater education card.

Gaps in the supply of outdoor recreation resources, facilities, and programs include:

1. The primary gap in services is in providing facilities development to non-motorized users. This is due to funding sources being tied to motorboat registration and motorboat fuel taxes. Law enforcement is providing services to motorized and non-motorized as needed, but providing outreach and safety education toward non-motorized users is still inadequate.

## Oregon Department of Transportation

The Oregon Department of Transportation’s mission is to provide a safe transportation system that supports economic opportunity and livable communities for Oregonians. Aside from plowing snow in winter recreation parking locations (Sno-Parks), providing recreational opportunities and programs is not part of that mission. (Scenic highways are provided as part of the transportation system and are not view by ODOT specifically as a recreational opportunity.)

Through the sale of parking permits, the Sno-Park program provides funds for enforcement of the permit requirement and snow removal and development and maintenance of Sno-Parks. Most Sno-Parks are located on US Forest Service land and may include snow play, downhill and nordic, and snowmobile areas. While the Sno-Park program is administered by ODOT, the responsibility for recreational facilities, resources, and programs remains with the land manager. Winter parking areas and trailheads are available to the public in addition to those included in the Sno-Park program.

Safety rest areas and the facilities available at them are generally provided by ODOT for the safety of motorists. These areas are not intended for recreational purposes. Activities such as camping, lighting fires, and hunting are specifically prohibited in a safety rest area. While

historical markers, interpretive kiosks, and information centers may be located in rest areas, those features are generally managed by other agencies.

ODOT also published the 1995 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan serving the following purposes:

- To implement the actions recommended by the Oregon Transportation Plan;
- To guide ODOT, MPO's, the cities and counties of Oregon and other agencies in developing bikeway and walkway systems;
- To explain the laws pertaining to the establishment of bikeways and walkways;
- To provide information to citizens interested in bicycle and pedestrian transportation;
- To fulfill the requirements of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), whereby each state must adopt a statewide bicycle and pedestrian plan;
- To fulfill the requirements of Oregon Administrative Rule 660-12 (Transportation Planning Rule 12); and
- To provide standards for planning, designing and maintaining bikeways and walkways.

Gaps in the supply of outdoor recreation resources, facilities, and programs include:

1. Providing additional RV dump stations other than those currently operated by ODOT and OPRD.

### Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

The mission of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is "to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations."

The agency mission is based on the state wildlife policy outlined in statute.

**ORS 496.012:** It is the policy of the State of Oregon that wildlife shall be managed to prevent serious depletion of any indigenous species and to provide the optimum recreational and aesthetic benefits for present and future generations of the citizens of this state. In furtherance of this policy, the State Fish and Wildlife Commission shall represent the public interest of the State of Oregon and implement the following coequal goals of wildlife management:

1. To maintain all species of wildlife at optimum levels;

2. To develop and manage the lands and waters of this state in a manner that will enhance the production and public enjoyment of wildlife;
3. To permit an orderly and equitable utilization of available wildlife;
4. To develop and maintain public access to the lands and waters of the state and the wildlife resources thereon;
5. To regulate wildlife populations and the public enjoyment of wildlife in a manner that is compatible with primary uses of the lands and waters of the state;
6. To provide optimum recreational benefits;
7. To make decisions that affect wildlife resources of the state for the benefit of the wildlife resources and to make decisions that allow for the best social, economic and recreational utilization of wildlife resources by all user groups.

ODFW has a significant role in providing outdoor recreation opportunities in Oregon. A 2008 economic impact survey found that residents and non-residents took more than 21 million fishing, hunting, shellfish and wildlife viewing trips in Oregon and spent more than \$2.5-billion dollars on equipment and travel related expenses.

ODFW is charged with managing Oregon's wildlife in a sustainable manner while providing for the public enjoyment of that wildlife. In that capacity, ODFW regulates recreational hunting and recreational and commercial fishing and shellfish harvest by setting seasons, harvest levels, methods of take, allocating permits, licensing and other means. ODFW provides public access on agency owned property and through leases, easements or other agreements with private property owners. Additionally, ODFW provides grants and other funding for access and recreation projects, such as fishing piers, cleaning stations and other facilities. ODFW raises fish for recreational, commercial and conservation purposes at state owned hatcheries and at volunteer operated facilities throughout the state. ODFW collaborates with numerous partners, agencies, organizations, volunteers and others on habitat protection, improvement and restoration projects that help increase or maintain fish and wildlife populations and provide additional recreational opportunities. ODFW promotes fishing, hunting, shellfish and wildlife viewing recreation through its outreach efforts. The department's education programs aim to increase participation and to increase understanding of the importance of Oregon's natural resources.

## Oregon Department of Forestry

The Oregon Department of Forestry manages 701,000 acres of Oregon State Board of Forestry (BOF) lands statewide, most of it within 5 State Forests – Clatsop, Tillamook, Santiam, Sun Pass, and the new Gilchrist State Forest. State Forest management plans have progressed from a relatively narrow focus on stand management, designed to produce a limited range of forest products, to a landscape-wide view that actively manages for a broad array of resource values. During this time, the Department's forest plans have correspondingly evolved towards a model that emphasizes compatibility among resource values, rather than an either/or approach. It is within this context that the agency manages these state-owned BOF lands for the "Greatest Permanent Value" (ORS 530.050). Oregon Administrative Rules 629-035-0000 through 629-035-0110 provide direction for state forest management policy and planning and further define how the lands are to be managed to achieve "greatest permanent value" to the citizens of Oregon: "healthy, productive, and sustainable forest ecosystems that over time and across the landscape provide for a full range of social, economic, and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon."

The rule continues by describing a management context that:

1. results in a high probability of maintaining and restoring properly functioning aquatic habitats for salmonids, and other native fish and aquatic life;
2. protects, maintains, and enhances native wildlife habitats;
3. protects soil, air, and water; and
4. provides outdoor recreation opportunities.

These legal mandates form the foundation of the agency's mission statement which is: "To serve the people of Oregon through the protection, management, and promotion of a healthy forest environment which will enhance Oregon's livability and economy for today and tomorrow." The types and extent of recreational activities considered and proposed in long-range plans must be consistent with mandates and administrative rules that provide guidance and direction for management of state forest land.

The Oregon Department of Forestry also manages 120,000 acres of Common School Fund (CSF) lands, most of it on the Elliott State Forest, under an agreement with the Department of State Lands (DSL). This agreement and the associated forest management plans

recognize that the goal for DSL on these lands is the maximization of revenue to the Common School Fund over the long term, consistent with sound techniques of land management, which includes opportunities for dispersed recreation such as camping, hunting, and fishing. There are no developed or managed recreation facilities on the Elliott State Forest.

State Forests serve an important role as a regional recreation provider accommodating a wide range of recreation activities within Roaded-Natural and Roaded-Modified settings that address the demand for close to home recreation opportunities at a local and regional level.

Recreational use is more than just the demand for a specific activity. It is also a demand for a physical setting conducive to that activity and to the particular experience desired by the recreationist. The recognized system for classifying settings and the experience they provide is the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS). The ROS is a continuum of recreational settings ranging from primitive (wilderness) at one end and urban (cities) at the other. It is a common method of defining a provider's role and is used extensively by federal, state, and local agencies. State Forests will be managed to provide settings that lie at the mid-range of the spectrum within the categories of Roaded-Natural and Roaded-Modified.

*Roaded-Natural:* Forest settings that generally appear natural or slightly altered. Access is by highway, road and trail. Users can expect to meet moderate numbers of other people. Facilities such as developed campgrounds, trailheads, and trails are present but widely distributed. Occasional use of off-highway vehicles occurs. There are ample opportunities to seek solitude and participate in activities where there are no facilities and few people.

*Roaded-Modified:* Forest settings that have obviously been altered by timber harvesting. Access is by highway, road and trail. Users can expect to meet a high level of other people in concentrated locations along rivers, peaks, and developed sites. Facilities such as developed campgrounds, trailheads, and day use areas are numerous. Frequent and concentrated use of off-highway vehicles occurs. There are limited opportunities to seek solitude and participate in activities where there are no facilities or other people.

Within these settings state forests provide developed and dispersed recreation opportunities.

Because of the size and location of State Forest lands



and the extensive network of roads that exist the state forests provide a setting for a variety of dispersed recreation activities. Camping, hunting, angling, driving and exploring, picnicking, boating, water play, and target shooting are all popular dispersed use activities on state forest land.

From a developed recreation facility perspective the Oregon Department of Forestry manages campgrounds, picnic areas, day use trailheads and staging areas, boat launches, interpretive waysides, and trails for motorcycle and ATV riding, horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, and 4-wheel driving. Developed facilities on state forest land include:

- 18 rustic campground facilities that serve over 40,000 visitors during the camping season, most coming from nearby communities that surround state forests;
- Over 50 simple and well-kept day use picnic areas, interpretive waysides, boat launch sites, trailheads, and Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) staging areas that serve local, regional, and out of state visitors year round;
- Over 425 miles of OHV trails that accommodate motorcycle, ATV, Side by Side ATV, and 4-wheel drive enthusiasts from around the Pacific Northwest;
- Over 130 miles of non-motorized trail for mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding;
- Access to 45 miles of water trails for rafting, drift boating, kayaking, and canoeing; and
- The Tillamook Forest Center, a world class interpretive and forestry education facility located within the heart of the Tillamook State Forest.

Gaps in the supply of outdoor recreation resources, facilities, and programs include:

- Trails close to population areas;
- Trail links from population areas to wildland areas;
- Free-ride/gravity assisted mountain bike trails;
- Class 4 ATV trails;
- Developed and dispersed camping areas associated with water trails;
- Outdoor school programs – programs that connect children with wildland areas and forested environments;
- Developed opportunities for tent camping; and
- River access points and launch sites for non-motorized boating access.

## Oregon Division of State Lands

Principles for Public Access and Recreation Use:

1. The Department allows public recreation on state lands when compatible with the objects of the Asset Management Plan: *A Plan to Guide the Care and Management of Land, Waterways, and Minerals and Energy Resources to Benefit the Common School Fund* (January, 2012), and commensurate with public safety and the rights of lessees to use the subject land according to the provisions of their leases. Dispersed recreation and education opportunities are emphasized. The Land Board may establish regulation pertaining to public recreational use within specific areas. Public access may be closed, restricted, or limited to protect public safety; to prevent theft, vandalism and garbage dumping; to protect soils, water quality, plants and animals; or to meet other land management objectives or lease terms.
2. The Department works with other government entities and interested persons to make accessible to the public special features or resources on state land consistent with the conservation and / or protection of the attribute.
3. The construction and operation of improvements to state land for recreational use will be permitted only with prior written authorization of the Department. Temporary overnight camping will generally be allowed; however, its location and duration may be controlled or restricted.
4. The commercial use of state land on an exclusive or long-term basis for recreation will be permitted only with prior written authorization from the Department. Prior to allowing exclusive uses, the Department will consider the uniqueness of a recreational site or opportunity, and availability and proximity of other, similar recreational sites and opportunities. Such uses include, but are not limited to:
  - Long-term camping within the same area, or use in lieu of a permanent residence;
  - Base camps or “permanent” overnight sites maintained and used continuously and exclusively by guides or organizations; or
  - Hunting reserves exclusive to members.

## Principles for Unique Natural and Cultural Resources

1. In recognition of its stewardship responsibilities, the Land Board will use appropriate measures and partnerships that are consistent with Trust and

Non-Trust Land objectives to conserve cultural resources (e.g., historic, archaeological); unique geological and physical features; riparian resources; wetlands; wildlife habitat; and sensitive and threatened endangered plant, animal and aquatic species.

2. The Department, with assistance from the Natural Heritage Program, will identify areas with special natural features that may be eligible for recognition by the Natural Heritage Program. This program identifies natural areas with special plants, animals and aquatic species or rare geologic features that should be protected. If conflicting uses are identified, the Department may seek funding to remove those lands from Trust designation (if applicable), exchange or transfer management of those lands to other entities equipped to maintain these features, or classify them as Special Interest land pending future transfer.
3. The Department, with the assistance of the State Historic Preservation Office, will establish a procedure to identify historic or archaeological sites and protect them at a level, which, at a minimum, meets regulatory requirements. Actual inventory may take place during area management planning, or when site-disturbing activities are planned, or prior to land disposal.
4. The long-term protection and management of the state's wetland resources will be ensured through both regulatory and non-regulatory measures including:
  - Providing protection of wetlands and restoration sites;
  - Conserving and managing functions, and values, of wetlands;
  - Encouraging restoration of wetlands for watershed, water quality and / or wildlife objectives, while accommodating necessary economic activities; and
  - Managing Oregon's wetlands through partnerships that improve communication, cooperation and consistency among agencies, organizations and the public.
5. The long-term protection and management of state Scenic Waterways and federal Wild and Scenic Rivers will be ensured through both regulatory and non-regulatory measures, including:
  - Protecting and enhancing scenic, aesthetic, natural, historic, archaeological, recreation, scientific and fish and wildlife values along federal Wild

and Scenic Rivers and state Scenic Waterways through protection of the special attributes that caused the Waterways to be included in the Scenic Waterway system;

- Preserving federal Wild and Scenic Rivers and state Scenic Waterways in their free-flowing condition and prohibiting dams, reservoirs and impoundments;
- Recognizing recreation, fish and wildlife uses as the highest and best uses of the waters within Scenic Waterways; and
- Cooperating with other state, local and federal agencies, affected Indian Tribes and other appropriate parties to achieve coordinated management and protection of state Scenic Waterway values.

In addition to the previously mentioned responsibilities, the Department of State Lands provides some recreation-related services to the public and regulates certain aspects of the protection of Oregon's waterways including:

- Managing the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (near Coos Bay);
- Maintaining historical records on all state land transactions;
- Administering Oregon's Removal-Fill Law, which requires a permit to remove, fill, or alter more than 50 cubic yards of material in the state's waterways; and
- Providing wetlands conservation and management.

The State Land Board and the Department of State Lands (Department) manage approximately 2.3 million acres of land owned by the State of Oregon. These lands fall into two broad categories — Trust Lands and Non-Trust Lands. Trust Lands were granted to the state by the federal government at the time of statehood specifically to support the state's public schools (kindergarten to 12th grade). They originally included Sections 16 to 36 in each township. Since that time, many of these lands have been sold or exchanged. Submerged and submersible lands underlying navigable waterways were also granted to the state at the same time. These and other lands granted to the state at a later time (e.g., Swamplands Act lands) are known as Non-Trust Lands, which are managed for the greatest benefit of all the people of the state.

The Department acts as the administrative arm of the State Land Board, which is comprised of the Governor, Secretary of State and Treasurer. The Land Board is the trustee of the Common School Fund (Fund or CSF), a

permanent fund or account managed to provide revenue to public schools. As a legal trustee, the Land Board has a legal obligation to manage Trust Lands for the maximum long-term benefit of the public schools and must exercise prudence, skill and diligence in keeping the lands and Fund productive.

The Department of State Lands uses a Land Classification System (LCS) to apply broad management prescriptions to categories of land uses. Seven primary land classes have been developed:

- Forest Lands\* — Elliott and Sun Pass State Forests, as well as other scattered forest tracts in eastern and western Oregon (117,500 acres);
- Agricultural Lands — lands leased for farming operations in eight counties (5,800 acres);
- Rangelands — grazing lands, located primarily in Harney, Lake and Malheur Counties (625,000 acres);
- Industrial/Commercial/Residential Lands — non-resource lands and buildings, such as South Tongue Point in Astoria and the Division's headquarters building in Salem (7,000 acres);
- Special Interest Lands — lands with sensitive or unique natural, cultural, or recreational resources;
- Waterways (Non-Trust Lands) — submerged and submersible lands and the Territorial Sea (that area seaward of the coast for three nautical miles) (1,260,000 acres); and
- Minerals — mineral rights and lands containing mineral resources, such as geothermal resources, natural gas, industrial minerals and precious metals (774,000 acres).

The Department manages state lands based on the primary uses identified in the Land Classification System or in area management plans.

\* *These 117,500 acres of Forest Land, commonly referred to as Common School Forest Lands, are managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry for the Department.*

## Local Government Providers

### Municipal/ Special Districts

Mission: To provide natural areas, high quality park and recreation facilities, services and programs that meet the needs of the diverse communities it serves.

Because of population densities and the lack of large open space areas and resource-based recreation opportunities, municipal recreation systems tend to concentrate on providing more intensive, user-oriented facilities that require relatively little space. However, some municipalities and Special Districts also administer land acquisition programs or levy special taxes or fees for parks and have assumed some responsibility for providing resource-based recreation (e.g., West Linn and the City of Portland). Municipalities typically provide recreation facilities in or near urban areas for local residents. Urban parks also serve to satisfy visual open space needs and help to define the character of the city. Local recreation providers tend to be more heavily involved in recreation and leisure programming to address a wider variety of public leisure needs.

All municipal recreation providers, large or small, are faced with the task of providing their citizens the full range of recreational opportunities. The type of areas and facilities acquired, developed, and operated may be diverse, including not only multipurpose parks, playgrounds, community centers, sports fields and courts, and swimming pools, but also facilities for performing arts, golf, ice skating, camping, and the enjoyment of nature. Marinas, zoos, aquariums, gardens, museums, and galleries, libraries, and cemeteries may also be provided.

Most small park and recreation departments rely on community volunteers to coach and officiate sports leagues, as well as to organize and run youth recreation programs. It is also common to find many recreation programs and community-wide special events co-sponsored by schools, local church groups, civic and fraternal organizations, and local businesses. In contrast, larger municipalities often have large recreational staffs. Most large municipal park and recreation departments work closely with voluntary agencies, schools and colleges, church groups, business, and industry in offering programs, services, and community-wide special events.

Programs may include team sports (softball, baseball, basketball, volleyball, soccer and football); individual sports (tennis, golf, aerobics, swimming, and gymnastics); outdoor recreation (picnicking, boating, fishing, hunting, skiing, swimming, biking, walking/hiking,

and nature study); summer recreation programs and camps; before-school and after-school programs; instructional classes (arts and crafts, music, dancing, drama, and martial arts); concerts, cultural exhibits; special events; and special programs for people with disabilities.

Special Park Districts are independent of other units of local government, but can be likened to political subdivisions of states, such as cities and counties. Opportunities provided by districts include neighborhood, community and specialty parks, recreation programming for all ages, senior recreation, sports programming, regional, community and neighborhood trails, historic properties and preservation, natural resource conservation/stewardship/education. Administrative responsibilities include budgeting, planning, capital improvements, parks and recreation programs and services and personnel management (e.g., Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District and Bend Metro Parks and Recreation District).

Gaps in the supply of outdoor recreation resources, facilities, and programs include:

1. Lack of sufficient close-to-home neighborhood parks and facilities;
2. Dwindling supply of new parklands in major urban areas;
3. Too few “alternative” recreation opportunities like BMX facilities and skate parks;
4. Regional, community and neighborhood trail linkages to other public, commercial, and places of employment.

### County Park and Recreation Departments

The mission and goals of County Parks and Recreation systems are varied depending on the region of the State you are discussing. The role County Parks and Recreation providers play in rural parks of the State can be significantly different from the role played by County Providers in more urban areas of the State such as the Willamette Valley. In general, the goal of County providers is to enhance the quality of life for the residents and visitors of the County by providing quality natural resource based regional parks and recreation facilities and programs.

Counties provide a substantial amount of the public



sector boating, RV and camping related facilities around the state. Many of the County facilities are overnight and day use, water-based recreation facilities providing access to lakes, streams and rivers. Most County programs would fall in the mid-range of recreation opportunity spectrum providing developed and semi-developed outdoor recreation opportunities for people in the urban/rural interface. Counties provide a significant amount of the facilities and access to natural resource orientated activities such as camping, hiking, fishing, picnicking, motorized and non-motorized boating, water-skiing, swimming, ATV riding, bicycling, nature study and interpretation.

Significant Resources and Facilities provided by Counties include:

- Parks and Open space areas: Regional (overnight, day-use and boating), day-use, linear parks, waysides, and water access points.
- Overnight Camping: RV and tent sites, group areas, dispersed areas, cabins and yurts.
- Day use: Picnic shelters (group and individual), hiking and nature trails, ATV and equestrian facilities, playgrounds, and sports fields.
- Water Based: Boat ramps, piers, docks and moorage.
- Swimming: Beaches, pools and water-slides.
- Museums and Nature Centers: Cultural, Historical and Natural History.
- Many Counties also administer and manage forest resources/timber programs.

Gaps in the supply of outdoor recreation resources, facilities, and programs include:

- There is a distinct lack of linear park facilities and greenways within and linking communities throughout the state.
- The lack of sufficient public access to rural water frontage along the Willamette River is also an area of concern.

### Public School System

The primary function of the Oregon public school system has always been to provide educational opportunities for state residents. In fulfilling this role, the facilities provided by the public school system have also become a major source of user-oriented recreation in many communities in Oregon. In many municipalities, particularly rural municipalities, school recreation facilities are often the only public recreation facilities available.

Statewide, public schools provide a substantial portion of a number of user-oriented recreation facilities including:

- 74% of All Outdoor Basketball Goals
- 63% of all Football/Rugby/Soccer Fields
- 63% of all Baseball/Softball Fields
- 43% of all Equipped Children's Playground Acres
- 50% of all Outdoor Tennis Courts
- 26% of all Indoor Swimming Pools
- 15% of all Outdoor Swimming Pools

Public schools often work in cooperation with municipal recreation providers to provide recreational programming such as arts and crafts and dance classes in addition to sports leagues. The intent is to make the most efficient use of existing facilities and recreational staffing available within the community. In many cases, a school will provide the recreational facility and the parks and recreation organization the staffing and administration of the program (or the opposite arrangement). An example is in McMinnville where the McMinnville Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for scheduling activities in the gymnasium after regular school hours.

### The Private Sector

Recreation businesses provide many of the necessary recreational opportunities that customers need for satisfying recreational experiences. Businesses manage natural resources, provide facilities and equipment, and

offer leadership, guiding and other services to individuals or groups that recreate outdoors in the state of Oregon. In addition, semiprivate, not-for-profit groups, including land trusts, conservancies and the like, manage resources and make some available to the public for recreation.

Private programs range from for-profit recreational enterprises such as campgrounds, golf courses, marinas, and attractions of all kinds to the quasi-public (not-for-profit) programs of conservation organizations, churches, clubs, youth organizations and private industry. Industries with extensive land holdings, notably the forest products industry in Oregon, provide recreation resources and excellent facilities on their lands for the free use of the public or at some nominal fee.

Statewide, the private-sector provides a substantial portion of the number of recreation facilities including:

- 100% of all Downhill Ski Lift Capacity
- 89% of all Golf Course Holes
- 64% of all RV/Trailer Campsites
- 25% of all Museum/Interpretive Building Sites
- 17% of all Tent Campsites
- 9% of all Designated Cross-Country Ski Trail Miles



# Oregon Outdoor Recreation Survey CHAPTER THREE

## STUDY BACKGROUND

In preparation for the 2013–2017 Oregon SCORP, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department contracted with Oregon State University (OSU) to conduct a statewide survey of Oregon residents regarding their 2011 outdoor recreation participation in Oregon, as well as their opinions about parks and recreation management. The sample design was developed to derive information at the county level. Results of the survey are provided at the statewide scale, SCORP region scale, and county scale (Figure 1). This chapter includes a summary of statewide and region scale survey results. The full survey report, Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Demand Analysis, including county scale results for each of the 36 Oregon counties is available online at: [http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/docs/scorp/2013-2018\\_SCORP/Demand\\_Analysis.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/docs/scorp/2013-2018_SCORP/Demand_Analysis.pdf)

## SURVEY METHODS

Data were collected through a mail/internet survey of the Oregon population. The survey was conducted using a random sample of Oregon households, with names and addresses based on DMV records of persons living in Oregon and 18 years of age or older. In order to generate sufficient responses for each county, the sample was stratified by county. Separate random samples were drawn from each county. There were two versions of the survey: a participant survey for those who engaged in outdoor recreation in Oregon in 2011, and a non-participant survey for everyone else.

Surveys were sent out to 50,150 residents. Of those delivered (46,348), 8,860 were obtained, for an overall response rate of 19%. This response rate is typical of statewide, general population surveys that are long and do not include token financial incentives. With respect to format, 47% of the surveys were completed online and 53% in paper format. Most (88%) of the surveys were participants, with the remainder (12%) by non-participants. Sample data were weighted to represent age and county population proportions.

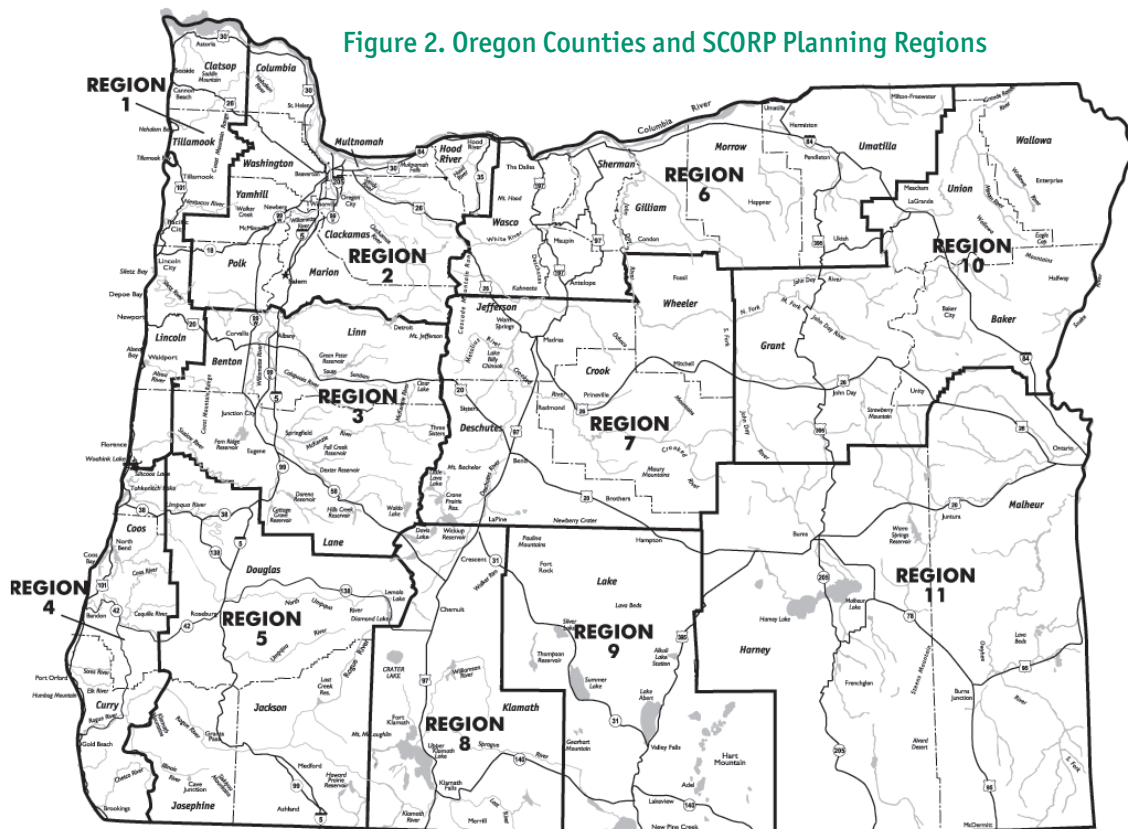
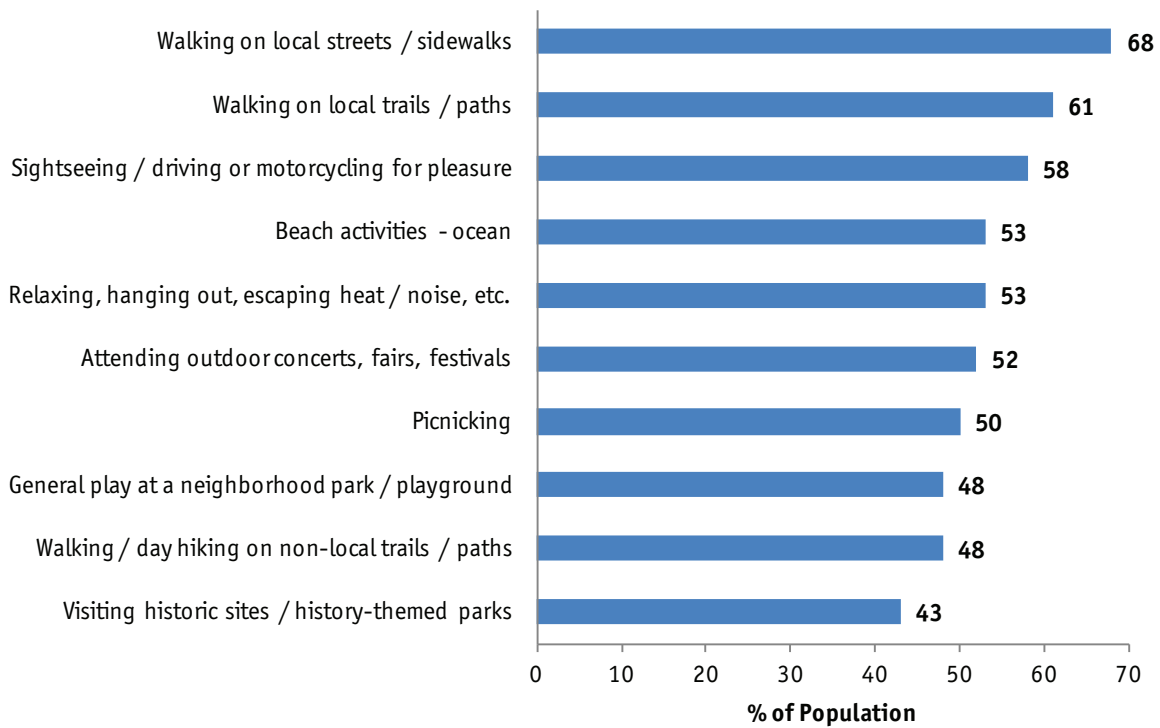


Figure 2. Oregon Counties and SCORP Planning Regions

**Figure 3. Top Ten Activities for Oregon Residents, 2011, Percent Population Participating**



## KEY FINDINGS – PARTICIPANT SURVEY

### Outdoor Recreation Activities

Based on previous SCORP outdoor activity lists and input from the SCORP steering committee, seventy (70) recreation activities were identified as important recreation activity types. The survey asked residents to indicate which of these recreational activities they had engaged in during 2011. Overall, 92% of Oregonians participated in at least one outdoor recreation activity in Oregon during the past year. Top statewide outdoor recreation activities are presented for both proportion of the population that participated in the activity, and user occasions (number of times people engage in an activity). Results for all 70 activities are included in the full report.

Figure 3 shows that “walking on local streets / sidewalks” is participated in by the largest proportion of the Oregon population (68%). Other top percentage activities include walking on local trails / paths (61%), sightseeing / driving or motorcycling for pleasure (58%), beach activities – ocean (53%), and relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat / noise, etc. (53%).

At the regional level (Figure 4), walking on local streets, dog walking, walking on local trails, and bicycling consistently show up in the top activities listed for each region. However, there are regional differences as well, including ocean beach activities for Regions 1 and 4, horseback riding for Region 11, and motorized trail activities for Regions 4, 9, 10, and 11.

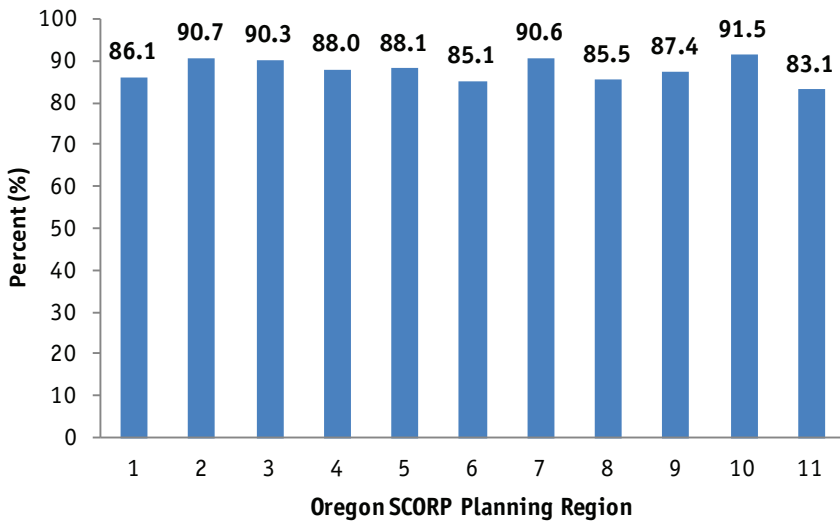
Figure 5 displays the variation in the percent of each region’s population that participated in at least one outdoor recreation activity in 2011. Regions with large urban centers had higher proportions of their population participating in some outdoor recreation activity, with the exception of the largest percentage participating being in Region 10.

Figure 4. Top Ten Activities per Oregon SCORP Region, Percent Population Participating, 2011

Oregon SCORP Region		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets
Walking on local trails	Walking on local trails	Walking on local trails	Sightseeing	Walking on local trails	Walking on local trails	Walking on local trails	Sightseeing	Walking on local trails	Sightseeing	Sightseeing	Sightseeing	Sightseeing
Sightseeing	Beach – ocean	Walking on local trails	Walking on local trails	Walking on local trails	Sightseeing	Sightseeing	Walking on local trails	Sightseeing	Walking on local trails	Walking on local trails	Picnicking	Picnicking
Beach – ocean	Sightseeing	Relaxing	Beach – ocean	Beach – ocean	Outdoor con-certs / fairs	Outdoor con-certs / fairs	Picnicking	Outdoor con-certs / fairs	Picnicking	Picnicking	Walking on local trails	Relaxing
Visiting historic sites	Relaxing	Beach – ocean	Relaxing	Relaxing	Relaxing	Relaxing	Relaxing	Relaxing	Relaxing	Relaxing	Relaxing	Visiting historic sites
Relaxing	Outdoor con-certs / fairs	Picnicking	Picnicking	Picnicking	Picnicking	General play	General play	Picnicking	Visiting historic sites	Day hiking on non-local trails	General play	Fishing from a bank or shore
Picnicking	General play	Outdoor con-certs / fairs	General play	General play	Beach – ocean	Beach – ocean	Visiting historic sites	Day hiking on non-local trails	Sledding, snow play	Visiting historic sites	Outdoor concerts / fairs	General play
Outdoor con-certs / fairs	Day hiking on non-local trails	Day hiking on non-local trails	RV camping	Day hiking on non-local trails	Day hiking on non-local trails	Day hiking on non-local trails	Outdoor con-certs / fairs	Beach – lakes	Day hiking on non-local trails	General play	Day hiking on non-local trails	Class I – All-terrain vehicle riding
Day hiking on non-local trails	Picnicking	General play	Exploring tidepools	General play	General play	General play	Day hiking on non-local trails	General play	General play	Sledding, snow play	Visiting historic sites	Walking on local trails
Exploring tidepools	Visiting historic sites	Visiting historic sites	Day hiking on non-local trails	Visiting historic sites	Visiting historic sites	Visiting historic sites	RV camping	Beach – ocean	Car camping with a tent	Car tent camping	Collecting	RV camping



**Figure 5. Total Percent of Region Population Participating in One or More Outdoor Activities, 2011**



Close-to-home activities dominate the total user occasions for Oregon residents since these types of activities can occur on nearly a daily basis with limited travel time. The top activities based on total user occasions for Oregonians in 2011 include walking on local streets / sidewalks (386 million user occasions), walking on local trails / paths (121 million user occasions),

dog walking / going to dog parks / off-leash areas (107 million user occasions), bicycling on roads, streets / sidewalks (88 million user occasions) and relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat / noise, etc. (75 million user occasions).

The total statewide estimate of user occasions for each activity was allocated to each SCORP region based on the proportion of user occasions for a given activity in a region relative to the total user occasions with locational information provided. This proportion was then multiplied by the total statewide user occasions.

Figure 7 shows the top ten activities by user occasions that occur within each SCORP region. Walking on local streets, dog walking, walking on local trails, and bicycling on roads or on paved trails

consistently show up in the top activities listed for each region. However, there are regional differences as well, including ocean beach activities for Regions 1 and 4, horseback riding for Region 11, and motorized trail activities for Regions 4, 9, 10, and 11.

The magnitude of user occasions per region is in part a function of the local resource endowments (e.g., ocean

**Figure 6. Top Ten Activities for Oregon Residents, 2011, User Occasions**

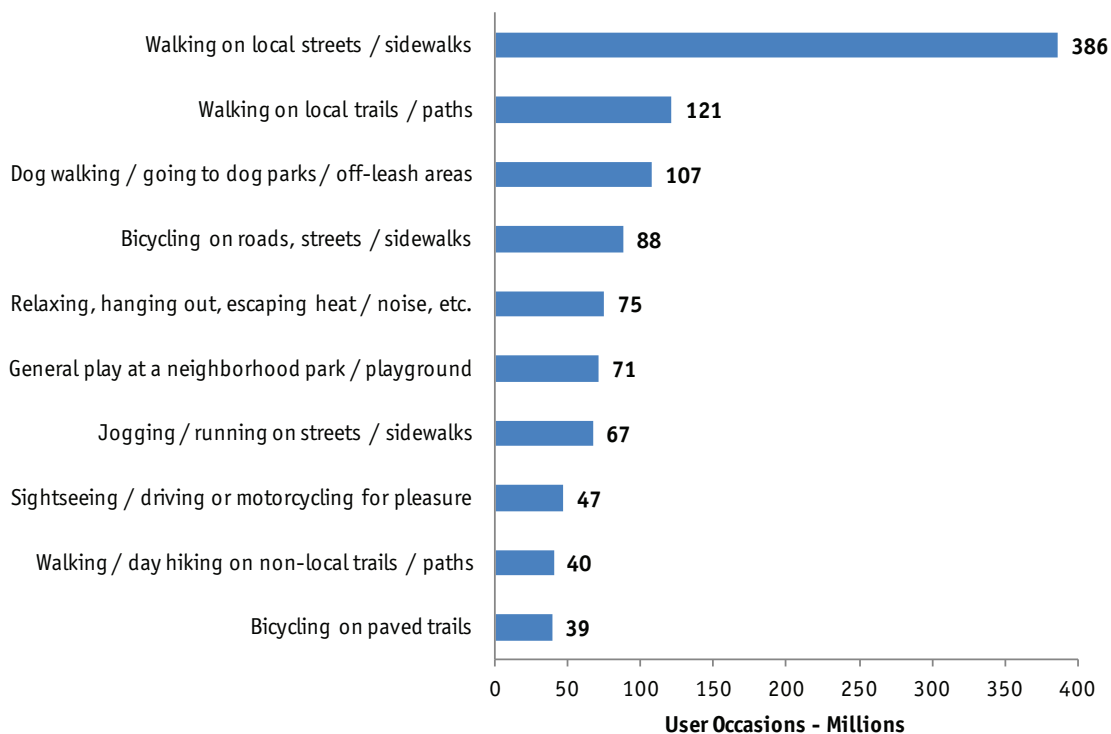
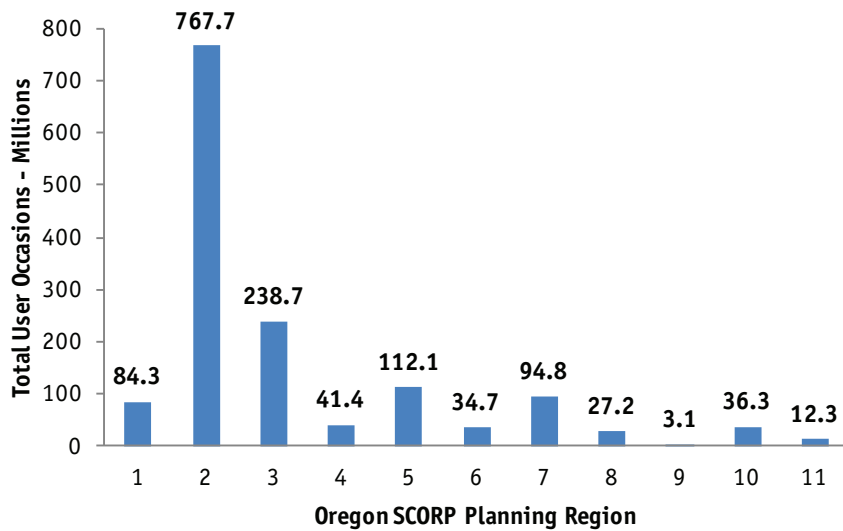


Figure 7. Top Ten Activities by User Occasions in Oregon SCORP Region, Where Occurred, 2011.

Oregon SCORP Region										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Beach – ocean	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets	Walking on local streets
Walking on local streets	Dog walking	Walking on local trails	Beach – ocean	Walking on local trails	Relaxing	Walking on local trails	Relaxing	Sightseeing	Relaxing	Horseback riding
Sightseeing	Walking on local trails	Bicycling on roads	Walking on local trails	Relaxing	General play	Bicycling on paved trails	Walking on local trails	Class II – 4WD	Day hiking on non-local trails	Relaxing
Relaxing	Bicycling on roads	Dog walking	Relaxing	Bicycling on roads	Bicycling on roads	Relaxing	Bird watching	Walking on local trails	Sightseeing	Bicycling on roads
Exploring tidepools	General play	Relaxing	Dog walking	Dog walking	Walking on local trails	Horseback riding	Other nature observation	Relaxing	Dog walking	Class I – ATV
Beach – lakes	Jogging on streets	General play	Sightseeing	General play	Dog walking	Dog walking	Dog walking	Class I – ATV	Walking on local trails	Dog walking
Walking on local trails	Relaxing	Bicycling on paved trails	Day hiking on non-local trails	Bird watching	Sightseeing	Bicycling on roads	Collecting	Day hiking on non-local trails	Bicycling on roads	Walking on local trails
Day hiking on non-local trails	Sightseeing	Jogging on streets	Class I – ATV	Sightseeing	Jogging on streets	Day hiking on non-local trails	Outdoor photography	Picnicking	Class II – 4WD	General play
Dog walking	Jogging on trails	Sightseeing	Exploring tidepools	Jogging on streets	Bird watching	Jogging on trails	Bicycling on roads	Dog walking	General play	Sightseeing
Other nature observation	Day hiking on non-local trails	Day hiking on non-local trails	General play	Day hiking on non-local trails	Swimming in pools	Sightseeing	Target shooting	Bicycling on roads	Class I – ATV	Jogging on streets

**Figure 8. Total User Occasions in All Activities in Region Where Occurred, 2011**



beach activities for oceanfront regions; non-motorized snow activities for regions containing ski areas and greater snowfall) and the population size. Densely populated regions have larger user occasions due to the fact of more people.

Figure 8 displays the variation in aggregate total user occasions by region in which they occurred. Aggregate total user occasions are associated with each region’s population size given the preponderance of close-to-home activities. SCORP Region 2 (including Columbia, Washington, Multnomah, Hood River, Yamhill, Clackamas, Polk and Marion Counties) has the greatest number of total user occasions of all planning regions followed by Region 3 (including Benton, Linn, and

non-coastal Lane Counties) and Region 5 (including non-coastal Douglas, Josephine, and Jackson Counties).

### Camping Likelihood and Priority Needs

This set of questions asked people to rate various camping types using 5-point Likert scales according to the likelihood of using a type of camping when or if the individual went camping at an Oregon State Park campground (1 = Not at all likely to 5 = Very likely), and to rate their perceived need for more of each type of camping near the individual’s community (1 = Lowest priority need to 5 = High priority need).

Statewide, drive-in tent sites had the highest likelihood of use, while hiker-biker sites had the lowest likelihood of use (Table 2). Similarly, drive-in tent sites had the highest priority need while hiker-biker sites had the lowest priority need. The majority of Oregonians are not at all likely to use RV sites or hiker-biker sites. For Oregonians, drive-in tent sites have the highest likelihood of use and priority need, followed by cabins or yurts, hike-in tent campsites, RV sites, and hiker-biker sites.

**Table 2. Likelihood and Priority Need for Camping Type, Oregon**

Camping Type	How likely to use camping type in state park*	Level of priority need for camping type near your community*
RV sites	2.2	2.7
Cabins or yurts w/ heat, lights	3.0	2.8
Cabins or yurts w/ heat, lights, bathroom, kitchen	3.0	2.7
Drive-in tent sites	3.8	3.3
Hike-in tent sites	2.7	2.8
Hiker-biker sites	2.0	2.3
Other type	2.7	2.7

\* Means scores for 5-point Likert Scale (1 = “Not at all likely” or “Lowest priority need” to 5 = “Very likely” or “Highest priority need”)

**Table 3. Likelihood of Using Camping Type at State Park, Oregon SCORP Regions—mean for 5-point Likert Scale (1 = “Not at all likely” to 5 = “Very likely”)**

Camping Type	Oregon SCORP Region										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9*	10	11
RV sites	2.6	2.0	2.3	3.0	2.6	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.8
Cabins or yurts w/ heat, lights	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.8	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5
Cabins or yurts w/ heat, lights, bathroom, kitchen	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.7	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.7
Drive-in tent sites	3.5	3.9	3.7	3.2	3.7	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.2	3.1
Hike-in tent sites	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.2
Hiker-biker sites	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9
Other	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.5	3.2	2.6

\*Region 9 values reported are combined with Region 8 values due to low sample size for Region 9.

**Table 4. Priority Need of Camping Type near Community, Oregon SCORP Regions—Mean for 5-Point Likert (1 = “Lowest priority need” to 5 = “Highest priority need”)**

Camping Type	Oregon SCORP Region										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9*	10	11
RV sites	2.4	1.9	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.8	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.7
Cabins or yurts w/ heat, lights	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.1	2.7	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.5
Cabins or yurts w/ heat, lights, bathroom, kitchen	3.0	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5
Drive-in tent sites	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.2	2.9	3.2
Hike-in tent sites	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.5
Hiker-biker sites	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3
Other	2.6	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.5	3.0	2.4

\*Region 9 values reported are combined with Region 8 values due to low sample size for Region 9.

The general patterns of likelihood of use and priority need from statewide reporting are maintained when the data is disaggregated to SCORP regions (Tables 3 and 4). Residents of Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7 state RV sites to be of the lowest priority, while residents of Regions 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 state hiker-biker sites to be the lowest priority. Region 6 has the highest likelihood of use and priority need for RV sites, while Region 2 is the least on both. Regions 2 and 5 have the highest scores for cabins or yurts, while Regions 10 and 11 have the lowest scores. All regions show high likelihood of use and need for drive-in tent sites, with Region 2 being the highest among the regions. Hike-in tent sites and hiker-biker sites are relatively low scored.

Results for likelihood of use and priority need for state park camping types are further disaggregated to the county-level:

- RV sites – Gilliam County and Umatilla County have the highest likelihood of use and priority need, whereas Multnomah County and Benton County have the lowest.
- Cabins or yurts with heat and lights – Douglas County and Jackson express the highest likelihood of use and priority need, whereas Crook County and Harney County have the lowest.
- Cabins or yurts with heat, lights, bathroom and kitchen – Douglas County expresses the highest likelihood of use and priority need, whereas Sherman County the lowest.

- Drive-in tent sites – Benton County and Multnomah County have the highest likelihood of use and priority need, whereas Willowa County has the lowest.
- Hike-in tent sites – Benton County and Multnomah County have the highest likelihood of use and priority need, whereas Gilliam County has the lowest.
- Hiker-biker sites – while all counties rated it low on both accounts, Benton County and Hood River County rated them the highest in likelihood of use and priority need.

### Priorities for the Future

Oregonians were asked their opinions about priorities for the future. Respondents were asked to rate several items for investment by park and forest agencies using a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Lowest priority need to 5 = Highest priority need). The following priority lists are based on number of individuals served, not on the frequency of their participation in each activity.

The top priority needs for Oregonians are (Table 5):

- Soft surface walking trails.
- Access to waterways.
- Nature and wildlife viewing areas.
- Playgrounds with natural materials (Natural Play Areas).
- Picnic areas for small groups.
- Off-street bicycle trails.

Low priority needs for Oregonians are:

- Tennis courts.
- Basketball courts.
- Baseball / softball fields.

Consistent with the statewide results, the rank-order of items based on mean scores show uniform support for investments in trails and access to public waterways as highest priorities, while investments in tennis and basketball courts being the lowest priorities at the SCORP regional (Table 6) and county scales.

**Table 5. Priorities for the Future, What Park and Forest Agencies Should Invest In, Oregon—Mean and Percentage For 5-Point Likert (1 = “Lowest priority need” to 5 = “Highest priority need”)—ordered by mean**

Item	Mean
Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.8
Public access sites to waterways	3.5
Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.4
Children’s playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (logs, water, sand, boulders, hills, trees)	3.3
Picnic areas and shelters for <u>small</u> visitor groups	3.3
Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.3
Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	3.0
Community gardens	3.0
Off-leash dog areas	3.0
Children’s playgrounds and play areas built with manufactured structures like swing sets, slides, and climbing apparatuses	2.8
Picnic areas and shelters for <u>large</u> visitor groups	2.8
Designated paddling routes for canoes, kayaks, rafts, driftboats	2.8
Multi-use fields for soccer, football, lacrosse, etc.	2.7
Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	2.5
Baseball / softball fields	2.4
Basketball courts	2.4
Outdoor tennis courts	2.2

### Participation in Educational and Recreational Programs

In order to gauge residents’ uses of educational and recreational programs, respondents were asked to select program types that they or a household member had participated in and which were sponsored by local, state, or federal recreation providers. The program types include organized outdoor recreation program, historical program, other guided or ranger-led program, other types of programs, or no participation in educational or recreational programs. Response categories are not mutually exclusive except for no participation in programs versus participation in at least one program.

**Table 6. Priorities for the Future, What Park and Forest Agencies Should Invest In, Oregon SCORP Regions— Mean For 5-Point Likert (1 = “Lowest priority need” to 5 = “Highest priority need”)**

Item	Oregon SCORP Region										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9*	10	11
Children’s playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (logs, water, sand, boulders, hills, trees)	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.2
Children’s playgrounds and play areas built with manufactured structures like swing sets, slides, and climbing apparatuses	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	3.0	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.7
Picnic areas and shelters for <u>small</u> visitor groups	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.3
Picnic areas and shelters for <u>large</u> visitor groups	2.9	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.7	3.0
Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8
Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.6
Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.0	2.9
Community gardens	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.2	2.7	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.8
Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.0	3.3
Multi-use fields for soccer, football, lacrosse, etc.	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.8
Baseball / softball fields	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.7
Outdoor tennis courts	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.4
Basketball courts	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.5
Off-leash dog areas	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.7
Designated paddling routes for canoes, kayaks, rafts, driftboats	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.4	2.4
Public access sites to waterways	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.4
Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	2.5	2.3	2.5	3.1	2.7	3.2	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.1

\* Region 9 values reported are combined with Region 8 values due to low sample size for Region 9.

**Table 7. Participation in 2011 Education / Recreation Programs Sponsored by Local, State, or Federal Recreation Provider, Oregon and SCORP Regions—Frequencies (% participation)**

Item	Oregon SCORP Region											
	State	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9*	10	11
An organized outdoor recreation program (hiking, cross-country skiing / snowshoeing, cycling, climbing, paddling, etc.)	9.0	9.3	8.3	8.3	8.5	11.8	9.6	14.8	8.7	8.0	9.8	5.5
Historical programs, including walks, reenactments, tours	12.1	20.9	12.4	7.7	15.5	12.1	12.7	13.6	18.8	17.8	15.4	12.5
Other guided or ranger-led programs	12.3	15.9	12.1	13.5	13.7	12.3	11.1	12.2	12.8	12.0	8.3	5.7
Other types of recreation programs (special event, excursion, concert, etc.)—this does not include use of facilities outside of programs, such as visiting a local park or swimming pool	14.4	14.2	13.3	15.0	14.7	20.5	11.7	17.9	14.5	14.4	13.1	9.4
No programs of this type	69.4	62.1	70.4	70.6	68.2	64.8	74.2	63.1	65.1	66.9	69.2	79.4

\*Region 9 values reported are combined with Region 8 values due to low sample size for Region 9.

**Table 8. Value and Delivery for Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services, Oregon**

Value For Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services—Mean for 5-point Likert (1 = “Least valued” to 5 = “Most valued”)		Delivery of Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services—Mean for 5-point Likert (1 = “Currently does not deliver at all” to 5 = “Currently delivers extremely well”)	
Benefit	Value Mean	Benefit	Delivery Mean
Improve physical health and fitness	4.3	Improve physical health and fitness	3.5
Make your community a more desirable place to live	4.3	Preserve open space and the environment	3.5
Preserve open space and the environment	4.3	Make your community a more desirable place to live	3.4
Improve mental health and reduce stress	4.1	Enhance a sense of place and community	3.3
Help reduce crime	3.9	Improve mental health and reduce stress	3.2
Enhance a sense of place and community	3.9	Provide opportunities for social interaction	3.2
Preserve historical features in your community	3.8	Preserve historical features in your community	3.2
Increase property values in your community	3.5	Promote tourism	3.1
Provide opportunities for social interaction	3.5	Help reduce crime	2.9
Help attract new residents and businesses	3.1	Increase property values in your community	2.9
Promote tourism	3.1	Help attract new residents and businesses	2.9

Fewer than 15% of Oregonians participate in each program type, with other recreation programs having the highest participation at 14.4% and organized outdoor recreation (e.g., hiking, cross-country skiing / snowshoeing, cycling, climbing, paddling, etc.) the lowest participation at 9% (Table 7). About 70% of Oregonians state they do not participate in these types of educational and recreational programs.

Results based on SCORP regions vary substantially across regions. A low of 62% of Region 1 residents do not participate in these types of programs, to a high of over 79% of Region 11 residents. Regions 1, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11 have a greater proportion of residents that participate in historical programs, while the remaining Regions (i.e., Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7) have a greater proportion of residents participating in other types of recreation programs.

**Table 9. Value For Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services, Oregon SCORP Regions—  
Mean for 5-point Likert (1 = “Least valued” to 5 = “Most valued”)**

Benefit	Oregon SCORP Region										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9*	10	11
Improve physical health and fitness	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2
Help reduce crime	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.7	4.0
Make your community a more desirable place to live	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2
Preserve open space and the environment	4.2	4.4	4.3	3.9	4.2	3.9	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.0	4.0
Increase property values in your community	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.5
Improve mental health and reduce stress	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.1	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9
Provide opportunities for social interaction	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.5
Help attract new residents and businesses	3.3	3.0	3.1	3.5	3.1	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.6
Preserve historical features in your community	4.0	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9
Promote tourism	3.6	2.9	3.1	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5
Enhance a sense of place and community	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.8	4.0	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8

\*Region 9 values reported are combined with Region 8 values due to low sample size for Region 9.

**Table 10. Delivery of Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services, Oregon SCORP Regions—  
Mean for 5-Point Likert (1 = “Currently does not deliver at all” to 5 = “Currently deliver extremely well”)**

Benefit	Oregon SCORP Region										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9*	10	11
Improve physical health and fitness	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.1	3.4	3.3	3.9	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.7
Help reduce crime	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.9	2.8	3.1	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.7
Make your community a more desirable place to live	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.1	3.9	2.9	2.8	3.1	2.8
Preserve open space and the environment	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.1	3.6	3.1	3.1	3.2	2.9
Increase property values in your community	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.9	2.7	3.1	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.3
Improve mental health and reduce stress	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.3	2.8	3.4	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.6
Provide opportunities for social interaction	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.6	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.7
Help attract new residents and businesses	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.9	2.6	3.3	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.2
Preserve historical features in your community	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.3	2.7
Promote tourism	3.7	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	2.9	3.7	2.8	2.8	3.1	2.5
Enhance a sense of place and community	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.6	2.7	2.7	3.0	2.5

\*Region 9 values reported are combined with Region 8 values due to low sample size for Region 9.



## Value and Delivery for Benefits of Park and Recreation Services

Oregonians that participated in outdoor recreation activities were also asked their opinions relating to the benefits provided by park and recreation agencies. First, respondents were asked to rate each benefit type based on how valued it is using a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Least valued to 5 = Most valued). Next, they were asked to rate how well park and recreation agencies are currently delivering each benefit type using a similar scale (1 = Currently does not deliver at all to 5 = Currently delivers extremely well).

For Oregonians, benefits rated the highest on value and delivery include (Table 8):

- Improve physical health.
- Community desirability.
- Preserve open space.

Benefits rated the lowest on value and delivery by Oregonians include:

- Help attract new residents / businesses.
- Promoting tourism.

Results to opinions about value for and delivery of benefits by park and recreation agencies at the SCORP regional scale were similar to the statewide results. Ranging from a mean score of 4.2 to 4.4 on the 5-point scale, improving physical health, community desirability, and preserve open space rated the highest valued across regions (Table 9). Lowest valued benefits across regions include increase property values, provide for social interaction, help attract new residents / businesses, and promote tourism. Thus, in general, individual, community and environmental health have the greatest value, whereas economic benefits rate lowest.

Regional residents state improve physical health, preserve open space, and preserve historical features are delivered above average, with some variability across regions (Table 10). Regional residents also believe that park and recreation agencies are not delivering well on helping reduce crime, increasing property values, or helping attract new residents / businesses.

In general, all benefit types rated relatively high on value for each region, with the exception of promoting tourism for Regions 2 and 3 (Table 10). Results across regions show park and recreation agencies are perceived as having some variability in delivery of each benefit type. For example, Region 7 rates delivery of improve physical health relatively high, while Region 11 rates it

relatively low. The general pattern of these two regions holds across the majority of benefit types.

## How Park and Forest Managers Can Help Participation

Oregonians that participated in outdoor recreation activities were also asked to write-in the single most important thing that park and forest managers can do to help with participation in outdoor recreation. The top ten items listed include:

- Provide clean facilities/ restrooms.
- Reduce user fees/ keep affordable.
- Provide more/ better access to recreation opportunities.
- Provide safe/ secure park environments.
- Stop forest road closures/ open closed roads.
- Trail maintenance.
- Park facility maintenance.
- Access to better/ more recreation information.
- Accessible facilities for disabled.
- Stop closing forest roads to all-terrain vehicle use.

## KEY FINDINGS – NON-PARTICIPANT SURVEY

### Non-Participant Oregonian's Opinions

People that stated they did not participate in some outdoor recreation activity in 2011 were asked additional questions. These questions delved into 1) their past recreation history, 2) their limitations to participating in recreation activities, and 3) a list of activities they would like to participate in. Results are reported at two scales—statewide and SCORP region. County-level results are not reported given an overall small sample size for non-participants in our sample.

### Participation History for Current Non-Participants

Overall, 8% of Oregonians reported not participating in any outdoor recreation activities in Oregon during 2011. The majority of non-participants reported that they have participated in outdoor recreation activities in the past, but not in 2011:

- 72% of respondents participated in outdoor recreation activities prior to 2011.
- 14% never participated in outdoor recreation activities.
- 8% participated in outdoor recreation activities in 2011, but not in Oregon.

SCORP regional results are similar to statewide results.

Non-participants were also asked to write-in the top reason why they did not participate in outdoor recreation activities in Oregon in 2011. In descending order of frequency, reasons include:

1. Being disabled.
2. Too old.
3. Too expensive.
4. Poor health.
5. Lack of time.

### Limitations to Participation in Outdoor Recreation

Non-participants in outdoor recreation in Oregon rated various reasons for not participating in outdoor recreation using a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Not important to 5 = Extremely important). Statewide, non-participants state, on average in descending order, that the following are the primary reasons for not participating in outdoor recreation in 2011:

1. Lack of time.
2. Poor health.
3. Concerns about safety / crime in parks.
4. Too expensive.
5. Too crowded.

The least important reasons, in ascending order of mean score, include:

1. Lack of transportation.
2. Not permitted activity.
3. Activities not offered.
4. Over-development of parks / facilities.

Results at the SCORP regional scale are similar to statewide results. For example, the most important reason is lack of time for Regions 1, 2, 6 and 11, while poor health is most important for Regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

### Activities Would Like To Do

Respondents to the non-participant survey also were asked what activities they would like to participate in, with the largest percentages including:

1. Walking on streets / trails.
2. Beach activities.
3. Outdoor photography.
4. Nature observation.
5. Fishing activities.

Least selected activities by non-participants include:

1. Court and field games.
2. Big game hunting.
3. Waterfowl hunting.
4. Sailing.

Respondents were also asked to write in the single most important thing that park and forest managers can do to help them participate in outdoor recreation. The most frequently cited items include:

1. Increasing access and safety.
2. Improving cleanliness.
3. Lowering costs.
4. Increasing ADA access.
5. Improving maintenance.
6. Increasing advertising.

## CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

Survey results show that close-to-home activities dominate the total user occasions for Oregon residents since these activities can occur on a daily basis with limited travel time. Besides walking, bicycling and jogging on local streets / sidewalks; top outdoor activities include walking on local trails / paths, dog walking, and bicycling on paved trails. Recreational planners should note the high public priority for dirt and other soft surfaced walking trails and paths and off-street bicycle trails and pathways. Such close-to-home facility investments will maximize everyday use by local residents and encourage participation by current non-participants who identified lack of time as the primary reason for not participating in outdoor recreation in 2011. Recreation agencies should also consider providing easily accessible information about walking, running, dog walking, and bicycling opportunities in their jurisdictions to encourage use of existing recreational facilities.

Oregon's waterways (ocean, rivers, lakes, reservoirs and wetlands) are treasured resources and a preferred environment for outdoor recreation participation in the state. Public waterways are a setting for many top outdoor activities such as camping, beach activities, boating, relaxing, picnicking, trail activities, and bird / wildlife observation. Planners should note the public's strong desire for more public access to Oregon's waterways. This public support could enable public recreation providers to identify and acquire lands for public waterway access and appropriate development of

recreational facilities to facilitate public participation in these top outdoor activities.

Another top activity among Oregon residents is general play at a neighborhood park / playground. Based on increasing interest among recreation providers in the state, a distinction was made in the “priorities for the future” survey question to include both public opinions on the need for “children’s playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (logs, water, sand, boulders, hills, trees)” and the need for “children’s playgrounds and play areas built with manufactured structures like swing sets, slides, and climbing apparatuses.” Survey results indicate that Oregonians place a top priority on public investment in the development of natural play areas throughout Oregon. These findings can reinforce local efforts to plan and develop natural play areas in their jurisdictions.

Nationally, participation in hunting and fishing has flattened or declined while participation in activities that involve viewing and photographing nature is growing. In Oregon, hunting and fishing have remained fairly constant, but nature and wildlife observation, bird watching, and outdoor photography have seen substantial growth in overall participation in recent decades. Survey results indicate that Oregon residents place a priority on the development of nature and wildlife viewing areas throughout the state. A 2010 survey of day use and overnight visitors at Oregon State Park Coastal Region parks examined user attitudes about possible management strategies at parks included in the survey. The most strongly supported strategy was to provide more opportunities for viewing wildlife

(supported by 70 percent of park visitors). These survey findings reinforce the need for additional nature and wildlife viewing areas in Oregon.

Picnicking remains a traditional outdoor activity that half of the Oregon population enjoys on a regular basis (picnickers average about 10 picnic outings per year). Survey results indicate that Oregon residents would like to see an investment in more picnic areas for small groups in the state. Oregon State Park day-use surveys indicate that small visitor groups typically average between 5 and 10 individuals.

A review of past Oregon SCORP supply inventories shows that:

- in 1976 there were 9.7 picnic tables per 1,000 population in the state, and
- in 2011 there were 8.1 picnic tables per 1,000 population in the state.

To return to the 1976 level of service for small group picnic areas, Oregon recreation providers would need to increase their picnic table totals by approximately 20% (statewide from 31,455 to 37,830 tables). Such an increase is a good target for park planners in the state to consider.

The survey included Oregon resident opinions about value and delivery of benefits by park and recreation agencies. At the statewide level, benefits rated the highest on value and delivery include improve physical health and fitness, make your community a more desirable place to live, and preserve open space and the environment. Recreation providers can use these results, along with county-level results, to develop





messages and communication tools to use locally to build political, community and financial support for their individual organizations. The Oregon Recreation and Parks Association could also use survey results to support a parks and recreation marketing effort similar to the California Park and Recreation Society's "Building the Brand" project at the statewide level.

Drive-in tent sites had the highest likelihood of use and the highest priority need for overnight camping facilities for state parks. An analysis of current demand and supply shows that 34.6 percent of the Oregon population participates in car camping with a tent with 8.6 million user occasions. RV / motorhome / trailer camping is partici-

pated in by 18.6 percent of the Oregon population with 6.2 million user occasions. However, the 2011 SCORP inventory shows that there are 3.7 times more RV campsites than tent campsites in the state (51,176 RV campsites; 13,963 tent campsites). These findings indicate that park planners should consider the need for additional tent campsites in campgrounds within their jurisdictions.

As reported by non-participants, being disabled and too old were the top two reasons why they did not participate in outdoor recreation activities in Oregon in 2011. In 2011, 14.3 percent of Oregon's total population was over the age of 65. By 2025, that number will grow to nearly 20 percent. According to 2007 SCORP survey of boomers and pre-boomers (residents born between 1926 through 1964) in Oregon, approximately a third of respondents indicated they or someone in their household had a disability. These findings indicate that recreation managers can expect a growing number of Oregonians to drop out of outdoor recreation participation in the coming years due to increasing age and disability unless accommodations are made to overcome their limitations. Based on results from the 2007 survey, park managers should consider giving priority to trails, picnic areas, sightseeing areas, and historic sites in terms of where resources should be directed for providing accessible accommodations for this aging population.



# Outdoor Recreation Trends CHAPTER FOUR

## INTRODUCTION

Accurate information about recreation use and trends is important for making defensible recreation planning decisions. This chapter highlights national and state-wide outdoor recreation trends including information related to activity participation, demographic changes, visitation and license and registration sales. Major federal and state agency, county, municipal and special district organizations responses to questions on how their role might change in the next five years are also included.

## NATIONAL OUTDOOR RECREATION TRENDS

### National Survey on Recreation and the Environment

The National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) represents the continuation of the ongoing National Recreation Survey (NRS) series. Begun in 1960 by the congressionally created Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC), the survey is designed to measure outdoor recreation participation in the United States. Currently, the survey is conducted by the U.S. Forest Service.

The NSRE is a general population, random-digit-dialed household telephone survey designed to measure participation in outdoor recreation activities and people's environmental behaviors and attitudes. From 1999 to 2009, more than 97,000 Americans have been interviewed for the NSRE making it a very reliable source of long-term trend information.

Table 11 includes population par-

ticipation rates for a list of 28 outdoor activities where direct comparison between 2005 to 2009 NSRE and 2011 Oregon SCORP survey results are possible. Overall, Oregon resident outdoor recreation participation is very similar to that of the nation. All but six of the Oregon

**Table 11. Participation Rates in the United States, Pacific Coast Region, and Oregon for Selected Activities**

Activity	NSRE United States (2005-2009)	NSRE Pacific Coast Region* (2005-2009)	Oregon SCORP Survey (2011)
Sightseeing	52.7	53.6	57.5
Picnicking	51.7	56.2	49.7
Visiting Historic Sites	44.1	45.5	43.1
Swimming in an Outdoor Pool	43.3	45.6	20.7
Bicycling	37.5	41.0	34.9
Attending Outdoor Concerts	37.5	40.0	51.5
Running or Jogging	34.2	37.1	33.5
Day Hiking	33.9	44.7	48.0
Gather Mushrooms, etc.	32.8	28.1	20.9
Developed Camping	23.8	33.0	51.4
Motor Boating	23.4	20.3	15.3
Fishing	34.2		24.6
Off-highway Vehicle Driving	20.6	22.4	23.8
Golf	15.2	11.9	11.3
Tennis Outdoors	10.0	9.2	8.8
Backpacking	9.7	6.5	12.0
Horseback Riding on Trails	6.8	7.2	5.4
Use Personal Watercraft	9.0	10.6	4.2
Big Game Hunting	8.9	4.0	8.3
Small Game Hunting	7.0	3.8	3.3
Snowmobiling	4.5	3.4	3.1
Sailing	4.4	5.9	1.8
Cross-country Skiing	2.6	2.4	3.4
Waterfowl Hunting	2.1	1.4	2.1
Surfing	2.0	5.0	1.6
Snowshoeing	1.7	2.2	8.5
Scuba Diving	1.5	2.0	1.3
Windsurfing	0.6	0.6	<1.0

\*Pacific Coast Region includes California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska.

**Table 12. Trends in Participation Rates of People Ages 16 and Older in the United States for Selected Outdoor Recreation Activities by Historic Period (1982 to 2009)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>1982-83</b>	<b>1994-95</b>	<b>1999-2001</b>	<b>2005-09</b>	<b>Change in percent participating, 1982-83 to 2005-09</b>
Walking for pleasure	53.0	68.8	82.0	85.0	32.0
View / photograph birds	12.0	27.0	32.0	35.7	23.7
Day hiking	14.0	26.6	32.3	33.9	19.9
Attend outdoor sports events	40.0	49.0	50.2	53.7	13.7
Attend outdoor concerts, plays, etc.	25.0	35.2	40.7	37.5	12.5
Drive off-road	11.0	17.8	16.8	20.6	9.6
Swimming in lakes, streams, etc.	32.0	43.4	40.0	41.5	9.5
Running or jogging	26.0	28.2	30.9	34.2	8.2
Boating	28.0	37.8	35.1	35.5	7.5
Developed camping	17.0	23.1	25.9	23.8	6.8
Sightseeing	46.0	58.4	50.9	52.7	6.7
Visit nature centers, etc.	50.0	55.1	56.5	56.6	6.6
Bicycling	32.0	38.7	38.3	37.5	5.5
Canoeing or kayaking	8.0	9.5	10.7	12.9	4.9
Backpacking	5.0	8.4	10.0	9.9	4.9
Primitive camping	10.0	15.6	15.5	14.5	4.5
Motor boating	19.0	29.6	23.7	23.4	4.4
Picnicking	48.0	55.7	55.3	51.7	3.7
Sledding	10.0	13.7	14.4	13.6	3.6
Driving for pleasure	48.0	-	50.4	51.2	3.2
Outdoor team sports	24.0	29.1	21.4	26.6	2.6
Golf	13.0	17.3	16.5	15.2	2.2
Snowmobiling	3.0	4.8	5.3	4.5	1.5
Downhill skiing	6.0	141.3	8.1	6.8	0.8
Swimming in an outdoor pool	43.0	49.2	39.7	43.3	0.3
Fishing	34.0	35.0	33.5	34.2	0.2
Horseback riding	9.0	10.3	9.3	9.1	0.1
Waterskiing	9.0	11.3	7.5	9.0	0.0
Hunting	12.0	12.5	11.0	11.9	-0.1
Cross-country skiing	3.0	4.4	3.6	2.6	-0.4
Ice skating outdoors	6.0	7.1	6.3	5.1	-0.9
Sailing	6.0	6.0	4.9	4.4	-1.6
Tennis outdoors	17.0	14.0	9.8	10.0	-7.0

activity participation rates were within five percent of NSRE national participation estimates.

Activities where Oregon participation is five percent or more over U.S. participation include:

- Developed camping (+27.6%)
- Attending outdoor concerts (+14.0%)
- Snowshoeing (+6.8%)

Activities where Oregon participation is five percent or more under U.S. participation include:

- Swimming in an outdoor pool (-22.6%)
- Fishing (-9.6%)
- Motor boating (-8.1%)

The similarities in activity participation rates suggest that national NSRE outdoor recreation participation trends may also be relevant in the state of Oregon.

At the national level, change in outdoor recreation participation is presented for a period from 1982 to 2009 for both population participation rates (Table 12) and total numbers of participants (Table 13) for a list of 33 outdoor recreation activities.

Activities with the highest growth rates in percentage of population participation include:

- Walking for pleasure (+32.0%)
- View / photograph birds (+23.7%)
- Day hiking (+19.9%)
- Attend outdoor sports events (+13.7%)
- Attend outdoor concerts, plays, etc. (+12.5%)
- Drive off-road (+9.6%)
- Swimming in lakes, streams, etc. (+9.5%)
- Running or jogging (+8.2%)
- Boating (+7.5%)
- Developed camping (+6.8%)
- Sightseeing (+6.7%)
- Visit nature centers, etc. (+6.6%)
- Bicycling (+5.5%)
- Canoeing or kayaking (+4.9%)
- Backpacking (+4.9%)

Activities with the highest growth rates in total number of participants include:

- Walking for pleasure (+108.1 million participants)
- View / photograph birds (+63.3 million participants)

- Attend outdoor sports events (+56.9 million participants)
- Day hiking (+55.5 million participants)
- Visit nature centers, etc. (+46.6 million participants)
- Attend outdoor concerts, plays, etc. (+44.7 million participants)
- Sightseeing (+44.1 million participants)
- Swimming in lakes, streams, etc. (+42.0 million participants)
- Picnicking (+38.3 million participants)
- Driving for pleasure (+37.2 million participants)
- Running or jogging (+35.3 million participants)
- Boating (+34.9 million participants)
- Bicycling (+32.8 million participants)
- Drive off-road (+29.3 million participants)

The following is a summary of NSRE trends information from the document entitled, *Outdoor Recreation Trends and Futures: A Technical Document Supporting the Forest Service 2010 RPA Assessment*, published in March 2012 by the Southern Research Station, H. Ken Cordell, Principal Investigator.

Key national outdoor recreation trends identified in a review of NSRE data include:

**TREND 1:** What people now choose to do for outdoor recreation is very noticeably different from choices made by and available to previous generations of Americans. Participation in “traditional” outdoor activities such as fishing and hunting, while still somewhat popular, generally has been declining, and being replaced by other activities, such as wildlife or bird watching or photography.

**TREND 2:** Overall outdoor recreation participation is growing. Between 2000 and 2009, the total number of people who participated in outdoor activities grew by 7.5 percent, and the total number of activity days increased by over 32 percent.

**TREND 3:** There is growth in the overall group of nature-based activities named “viewing and photographing nature.” Substantial growth occurred in both participation and annual days for five nature-based viewing and photography activities: viewing birds, other wildlife (besides birds), fish, wildflowers/trees and other vegetation, and natural scenery.

**Table 13. Trends in Millions of People 16 Years and Older in the United States for Selected Outdoor Recreation Activity Participation by Historic Period (1982 to 2009)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>1982-83</b>	<b>1994-95</b>	<b>1999-2001</b>	<b>2005-09</b>	<b>Change in number of participants, 1982-83 to 2005-09</b>
Walking for pleasure	91.9	138.5	175.6	200.0	108.1
View / photograph birds	20.8	54.3	68.5	84.1	63.3
Attend outdoor sports events	69.4	98.6	107.5	126.3	56.9
Day hiking	24.3	53.6	69.1	79.8	55.5
Visit nature centers, etc.	86.7	110.9	121.0	133.3	46.6
Attend outdoor concerts, plays, etc.	43.4	70.9	87.2	88.1	44.7
Sightseeing	79.8	117.5	109.0	123.9	44.1
Swimming in lakes, streams, etc.	55.5	87.4	85.5	97.5	42.0
Picnicking	83.3	112.1	118.3	121.6	38.3
Driving for pleasure	83.3	-	107.9	120.5	37.2
Running or jogging	45.1	56.7	66.2	80.2	35.3
Boating	48.6	76.2	75.0	83.5	34.9
Bicycling	55.5	77.8	81.9	88.3	32.8
Driving off-road	19.1	35.9	36.0	48.4	29.3
Swimming in an outdoor pool	74.6	99.1	85.0	102.0	27.4
Developed camping	29.5	46.5	55.3	56.0	26.5
Motor boating	33.0	59.5	50.7	55.0	22.0
Fishing	59.0	70.4	71.6	80.4	21.4
Outdoor team sports	41.6	58.6	45.9	62.5	20.9
Primitive camping	17.3	31.4	33.1	34.1	16.8
Canoeing or kayaking	13.9	19.2	23.0	30.4	16.5
Sledding	17.3	27.7	30.8	32.0	14.7
Backpacking	8.7	17.0	21.5	23.2	14.5
Golf	22.6	34.9	35.3	35.9	13.3
Hunting	20.8	25.3	23.6	28.0	7.2
Horseback riding	15.6	20.7	19.8	21.5	5.9
Waterskiing	15.6	22.7	16.0	21.3	5.7
Downhill skiing	10.4	22.8	17.4	15.9	5.5
Snowmobiling	5.2	9.6	11.3	10.7	5.5
Ice skating outdoors	10.4	14.2	13.6	12.0	1.6
Cross-country skiing	5.2	8.8	7.8	6.1	0.9
Sailing	10.4	12.1	10.4	10.4	0.0
Tennis outdoors	29.5	28.2	20.9	23.5	-6.0



**TREND 4:** Different segments of the society chose different types and levels of participation in different mixes of outdoor activities. Visiting recreation or historic sites was significantly higher among non-Hispanic Whites, late teenagers, middle-aged people, people with some college to completion of advanced degrees, higher income people, and the foreign born. Viewing and photographing nature was higher among people with higher education, higher incomes, non-Hispanic Whites, people ages 35 to 54, those having some college to post graduate education, and those earning more than \$50,000 per year. For backcountry activities, participation was highest among males, Whites, Native Americans, people under 55 years, people well-educated with higher incomes, and rural residents. Participation in hunting, fishing, and motorized outdoor activities was higher among rural, non-Hispanic White males with middle-to-high incomes. Non-motorized boating activities and skiing/snowboarding participation tended to be greater for younger, non-Hispanic White urban males with higher incomes and education levels.

**TREND 5:** America's youth do spend time outdoors, and for some it is substantial. Some of that time is for outdoor recreation. From the National Kids Survey, approximately 64 percent of youth ages 6 to 19 reported spending two or more hours outdoors on a typical weekday, and over three-fourths reported two or more hours outdoors on typical weekend days. One half of kids surveyed reported spending as much as four or more hours outdoors on a typical weekend day. Less than five percent spent no time outdoors on either weekdays or weekend days. The youth outdoor activity with the highest participation rate was that of "just hanging out or playing outdoors." The second highest participation activity, with 80 percent youth participation, was being physically active by participating in biking, jogging, walking skate boarding, or similar activity. Playing music or using other electronic devices outdoors was the third highest participation activity, followed by playing or practicing team sports and reading/studying outdoors.

**TREND 6:** Public lands continue to be highly important for the recreation opportunities they offer. The percentage of population participating in visiting recreation and historic sites on public land is substantial in both the East (60 percent of annual days) and the West (69 percent). In the West, slightly more than 60 percent of viewing and photographing nature

activity occurs on public land. In both the East and West, around three-fourths of backcountry activity occurs on public lands. In the West, 57 percent of hunting occurs on public forest lands. The majority of cross-country skiing (67 percent in the West) is estimated to occur on public lands.

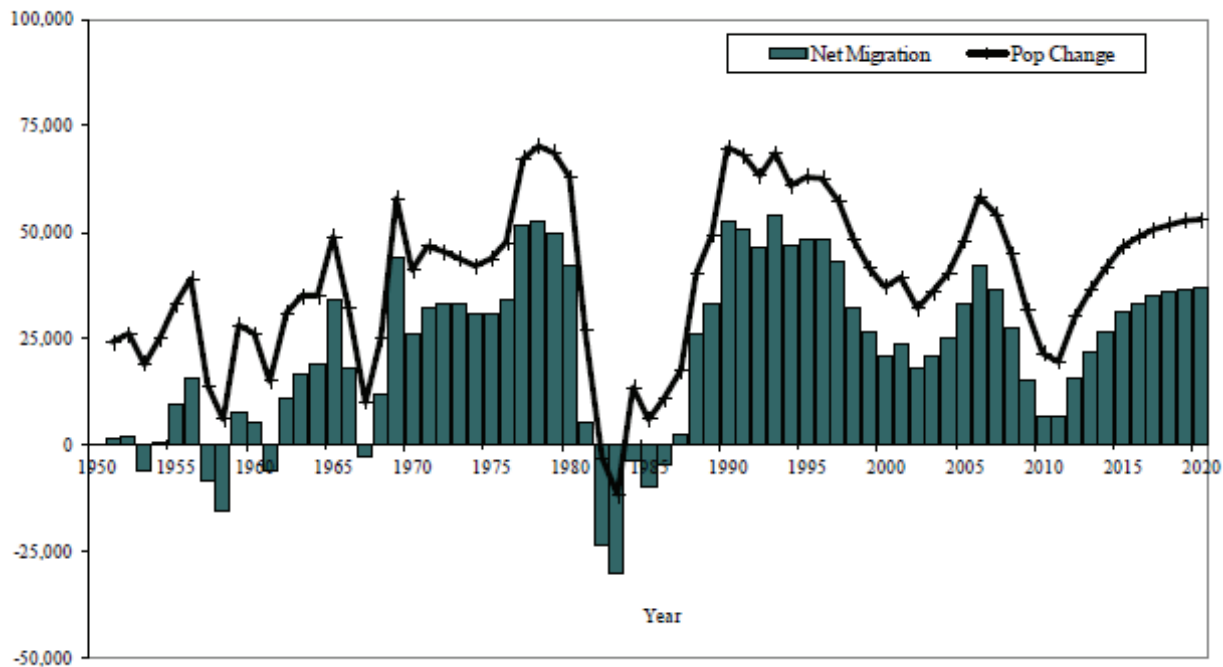
**TREND 7:** Visits to various units of the National Park System have been relatively stable, while visitation at National Wildlife Refuges and other areas managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has shown fairly steady growth. Visitation at Bureau of Land Management areas has been relatively stable over the years, while visitation to national forests has been declining. State park visitation grew pretty steadily up from 1992 up through 2000 then declined until 2005. Since 2005, state park visitation increased through 2008 before dipping again in 2009.

**TREND 8:** A national study of motivations indicated that some segments of our society feel more constrained than others. Over all segments, the most important motivations for hiking are to be outdoors, to experience nature, to get away from the demands of everyday life, and to have physical exercise or training. For camping the most important motivations are to be outdoors, to get away from the everyday demands of life, and to experience nature. For sightseeing, the most important motivations are to be with family, to be outdoors, and to get away from the everyday demands of life. For walking, the motivations are to be outdoors, to contribute to health, physical exercise, or training, and to get away from the demands of everyday life.

**TREND 9:** The five activities projected to grow fastest in per capita participation over the next 50 years are developed skiing (20 to 50 percent), undeveloped skiing (9 to 31 percent), challenge activities (6 to 18 percent increase), equestrian activities (3 to 19 percent), and motorized water activities (-3 to 15 percent). The activities projected to decline in per capita adult participation rates include visiting primitive areas (-5 to 0 percent), motorized off-road activities (-18 to 0 percent), motorized snow activities (-11 to 2 percent), hunting (-31 to -22 percent), fishing (-10 to -3 percent), and floating activities (-11 to 3 percent). Growth of per capita participation rates for the remaining activities will either hover around zero or grow minimally.

The five activities projected to grow the most in terms of number of participants are developed skiing

Figure 9. Oregon Annual Population Change and Net Migration (1950-2020)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; and Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

(68 to 147 percent), undeveloped skiing (55 to 106 percent), challenge activities including mountain climbing, rock climbing or caving (50 to 86 percent), equestrian activities (44 to 87 percent), and motorized water activities (41 to 81 percent). The activities with the lowest growth in participant numbers are visiting primitive areas (33 to 65 percent), motorized off-road activities (29 to 56 percent), motorized snow activities (25 to 61 percent), hunting (8 to 23 percent), fishing (27 to 56 percent), and floating activities (30 to 62 percent). While activities currently having high participation levels may not show large percentage increases in participant numbers, even small percentage increases in already popular activities can mean quite large increases in participants.

## OREGON OUTDOOR RECREATION TRENDS

This section examines major demographic trends that will have a significant impact on the provision of recreation opportunities in Oregon in the coming five years. The first demographic trend, continued population growth, includes a review of 2010 U.S. Census data. The next four demographic trends are those identified in the 2008-2012 Oregon SCORP, including a rapidly aging population, fewer youth learning outdoor skills, a growing minority population, and

increasing levels of physical inactivity. The section concludes with major federal and state agency, county, municipal and special district organizations responses to questions on how their role might change in the state in the next five years.

## DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

### Population Growth

The 2010 U.S. Census results show that Oregon's population increased from 3.42 million in 2000 to 3.83 million in 2010, or an additional 410,000 residents. The population growth during the decade of 2000 to 2010 was 12.0 percent, slowing considerably from the rapid 20.4 percent growth of the previous decade. Most of the population growth came in the first seven years of the decade, prior to the economic downturn. This population increase made Oregon the 18th fastest growing state in the United States, down from the 11th fastest growing state in the previous decade. The state is surrounded by faster growing states including Washington (#13), Idaho (#4), and Nevada, the nation's fastest growing state.

Oregon's population change is greatly influenced by net migration, and migration is in turn affected by the overall economy of the state. Because of the state's economic downturn in recent years, in-migration flow has slowed

considerably (Figure 9). However, net migration has not turned negative during this recession as it did during the recession of the early 1980s.

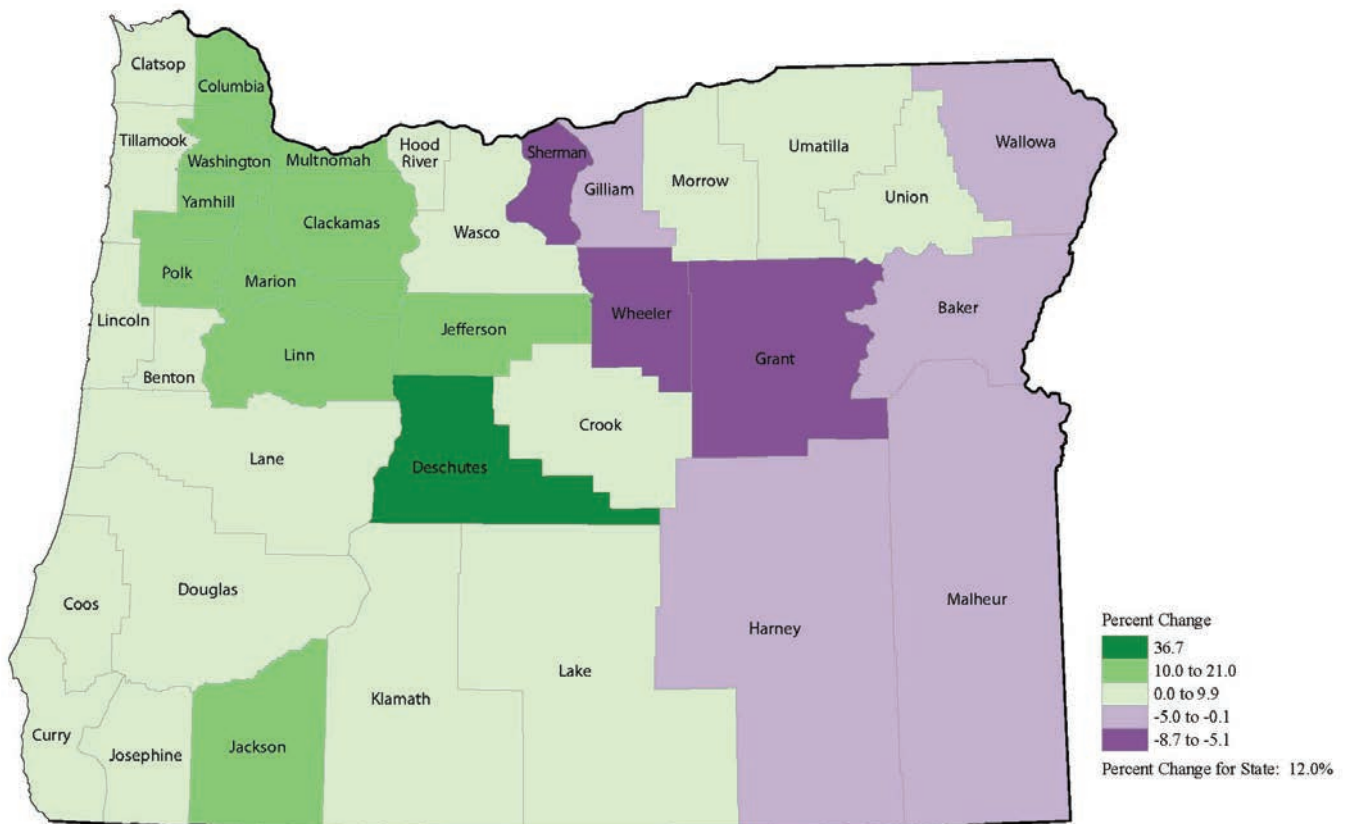
From 2000 to 2010, nearly 32 percent of the state's population growth was due to net migration - the lowest contribution to population growth since 1987. During the 1990s and mid-2000s, when Oregon's economy was rapidly expanding, net migration accounted for nearly three-fourths of the population growth. During the 1990s, net migration averaged about 42,000 persons per year. The average annual net migration for 2000 to 2010 was 25,000. The next decade will see a slight increase in net migration as the economy recovers. The average net migration for 2010 to 2020 is expected to be 28,000. As a sign of slow to modest economic gain, the ratio of net migration-to-population change will increase gradually and reach 70 percent by 2020, from the current low of 32 percent.

Oregon's fastest growing counties from 2000 to 2010 were scattered throughout the state (Figure 10). Deschutes was the state's fastest growing county, increasing

36.7 percent during the decade and accounting for ten percent of Oregon's overall population increase in the decade. Polk County was the second fastest growing county increasing by 20.9 percent. Also in the top ten counties, ranked by percentage increase during the decade were Washington, Yamhill, Jefferson, Columbia, Linn, Jackson, Multnomah, and Clackamas. Several counties in central and eastern Oregon experienced population loss during the decade including Sherman, Wheeler, Grant, Gilliam, Wallowa, Baker, Harney and Malheur.

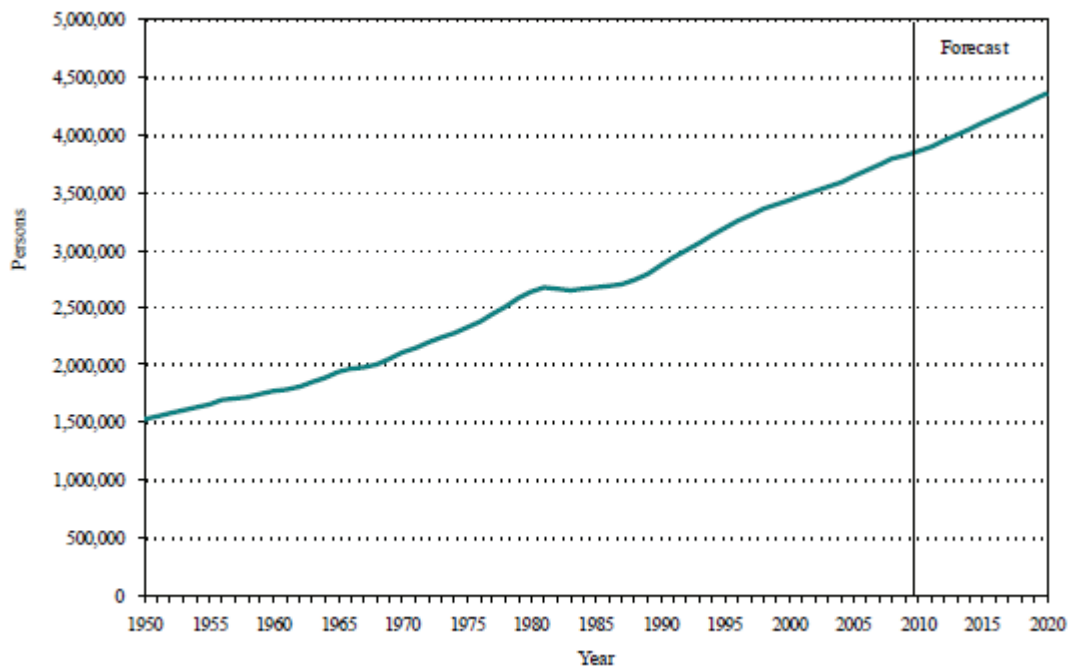
Much of the state's growth occurred in the Interstate 5 corridor between Portland and Salem. Population growth in six counties (Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas, Yamhill, Polk and Marion) accounted for 62 percent of the state's overall population increase from 2000 to 2010. In the metropolitan Portland area, Washington county accounted for 21 percent of all population increase in the decade; Multnomah for 18 percent; and Clackamas for nine percent. Seven percent of the state's population increase was in Marion and seven percent in Lane county.

Figure 10. Oregon Population Change by County (2000-2012)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010 Census Redistricting Data Summary File

**Figure 11. Oregon Historic and Projected Population Change (1950-2020)**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; and Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

Population increases occurred from 2000 to 2010 in 187 of Oregon’s 245 incorporated cities and towns and population declines took place in 58 cities and towns. Happy Valley was the fastest growing city in the decade, increasing by 208 percent from 4,519 in 2000 to 13,903 in 2010. The city of Sisters was the second fastest, increasing by 113 percent from 959 to 2,038. Redmond was the third fastest, increasing by 95 percent from 13,481 to 26,215. Among cities greater than 20,000 in population, Redmond was the fastest growing, followed by Grants Pass increasing by 50 percent from 23,003 to 34,533, and Bend increasing by 47 percent from 52,029 to 76,639. Ranked by the amount of population change during the decade, Portland ranked number one with a population increase of 54,655. Bend was second (with 24,610), Hillsboro was third (with 21,425), Eugene was fourth (with 18,292), and Salem was fifth (with 17,713). Overall, about one-half (49%) of the overall state’s population increase was in the ten urban areas with the largest population gains.

Since 1950, Oregon’s population has increased at a faster pace than the U.S. population as a whole. Between 1950 and 2010, Oregon’s population increased by 152 percent, whereas the U.S. population increased by 104 percent. The state was hit harder by the recent recession than many other states. Since economy and migra-

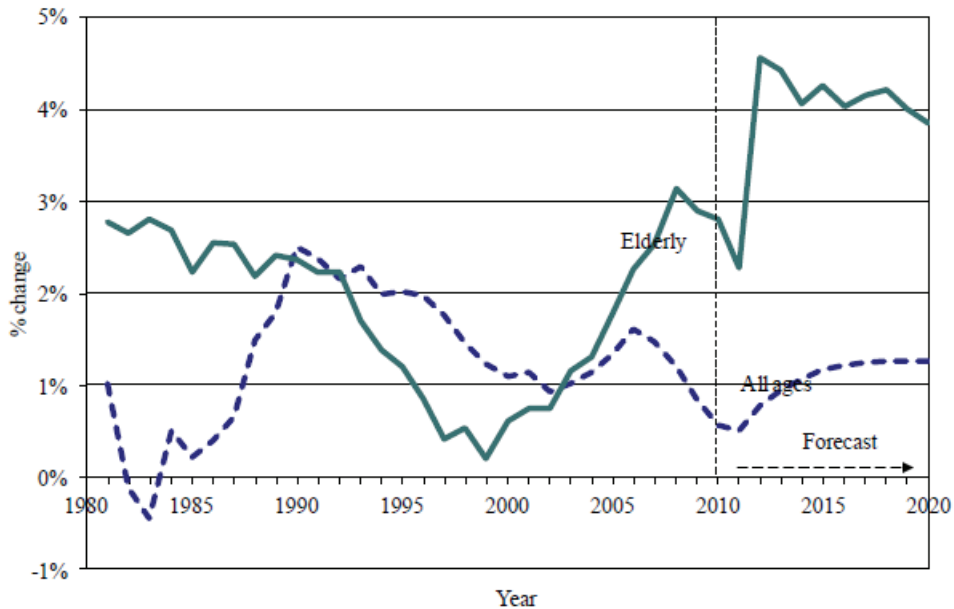
tion are closely related, Oregon’s population growth has slowed down in recent years. Currently, Oregon’s growth rate is below the national growth rate. However, in the coming years, Oregon’s growth rate is expected to be higher than the national growth rate and its population is expected to reach 4.3 million by the year 2020 (Figure 11).

### A Rapidly Aging Population

Since 2003, Oregon’s elderly population (65 years and older) growth has outpaced the overall population growth rate due to cohort change and cumulative effect of net migration (Figure 12). In 2011, 14.3 percent of Oregon’s total population was 65 or older. The population in this age group will start a dramatic increase as the baby boomers (Oregonians born between 1946 and 1964) continue to enter the retirement age. Beginning in 2001, Oregon’s elderly population growth exceeded four percent annually for nearly a decade. There will be 48 percent more elderly in 2020 than in 2010.

An enhanced focus on promoting and preserving the health of older adults is essential if we are to effectively address the health and economic challenges of an aging society. Oregon’s park and recreation providers have the facilities and programs in place across the state to take a leadership role in promoting and pre-

Figure 12. Oregon Annual Rate of Change: Elderly Compared to People of All Ages (1980-2020)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; and Oregon Office of Economic Analysis

servicing the health of older adults through encouraging and facilitating their involvement in active outdoor recreation activities.

With the baby boomer generation fast approaching an age where leisure activities will increase and retirement migration will peak, the implications of increasing recreational participation on park and recreation providers are substantial. To address this trend, a statewide SCORP survey was conducted in 2007 using a random sample of Oregon residents born between 1946 and 1964 (boomers) and between 1926 and 1945 (pre-boomers). The survey was designed to identify current outdoor recreation participation amount the two sub-groups and how they expect to recreation in coming years. Key study findings include:

- The most popular outdoor recreation activities for Oregonians between the ages of 42 and 80 included walking, picnicking, sightseeing, visiting historic sites and ocean beach activities.
- A comparison across age categories for the top five activities by participation intensity leads to the following conclusions: Walking is the top activity across all age categories (40-79); jogging is a top activity between the ages of 40-59, but is also popular for those in their 70s; bicycling is a top activity between the ages of 40-64; sightseeing is a top activity between the ages of 45-74; bird watching is a top activity between the ages of 55-79; and RV/trailer camping is a top activity between the ages of 55-74.
- The top five activities in terms of future participation intensity 10 years from now included walking, bicycling (road/path), jogging, bird watching and day hiking.
- The most important current motivations or reasons for participating in outdoor activities were to have fun and be in the outdoors.
- Ensuring clean and well-maintained parks and facilities was the most important management action that will lead to a large increase in recreation followed by developing walking/hiking trails closer to home and providing more free-of-charge recreation opportunities.
- Boomers placed more importance than Pre-Boomers on developing trails and parks closer to home and providing more information.
- Over a third of Oregon Boomers and Pre-Boomers volunteered in their community, with an average time commitment of 5.3 hours per week.
- Of those who volunteered, 43% expect future changes in their volunteer activities, with most of the changes involving greater volunteerism: more

time, more projects at current volunteer opportunities, and new opportunities.

- When asked what recreation or natural resource agencies can do to increase the time respondents spend volunteering or to attract new volunteers, the overwhelming response was to provide more information.
- Oregon's recreation managers can expect substantial increases in the number of visitors with a physical or mental disability using their recreational facilities and services in the coming years as Boomers increase in age.
- Priority should be given to trails, picnic areas, sightseeing areas, and historic sites in terms of where resources should be directed for providing accessibility accommodations.
- Respondents were asked about their past and expected moves (relocation). Nearly one third (32%) had moved in the past ten years and 14% plan on moving in the next ten years.
- Respondents who had moved or expected to move were asked about community characteristics that affected or will affect their selection of a destination community. Scenery was the most important characteristic, followed by low crime, high-quality health care, low tax levels, and general outdoor recreation opportunities.

### Fewer Oregon Youth Learning Outdoor Skills

Although Oregon is a state with abundant natural resources, there is growing evidence that Oregon's youth are gravitating away from outdoor experiences and towards a virtual indoor reality. Analysis of past SCORP survey results indicates participation in traditional outdoor recreation activities is decreasing, and this may be due to decreasing youth participation. Anecdotal information and recent analysis indicate that youth participation in outdoor activities is decreasing because of several factors including increased urbanization, loss of free time, increase in single-parent family households, and greater youth focus on electronic activities (TV, video games, internet). Research has shown that people who do not participate in outdoor recreation as youth are less likely to participate in those activities as adults. By providing Oregon's youth with opportunities to learn outdoor recreation skills in outdoor settings, we have the opportunity to rebuild the foundation for future outdoor recreation participation, reestablish personal connections with nature and their public lands, and

improve not only health and well-being of future youth and adults, but also instill a passion for nature that result in future nature stewardship. This can be accomplished by engaging Oregon parents in outdoor skill/development activities or engaging youth directly.

To address this trend, a statewide SCORP mail survey was conducted in 2007 using a random sample of Oregon households that included children. Each household in the sample received a parent survey and two youth surveys. Parents reported on their own outdoor recreation behavior and that of a randomly selected child between the ages of 3 and 17. The youth surveys were restricted to 12 to 17 year olds with a maximum of two per household. The survey was designed to identify factors affecting youth participation in outdoor recreation in Oregon and identify opportunities to increase this participation. Key study findings include:

#### Statewide Survey of Oregon Parents

- Starting with the parent survey, the most popular (highest average days in past year) outdoor activities for parents were walking, viewing natural features, and relaxing/hanging out. For children, the most popular was walking, followed by outdoor sports/games, relaxing/hanging out, and general play at neighborhood parks/playgrounds.
- The more a parent engages in an outdoor recreation activity, the more their child does.
- Participation varies across child age, with both the number of activities and the number of activity days peaking amongst 12-14 year olds and decreasing for 15-17 year olds.
- Rural children spend more days, on average, in outdoor activities relative to urban and suburban children. Suburban children spend the least amount of days in outdoor activities.
- For most activities parents first engaged in the activity as a child, rather than an adult. This is consistent with research indicating the importance of early life participation setting a pattern for later life participation.
- Based on parental reports, children spend more time, on average, than parents did in organized sports, both indoor and outdoor. However, there have been decreases in other activities, with the greatest decreases occurring in outdoor chores and outdoor play not at school.
- With the exception of swimming and applying en-

vironmental ethics, children were rated, on average, as having a lower ability than their parents when they were children.

- Map/ compass, cooking outdoors, and knots/ rope work skills were the skills in which children's abilities are lowest relative to the previous generation's ability.
- In general, abilities have decreased more, on average, amongst urban and suburban households than among rural households.



- Most parents learned skills from their parents or guardians.
- Outdoor sports programs and day camps are the most popular types of outdoor recreation programs with respect to past participation.
- Many parents indicated that it would be very likely for their children to participate in outdoor sports programs (62%), multi-day camps (49%), outdoor adventure trips (45%), and day camps (45%) in the future.
- When considering constraints that limit program participation, parents report that lack of informa-

tion and cost are the two most important constraints — especially for low income households.

- Having fun was clearly the most important priority for parents in selecting programs, though staying safe and out of trouble and getting physical activity and exercise are also important priorities.
- Most respondents felt there are safe opportunities for their children to engage in outdoor activities.
- Almost all parents felt that it was a priority for their child to spend more time in outdoor activities.

#### Statewide Survey of Oregon Youth

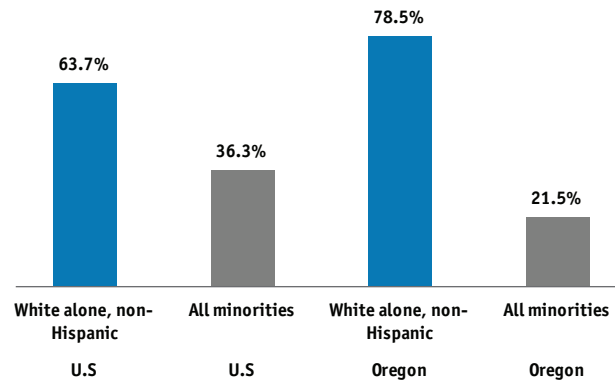
- Outdoor field games were clearly the favorite activity for youth, followed by biking and outdoor court games.
- Though parents play critical roles in introducing you to activities, friends and other family (e.g., siblings) are more popular recreation partners for youth.
- When asked what they would like to do more often, youth commonly noted outdoor field games, followed by biking and camping.
- More or better facilities and more participants or teams would help you engage more often.
- Homework and other (e.g., indoor) activities were noted as the most common constraint to youth spending more time outdoors.
- Youth were asked to create an ideal activity program, selecting one or more from a list of 31 potential activities. Tent camping was the most popular activity to include in such a program, followed by sledding / tubing, swimming / diving, and outdoor field games.
- Girls were more likely than boys to include horseback riding as an ideal activity program, while boys were more likely than girls to include All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) riding. Girls are equally enthusiastic about tent and cabin camping whereas boys prefer tent camping.
- Youth preferred to do their favorite program activity with friends and in groups of 3-5 or 6-10 people.

The youth component also included a separate study designed to explore the opinions and thoughts directly from youth in a series of focus group meetings in 2007. Activities, time, constraints and benefits experienced in the outdoors were the major focus of this exploration. A series of nine focus group meetings occurred in three

separate locations in Oregon including the cities of Portland, Bend and Prineville. Key study findings include:

- Preferred recreational activities for urban youth include outdoor sports, riding bikes, viewing nature and wildlife, dancing, and playing with dogs.
- For rural youth, preferred activities include horseback riding, camping, skateboarding, bike riding, and wrestling.
- The most common reason that youth enjoyed playing outdoors is because it provides more options and choices with a greater repertoire of activities and more ways to play with friends.
- One of the major constraints to playing outdoors more frequently is increasing amounts of time spent playing with electronic toys (TV, video games and computers).
- Another reported barrier is that either their family doesn't go outside or nobody pushes them to go outside.
- When asked about the effects of not going outside, youth made the connection between staying indoors and decreasing physical and emotional health.
- Youth report that programs that focus on the arts, music, and social events would encourage more kids to go outside and into parks.

Figure 13. U.S. and Oregon Population Share (2010)



### A Growing Minority Population

In 2010, 21.5 percent of Oregonians belonged to a minority race or ethnic group, compared to 36.3 percent in the United States (Figure 13). Figure 14 shows comparisons of population proportions by race and ethnicity type in the U.S. and Oregon. As a whole, there was greater diversity in the U.S. population than in Oregon population in 2010.

However, during the period from 2000-2010 minority groups as a whole in Oregon are growing at a faster pace than the corresponding rates at the national level (Figure 15) accelerating the diversity of Oregon's population.

In 2010, Hispanics or Latinos accounted for 11.7 percent of Oregon's population (450,062 people), compared to 16.3 percent in the nation. However, since 1980 Ore-

Figure 14. U.S. and Oregon Population by Race and Ethnicity (2010)

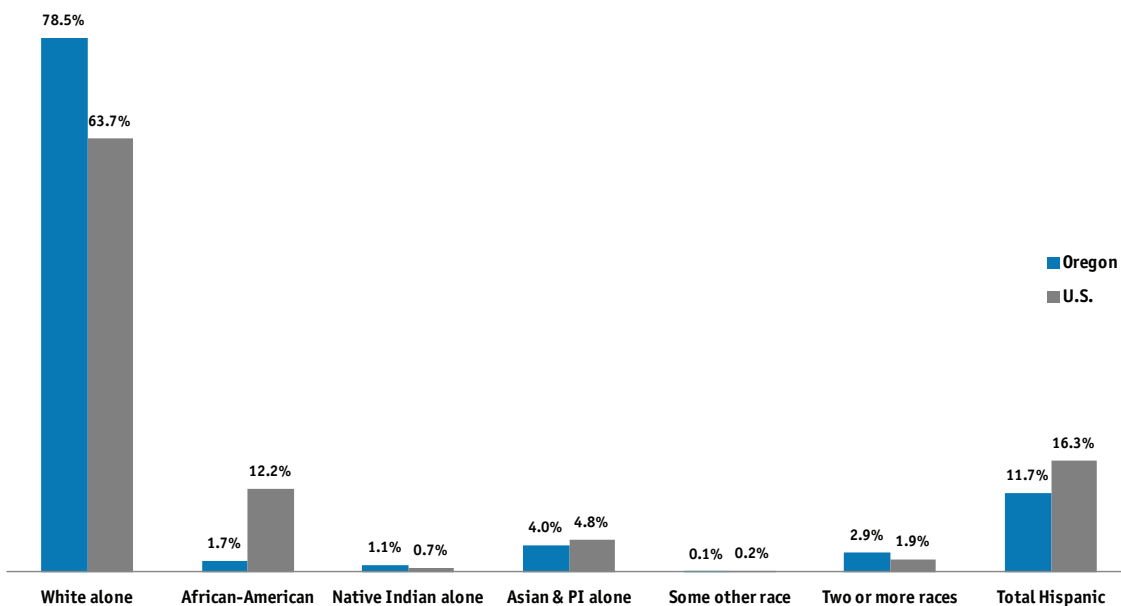
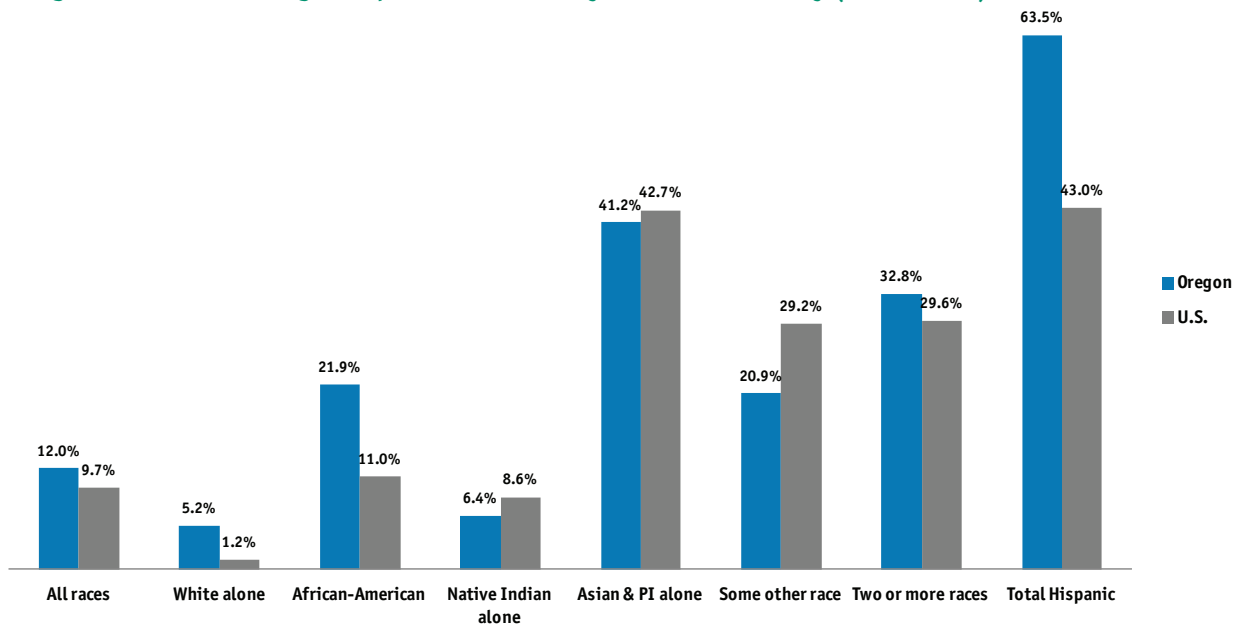




Figure 15. U.S. and Oregon Population Growth by Race and Ethnicity (2000-2010)



gon's Hispanic population has been growing at a much higher rate than the overall population (Figure 16). Between 1980 and 1990, Oregon's Hispanic population increased by 71 percent. During the next decade, Oregon's Hispanic population increased by 144 percent. In the last decade, the Hispanic population increased by 64 percent, slowest in this three-decade period, but more than five times greater than the non-Hispanic population increase between 2000-2010. The state's Asian population also grew by 41 percent between 2000-2010.

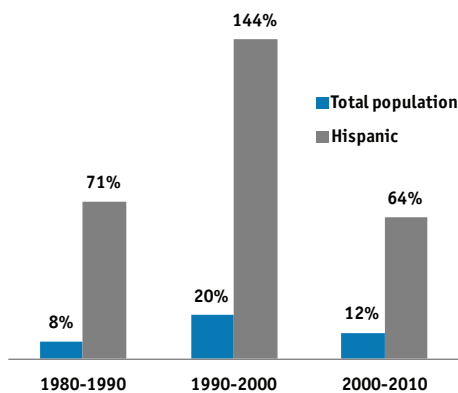
By the year 2020, Oregon's combined Hispanic, Asian, and African-American population is projected to make up 22 percent of the state's population. Research has indicated that in general, minorities are less likely than

whites to participate in outdoor recreation in the U.S. As a result, these under-represented populations forego the health, social, and other benefits of outdoor recreation, while natural areas, and the agencies that manage them, lose a potentially important group of supporters. As Oregon's population continues to change, it is critical to understand how different ethnic and racial groups participate in outdoor recreation activities, and the constraints that limit their participation to better serve their outdoor recreation needs.

To address this trend, a statewide SCORP mail survey was conducted in 2007 of randomly selected Hispanic and Asian households in Oregon. The survey was designed to identify factors affecting minority participation in outdoor recreation in Oregon and identify opportunities to increase this participation. Key study findings include:

- Walking for pleasure was the most common favorite activity for both Hispanics and Asians, with fishing and soccer being the next most common for Hispanics and hiking and fishing the next most common for Asians.
- Both Hispanic and Asian respondents most commonly did their favorite activity with members of their immediate family. Asians were more likely than Hispanics to do activities alone, as were older respondents relative to younger respondents.
- The most common location for Hispanic and Asian

Figure 16. Oregon Population Change by Hispanic Ethnicity (2000-2010)



respondents to do their favorite activity was in a park or other area outside one's town or city. Males were more likely than females to engage in their favorite activity further from home.

- Survey results suggest that both the Hispanic and Asian populations in Oregon engage in outdoor recreation less than the general population. With respect to days of participation (intensity), this is especially true for Asians. With respect to number of activities, this is true for both Hispanics and Asians.
- Walking for pleasure was also the activity respondents spent the most days engaged in during the past year. Hispanics engage more intensely than Asians in jogging/running, day hiking, picnicking, fishing, viewing natural features, visiting nature centers, and visiting historic sites.
- The most common activities respondents would like to do more often, or start doing were walking for Asians and walking and camping for Hispanics. The factor that would most help make this happen is availability of partners, followed by more time.
- Most of the Hispanic and Asian respondents have lived in another country and engaged in outdoor recreation in that country. The specific activities engaged in varied widely, with walking being the most common, followed by day hiking.
- For the Hispanic population, being in the outdoors, relaxing and having fun are the most important motivators or reasons for participating in outdoor activities.
- For the Asian population, relaxing, fitness, and having fun are the top motivators.
- Ensuring clean and well-maintained parks and facilities was the most important management action followed by keeping parks safe from crime, providing more free-of-charge recreation opportunities and expanded facilities.
- The most commonly recommended facilities for development in parks were picnic tables, followed by trails and campgrounds. There were some differences across groups, with Hispanics being more likely than Asians to suggest additional sports fields.
- In terms of information sought by respondents, practical information on activities, facilities, and location was the most common response, followed

by information on cost.

- Overall, the internet was most frequently noted as the desired information outlet.
- Asians clearly preferred the internet, followed by newspapers and TV. Hispanics preferred newspapers and TV, followed by the internet.
- With respect to youth outdoor programs, the majority (59%) of respondents with children indicated that their children have participated in outdoor sports programs. Close to forty percent also indicated participation in day camps or multi-day camps.
- Outdoor sports programs was also the activity that children were most likely to participate in the future, followed by programs to help youth use their free time productively.



- Weekends were the most popular times for participation in youth outdoor programs, followed by summer weekends and weekdays.
- Lack of information and cost were reported as the main constraints to participation in such programs.
- Top constraints for Hispanics included lack of information, and cost. For Asians, top constraints included lack of information, safety concerns and age/gender-appropriate programs.
- When considering programs for children to participate in outside class time, Hispanic parents placed highest priority on staying safe and out of trouble and getting physical exercise. Asian parents placed the highest priority on getting physical exercise and having fun.

The diversity component also included a separate study designed to understand ethnic minorities' interests and needs related to outdoor recreation, and how recreation providers can better respond to these non-traditional users in a series of focus group meetings in 2007. Current and previous recreation experiences, benefits sought, constraints, media, and specific information about parks were the major focus of this study. A series of four focus group meetings occurred, two taking place in the city of Portland (Asian-American), and one each in Hermiston (Hispanic) and Woodburn (Hispanic). Key study findings include:



- Develop facilities (such as picnic areas) large enough for extended families. Participants explained that they prefer to recreate with their children and extended families including elders. They mentioned frustration with visiting areas without such facilities.
- Recruit a more diverse staff.
- Target marketing information at ethnic groups in appropriate media and languages. Ethnic minorities have little awareness of the recreation opportunities available to them on public lands in Oregon. Having literature and information available in multiple languages would help encourage use at outdoor recreation areas. According to participants, information should be distributed through existing ethnic organizations such as social service agencies, farm worker associations, local health clinics, community centers, restaurant associations, and churches and schools.
- Develop a multi-language recreation website.
- Create trust with key informants within the communities.
- Focus information delivery on Hispanic youth.
- Focus youth programs on academic enhancement. Parents want to take their children to a place where they can learn and explore. Programs that focus on academic enhancement and promote self-esteem for youth in the community would be welcomed.

### Increasing Levels of Physical Inactivity

According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) rates of physical inactivity and obesity in the U.S. have reached epidemic proportions. Overweight and obesity are associated with increases in several chronic diseases such as coronary heart disease, type-2 diabetes, and various cancers. Regular, moderate exercise has been proven to reduce the risk of developing coronary heart disease, stroke, colon cancer, hypertension, diabetes, osteoporosis, obesity and depression. Public facilities such as trails, swimming pools and parks that are conveniently located have been found to be positively associated with vigorous physical activity in a number of studies, among both adults and children. By providing facilities and programs which encourage physical activity, parks and recreation providers can directly contribute to the battle on physical inactivity, obesity, and rising health costs in Oregon.

To address this trend, a statewide 2007 SCORP research study tested the hypothesis that people in Oregon with ready access to outdoor recreation opportunities are healthier than people residing in areas without access to such resources. To test this hypothesis, a macro-level model is estimated on the supply of and demand for recreational opportunities in Oregon and measures of health status (physical activity, overweight, and obesity). Data were collected from secondary sources (e.g., U.S. Census, past Oregon SCORP research, and Oregon Department of Health Services) at the county-level. Key study findings include:

- The supply and demand for recreation activities are associated with physically active people.

- Counties comprising more active residents are associated with healthier counties as measured by the proportion of adults considered to be overweight.
- The prevalence of hiking and urban trails is associated with higher rates of physical activity across counties.
- Counties in which people are more engaged in non-motorized trail-related activities, road and street activities (e.g., walking, jogging, biking), and other outdoor sports, overall physical activity rates are higher.
- Parks and recreation providers should support the development of local recreation facilities, including non-motorized trails, and promote their use by providing information about them and other existing resources.
- Providers should promote the overall health benefits of being physically active via outdoor recreation.
- Providers should identify at-risk communities and allocate resources to these communities in developing and promoting recreation opportunities.

## VISITATION AND PERMIT SALES TRENDS

This section reviews visitation, license and registration trend data supplied by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon State Marine Board, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

### Oregon State Parks Visitation

Another set of trend data is available from OPRD, based on ongoing visitor counts of day and overnight visitors to Oregon State Parks (Figures 17 and 18). During 2011, there were 2.3 million overnight and 40.0 million day-use visits to Oregon State Parks. Between 2000 and 2011, overnight visitation

has fluctuated between 2.2 and 2.5 million visits, with the largest number of visits in 2009. Since then, an 8.3 percent decline has occurred in overnight visits. Between 2000 and 2011, day-use visitation has fluctuated between 36.3 and 42.0 million visits, with the largest number of visits in 2009. Since then, a 4.7 percent decline has occurred in day-use visits. The number of Oregon State Park overnight and day-use visitors has grown in the last two decades. However, it appears that the economic downturn had an effect on reducing overall State Park visitation in the last two years.

### Recreational Vehicle Registrations

The OPRD also records sales of Recreational Vehicle Permits for travel trailers, motor homes, campers, and unregistered vehicles (short-term permits for any type of

Figure 17. Oregon State Park Day-Use Visits, 1989-2011 (Oregon State Parks 2012)

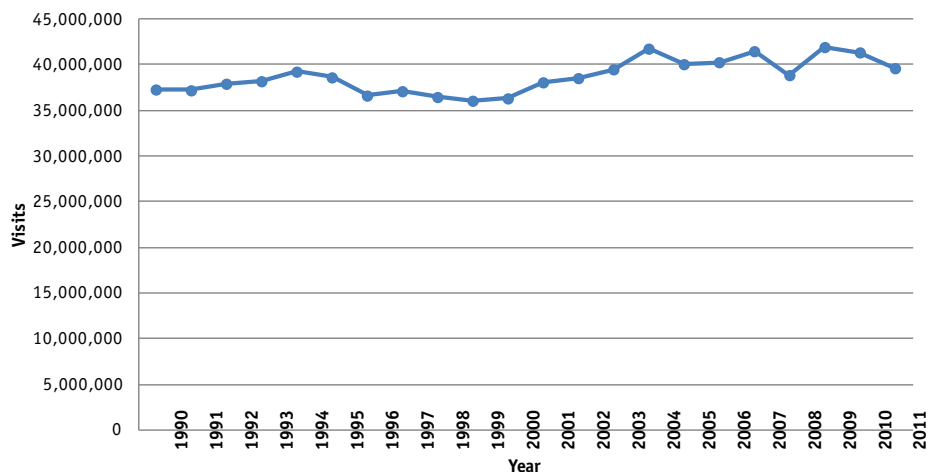


Figure 18. Oregon State Park Overnight Visits, 1989-2011 (Oregon State Parks 2012)

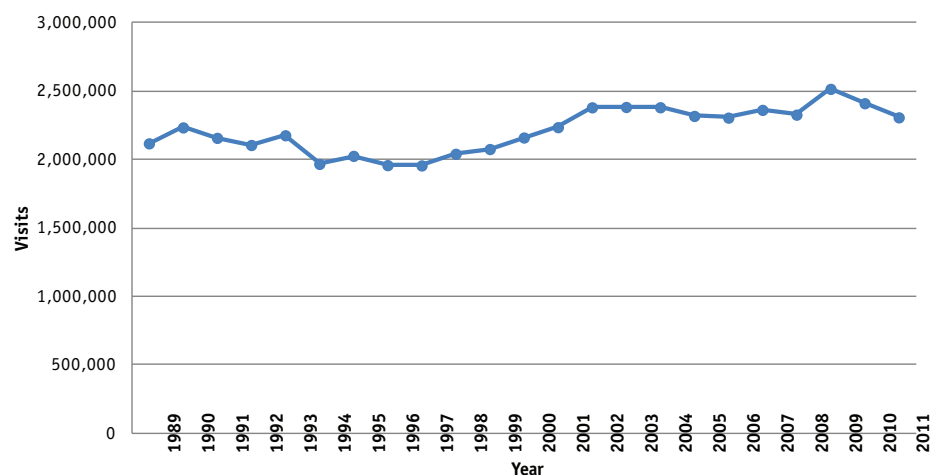
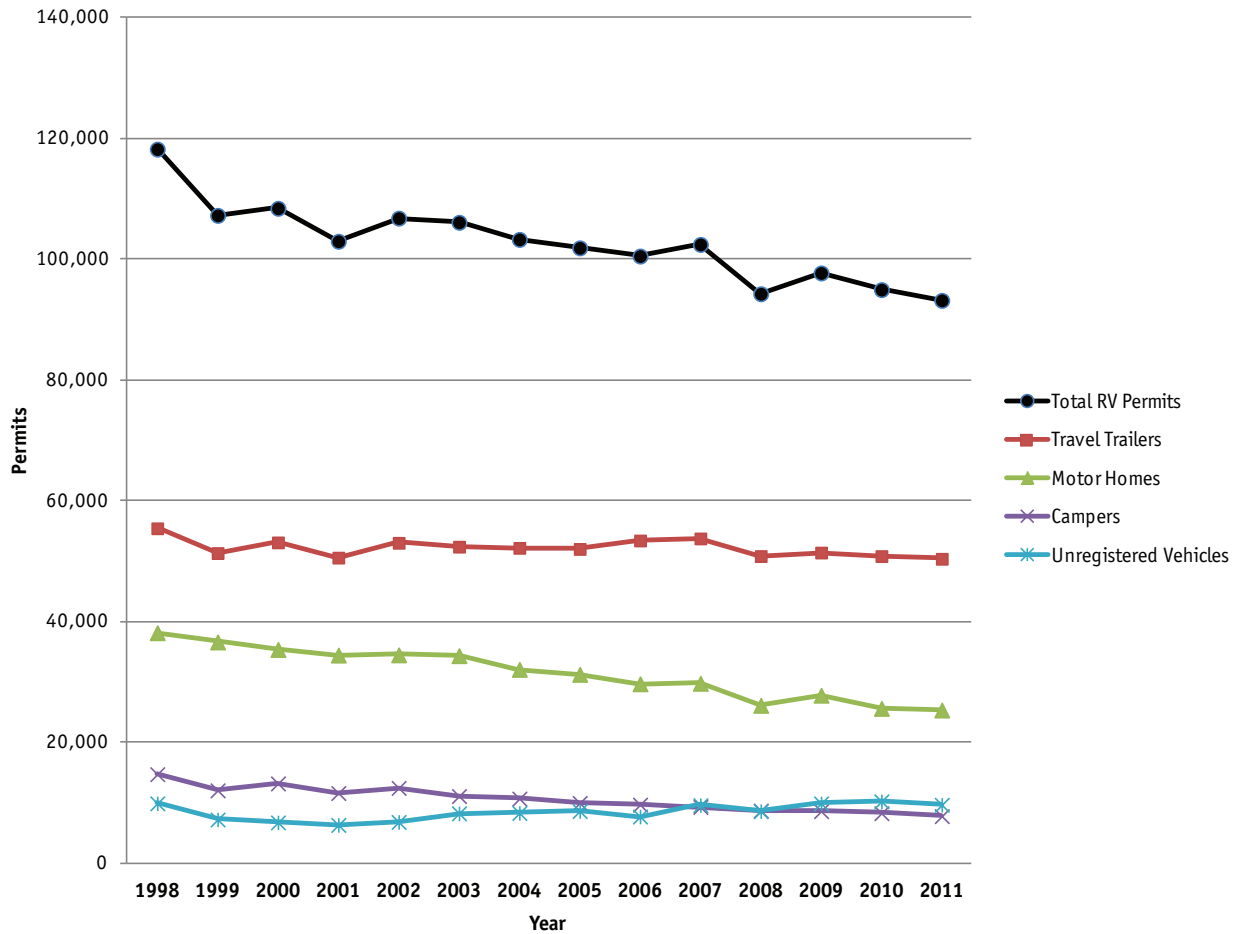


Figure 19. Oregon Recreational Vehicle Permit Sales, 1998-2011 (Oregon State Parks 2012)



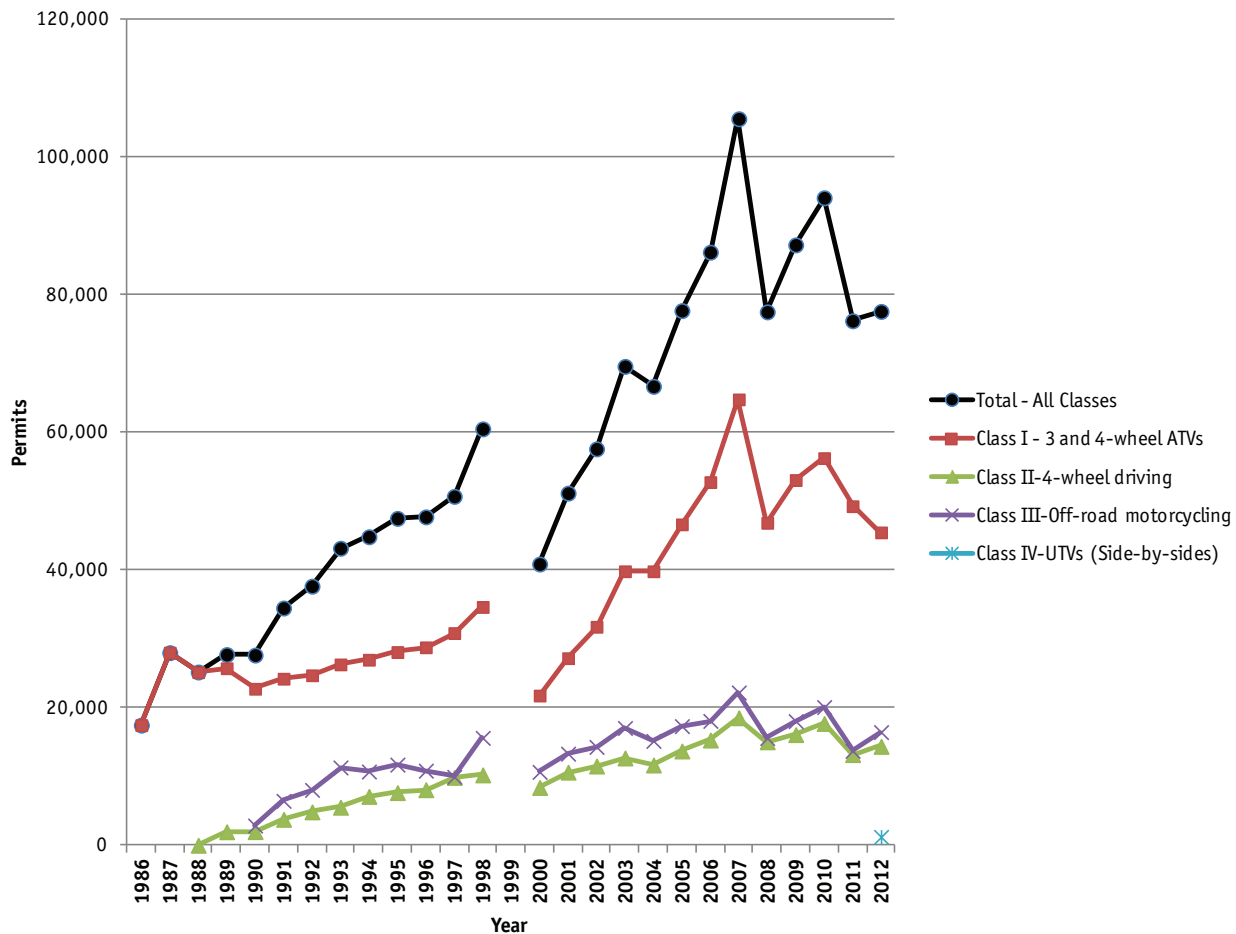
RV). Figure 19 shows the trend lines for total RV permit sales and individual permit types for a period from 1998 to 2011. Total RV permit sales show a steady decline of 21.2 percent over this time period. RV permit sales clearly show that the overall Oregon resident RV camper market is in decline. From 1998 to 2011, camper permits have decreased by 47.2 percent, motor home permits by 33.6 percent, and travel trailer permits by 9.1 percent.

#### All-Terrain Vehicle Permit Sales

The OPRD also tracks the sales of All-terrain vehicle (ATV) permit sales in Oregon. In Oregon, anyone operating an off-road motorized vehicle on public lands for recreational purposes is required to purchase and display the permit on the vehicle. Figure 20 shows annual ATV permit sales over a period from 1986 to 2012 for all ATV classes (Note: Class IV permit sales began in 2011). Total ATV permit sales experienced rapid growth from 1986 to 2007, peaking at 105,584 permits. Most of this increase was due to an increase

in Class I (4-wheel ATV) permit sales. From 2007 to 2012, total ATV permit sales have declined by 26.5 percent. Again, it appears that the economic downturn has had an effect on reducing overall ATV use in the last five-year period in Oregon.

Figure 20. Oregon All-Terrain Vehicle Permit Sales, 1986-2012 (Oregon State Parks 2012)\*



\*ATV permit sales for 1999 are missing from agency records.

### Motor Boat Registrations

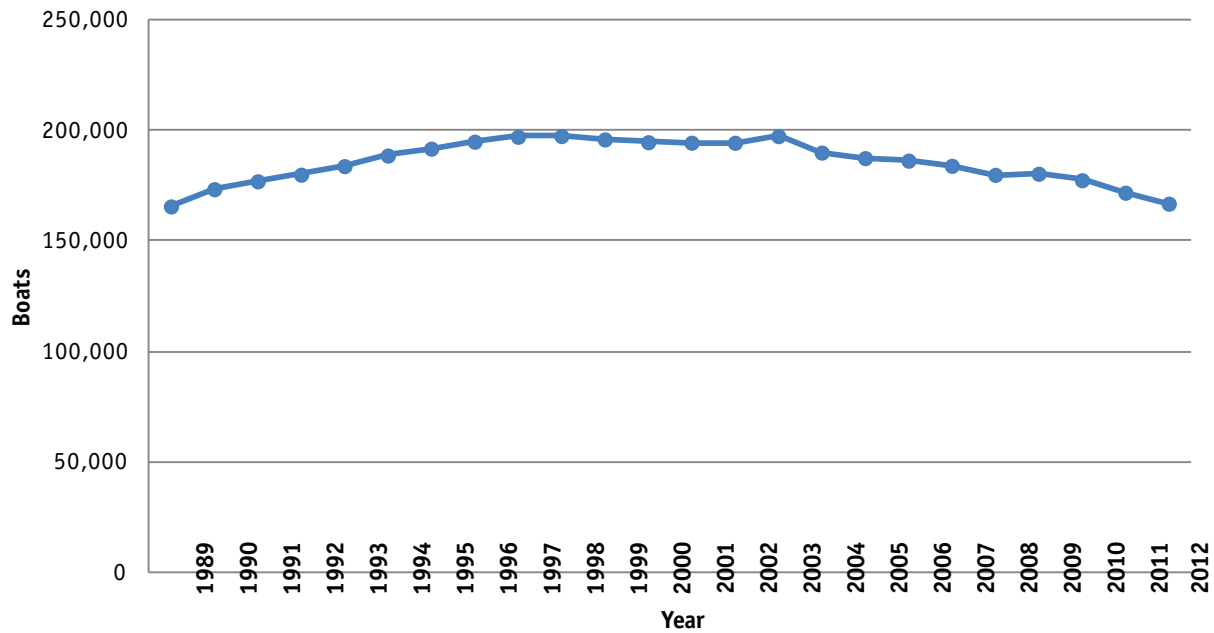
In Oregon, all motorized craft and sailboats longer than 12 feet must be registered. The Oregon State Marine Board tracks boat registrations on an annual basis. Figure 21 shows annual boat registrations in Oregon over a period from 1989 to 2012. Total boat registrations peaked over a period from 1997 to 2003, and have gradually declined by 15 percent over the next decade. Currently, non-motorized craft do not need to be registered in the state.

In 2011, 15.3 percent of the Oregon population (504,653 individuals) participated in power boating for 6,791,069 user occasions. During that year, 12.5 percent of the Oregon population (432,087 individuals) participated in non-motorized white-water canoeing, kayaking or rafting for 2,911,759 user occasions. In addition, 11.7 percent of the Oregon population (455,177 individuals) participated in non-motorized flat-water canoeing, sea kayaking, rowing, stand-up paddling or tubing/floating for 3,982,657 user occasions.

These survey results indicate that in 2011 there were more non-motorized boating user occasions (6,894,416) than power boating user occasions (6,791,069) by Oregonians. In terms of total participants, there were 768,523 individuals (Note: individuals participating in both white-water and flat-water activities were counted as one person) who participated in non-motorized boating activities compared to 504,653 individuals who participated in motorized boating.

A review of past SCORP surveys shows that in 1975, an estimated 27 percent of Oregonians participated in motor boating and 15 percent in non-motorized boating. In 2011, an estimated 15.3 percent of Oregonians participated in motor boating and 21.1 percent in non-motorized boating activities. These data indicate a reduction in overall motor boating and increase in non-motorized boating is occurring in Oregon.

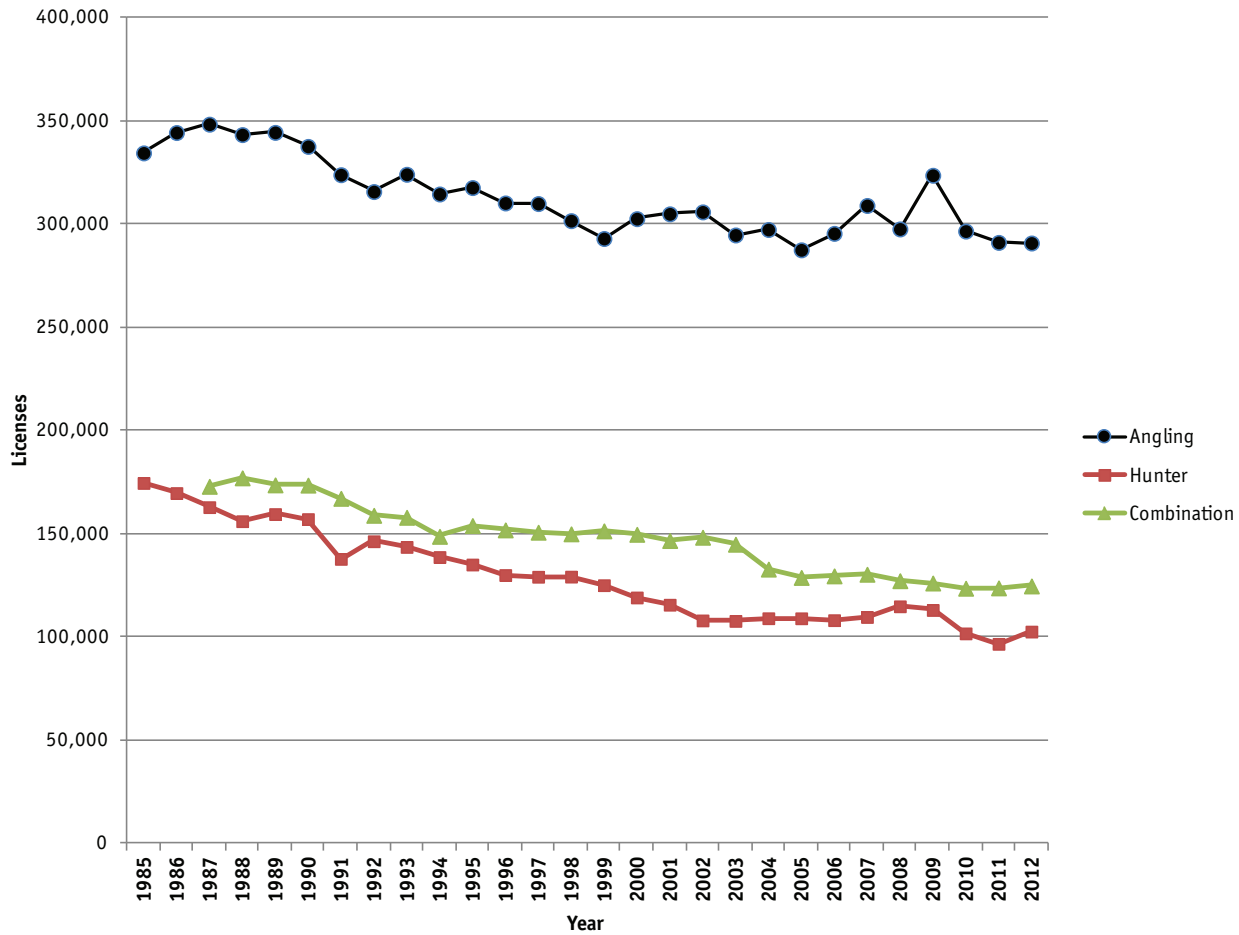
Figure 21. Motor Boat/Sailboat Registrations in Oregon, 1989-2012 (Oregon State Marine Board 2012)



### Fishing and Hunting License Sales

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife tracks sales of hunting and fishing license sales in the state. Figure 22 includes annual sales of angling, hunter, and combination licenses during a period from 1985 to 2012. These numbers show a steady decline in sales of all three license types over the 28-year period. On the other hand, nature and wildlife observation, bird watching, and outdoor photography have seen substantial growth in Oregon in recent decades.

Figure 22. Resident Annual Fishing and Hunting License Sales in Oregon\*, 1985-2012 (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife 2012)



\*Angling licenses include total of resident angler, resident juvenile, and senior license sales. Hunting licenses include total of resident hunter, resident juvenile, small game hunter, resident juvenile hunter, and resident senior license sales. Combination licenses include total of resident sportspac, resident juvenile sportspac, resident combination, and resident senior combination license sales.

## OUTDOOR RECREATION TRENDS IDENTIFIED BY RECREATION PROVIDERS

Major federal and state agency, county, municipal and special district organization representatives answered a set of essay questions regarding the challenges they face in providing outdoor recreation opportunities in the state of Oregon. A subset of these questions asked providers to describe how their agency’s role might change in the next five years. The following section includes provider representative responses to this question along with major management obstacles they face and actions to overcome these obstacles.

### U.S Forest Service

- Increased visibility, importance and implications of

recreation resource and social component in forest planning across the broader landscape;

- The recreation experiences and activities we offer may change due to changing demographics and desires of visitors;
- Limited budgets and personnel require a more focused view of what we provide and where;
- Strengthening existing and new partnerships to provide recreational experiences;
- Collaboration with other recreation providers to provide experiences the recreating public desires;
- Increased recreation management savvy using database information and recreation use monitoring programs.



Major obstacles include:

- Relatively static land base compared with increased demand for recreation use;
- Maintenance backlog of developed recreation facilities, trails, and other associated facilities;
- A niche on many east-side forests is providing general forest land recreation opportunities which are time consuming to manage and often underfunded;
- Resolving conflicting use demands on specific recreation sites;
- A changing workforce to keep up with the needs of our recreating public.

Actions necessary to overcome these obstacles include:

- Implementation of a Framework for Sustainable Recreation that clarifies and focusses our roles and actions through a set of guiding principles and focus areas informed by our “essence and niche” at various scales. The guiding principles include connecting people with their natural and cultural settings; promoting healthy lifestyles; balancing societal, economic and environmental needs; cultivating community engagement; managing national forests and grasslands as part of a larger landscape; and integrating recreation more deeply into the Forest Service mission.
- Areas in which the Forest Service and region have an opportunity to focus on include restoring and adapting settings; implementing green operations; enhancing communities; investing in special places; forging strategic partnerships; promoting citizen stewardship; knowing our visitors, community stakeholders, and other recreation providers; providing the right information; developing a sustainable financial foundation; and developing our workforce.
- Satisfying these areas of emphasis will require aligning our workforce skills and abilities, as well as our budgets and planning processes, to a direction which seeks for collaboration across landscapes to achieve sustainable outcomes.

Current gaps in the supply of outdoor recreation resources, facilities and programs include:

- Long-distance trail opportunities that connect people with nature. These include connections between urban trails and backcountry networks as well as long-distance trail opportunities in the backcountry with hut to hut type shelter experience for hikers and equestrian use.

- Recreation programs and visitor services that respond to changing population demographics and demand for outdoor recreation including the amount and distribution of fully accessible facilities, winter recreation travel analysis, bilingual interpretation and signage, “just in time” information in the platforms of contemporary technology (smart phones, etc.), youth engagement programs that connect with the way they want to experience and play in the outdoors (challenge courses, geocaching, etc.), and large group camping and more “comfortable camping opportunities (yurts, cabins, etc.).
- Sustainable planning and design that adapts and restores our recreation facilities and settings to provide for quality experiences. This would include a gap in opportunities for solar power, reclaimed materials, and similar to help renew our brand of facilities that fit in the landscape and demonstrate contemporary sensibilities to our environment.

#### National Park Service

- Increased emphasis on environmental education;
- Increased emphasis on partnerships in accomplishing all our goals;
- Increased emphasis on broadening the diversity of the natural and cultural history represented in the National Park System; and
- Increased emphasis on active recreational opportunities.

Perhaps the biggest challenge in the NPS today is ensuring that the national park system is relevant to all people in a changing American public. The NPS also has a large funding shortfall and backlog of maintenance needs that is approximately \$11 billion.

The NPS is working to expand the system to increase relevancy to a broader segment of the American public. Examples of recent additions include the Minidoka Internment Camp in Idaho – memorializing the time and events during World War II when many Americans of Japanese heritage were interned out of fear over national security; Rosie the Riveter – memorializing the contribution that women of all backgrounds made to the war effort in World War II and the associated cultural changes in the United States during that time; and the Underground Railroad commemorating the nationwide network that aided escaping slaves during the American Civil War.

The NPS is also attempting to better understand the

values and needs of park visitors in order to correctly plan facilities, interpretive media, and programs to accommodate a wider spectrum and cross-section of the American public.

To correct the maintenance backlog, the NPS is focusing much of its entrance fee and other revenue to restoration and rehabilitation projects.

### Bureau of Land Management

The Department of Interior and BLM are focusing their efforts towards many outdoor initiatives that are changing the way we interact with our surrounding neighbors. One of these initiatives, America's Great Outdoors, places new emphasis on engaging and employing youth, and utilizing community based partnerships to strengthen BLM's mission. This new paradigm is slowly shifting the way BLM manages public lands.

The BLM often manages public lands within an hour of urban areas and larger rural communities in Oregon. BLM-administered lands in these areas are often intermixed with private lands. This creates a variety of challenges.

The demand for undeveloped recreation (target shooting, hunting, off-highway vehicle use, camping, etc.) on BLM-administered lands in these areas is growing. The supply for these recreation activities is often static or declining as private forest and rangelands are increasingly closed to public motorized access due to problems with dumping, vandalism, drugs and long-term occupancy.

Problems with these illegal activities also occur on public lands. Currently there is inadequate law enforcement and recreation staff to manage the increasing recreational use and illegal activities on BLM-administered lands in these urban interface areas. This creates growing concerns on how the BLM can continue to provide quality recreation opportunities and adequate public safety in these areas.

There is also inadequate funding to develop and maintain the facilities and services necessary to meet basic resource protection needs (sanitation, fire protection, trash collection) in the undeveloped urban interface and other areas receiving high levels of recreation use.

The demand for motorized recreation activities continues to grow, while environmental concerns and conflict with other recreational groups makes providing for these activities more difficult on BLM-administered lands. This is especially true for off-highway motorized use.

The BLM often lacks the staff resources to proactively develop facilities and programs that meet the needs of changing population demographics.

A growing number of new recreational activities associated with new technologies continue to add management challenges to meeting recreational demand while minimizing resource concerns and visitor-use conflicts.

Flat and declining federal funding makes it more difficult for the BLM to maintain existing facilities, develop new facilities and address many of the challenges described above.

The BLM needs to continue to support partnerships and involvement among federal, state, local and private recreation and law enforcement providers. Combining resources among these groups to develop and manage recreational opportunities across jurisdictional boundaries may be the only way to approach meeting growing demand. Involving local communities, recreation groups and other interested parties early is also important to successful recreation project planning, implementation, and management.

The BLM needs to continue to provide flexible and satisfying volunteer opportunities. Volunteers can provide a cost-effective and mutually beneficial way of developing and maintaining recreation facilities, providing visitor services, educating visitors about appropriate recreational ethics, and increasing a positive agency presence on public lands. Their assistance helps maintain facilities, reduce resource impacts, and illegal activities.

While partnerships and volunteer programs can increase the efficiency of public and private funding, the BLM may still need additional staff and funding to provide the support needed to establish and maintain these partnerships.

The federal fee demonstration program currently allows recreational fees received to remain at those sites from which they were collected. These fees help provide additional funding to repair and enhance recreational facilities and services to meet growing and changing demands; however, permanent authority for the agencies to collect and keep these fees has not yet been approved by the US Congress.

### Bureau of Reclamation

Reclamations role in managing recreation may not have significant changes over the next 5 years. Funding is anticipated to be tightening and as a result we will be

focusing on building and improving the relationships we have, and where possible seeking new partnerships to assist in providing quality recreation. Without a managing non-federal partner, Reclamation lacks the authority to provide recreation facilities and is limited to installing minimum facilities, primarily toilets, guardrails, and vehicle turnarounds.

Due to the decrease in funding limits for work related travel, Reclamation faces the challenge of conducting Comprehensive Condition Assessments (CCA) at recreation sites in Oregon. The purpose of the CCA inspections is to ensure public health and safety requirements are being met and to monitor compliance with Federal regulations. Other items reviewed include:

- Compliance with terms and conditions of agreements with Reclamation.
- Assessments for public demand for recreation.
- Identification of hazards and risk reduction actions.
- Care of natural resources.
- Potential cost-share opportunities
- Storage and handling of hazardous materials.

Reclamation has a responsibility to ensure that its recreation facilities are effectively operated and maintained. Regardless of the operating and maintenance entity, the federal investment and ownership in these facilities has an inherent liability (design/construction) and there is a need to safeguard related public interests relative to their operation. To adequately protect these interests, and for responsible asset management purposes, a periodic review of the condition and associated activities of these facilities is necessary. Any deficiencies identified in the CCA review may require corrective actions and due to the lack of funding, those items end up creating a backlog of deferred maintenance items for Reclamation and the managing partner.

Potential management partners are required to submit detailed information regarding their ability to manage and provide long-term funding for operating and maintenance activities for the recreation area prior to Reclamation agreeing to a partnership. If a potential partner does not provide sufficient evidence of its ability to manage an area, Reclamation will not enter into a management agreement with that entity which takes away recreational opportunities for the general public.

Reclamation needs to continue to work with managing partners in securing funding and simplifying the process to transfer funds to non-federal agencies. This

will require a collaborative effort between Reclamation and its managing partners to provide training on grant processes, researching alternative funding sources, updating management agreements and Resource Management Plans. If Reclamation has a managing partner, Reclamation will provide an appropriate level of oversight in accordance with Reclamation requirements to ensure that a managing partner understands and can comply with the terms and conditions of the management agreement. Reclamation is responsible to conduct internal reviews and evaluations and to participate in external reviews and evaluations at recreation areas where they have oversight responsibility.

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Funding for national wildlife refuges is declining and the decreases are expected to continue for several years. This may lead to reduced hours Refuges are open to the public, area closures and fewer programs. The agency may be successful in maintaining operations through greater reliance on volunteers. Construction funds have also been reduced thus we are anticipating a reduction in the development and improvement of visitor facilities such as roads, parking lots, visitor contact stations, interpretive kiosks, and wildlife viewing facilities. Partnering with other agencies and pursuing collaborative projects will become essential as budgets tighten.

Outreach regarding recreational opportunities on national wildlife refuges is expected to increase due to an increased emphasis on social media communication tools and outreach. This could result in an increase in visitation especially at Refuges closest to urban areas.

Many refuges have completed their Comprehensive Conservation Plans required by the 1997 Refuge Improvement Act. Several refuges in Oregon have planned to expand opportunities for compatible recreational activities however; the implementation of these will likely be slowed by the reduction in funding.

Major management obstacles include:

1. A high maintenance backlog with a prioritizing system that ranks recreational and interpretive facilities low unless their condition is a health and/or safety issue.
2. A shortage of trained visitor services staff to implement the National Vision and manage high quality visitor programs.
3. Inconsistent funding prevents maintaining high quality programs.

Actions required to overcome these obstacles include:

1. Stepping-down the Refuge Vision to regional visitor programs and finding creative and cost effective ways to implement it on every Oregon refuge.
2. Hiring additional visitor services staff, especially volunteer coordinators, would be the most desirable to address many obstacles but is not realistic. Putting additional effort into outreach to seasonal youth and volunteers to support visitor programs is a more likely scenario.
3. Refuges in Oregon will need to consider charging recreation entrance and user fees to help run and maintain recreation programs. Other alternative sources of funds will become more important as core budgets shrink.

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

With more than 370 million visits annually, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the largest federal provider of outdoor recreation. Changes in the federal budget and increased demand for recreation resources compel the Corps to transform and reposition their recreation program. In the past few years, the Recreation Program has been experiencing downward trends in funding. These trends are expected to continue. The Corps will redefine how it provides services and ultimately will directly deliver fewer recreation services and opportunities with a reshaped workforce.

As the recreation program transforms, the outcome is to have a program that is sustainable to adapt to fiscal challenges, safeguards the environment, and continues providing recreation opportunities to our visitors.

Major management obstacles include:

1. Recreation infrastructure is aging (40-50 years), and requires infusions of large capital.
2. Need authority to retain fees collected at recreation areas without budgetary offset.
3. Need authority to more fully engage and cooperate effectively with potential partners.

Actions required to overcome these obstacles include:

1. Reducing operation and maintenance expenses at recreation areas will allow greater leverage of funding and resources.
2. Reshape delivery of recreation opportunities within fiscal and human resource capabilities while maintaining public access to the water.

3. Balance declining fiscal resources with a corresponding increase in partnerships and outgrants. Increase use of partnerships as a means to sustain the levels of public service.
4. Increase use of volunteers to assist in operational activities and stewardship at recreation areas.
5. Update policies and regulations related to shoreline management, leases, and partnerships.
6. Evaluate current authorities and identify needed changes for fee retention, cooperative management, and partnerships.
7. Expand training, development, and succession planning for the workforce.

### Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Trends include a number of both adverse as well as advantageous possibilities. Major adverse trends that may constrain the park system in the future are:

- An aging visitor base;
- Increasing visitor travel costs;
- Electronic media ascendance in use of leisure time;
- Shifting wealth through privatization; and
- Competition for public support funding.

The adverse trends are balanced by those favorable trends that may work to the advantage of the state park system, including:

- People choosing to live in Oregon;
- Increasing civic engagement and volunteerism;
- Rising educational levels and health awareness;
- Interest in structured recreational experiences; and
- Diminishing investment in other park systems.

While specific predictions around these trends are difficult or impossible to make, their consideration is a necessary factor for future investments and state park business model adjustments. While the adverse trends may be challenging over the next ten years, the state park system is well positioned to continue providing good value to Oregonians in a “complementary” environment of contributing to a high quality of life that attracts and retains talented people in Oregon.

### Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

While The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is charged with managing all fish and wildlife in the state, much of the funding is tied directly to the

sale of hunting and fishing licenses and federal taxes on hunting and fishing related equipment. Participation is generally declining which could affect long term funding for fish and wildlife management. At the same time, public demand is increasing for wildlife viewing opportunities and population growth is putting increased pressure on fish and wildlife habitat. However, there is no specific funding stream to provide for wildlife viewing opportunities or to address impacts on fish and wildlife habitat. ODFW, like other state fish and wildlife agencies, continues to explore alternative funding methods to meet public demand and to more effectively manage all fish and wildlife. While ODFW receives some general tax dollars and lottery funds for fish and wildlife management, that funding has been reduced due to state budget cuts.

ODFW's mission is not expected to change in the next five years. The department will continue to balance the seven coequal goals outlined in the state wildlife policy (ORS 496.012), although changes in demographics, population growth, budget concerns, and other issues may affect fish and wildlife management, habitat and agency activities.

The Oregon Conservation Strategy identifies six major conservation issues that have potential to significantly affect habitat, fish and wildlife populations, and fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities in Oregon. The Strategy sets overall goals for ODFW and its partners and outlines voluntary actions that may be taken to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations:

**ISSUE 1: Land use changes** – Oregon's increasing human population will increase demands for residential and commercial uses, resulting in potential impact on fish and wildlife habitat and populations.

**Goal** – Manage land use changes to conserve farm, forest and range, open spaces, natural recreation areas, and fish and wildlife habitats.

**ISSUE 2: Invasive Species** – While not all non-native species are invasive, some crowd out native plants and animals and become a serious problem. They alter habitat composition, increase wildlife risk, reduce productivity, or otherwise disrupt natural habitat functions.

**Goal** – Prevent new introductions of species with high potential to become invasive, and reduce the scale and spread of priority invasive species infestations.

**ISSUE 3: Disruption of Disturbance Regimes** – Natural

processes such as fire and flood cycles have historically sustained habitat. Disruption of those historic cycles, such as fire suppression or flood control, have had unintended consequences.

**Goal** – Restore natural processes such as fire and flood cycles to sustain and enhance habitat functions in a manner compatible with existing land uses. Encourage efforts to increase understanding of historic natural disturbance regimes.

**ISSUE 4: Barriers to Fish and Wildlife Movement** – Over time, roads, dams, communities, structures and other barriers have been built that reduce total habitat, create challenges to animal dispersal and reproduction, and make wildlife more vulnerable to injury and death.

**Goal** – Provide conditions suitable for natural movement of animals across the landscape.

**ISSUE 5: Water Quality and Quantity** – Water quality and quantity problems can greatly impact aquatic species, and are linked to increasing intensities of land use practices, changes in land use, and growing demand for water.

**Goal** – Maintain and restore water quality and quantity to support fish and wildlife and habitats in balance with economics and social needs of local communities.

**ISSUE 6: Institutional Barriers to Voluntary Conservation** – In some cases, institutional barriers prevent landowners from implementing projects that will benefit fish and wildlife. These barriers include the difficulty of obtaining multiple permits, cumbersome requirements for financial assistance, and rules originally passed for one purpose that block another one. In addition, lack of technical assistance or awareness of available programs can be a barrier to landowner participation.

**Goal** – Share information, streamline processes, and seek creative programs that support voluntary conservation actions.

While ODFW is charged with managing all fish and wildlife in the state, much of the funding is tied directly to the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and federal taxes on hunting and fishing related equipment. Participation is generally declining which could affect long term funding for fish and wildlife management. At the same time, public demand is increasing for wildlife viewing opportunities and population growth is putting increased pressure on fish and wildlife habitat. However, there is no specific funding stream to provide for

wildlife viewing opportunities or to address impacts on fish and wildlife habitat. ODFW, like other state fish and wildlife agencies, continues to explore alternative funding methods to meet public demand and to more effectively manage all fish and wildlife. While ODFW receives some general tax dollars and lottery funds for fish and wildlife management, that funding has been reduced due to state budget cuts.

ODFW continues to leverage existing funds, increase revenue from license sales, identify alternative funding and develop additional partnerships to more effectively manage Oregon's fish and wildlife.

### Oregon Department of Forestry

The Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) role as a recreation provider is not expected to change significantly in the next 5 years. In general, ODF's niche, as a provider of rustic and well-kept developed facilities, dispersed-use opportunities, motorized and non-motorized trails, and hunting and fishing opportunities within Roaded Natural and Roaded Modified settings is likely to remain the same.

The agency does expect state forests to become more of a destination for local and regional visitors looking for camping and motorized and non-motorized trail opportunities closer to home and for changing demographics to influence group size, use patterns and demand for certain types of recreation opportunities.

The agency will remain focused on protecting investments and operations and maintenance of existing facilities and trails. Investments will be focused on maintenance and upgrade of existing infrastructure to protect natural resources, address safety concerns, improve operational efficiency, and respond to changing demographics, use patterns, and use levels. ODF does not expect to significantly expand recreation opportunities over the next five years due to funding and staff capacity issues.

Increased focus will be placed on developing cooperative agreements and partnerships with other agencies, recreation clubs and organizations, and local and regional businesses and on developing program funding strategies to support the Recreation program.

Major management obstacles include:

1. Reduced funding due to the economic downturn. Reduced funding has led to reduced staffing levels for Recreation, Education, and Interpretive program activities, a reduced level of service in each

program area, and challenges in terms of maintaining existing recreation opportunities and protecting existing investments.

2. Some long range planning documents for the Recreation program are out of date or no longer sufficient to provide guidance for the program, clear direction related to scope and scale of the program, and long term sustainability for the program. Since the development and implementation of the original Tillamook State Forest Recreation Management Plan and subsequent recreation management plans for the Clatsop and Santiam State Forests, many aspects of the recreation program on state forests have evolved and changed. Demand and level of use for most activities has increased during this time. New uses have emerged, and technologies associated with past uses have changed. Many new facilities have been constructed in the forests. A new state forest has been established (Gilcrest State Forest). The demographics of users have changed over time as additional people discover what state forests have to offer. Managing state forest land has become more complex. All of these changes have resulted in a much more complex recreation management program than what existed when the original plans and program were created.

Actions required to overcome these obstacles include:

1. Reduced funding capacity due to the economic downturn.
  - a. Diversify revenue streams for the Recreation, Education, and Interpretive programs.
  - b. Develop opportunities to augment program funding and staff capacity through community engagement and volunteer program expansion, cooperative agreements with other agencies and organizations, grants, and the development of partnerships.
  - c. Look for opportunities to increase operational efficiency and reduce maintenance and operations costs.
  - d. Place primary focus on maintaining current recreational benefits consistent with existing and anticipated future resources.
2. Some long range planning documents for the Recreation program are out of date or no longer sufficient to provide guidance for the program, clear direction related to scope and scale of the program, and long term sustainability for the program.

- a. Develop agency direction relative to the role and level of contribution State Forests should provide regarding forest recreation.
- b. Develop and adopt State Forest Division policies and plans relating to the following facets of the recreation management program: purpose and vision; determining appropriate recreational use; standards and standard compliance; how recreation fits into planning hierarchy (including consistency with County planning ordinances); secured funding; business practices; facility and infrastructure development (resource specialist involvement); threatened and endangered species management; cultural resource management; signing; interpretation and education (including curriculum standards); use of volunteers; partnerships and integrated funding; law enforcement; transportation planning integration; monitoring and data management.
- c. Conduct a comprehensive review and rewrite of the administrative rules governing recreational use of state forests. Key areas for review and updating include; fees; organized events; program mission and purpose; abandoned personal property; memorials; vendors; long term camping, target shooting.
- d. Initiate comprehensive recreation planning process as part of agency implementation planning (10 year plans) for districts and state forests that provide recreation opportunities.

### Oregon State Marine Board

The number of registered boats is declining steadily, from a high of 198,000 in 1999 to 170,000 currently. The number of non-registered boats – generally manually powered boats – is increasing. With this increase is an expectation that the Marine Board will provide services to non-motorized users in the form of access, education and enforcement. The Board is currently working to engage non-motorized users to better define expectations, needs and meaningful participation in agency management and activities.

Most registered boat owners use their watercraft to access fisheries. Reduced fishing seasons leads to reduced registration, resulting in declining revenues for enforcement and facilities development. The economy, shifting demographics, changing use patterns, and more stringent environmental permitting and laws are the major challenges we face in providing services to current waterway users.

Fish populations and fishery success relies on nature

and fish management agencies. We will work closely with key agencies to balance environmental needs and boating access needs. Our education and outreach programs, working with other state agencies and national organizations, seek to simplify boat registration processes and encourage participation. Internal processes are implementing advisory committees to aid in development of program services to more fully engage all users. Outcomes may include improved funding through boat registration fees, outfitter and guide fees and funding participation from non-registered users. More emphasis on user-conflict mediation may reduce tendency toward restrictive regulations.

### Oregon Department of Transportation

Without a change in funding it is not anticipated that the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) role in providing outdoor recreational opportunities will change over the next 5 years. ODOT is funded through tax levied on motor vehicle fuel. Oregon constitution limits use of these funds to building and maintaining roadways.

The Sno-Park permit revenue is not keeping up with increased costs to plow snow at previous service levels. As revenue for ODOT highway maintenance is declining, a reduction in maintenance staff will make it difficult to maintain current service levels where ODOT is doing the snow removal. ODOT's effort to increase the Sno-Park fee was not approved by the legislature.

### Municipal/Special Districts

- Increased educational programs due to public school funding reductions.
- An increase in private and non-profit agencies offering youth summer camps that have a specific focus on “back to nature” themes.
- The demand for senior “outdoor trips” continues to be on the rise, including hiking, flat water paddling, or trips to the coast or lakes for viewing nature. The “new boomers” have a greater focus on lifelong fitness.
- A small niche in the services for those with disabilities has included the interest in “Wounded Warriors” desiring services for active outdoor recreation and accessing outdoor resources.
- Additional emphasis on natural area preservation/improvements, environmental education, and natural resource-based recreation.

- Reduction in services due to funding constraints and limitations imposed by measures 5 and 50, and the public’s unwillingness to pay for new parks, facilities and related infrastructure.
- A continued shift of the agency’s role from primary direct service provider to brokering services to the community by others (e.g., non-profits such as YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, youth sports organizations, churches, etc.)

The primary obstacle to providing services is funding. The public is very reluctant to increase taxes and the restrictions imposed by statewide initiatives make raising taxes and gaining voter approval on bond measures or levies very difficult. Agencies have attempted to reduce tax subsidies through fee increases, sponsorships, grants and other alternative funding sources. However, replacement funding is often difficult to secure, requiring the elimination or reduction of services.

Opportunities for replacing tax supported funding include:

- An increased relationship/partnership with school districts to pursue Federal (Department of Education) funding targeting the national focus on youth obesity and physical fitness has led to increased opportunities to offer school age youth outdoor activities in the urban settings.
- Schools are also valuing the experiential learning opportunity that outdoor recreation skill building provides and the connection to core curriculum learning, as demonstrated by the funding received for a Science Education Engineering Math (STEM) education grant.
- Bike Safety and Safe Routes to School program opportunities are more available, based on the increase in biking.
- Schools are more willing to partner and create outdoor activities that occur “during the normal classroom time” vs. the traditional “after school periods”.
- Interest in archery is growing, and schools are asking parks and recreation staff to teach archery as a PE class.

## County

No information provided

## SUMMARY

This chapter highlights key national and state outdoor recreation trends that will affect the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities in the state of Oregon. The following is a summary of trend information included in this chapter.

### National Outdoor Recreation Trends

#### 1. Outdoor Recreation Participation.

A review of NSRE and 2011 Oregon SCORP survey data shows that overall, Oregon resident outdoor recreation participation is very similar to that of the nation as a whole. Activities in which Oregon participation (percent of population participating) is greater than U.S. participation include:

- Developed camping (+27.6%)
- Attending outdoor concerts (+14.0%)
- Snowshoeing (+6.8%)

Activities in which Oregon participation is less than U.S. participation include:

- Swimming in an outdoor pool (-22.6%)
- Fishing (-9.6%)
- Motor boating (-8.1%)

Top U.S. growth activities during a period from 1982-2009 include:

- Percent of population:
- Walking for pleasure (+32.0%)
- View/photograph birds (+23.7%)
- Day hiking (+19.9%)
- Attend outdoor sports events (+13.7%)
- Attend outdoor concerts, plays, etc. (+12.5%)

Number of participants:

- Walking for pleasure (+108.1 million participants)
- View/photograph birds (+63.3 million participants)
- Attend outdoor sports events (+56.9 million participants)
- Day hiking (+55.5 million participants)
- Visit nature centers, etc. (+46.6 million participants)



## 2. Key National Trends From NSRE Data.

The following is a summary of NSRE trends information from the document entitled, *Outdoor Recreation Trends and Futures: A Technical Document Supporting the Forest Service 2010 RPA Assessment*, published in March 2012 by the Southern Research Station, H. Ken Cordell, Principal Investigator.

- What people now choose to do for outdoor recreation is very noticeably different from choices made by and available to previous generations of Americans.
- Overall outdoor recreation participation is growing.
- There is substantial growth in a number of nature-based activities including viewing birds, other wildlife (besides birds), fish, wildflowers/trees and other vegetation, and natural scenery.
- Different segments of the society (e.g., ethnic groups, age group categories, income levels, education levels, foreign born) chose different types and levels of participation in different mixes of outdoor activities.
- America's youth do spend time outdoors, and for some it is substantial. Some of that time is for outdoor recreation.
- Public lands continue to be highly important for the recreation opportunities they offer.
- Visits to various units of the National Park System have been relatively stable, while visitation at National Wildlife Refuges and other areas managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have shown fairly steady growth. Visitation at BLM areas has been relatively stable over the years, while visitation at national forests has been declining.
- The most important motivations for hiking are to be outdoors, to experience nature, to get away from the demands of everyday life, and to have physical exercise or training. For camping the most important motivations are to be outdoors, to get away from the everyday demands of life, and to experience nature. For walking, the motivations are to be outdoors, to contribute to health, physical exercise, or training, and to get away from the demands of everyday life.
- The five activities projected to grow fastest in per capita participation over the next 50 years are developed skiing, undeveloped skiing, challenge activities, equestrian activities, and motorized water activities. The activities projected to decline in

per capita adult participation rates include visiting primitive areas, motorized off-road activities, motorized snow activities, hunting, fishing, and floating activities. Growth of per capita participation rates for the remaining activities will either hover around zero or grow minimally.

## Oregon Outdoor Recreation Trends

### 3. Continued Population Growth.

The 2010 U.S. Census results show that Oregon's population increased from 3.42 million in 2000 to 3.83 million in 2010, or an additional 410,000 residents. The population growth during the decade of 2000 to 2010 was 12.0 percent, slowing considerably from the rapid 20.4 percent growth of the previous decade. Most population growth came in the first seven years of the decade, prior to the economic downturn.

Deschutes was the state's fastest growing county, increasing 36.7 percent during the decade and accounting for ten percent of Oregon's overall population increase. Polk County was the second fastest growing county increasing by 20.9 percent. Several counties in central and eastern Oregon experienced population loss during the decade including Sherman, Wheeler, Grant, Gilliam, Wallowa, Baker, Harney and Malheur.

Much of the state's growth occurred in the Interstate 5 corridor between Portland and Salem. Population growth in six counties (Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas, Yamhill, Polk and Marion) accounted for 62 percent of the state's overall population increase from 2000 to 2010.

Population increases occurred from 2000 to 2010 in 187 of Oregon's 245 incorporated cities and towns and population declines took place in 58 cities and towns. Among cities greater than 20,000 in population, Redmond was the fastest growing (95 percent increase), followed by Grants Pass (50 percent), and Bend (47 percent).

Since 1950, Oregon's population has increased at a faster pace than the U.S. population as a whole. Oregon's population increase has slowed down in recent years, but in the coming years, Oregon's growth rate is expected to be higher than the national growth rate and its population is expected to reach 4.3 million by the year 2020.

### 4. A Rapidly Aging Population.

In 2011, 14.3 percent of Oregon's population was 65 or older. The population in this age group will start a dramatic increase as the baby boomers (Oregonians born

between 1946 and 1964) continue to enter the retirement age. There will be 48 percent more elderly in 2020 than in 2010. Oregon's park and recreation providers have the facilities and programs in place across the state to take a leadership role in promoting and preserving the health of older adults through encouraging and facilitating their involvement in active outdoor recreation activities.

The following are key findings from a 2007 SCORP survey of Oregon residents born between 1946 and 1964 (boomers) and between 1926 and 1945 (pre-boomers):

- The most popular outdoor recreation activities for Oregonians between the ages of 42 and 80 included walking, picnicking, sightseeing, visiting historic sites and ocean beach activities.
- The top five activities in terms of future participation intensity 10 years from now included walking, bicycling (road/path), jogging, bird watching and day hiking.
- Ensuring clean and well-maintained parks and facilities was the most important management action that will lead to a large increase in recreation followed by developing walking / hiking trails closer to home and providing more free-of-charge recreation opportunities.
- Boomers placed more importance than Pre-Boomers on developing trails and parks closer to home and providing more information.
- Oregon's recreation managers can expect substantial increases in the number of visitors with a physical or mental disability using their recreational facilities and services in the coming years as Boomers increase in age.
- Priority should be given to trails, picnic areas, sightseeing areas, and historic sites in terms of where resources should be directed for providing accessibility accommodations.

### **5. Fewer Oregon Youth Learning Outdoor Skills.**

In Oregon, youth participation in outdoor activities is decreasing because of several factors including increased urbanization, loss of free time, increase in single-parent family households, and greater youth focus on electronic activities (TV, video games, internet). By providing Oregon's youth with opportunities to learn outdoor recreation skills in outdoor settings, we have the opportunity to rebuild the foundation for future outdoor recreation participation, reestablish personal connections with nature and their public lands, and

improve not only health and well-being of future youth and adults, but also instill a passion for nature that result in future nature stewardship.

The following are key findings from a 2007 SCORP survey of Oregon households that included children:

- The most popular outdoor activities for parents were walking, viewing natural features, and relaxing/hanging out. For children, the most popular was walking, followed by outdoor sports/games, relaxing/hanging out, and general play at neighborhood parks/playgrounds.
- The more a parent engages in an outdoor recreation activity, the more a child does.
- Many parents indicated that it would be very likely for their children to participate in outdoor sports programs (62%), multi-day camps (49%), outdoor adventure trips (45%), and day camps (45%) in the future.
- When considering constraints that limit program participation, parents report that lack of information and cost are the two most important constraints - especially for low income households.
- When asked what they would like to do more often, youth commonly noted outdoor field games, followed by biking and camping.
- Youth were asked to create an ideal activity program, selecting one or more from a list of 31 potential activities. Tent camping was the most popular activity to include in such a program, followed by sledding / tubing, swimming / diving, and outdoor field games.

The following are key findings from a series of youth focus group meetings in 2007:

- Preferred recreational activities for urban youth include outdoor sports, riding bikes, viewing nature and wildlife, dancing, and playing with dogs.
- For rural youth, preferred activities include horseback riding, camping, skateboarding, bike riding, and wrestling.
- Youth report that programs that focus on the arts, music, and social events would encourage more kids to go outside and into parks.

### **6. A Growing Minority Population.**

During the period from 2000-2010, Oregon's minority groups as a whole grew at a faster pace than the corresponding rates at the national level. By the year

2020, Oregon's combined Hispanic, Asian, and African-American population is projected to make up 22 percent of the state's population. Research has indicated that in general, minorities are less likely than whites to participate in outdoor recreation in the U.S. As Oregon's population continues to change, it is critical to understand how different ethnic and racial groups participate in outdoor recreation activities, and the constraints that limit their participation to better serve their outdoor recreation needs.

The following are key findings from a 2007 SCORP survey of Hispanic and Asian households in Oregon:

- Walking for pleasure was the most common favorite activity for both Hispanics and Asians, with fishing and soccer being the next most common for Hispanics and hiking and fishing the next most common for Asians.
- Survey results suggest that both the Hispanic and Asian populations in Oregon engage in outdoor recreation less than the general public.
- The most common activities respondents would like to do more often, or start doing were walking for Asians and walking and camping for Hispanics. The factor that would most help make this happen is availability of partners, followed by more time.
- For the Hispanic population, being in the outdoors, relaxing and having fun are the most important motivators or reasons for participating in outdoor activities.
- For the Asian population, relaxing, fitness, and having fun are the top motivators.
- Ensuring clean and well-maintained parks and facilities was the most important management action followed by keeping parks safe from crime, providing more free-of-charge recreation opportunities and expanded facilities.
- The most commonly recommended facilities for development in parks were picnic tables, followed by trails and campgrounds. There were some differences across groups, with Hispanics being more likely than Asians to suggest additional sports fields.
- When considering programs for children to participate in outside of class time, Hispanic parents placed highest priority on staying safe and out of trouble and getting physical exercise. Asian parents placed the highest priority on getting physical exercise and having fun.

The following are key findings from a series of focus group meetings with Asian and Hispanic representatives in 2007:

- Develop facilities (such as picnic areas) large enough for extended facilities.
- Recruit a more diverse staff.
- Target marketing information at ethnic groups in appropriate media and languages.
- Develop a multi-language recreation website.
- Focus information delivery on Hispanic youth.
- Focus youth programs on academic enhancement.

### **7. Increasing Levels of Physical Inactivity.**

According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, rates of physical inactivity and obesity in the U.S. have reached epidemic proportions. Regular, moderate exercise has been proven to reduce the risk of developing coronary heart disease, stroke, colon cancer, hypertension, diabetes, osteoporosis, obesity and depression. Public facilities such as trails, swimming pools and parks that are conveniently located have been found to be positively associated with vigorous physical activity in a number of studies, among both adults and children. By providing facilities and programs which encourage physical activity, parks and recreation providers can directly contribute to the battle on physical inactivity, obesity, and rising health costs in Oregon.

The following are key findings from a 2007 Oregon SCORP research study on outdoor recreation and physical activity:

- The supply and demand for recreation activities are associated with physically active people.
- The prevalence of hiking and urban trails is associated with higher rates of physical activity across Oregon counties.
- Counties in which people are more engaged in non-motorized trail-related activities, road and street activities (e.g., walking, jogging, biking), and other outdoor sports, overall physical activity rates are higher.
- Park and recreation providers should support the development of local recreation facilities, including non-motorized trails, and promote their use by providing information about them and other existing resources.
- Providers should promote the overall health benefits of being physically active via outdoor recreation.

## 8. Visitation and Permit Sales.

Many state agencies are responsible for assessing participation in specific recreational activities. Trend data on State Park visits, Recreational vehicle permit sales, All-terrain vehicle permit sales, motor boat permit sales and fishing and hunting license sales are available for Oregon. The following is a summary of a review of these trend data.

- The number of Oregon State Park overnight and day-use visitors has grown in the last two decades. However, it appears that the economic downturn has reduced overall State Park visitation in the last two years.
- Total Recreational Vehicle Permit sales for travel trailers, motor homes, campers, and unregistered vehicles show a steady decline of 21.2 percent over a period from 1998 to 2011. During this period, camper permits have decreased by 47.2 percent, motor home permits by 33.6 percent, and travel trailer permits by 9.1 percent.
- Total Oregon All-terrain vehicle permit sales experienced rapid growth from 1986 to 2007, peaking at 105,584 permits. Most of this increase was due to an increase in Class I (4-wheel ATV) permit sales. From 2007 to 2012, total ATV permit sales have declined by 26.5 percent. Again, it appears that the economic downturn has reduced overall ATV use in the last five-year period in Oregon.
- In Oregon, all motorized craft and sailboats longer than 12 feet must be registered. Total boat registrations peaked over a period from 1997 to 2003, and have gradually declined by 15 percent over the next decade.
- A review of past SCORP survey results indicate a reduction in motor boating and increase in non-motorized boating has occurred in Oregon.
- Annual sales of angling, hunter, and combined licenses during a period from 1985 to 2012 show a steady decline in sales of all three license types. On the other hand, nature and wildlife observation, bird watching, and outdoor photography have seen substantial growth in Oregon in recent decades.

## 9. Outdoor Recreation Trends/Challenges Identified by Recreation Providers.

Major federal and state agency, count, municipal and special district organization representatives were asked to describe how their agency's role might change in the next five years. The following is a summary of provider responses.

### U.S. Forest Service

- Increased visibility, importance and implications of recreation resource and social component in forest planning across the broader landscape.
- The recreation experiences and activities we offer may change due to changing demographics and desires of visitors.
- Limited budgets and personnel require a more focused view of what we provide and where.
- Strengthening existing and new partnerships to provide recreational experiences.
- Collaboration with other recreation providers to provide experiences the recreating public desires.
- Increased recreation management savvy using database information and recreation use monitoring programs.

### National Park Service

- Increased emphasis on environmental education.
- Increased emphasis on partnerships.
- Increased emphasis on broadening the diversity of the natural and cultural history represented by the National Park System.
- Increased emphasis on active recreational opportunities.
- A growing maintenance backlog.

### Bureau of Land Management

- Greater emphasis on engaging and employing youth and utilizing community-based partnerships.
- The demand for undeveloped recreation (target shooting, hunting, off-highway vehicle use, camping, etc.) on BLM lands is growing as private forests and rangelands are closed to such use.
- Inadequate law enforcement and recreation staff to manage increasing use.
- Inadequate funding to develop and maintain existing facilities and services.
- Lack of staff resources to meet the needs of changing population demographics.
- Greater use of volunteers.

### Bureau of Reclamation

- Funding is anticipated to be tightening.
- Seek new partnerships to assist in providing quality recreational facilities and services.

- Conducting Comprehensive Condition Assessments at recreation sites in Oregon to ensure public health and safety requirements are being met.
- Continue to work with managing partners in securing funding and simplifying the process to transfer funds to non-federal agencies.

#### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Funding is declining and the decreases are expected to continue for several years. This may lead to reduced hours, area closures and fewer programs.
- Greater reliance on volunteers.
- Reduction in the development and improvement of visitor facilities.
- Seek new partnerships.
- Greater emphasis on media communication tools and outreach.
- High maintenance backlog.
- Shortage of trained visitor staff.
- Consider charging recreation entrance and user fees to help run and maintain programs.

#### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Reduced funding and increased demand for recreation resources compel the Corps to transform and reposition recreation programs.
- The recreation infrastructure is aging and requires large capital investment.
- Balance declining fiscal resources with a corresponding increase in partnerships and outgrants.
- Increased use of volunteers.

#### Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

- An aging visitor base.
- Increasing visitor travel costs.
- Electronic media ascendance in use of leisure time.
- Shifting wealth through privatization.
- Competition for public support funding.
- People choosing to live in Oregon.
- Increasing civic engagement and volunteerism.
- Rising educational levels and health awareness.
- Interest in structured recreational experiences.
- Diminishing investment in other park systems.

#### Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Participation in hunting and fishing is generally declining, which could affect long-term funding for fish and wildlife management.
- Public demand for wildlife viewing opportunities and population growth is putting increased pressure on fish and wildlife habitat.
- Reduced funding due to state budget cuts.
- Exploring alternative funding methods to meet public demand and to more effectively manage all fish and wildlife.
- Currently, there is no funding stream to provide for wildlife viewing opportunities and to address their impacts on fish and wildlife habitat.

#### Oregon Department of Forestry

- State Forests are expected to become more of a destination for local and regional visitors looking for closer-to-home camping and motorized and non-motorized trail opportunities.
- Changing demographics will influence group size, use patterns and demand for certain types of recreation opportunities.
- The agency will remain focused on protecting investments and operation and maintenance of existing facilities and trails.
- ODF does not expect to significantly expand recreation opportunities over the next five years due to funding and staff capacity issues.
- Increased focus on developing cooperative agreements and partnerships with other agencies, recreation clubs and organizations, and local businesses and on developing program funding strategies.
- Reduced funding has led to reduced staff levels for recreation and reductions in levels of recreation services.

#### Oregon State Marine Board

- The number of registered boats is declining steadily, from a high of 198,000 in 1999 to 170,000 currently.
- The number of non-registered boats - generally manually powered boats - is increasing.
- With this increase is an expectation that the Marine Board will provide services to non-motorized users in the form of access, education and enforcement.

- The Board is currently working to engage non-motorized users to better define expectations, needs and meaningful participation in agency management and activities.
- Reduced fishing seasons leads to reduced boat registration, resulting in declining revenues for enforcement and facility development.
- The economy, shifting demographics, changing use patterns, and more stringent environmental permitting and laws are the major challenges faced in providing services to current waterway users.

#### Oregon Department of Transportation

- Without a change in funding, it is not anticipated that ODOT's role in providing outdoor recreation opportunities will change in the next five years.
- The Sno-Park permit revenue is not keeping up with increasing costs to plow snow at previous levels. As revenue for ODOT highway maintenance is declining, it will be difficult to maintain current snow removal services at Sno-Parks.
- ODOT's effort to increase the Sno-Park fee was not approved by the legislature.

#### Municipal/Special Districts

- Increased educational programs due to public school funding reductions.
- An increase in private and non-profit agencies offering youth summer camps that have a specific focus on "back to nature" themes.
- The demand for senior "outdoor trips" continues to be on the rise, including hiking, flat water paddling, or trips to the coast or lakes for viewing nature. The "new boomers" have a greater focus on lifelong fitness.
- A small niche in the services for those with disabilities has included the interest in "Wounded Warriors" desiring services for active outdoor recreation and accessing outdoor resources.
- Additional emphasis on natural area preservation/improvements, environmental education, and natural resource-based recreation.
- Reduction in services due to funding constraints and limitations imposed by measures 5 and 50, and the public's unwillingness to pay for new parks, facilities and related infrastructure.
- A continued shift of the agency's role from primary direct service provider to brokering services to the

community by others (e.g., non-profits such as YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, youth sports organizations, churches, etc.)

- An increased relationship/partnership with school districts to pursue Federal (Department of Education) funding targeting the national focus on youth obesity and physical fitness has led to increased opportunities to offer school age youth outdoor activities in the urban settings.
- Schools are also valuing the experiential learning opportunity that outdoor recreation skill building provides and the connection to core curriculum learning, as demonstrated by the funding received for a Science Education Engineering Math (STEM) education grant.
- Bike Safety and Safe Routes to School program opportunities are more available, based on the increase in biking.
- Schools are more willing to partner and create outdoor activities that occur "during the normal classroom time" vs. the traditional "after school periods".
- Interest in archery is growing, and schools are asking parks and recreation staff to teach archery as a PE class.

#### County

No information provided.

# Needs Assessment CHAPTER FIVE

## INTRODUCTION

The 2013-2017 SCORP effort included two distinct methods to identify recreational need at the state and county levels. The first method involved a survey of Oregon public recreation providers during a period from February 1, 2011 to March 7, 2011. Two separate survey instruments were used for the survey, one completed by recreation providers with the majority of their managed parklands located within an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), unincorporated community boundary, or a tribal community; and the other by recreation providers with the majority of parklands outside of such boundaries.

The sample included municipal, special park district, port district, county, state, federal, and Tribal recreation providers. The survey was conducted online, on the Survey Monkey website. Of the 432 providers contacted, 219 completed the survey for a 51% response rate. Survey respondents included 152 providers with the majority of their managed parklands located within an UGB and 67 respondents with the majority of parklands outside of an UGB. Respondents were asked to rate the importance of county-level funding need for a variety of recreation projects in their jurisdiction in the coming five years. State and county-level priorities identified from this analysis are included below.

The second method was a component of the statewide survey of Oregon residents (Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Demand Analysis) conducted by Oregon State University. Residents were asked to rate a list of 17 priorities by answering the following question. “Now please tell us about your priorities for the future – what should park and forest agencies in and near your community invest in? For each of the following amenities, please indicate the level of priority for future investment”. Specific items were rated using a 5-point Likert scale (1=Lowest priority need to 5=Highest priority need). Priority needs listed include items with an average score of 3.0 or higher based on visitor responses using a 5-point Likert scale (1=Lowest priority need to 5=Highest priority need). State and county-level priorities identified from this analysis are included below.

## PUBLIC RECREATION PROVIDER AND OREGON RESIDENT IDENTIFIED NEED

The following are recreational needs identified in the statewide survey of Oregon public recreation providers and the statewide survey of Oregon residents.

## STATEWIDE NEED

Public Recreation Provider Survey		Oregon Resident Survey			
Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Community trail systems	3.6	Group campgrounds & facilities	3.9	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.8
Children’s playgrounds	3.6	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	3.7	Public access sites to waterways	3.5
Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	3.4	Public restroom facilities	3.7	Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.4
Trails connected to public lands	3.3	Tent campgrounds & facilities	3.6	Children’s playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
Public restroom facilities	3.3	Group day-use & facilities	3.6	Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.3
Picnicking / day-use facilities	3.3	Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	3.5	Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.3
				Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	3.0
				Community gardens	3.0
				Off-leash dog areas	3.0

## COUNTY-LEVEL NEED

### Baker County Need

#### Public Recreation Provider Survey

#### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Children's playgrounds	3.0	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	4.5	Public access sites to waterways	3.6
Community trail systems	3.0	Non-motorized boat launches	4.5	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.4
Sports and playfields	3.0	Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	4.5	Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.3
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.2
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.0
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.0

### Benton County Need

#### Public Recreation Provider Survey

#### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Children's playgrounds	4.5	Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	3.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.9
Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	3.7	Picnicking/ day-use facilities	3.0	Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.6
Trails connected to public lands	3.7	Trails connected to public lands	3.0	Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.4
				Public access sites to waterways	3.4
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.3
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.1
				Community gardens	3.0

### Clackamas County Need

#### Public Recreation Provider Survey

#### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Trails connecting communities / parks	4.3	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	5.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.8
Trails connected to public lands	4.0	Group campgrounds & facilities	5.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.5
Urban bike routes	4.0	Tent campgrounds & facilities	4.0	Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.4
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.2
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.2
				Paved / hard surface walking trails & paths	3.1
				Off-leash dog areas	3.0



## Clatsop County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	5.0	Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	3.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.7
Community trail systems	5.0	Trails connected to public lands	3.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.7
Visitor center & program facilities	4.0	Nature study / wildlife watching sites	3.0	Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.4
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.4
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.4
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
				Paved / hard surface walking trails & paths	3.1

## Columbia County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Nature study / wildlife watching sites	4.3	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	5.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.8
Picnicking / day-use facilities	4.0	Trails connecting communities / parks	5.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.7
Trails connecting communities / parks	4.0	Mountain biking (single track) trails / areas	5.0	Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.4
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.4
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.3
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.1
				Community gardens	3.1
				Off-leash dog areas	3.1

## Coos County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Picnicking / day-use facilities	4.5	Water trail routes	4.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.8
Group day use & facilities	4.0	Public restroom facilities	4.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.6
Public restroom facilities	4.0	Acquisition for access to public waterways	4.0	Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.4
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.3
				Picnic areas and shelters for small large visitor groups	3.2
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.2
				Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.2
				Off-leash dog areas	3.1

## Crook County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Outdoor pool / spray park	5.0	Group campgrounds & facilities	4.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.4
Community trail systems	5.0	Trails connecting communities / parks	4.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.4
Picnicking / day-use facilities	5.0	Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	4.0	Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.1
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.0
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.0

## Curry County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Soccer fields	5.0	Group campgrounds & facilities	5.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.7
Acquisition for access to public waterways	5.0	Trails connecting communities / parks	4.7	Public access sites to waterways	3.6
Acquisition of parklands	4.5	Public restroom facilities	4.3	Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.4
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.3
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.2
				Off-leash dog areas	3.1
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.0

## Deschutes County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Public restrooms	5.0	Children’s playgrounds	5.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.6
Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	4.3	Group campgrounds & facilities	5.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.5
Community trail systems	4.0	Public restroom facilities	4.0	Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.3
				Children’s playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.2
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.2
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.1
				Community gardens	3.0
				Off-leash dog areas	3.0

## Douglas County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Public restrooms	3.8	Water trail routes	5.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.8
Community trail systems	3.7	Group campgrounds & facilities	5.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.7
Picnicking / day-use facilities	3.6	Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	4.5	Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.6
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.4
				Children’s playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
				Picnic areas and shelters for large visitor groups	3.3
				Paved / hard surface walking trails & paths	3.2
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.2
				Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.1

## Gilliam County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Sports and playfields	4.2	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	4.3	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.7
RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	4.1	Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	4.1	Public access sites to waterways	3.6
Community trail systems	4.0	Trails connecting communities / parks	4.0	Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.5
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.2
				Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.2
				Picnic areas and shelters for large visitor groups	3.1
				Paved / hard surface walking trails & paths	3.1
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.1
				Children's playgrounds and play areas built with manufactured structures like swing sets, slides, and climbing apparatuses	3.0

## Grant County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Community vegetable garden areas	3.5	Group day use & facilities	4.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.5
RV dump stations	3.5	Group campgrounds & facilities	3.9	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.4
Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	3.0	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	3.8	Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.4
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.1
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.1
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.0
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.0

## Harney County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Community vegetable garden areas	5.0	Equestrian trails / trailheads	5.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.6
Children's playgrounds	5.0	Long-distance hiking / backpacking trails	5.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.4
Skateboard parks	5.0	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	4.0	Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.3
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.3
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.2
				Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.1
				Picnic areas and shelters for large visitor groups	3.0

## Hood River County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Trails connected to public lands	4.3	Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	4.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.8
RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	4.0	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	4.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.7
Community trail systems	4.0	Trails connected to public lands	3.9	Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.6
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.3
				Community gardens	3.2
				Off-leash dog areas	3.2
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.1
				Multi-use field for soccer, football, lacrosse, etc.	3.0

## Jackson County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Urban bike routes	4.6	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	4.5	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.8
Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	4.1	Acquisition of natural open space	4.5	Public access sites to waterways	3.7
Children's playgrounds	3.9	Picnicking / day-use facilities	4.5	Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.5
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.4
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.3
				Community gardens	3.3
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.2
				Off-leash dog areas	3.0

## Jefferson County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Outdoor pool / spray park	5.0	Cabins & yurts for visitors	5.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.5
Community trail systems	5.0	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	5.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.4
Acquisition of parklands	5.0	Mountain biking (single track) trails / areas	5.0	Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.3
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.3
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.2
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.1
				Picnic areas and shelters for large visitor groups	3.0

## Josephine County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Outdoor pool / spray park	5.0	Water trail routes	5.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.8
Children's playgrounds	4.0	Children's playgrounds	5.0	Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.6
Group day use	4.0	Trails connecting communities / parks	5.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.6
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.4
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.3
				Community gardens	3.2
				Picnic areas and shelters for large visitor groups	3.1
				Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	3.0
				Off-leash dog areas	3.0

## Klamath County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Outdoor pool / spray park	5.0	Public restrooms	4.7	Public access sites to waterways	3.8
Children's playgrounds	5.0	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	3.7	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.6
Public restrooms	5.0	Nature study / wildlife watching sites	3.7	Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.4
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.4
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.2
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.2
				Off-leash dog areas	3.1
				Community gardens	3.0
				Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.0

## Lake County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Acquisition of parklands	4.0	Equestrian trails / trailheads	3.3	Public access sites to waterways	3.7
Group campgrounds & facilities	4.0	Group day use & facilities	3.3	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.6
RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	3.9	Mountain biking (single track) trails / areas	3.3	Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.3
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.2
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.2
				Off-leash dog areas	3.0
				Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.0

## Lane County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Exercise trails	4.5	Historic sites	4.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.7
Trails connecting communities / parks	4.3	Trails connecting communities / parks	4.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.6
Acquisition of parklands	4.3	Group campgrounds & facilities	4.0	Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.3
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.2
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.1



## Lincoln County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Acquisition of parklands	3.8	Group campgrounds & facilities	4.7	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.8
Acquisition of natural open space	3.6	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	4.3	Public access sites to waterways	3.6
Soccer fields	3.4	Tent campgrounds & facilities	4.3	Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.5
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.3
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.2
				Community gardens	3.2
				Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	3.1
				Off-leash dog areas	3.0
				Designated paddling routes for canoes, kayaks, rafts, driftboats	3.0

## Linn County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Children's playgrounds	4.1	Acquisition of natural open space	5.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.8
Children's natural play areas	3.6	Cabins & yurts for visitors	5.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.7
Group day use	3.3	Trails connecting communities / parks	5.0	Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.4
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.4
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.4
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.2
				Picnic areas and shelters for large visitor groups	3.1
				Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	3.1
				Off-leash dog areas	3.0

## Malheur County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Soccer fields	5.0	Cabins & yurts for visitors	4.5	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.6
Baseball / football fields	4.7	Showers	4.5	Public access sites to waterways	3.6
Trails connected to public lands	4.0	Public restrooms	4.5	Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.4
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.3
				Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.2
				Picnic areas and shelters for large visitor groups	3.0
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.0

## Marion County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Public restrooms	3.9	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	4.7	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.7
Children's playgrounds	3.8	Tent campgrounds & facilities	4.3	Public access sites to waterways	3.4
Trails connecting communities / parks	3.7	Group campgrounds & facilities	4.3	Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.2
				Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	3.2
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.2
				Nature and other wildlife viewing areas	3.2
				Off-leash dog areas	3.1

## Morrow County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	4.8	Tubing & sledding areas	4.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.7
River fishing from bank or pier	4.5	Tent campgrounds & facilities	3.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.6
Children's playgrounds	4.3	Trails connecting communities / parks	3.0	Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.5
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
				Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.2
				Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.2
				Picnic areas and shelters for large visitor groups	3.1
				Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	3.1
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.1
				Children's playgrounds and play areas built with manufactured structures like swing sets, slides, and climbing apparatuses	3.0

## Multnomah County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Off-leash dog areas	4.8	Marinas	5.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.7
Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	4.5	Non-motorized boat launches	4.0	Nature and other wildlife viewing areas	3.5
Community trail systems	4.3	Motorized boat launches & support facilities	4.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.5
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.4
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.4
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.3
				Off-leash dog areas	3.1
				Designated paddling routes for canoes, kayaks, rafts, driftboats	3.0

## Polk County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	5.0	Public restrooms	4.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.9
Community trail systems	5.0	Group day use & facilities	4.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.6
Trails connected to public lands	5.0	Picnicking / day use & facilities	4.0	Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.5
				Nature and other wildlife viewing areas	3.5
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.3
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.2
				Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	3.1
				Children's playgrounds and play areas built with manufactured structures like swing sets, slides, and climbing apparatuses	3.0
				Community gardens	3.0

## Sherman County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	4.0	Off-leash dog areas / dog parks	5.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.7
Picnicking / day use & facilities	4.0	Children's playgrounds	5.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.6
Visitor center & program facilities	4.0	Outdoor swimming pools / spray parks	5.0	Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.5
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
				Nature and other wildlife viewing areas	3.2
				Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.2
				Picnic areas and shelters for large visitor groups	3.1
				Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	3.1
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.1
				Children's playgrounds and play areas built with manufactured structures like swing sets, slides, and climbing apparatuses	3.0

## Tillamook County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Public restrooms	4.3	Acquisition of parklands	5.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.7
Urban bike routes	4.0	Dispersed tent campsites (walk in)	5.0	Nature and other wildlife viewing areas	3.5
Community trail systems	3.7	Public restrooms	4.5	Public access sites to waterways	3.5
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.4
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.3
				Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	3.0
				Community gardens	3.0
				Off-leash dog areas	3.0

## Umatilla County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Children's playgrounds	3.8	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	4.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.7
Soccer fields	3.5	Interpretive displays	4.0	Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.6
Community trail systems	3.4	Tent campgrounds & facilities	4.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.6
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.3
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.2
				Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.2
				Picnic areas and shelters for large visitor groups	3.1
				Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	3.1
				Nature and other wildlife viewing areas	3.1
				Children's playgrounds and play areas built with manufactured structures like swing sets, slides, and climbing apparatuses	3.0

## Union County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Community trail systems	5.0	Group day use & facilities	4.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.5
Picnicking / day-use facilities	4.5	Trails connecting communities / parks	3.9	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.4
Children's natural play areas	4.5	Picnicking / day-use facilities	3.9	Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.3
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.2
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.2
				Nature and other wildlife viewing areas	3.1

## Wallowa County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Soccer fields	3.5	Equestrian trails / trailheads	4.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.5
Children's playgrounds	3.5	Marinas	4.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.4
Group day use	3.5	Visitor center & program facilities	4.0	Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.4
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.1
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.1
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.0
				Nature and other wildlife viewing areas	3.0

## Wasco County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Outdoor pool / spray park	4.3	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	5.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.7
Tent campgrounds & facilities	3.7	Tent campgrounds & facilities	5.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.7
RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	3.0	Group day use & facilities	5.0	Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.4
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.4
				Nature and other wildlife viewing areas	3.3
				Children's playgrounds and play areas built with manufactured structures like swing sets, slides, and climbing apparatuses	3.0
				Picnic areas and shelters for large visitor groups	3.0
				Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	3.0
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.0
				Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	3.0

## Washington County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Trails connecting communities / parks	4.8	Nature study / wildlife watching sites	5.0	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	4.0
Community trail systems	4.4	Trails connecting communities / parks	5.0	Nature and other wildlife viewing areas	3.6
Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	4.3	Mountain biking (single track) trails / areas	5.0	Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.5
				Public access sites to waterways	3.5
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.4
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.4
				Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	3.3
				Community gardens	3.1
				Off-leash dog areas	3.1
				Picnic areas and shelters for large visitor groups	3.0

## Wheeler County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Children's playgrounds	5.0	Nature study / wildlife watching sites	4.0	Public access sites to waterways	3.7
Picnicking / day-use facilities	5.0	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	4.0	Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.6
Public restrooms	5.0	Tent campgrounds & facilities	4.0	Nature and other wildlife viewing areas	3.4
				Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.3
				Picnic areas and shelters for large visitor groups	3.2
				Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.1
				Community gardens	3.1

## Yamhill County Need

### Public Recreation Provider Survey

### Oregon Resident Survey

Close-To-Home Priorities	Score	Dispersed-Area Priorities	Score		Score
Acquisition of parklands	4.1	RV / trailer campgrounds & facilities	4.7	Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.8
Public restrooms	4.1	Acquisition of parklands	4.7	Children's playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (Natural Play Areas)	3.7
Acquisition of trail corridors & ROWs	4.0	Water trail routes	4.7	Public access sites to waterways	3.7
				Picnic areas and shelters for small visitor groups	3.4
				Nature and other wildlife viewing areas	3.4
				Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	3.2
				Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.2
				Children's playgrounds and play areas built with manufactured structures like swing sets, slides, and climbing apparatuses	3.1
				Picnic areas and shelters for large visitor groups	3.0
				Community gardens	3.0
				Designated paddling routes for canoes, kayaks, rafts, driftboats	3.0



# Oregon Parkland Classification System and Suggested Level of Service Standards

## CHAPTER SIX

### INTRODUCTION

The most effective park system to develop and manage is one made up of a variety of different types of parks, open space areas, and recreational venues, each designed to provide a specific type of recreation experience or opportunity. A park system that is classified and used properly is easier to maintain, creates fewer conflicts between user groups, and minimizes negative impacts on adjoining neighbors. A good park classification system also helps assess what facilities are available for current use and what types of parks will be needed to serve the community in the future.

A wide variety of parkland classifications typologies can be found throughout the state, region, and country for the development of park land and open space systems. In order to better assess the park system and specific parkland needs in Oregon, this chapter includes parkland classification categories recommended for use in the state. The classification system is intended as a set of recommended guidelines and not intended as a mandated standard.

When conducting park system planning, park and recreation providers need to not only identify which parklands and facilities/services are important to community members, but must also define what constitutes “adequate” provision of parklands. To determine adequacy, park and recreation providers typically measure existing parklands and facilities and compare them against established standards, typically Level of Service (LOS) Standards. LOS standards are measures of the amount of public recreation parklands and facilities being provided to meet that jurisdiction’s basic needs and expectations. For example, the amount of parkland currently needed in a particular jurisdiction may be determined by comparing the ratio of existing developed park acres per 1,000 residents (by all providers within the jurisdiction) to the jurisdiction’s desired level of parks relative to population. The gap between the two ratios is the currently needed park acreage. As the population grows, the objective is to provide enough additional acreage to maintain the jurisdiction’s desired ratio of park acres to 1,000 residents.

For the purposes of this chapter, we will first focus on LOS site guidelines, which are used primarily for

estimating acreage needs for park and recreation jurisdictions, and conclude with LOS facility guidelines for specific types of recreation facilities. Since the need for non-motorized trails is a top statewide issue, trails, pathways and bikeways were added to the list of parkland types and measured in trail miles per 1,000 residents. It is important to note that, in addition to LOS quantity standards, other factors such as quality, condition, location, and convenience (e.g., walking and biking distances) may also be considered in determining future service need.

Park providers should carefully consider the effects of setting, lowering or raising LOS standards – especially additional operation and maintenance costs for new parklands and facilities. This decision will affect both the quality of service provided, as well as the amount of investment for new facilities that is, or will be, needed in the future to provide the desired LOS.

To assist with park system planning in Oregon, this chapter includes recommended Oregon LOS guidelines for each of the 11 standard parkland classification types along with specific park facility types. These guidelines were developed after a review of past National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) standards, results from a statewide survey of Oregon’s public park and recreation providers, and a benchmarking report completed by Leisure Vision for the Oregon Recreation and Park Association (ORPA). While these statewide site guidelines provide a useful framework for evaluating jurisdiction resources, it is recognized that individual jurisdictions will need to develop their own LOS standards that reflect their unique conditions, resources and needs. Towards that end, a SCORP planning support document, *A Guide to Community Park and Recreation Planning for Oregon Communities*, provides instructions for developing individual jurisdiction LOS guidelines using county-level SCORP planning information. This document is included on the disk in the back of this plan and is available on the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department Website at: [http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/PLANS/planning\\_SCORP.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/PLANS/planning_SCORP.shtml).

The parkland classifications and LOS standards presented here are not intended to replace land use regulations set out under state and local land use laws that pertain

to parks. Ultimately park uses must be approved under applicable land use policies and zoning requirements, which in some cases may limit or even prohibit some types of park uses. Planning for park uses using these and other measures of park needs must always take applicable land use regulations into consideration.

## PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

This classification system applies to all local and state parks, including city, county, regional and state park systems in Oregon. It does not include federal lands other than state or local parks that are located on federal lands. For local implementation, parkland standards should be largely based upon identified purpose and a set of development considerations both of which influenced by local need, fiscal constraints, and other considerations such as residential and traffic patterns, road access, convenience, and the availability of land. As a result, every park system will not need to offer one of all park classification types within their system (i.e., a small community may not need a Regional Sports Park).

Walking times included in the description below are times that it takes a typical adult to walk to the park. Park acre size recommendations are based on standard planning practices. However, there will be situations where development considerations result in a park of a size either smaller or larger than standard size recommendations.

### Pocket Parks

A pocket park is the smallest park classification. Pocket parks provide basic recreation opportunities on small lots, within residential areas serving an area within approximately 5-10 minutes walking time (approximately ¼ mile). Typically less than two acres in size (¼ to 2 acres), these parks are designed to serve residents in immediately adjacent neighborhoods. Pocket parks provide limited recreation amenities, such as playgrounds, benches, and picnic tables. Pocket parks do not normally provide off-street parking.

Examples of pocket parks in Oregon include Hillside Park – Grants Pass, Piccolo Park – Portland, and Thorp Park – Beaverton.



Pocket Park in Portland, Oregon

### Urban Plaza Parks

Urban plaza parks are public gathering spaces in urban spaces that foster community interaction and civic pride.

They are small in size (¼ to 3 acres) and intensely developed. Visitors will tend to be those who are already in the neighborhood for other purposes, such as shopping, work, dining and/or those who live in or near densely developed urban areas. Urban plaza parks typically include amenities such as drinking fountains, benches, litter receptacles, trees and shrubs, paved walkways and plazas.

Examples of urban plaza parks in Oregon include Pioneer Courthouse Square – Portland, Park Blocks – Eugene, Peace Plaza – Salem, and Lovejoy Plaza – Portland.



Urban Plaza Park in Portland, Oregon

### Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks provide close-to-home recreation opportunities primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities. They are located within approximately 5-10 minute walking time (approximately ¼ - ½ mile) without crossing major thoroughfares and/or other structures and easy bicycling distance of residents. They serve up to a one-half-mile radius, and are generally 2-20 acres in size (Service area is also influenced by neighborhood configuration and various geographical and transportation barriers). Neighborhood parks typically include amenities such as playgrounds, outdoor sports courts, sports fields, picnic tables, pathways, and multi-use open grass areas. They may or may not provide off-street parking. Neighborhood parks can, when practical, be located next to elementary schools in order to provide more efficient use of public resources.



Neighborhood Park in Forest Grove, Oregon

Examples of neighborhood parks in Oregon include Tyson Park – Springfield, Bush’s Pasture Park – Salem, Grant Park – Portland, and Forest Hills Park – Beaverton.

### Community Parks

Community parks are typically larger in size and serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Their focus is on meeting the recreation needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. Community parks are typically 15-100 acres, depending on the spatial requirements of the facilities provided and the amount of land dedicated to natural resource protection. Community parks provide both active and passive recreation opportunities that appeal to the entire community serving an area within approximately 15 minutes driving time. While a community park may be proximate to a neighborhood and can provide typical neighborhood park amenities, they are normally designed as a “drive-to sites.” Community parks typically accommodate large numbers of people, and offer a wide variety of facilities, such as group picnic areas and large shelters, sports fields and courts, children’s play areas, swimming pools and splash pads, community gardens, extensive pathway systems, community festival or event space, and green space or natural areas. Community parks require additional support facilities, such as off-street parking and restrooms and as such can also serve as regional trailheads.



Community Park in Forest Grove, Oregon

Examples of community parks in Oregon include Willamette Park – Portland, Riverfront Park – Salem, Bethel Community Park – Eugene, and Hawthorne Park – Medford.

### Regional Parks

Regional parks are large parks that provide access to unique natural or cultural features and regional-scale



Regional Park in Foster, Oregon

recreation facilities. Typically 100 acres or more in size, regional parks serve areas within a 45 minute driving time. These parks often include significant green space to preserve unique natural areas, riverfront corridors, wetlands, and agricultural or forested areas. Regional parks may include properties for which there are no immediate development plans and that are situated in such a way as to primarily serve the surrounding neighborhood (land banked properties). Regional parks also may accommodate large group activities and often have infrastructure to support sporting events, festivals, and other revenue-generating events to enhance the City’s economic vitality and identity. Activities available in regional parks may include picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, trail use, etc. Regional parks include supporting facilities, such as restrooms and parking.

Examples of regional parks in Oregon include Alton Baker Park – Eugene, Lithia Park – Ashland, Shevlin Park – Bend, and Oxbow Regional Park – Troutdale.

### Nature Parks

Nature parks are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. They may preserve or protect environmentally sensitive areas, such as wildlife habitats, stream and creek corridors, or unique and/or endangered plant species. Nature parks may vary in size from small parcels (less than 10 acres) to large properties of more than 200 acres. Nature parks typically serve a community-wide population and include greenways, natural areas, and preserves. Public access to natural areas may be limited at these sites, which often include wetlands, steep hillsides, or other similar spaces. Some nature parks may be managed secondarily to provide passive recreation opportunities. These sites may contain trails, interpretive displays, viewpoints, and seating areas.



Nature Park in Beaverton, Oregon

Examples of nature parks in Oregon include Forest Park – Portland, Tualatin Hills Nature Park – Beaverton, Ridgeline Parks – Eugene, and Mount Talbert Nature Park – Clackamas.

### Special Use Parks

The Special Use classification covers a broad range of park and recreation lands that are specialized or single-purpose in nature. Parks in this category include waterfront or ocean access parks, boat ramps, memorials, historic sites, waysides, swimming areas, single purpose sites used for a particular field sport, dog parks, skate parks, display gardens, sites occupied by buildings, or protect some significant geologic or scenic feature. Special use parks that have a community or regional draw may require supporting facilities such as parking or restrooms. Park size is dependent on the special use and can vary from very small to many acres.



Special Use Park in Pendleton, Oregon

Examples of special use parks in Oregon include Rudy Rada Skatepark – Pendleton, Veteran’s Memorial Park - Klamath Falls, River Play Discovery Village – Eugene, and Swan Island Boat Ramp – Portland.



Trail in Bend, Oregon

### Trails, Pathways and Bikeways

Trails, pathways, and bikeways include a number of trail types including multi-use, pedestrian, and soft surface trails to accommodate a variety of activities such as walking, running, biking, dog walking, rollerblading, skateboarding, and horseback riding. Such trails may be located within parks or along existing streets and roadways as part of the citywide transportation system. Multi-use trails are designed for use by pedestrians, bicyclists, skateboarders, wheelchairs, and other non-motorized vehicle users. These trails are hard surfaced to accommodate bicycles and provide accessibility for people with disabilities. Hard surfaced pedestrian trails are generally found within smaller parks and as secondary trails within larger parks. Soft surfaced trails are composed of soft-surface materials, such as soil, crushed rock, hog fuel, and wood chips. Most soft surfaces do not provide accessibility for people with disabilities but are preferable for some recreation activities, such as running and hiking. Trails, pathways, and bikeways may include amenities such as directional and control signage, gates, benches, overlooks, drinking fountains, lighting, trailhead kiosks, and interpretive signs.

Examples of Trails, Pathways, and Bikeways in Oregon include the Avery Park Trail – Corvallis, Riverfront Park Trail - Salem, Cathedral Tree Trail – Astoria, and the Trillium Trail – Portland.

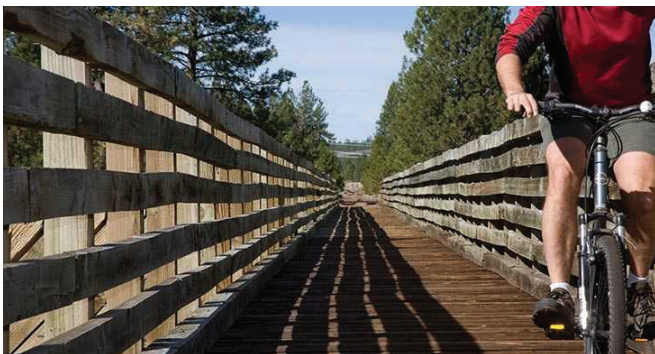


Regional Sports Park in Beaverton, Oregon

### Regional Sports Parks

Regional sports parks typically consolidate heavily programmed athletic facilities for activities such as soccer, football, baseball/softball into a few strategically located sites throughout the community. Regional sports parks could also include facilities such as race tracks, shooting ranges and equestrian areas. The location of these facilities is important due to the traffic, lighting, and noise that are often associated with them. They typically require large parking areas and restroom facilities. They also may have other park amenities, such as play areas or picnic facilities that serve non-participant family members and others while events are taking place. Regional sports parks normally require a minimum of 25 acres, with 40-80 acres being optimal.

Examples of regional sports parks in Oregon include Big Sky Luke Damon Sports Complex – Bend, U.S. Cellular Community Park – Medford, Howard M. Terpenning Recreation Complex – Beaverton, and Sheldon Sports Park – Eugene.



Linear Park in Klamath Falls, Oregon

### Linear Parks

Linear parks include natural or built corridors that connect parks and neighborhoods, provide linkages through the city, and preserve open space. Linear parks may include abandoned railroad lines, utility

rights-of-way, wildlife corridors, or elongated natural areas defined by drainage features or topographical changes, such as riparian corridors. Linear parks typically support trail-oriented activities, including walking, jogging, biking, skateboarding, and roller skating, which play a major role in health and fitness. Trails, pathways, and bikeways located in other types of park settings (e.g., neighborhood, community, natural area parks) where the trail is not the primary purpose of the park or along existing streets or roadways may be connected to, but are excluded from this park category. Linear parks typically include amenities such as rest benches, picnic tables, trailhead kiosks, parking at major trailheads, and way finding markers, but may also incorporate smaller-scale neighborhood park amenities such as play areas, picnic areas, and exercise stations. Linear park size is dependent on the corridor length and opportunity.

Examples of linear parks in Oregon include the Deschutes River Trail – Bend, Bear Creek Greenway – Medford, Springwater Corridor – Portland, and the Rogue River Greenway – Central Point.



Destination Park in Sublimity, Oregon

### Destination Parks

Destination Parks can include the same characteristics as Regional Parks, Natural Area Parks, Special Use Parks and Linear Parks, but offer such outstanding natural, historic, scenic or recreational attractions that visitors travel more than an hour to several days, by car, to reach them. They are usually well known statewide and even nationally. They can have a wide range of acreage sizes and levels of development, but generally have a moderate to very intensive level of visitation. They can be day-use parks or can offer overnight camping or cabins.

Most of the parks in the Oregon State Park system are Destination Parks. Some county and regional park systems also operate Destination Parks.

Examples of destination parks in Oregon include Silver Falls State Park – Sublimity, Tryon Creek State Park – Portland, Fort Stevens State Park – Hammond, and Smith Rock State Park – Terrebonne.

## SUGGESTED PARKLAND LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

During a period from January 9, 2012 to February 29, 2012, OPRD conducted a survey of Oregon public recreation providers to assist in developing suggested LOS site guidelines for inclusion in the 2013-2017 Oregon SCORP plan. The sample included municipal, special park district, port district, county, and Tribal recreation providers. The survey was conducted on the Survey Monkey website. Of the 268 providers contacted, 89 completed the survey for a 33% response rate. Respondents were asked to report the following information for each of the park classification types for their jurisdiction. (The following is an example of information requested for the Pocket Park classification type):

- Number of Pocket Parks that you manage;

- Acres of Pocket Parks that you manage;
- Number of Pocket Parks that others manage (e.g., School Dist.)
- Target level of service standard for Pocket Parks for your park system.

Respondents were also asked to identify the total population served and total acreage of their park system.

Survey results and NRPA site guidelines are included in Table 14. Recommended Oregon LOS site guidelines for each of the parkland types are also included in the table.

The recommended total parkland acres site guideline for local park and recreation jurisdictions in Oregon is 6.25 to 12.5 acres per 1,000 population, which represents a minimum acreage that should be exceeded when possible. Though these recommendations are sufficient for the inventory and development of parks in rural and less densely populated areas, it is more difficult to meet this standard in an urban setting. Where you have more extensive development, higher population numbers in a small area, and a lack of available and affordable open space, recreation-

**Table 14. Recommended Oregon LOS Site Guidelines**

Parkland Type	Oregon Average Acres per 1,000 Population	Oregon Median Acres per 1,000 Population	Average Planning LOS Site Guidelines (Acres/ 1,000 population)	NRPA Standard LOS Site Guidelines (Acres/ 1,000 population)	Recommended Oregon LOS Site Guidelines (Acres/ 1,000 population)
Pocket Parks	0.22	0.16	0.16	0.25 to 0.50	0.25 to 0.50
Urban Plaza Parks	0.12	0.11	0.18	None	0.1 to 0.2
Neighborhood Parks	1.06	0.57	1.27	1.0 to 2.0	1.0 to 2.0
Community Parks	2.06	2.10	2.76	5.0 to 8.0	2.0 to 6.0
Regional Parks	6.02	9.18	8.99	5.0 to 10.0	5.0 to 10.0*
Nature Parks	5.16	2.33	2.74	None	2.0 to 6.0
Special Use Parks	3.87	1.98	0.38	None	None
Trails, Pathways and Bikeways	0.60 miles per 1,000 population		0.62 miles per 1,000 population	None	0.5 to 1.5 miles per 1,000 population
Regional Sports Parks	6.35	7.08		5.0 to 10.0	5.0 to 10.0
Linear Parks	0.90	0.94		None	0.5 to 1.5*
Destination Parks	27.30			None	20.0 to 30.0*
<b>Total Acres of Parkland</b>	12.13	6.90		6.25 to 10.5 developed	6.25 to 12.5

\*LOS based on local-use population estimates. If there is extensive out-of-area visitation to these parks, recreation providers may consider exceeding these LOS guidelines.

al development must be planned to accommodate the needs of as large and diverse a user group as possible. It is important to disperse park opportunities evenly throughout the locality so that each sector has convenient access to parks and open space. The planning and development process should also provide as many different kinds of activities as the resources will allow.

In meeting the 6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 population total parkland site guideline, park planners should consider each of the 11 park classification types. Each of the parkland types has its own unique function and service radius within the jurisdiction. Table 15 summarizes site guidelines for each Oregon parkland type. It is important to note that site guidelines are for developed parklands.

**Table 15. Summary of the Oregon Parkland Classification System and Suggested LOS Standards**

Parkland Type	Space Requirements	Service Radius	Recommended Oregon LOS Site Guidelines (Acres/ 1,000 population)	Park Development Features
<b>Pocket Parks</b>	¼ to 2 acres	5-10 minutes walking time (approximately ¼ mile)	0.25 to 0.50 acres	Limited amenities such as playgrounds, benches, and picnic tables. They do not normally provide off street parking.
<b>Urban Plaza Parks</b>	¼ to 3 acres	Entire community – visitors tend to be those who are already in the neighborhood for other purposes, such as shopping, work, and dining.	0.1 to 0.2 acres	Intensely developed with amenities such as drinking fountains, benches, litter receptacles, trees and shrubs, and paved walkways and plazas.
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	2 to 20 acres	5-10 minutes walking time (approximately ¼ - ½ mile)	1.0 to 2.0 acres	Amenities such as playgrounds, outdoor sports courts, sports fields, picnic tables, pathways, and multi-use open grass areas. They may or may not provide off-street parking.
<b>Community Parks</b>	15 to 100 acres	15 minute driving time	2.0 to 6.0 acres	A wide variety of facilities such as off-street parking, restrooms, group picnic areas and large shelters, sports fields and courts, children’s play areas, swimming pools and splash pads, community gardens, extensive pathway systems, community festival or event space, and green space or natural areas. They can also serve as regional trailheads.
<b>Regional Parks</b>	100 acres or more	45 minute driving time	5.0 to 10.0 acres*	Often include significant green space to preserve unique natural areas, riverfront corridors, wetlands, and agricultural or forested areas. May accommodate large group activities and often have infrastructure to support sporting events, festivals, and other revenue-generating events. Activities available may include picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping and trail use. They include support facilities such as restrooms and parking.
<b>Nature Parks</b>	Vary in size from less than 10 acres to more than 200 acres	Serve a community-wide population	2.0 to 6.0 acres	Include greenways, natural areas, and preserves. Sites may contain trails, interpretive displays, viewpoints, and seating areas.
<b>Special Use Parks</b>	Dependent on the special use and can vary from very small to many acres	Variable	None	Include waterfront or ocean access parks, boat ramps, memorials, historic sites, waysides, swimming areas, single purpose sites used for a particular field sport, dog parks, skate parks, display gardens, sites occupied by buildings, or protect some significant geologic or scenic feature. Those with a community or regional draw may require support facilities such as parking or restrooms.

**Table 15. Summary of the Oregon Parkland Classification System and Suggested LOS Standards (continued)**

Parkland Type	Space Requirements	Service Radius	Recommended Oregon LOS Site Guidelines (Acres/ 1,000 population)	Park Development Features
<b>Trails, Pathways and Bikeways</b>	Variable. Function of available parks, natural areas, open spaces or other public properties where trails could be a component	Serve community-wide population	0.5 to 1.5 miles per 1,000 population	Include a number of trail types (multi-use, pedestrian, and soft surface trails) to accommodate a variety of activities such as walking, running, biking, dog walking, rollerblading, skateboarding, and horseback riding. May include amenities such as directional and control signage, gates, benches, overlooks, drinking fountains, lighting, trailhead kiosks, and interpretive signs.
<b>Regional Sports Parks</b>	Minimum of 25 acres, with 40-80 acres being optimal	Serve community or region-wide population	5.0 to 10.0 acres	Consolidate heavily programmed athletic facilities for activities such as soccer, football, baseball/softball into strategically located sites. They typically require large parking areas and restroom facilities. May have other park amenities such as play areas or picnic facilities serving non-participant family members.
<b>Linear Parks</b>	Dependent on the corridor length and opportunity.	Serve community or region-wide population	0.5 to 1.5 acres*	May include natural or built corridors that connect parks and neighborhoods, provide linkages through the city, and preserve open space. Typically support trail-oriented activities including walking, jogging, biking, skateboarding, and roller skating. Typically include amenities such as rest benches, picnic tables, trailhead kiosks, and way finding markers, but may also incorporate smaller-scale neighborhood park amenities such as play areas, picnic areas, and exercise stations.
<b>Destination Parks</b>	Wide range of acreage sizes	Serve a region, state, or nation-wide population. More than an hour to several days driving time	20.0 to 30.0 acres*	Include the same facilities and activities as regional or natural area parks, but offer outstanding natural, historic, scenic, or recreational attractions. They can be day-use parks or can offer overnight camping or cabins.

\* LOS based on local-use population estimates. If there is extensive out-of-area visitation to these parks, recreation providers may consider exceeding these LOS guidelines.



## SUGGESTED LEVEL OF SERVICE FACILITY GUIDELINES

Acreage alone does not assure a well-balanced park system. Sites should be designed and developed with a balance of facilities according to the recommended classification type. Therefore, a proper relationship in the size, number, location, and type of facilities developed for each park site is critical to a relevant system for parks and recreation in Oregon communities. Table 16 includes suggested facility guidelines for recreation facilities in Oregon communities.

The SCORP planning support document, A Guide to Community Park and Recreation Planning, provides instructions for developing individual jurisdiction LOS guidelines using county-level SCORP planning information.

**Table 16. Suggested Oregon LOS Facility Guidelines**

<b>Name of Facility</b>	<b>Recommended Oregon LOS Facility Guidelines (Facilities/ 1,000 population)</b>
Baseball fields	0.20
Softball fields	0.20
Basketball courts/multi-use	0.20
Soccer fields	0.20
Golf courses (holes)	0.60
Lacrosse fields	0.15
Equestrian facilities	0.01
Football fields	0.10
Outdoor swimming pools	0.05
Beach areas for swimming	0.10
Volleyball courts	0.20
Tennis courts	0.35
Picnic shelters	0.30
Day-use picnic tables	10.00
Playgrounds	0.40
Skateboard parks	0.04
Off-leash dog parks	0.04
Nature centers	0.03
Amphitheaters	0.03
Disc golf courses	0.02
Boat ramp lanes	0.25
Non-motorized boat launches	0.25
Tent campsites	3.60
RV/trailer campsites	13.30

# Developing Sustainable Park Systems in Oregon

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### INTRODUCTION

In preparation for the 2013-2017 Oregon SCORP, the Oregon Park and Recreation Department contracted with Gallagher Consulting to write a report that creates a vision for the development of sustainable park systems in Oregon for use by federal, state, and local units of government as well as the private sector, in making policy and planning decisions. The report includes:

- An initial discussion on sustainability, sustainable parks, and examples of sustainability within local and state parks.
- A vision for sustainable parks in Oregon including recommended goals, objectives, and strategies to achieve sustainability.
- Recommended OPRD grant evaluation criteria to further improve and support sustainability design and practices.
- A set of recommended steps for local agencies to establish and monitor their own sustainable performance improvement system.
- A Sustainable Park and Recreation Practices Self-Assessment Score Card.
- A Sustainable Guidelines Checklist for incorporating sustainable practices in design, construction and maintenance of park projects.
- A list of sustainable practices web-based resources.

The full report is available online at: [http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/docs/scorp/2013-2018\\_SCORP/Developing\\_Sustainable\\_Park\\_Systems.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/docs/scorp/2013-2018_SCORP/Developing_Sustainable_Park_Systems.pdf)

This chapter includes a summary of the vision for a sustainable park system in Oregon from the full report along with recommended OPRD grant evaluation to further improve and support sustainability design and practices.

### VISION, MISSION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The vision, mission, goals and objectives, provide the framework for the state of Oregon's sustainability plan. These statements are not set in stone, and may be refined or changed over time to ensure they continue to meet current community needs. Each of the three goals and associated objectives include a number of strategies

or tactics for creating a sustainable park system. These are not state mandates, but rather items for recreation providers to consider for local implementation.

### Mission Statement

Oregon *Sustainable Parks* are designed, developed and operated to promote a sustainable future meeting the needs of today without compromising and by balancing the economic, social and ecological needs of future residents.

*Sustainable Parks* will:

- Support a stable and diverse economy
- Protect and enhance the quality of the air, water, land and other natural resources
- Protect and enhance native vegetation, habitat areas, fish and wildlife
- Create opportunities for enhanced social benefits
- Build community
- Promote stewardship and educate the public about sustainability
- Result in more cost-effective park management practices
- Ensure longevity of parks and recreation facilities

### Vision

Oregon's parks, public places, natural areas, and open spaces give life and beauty to our state. These essential assets connect people to the natural environment, community, and to themselves. While Oregon's residents treasure and care for this legacy, they are dedicated to ensuring resources are utilized with fiscal, social, and environmental responsibility, building on the past to provide for future generations.

### Goals and Objectives

**GOAL 1:** Ensure sustainable development that uses natural resources both efficiently and responsibly providing long-term benefits.

A. Reduce Energy Demand

- Establish baseline standards, objectives, and metrics for measurement to track and reduce the net

consumption of electric energy and non-renewable heating fuels (e.g., oil, natural gas, and propane).

- Replace and use equipment and fixtures with the latest efficiency technology.
- Adopt new modern standards for structures to assure they are as energy efficient as possible. This could include LEED standards of Silver or higher for renovations and Gold or higher for new construction.
- Increase education and training of public employees to improve the understanding and acceptance of actions necessary to reduce energy use.
- Replace and/or renovate obsolete energy or resource-inefficient infrastructure.

#### B. Increase Conversion to Renewable Energy Sources

- Establish baseline standards, objectives, and metrics for measurement of purchase and/or production of an increased percentage of energy use from renewable sources.
- Evaluate conversion to renewable energy sources within existing park sites and use of renewable materials for new park developments. Examples of renewable energy sources include biofuels, wind energy, tidal energy, and solar energy.
- Coordinate with local utilities to explore partnerships in the development of renewable energy sources within park sites consistent with adopted resource management policies.

#### C. Improve Vehicle Efficiencies and Reduce Vehicle Use

- Establish baseline standards, objectives, and metrics for measurement to increase fuel economy, reduce trip mileage, and increase percentage of hybrids, plug-in and alternative fuel vehicles.
- Conduct an evaluation of energy consumption of fleet vehicles. This evaluation should review and establish baselines and objectives for the following:
  - Increasing fuel efficiency;
  - Increasing the number of hybrids, plug-in or alternative fuel vehicles;
  - Right-sizing of vehicles;
  - Reducing maintenance routes and the potential staging of vehicles, and;
  - Increasing overall use of public transportation.

#### D. Reduce Water Use and Increase Plantings of Native Species

- Establish baseline standards, objectives, and metrics for measurement of water consumption to increase conservation, recycling and use of treated water.
- Conduct an evaluation of water use and track historical and on-going consumption of water at parks and facilities. This evaluation should include landscaping, restrooms, aquatic facilities and other water uses.
- Develop and adopt a native plant policy. The policy should set minimum percent of native species (80% or greater) that will be used in new and renovations of existing landscaping.
- Evaluate and seek opportunities for the increased use of rain gardens, collection of on-site water for irrigation purposes, and increased use of bioswales for the collection of run-off and stormwater.
- Coordinate with local water treatment facilities to evaluate the use of recycled waste water for irrigation of park landscaping.

#### E. Improve Waste Management and Increase Utilization of On-site Composting

- Establish baseline standards, objectives, and metrics for measurement of solid waste sent to landfills, historical, current tonnage, and amount of materials recycled.
- Develop a recycling program that includes recycling containers at all park and recreation locations as well as a public education program to encourage public recycling.
- Evaluate opportunities to increase use of compostable materials within landscaped areas (e.g., increased use of leaf mulch, chips, and other waste materials).

#### F. Improve the Natural Environment and Habitat

- Conduct an evaluation of open space areas, natural areas and parklands to ensure that park and recreation uses are compatible with biosystems and sensitive habitat.
- Develop a forest management program to ensure the sustainability of native forest and associated landscapes. The program should include a plan for the reduction/removal of non-native plants and an on-going maintenance plan for locations treated.
- Add trees and develop a system to track tree main-

tenance, tree loss or gain.

- Consider the adoption of new technologies and design principles to reduce the developed footprint and dependence on irrigation, fertilization, chemical weed control, and energy consumptive maintenance activities (e.g., mowing, trimming, and blowing).
- Develop and adopt an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy on the use of toxic substances in parks and agency facilities, provide appropriate training to all staff that handle toxic substances, and where appropriate use an IPM-approach to managing noxious/invasive weeds in all parklands and facilities.
- Establish baseline standards of historical application of chemicals and set objectives to reduce application of chemicals in parklands and facilities.

#### G. Reduction of Material Resources and Purchasing of Environmentally Preferred Products

- Evaluate and consider the purchase of cleaning and other maintenance-related products that are non-toxic and biodegradable.
- Move towards the purchase of one hundred percent recycled copy and printing paper.
- Evaluate and consider use of paints with low amounts of volatile organic compounds.

#### H. Sustainable Building Practices and Materials

- Mandate that buildings over 5,000 square feet should be designed and/or retrofitted to meet green building standards. New construction should be designed and constructed to LEED Gold level or higher and renovations to LEED Silver or higher.
- Increase the use of pervious surfaces to improve water recharge and reduce stormwater flows, for walkways, parking areas and other traditional hardscapes.
- Adopt Low Impact Design (LID) guidelines to minimize a site's develop footprint and encourage re-use, and where appropriate, removal of existing structures and other impervious surfaces. Also adapt these LID guidelines for development of recreational landscapes in parks.
- Research and incorporate sustainable green techniques and materials into capital projects and/or operations and maintenance practices.

#### I. Measuring and Monitoring

- Establish baseline standards, objectives, and metrics for measurement of current practices including but not limited to:
  - Energy usage
  - Conversion to renewable resources
  - Water consumption
  - Waste to landfill
  - Recycling
  - Fuel usage including miles driven
- Continue tracking of recycling levels, waste disposal tonnage, and consumption of electricity, water, and vehicle fuel in all parklands and facilities.
- Develop a "Green Parks" program to incentivize and recognize sustainability-related performance of parks and recreation staff and volunteers to promote awareness of sustainability practices.

#### J. Communication, Education, Interpretation

- Develop interpretive methodology, programs, funding strategies, and partnerships to instill a sustainability ethic in park visitors and Oregon residents. This could include interpretive signage to educate, promote awareness, and create opportunities for volunteerism within parks for the public to be directly involved in the protection and enhancement of the park system.
- Provide sustainability-related interpretation to the public at all staffed facilities, on agency's websites, and through other public information campaigns. Also include sustainability training at ranger in-service trainings and in the Stewardship Certification Program.

#### GOAL 2: Sustainable Communities – Improve Neighborhood and Community Livability; Develop a Vibrant and Equitable Society, and a Healthy Environment.

##### A. Improve Neighborhood and Community Livability

- Evaluate the current service level of parks, recreational facilities and open space areas and increase, if necessary, the ratio of park land to City population, particularly in underserved neighborhoods.
- Develop, maintain, and improve access to public spaces that encourage and develop social interaction.
- Urban Park and Recreation agencies should establish a "Nature in the City" program to increase "wildness" within the parks system and expand human access to intimacy with nature.

- Evaluate, design and, if necessary, retrofit parks and recreational facilities to provide bicycle and pedestrian linkages with other public spaces including schools.
  - Promote gardening within public spaces through the development of a community garden program and encourage the purchase of locally produced foods.
- B. Improve Health and Wellness**
- Evaluate the current level of educational/recreational opportunities and programs on health, nutrition and gardening and increase level to meet the needs of Oregon residents.
  - Work towards the improvement of the health of Oregon residents through access to a diverse mix of wellness activities, education, and healthy foods.
  - To encourage health and fitness and to reduce obesity levels among Oregon residents, agencies should expand opportunities, programs, and activities which provide opportunities for outdoor physical fitness.
  - Develop demonstration gardens at selected parks to encourage and demonstrate the concept of edible landscapes.
- C. Improve and Expand Public Involvement**
- Develop volunteer opportunities so that the public can be involved in the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the natural and open space areas of Oregon parks.
  - To expand public involvement and support, recreation providers are encouraged to seek opportunities for direct and open communication among the Oregon residents and colleagues.
  - Public officials should develop research on sustainability practices and communicate these findings in a manner easily understood by the public.
  - Develop programs such as Forest Stewards to educate, train and involve the public to become directly involved in the protection of parkland and open space areas.

**GOAL 3: Develop Financially Sustainable Parks, Open Space Areas and Recreational Facilities.**

- A. Ensure Long-Term Maintenance of Parks**
- Develop administrative, fiscal, programmatic resources, and financial forecasting to ensure on-going, long-term maintenance and management of publically owned parklands and facilities.
  - Plan for sustainable site maintenance prior to the development of new or renovated sites.
  - Recognize and document sustainability efforts already in use and share accomplishments, cost savings, and the degree of public involvement with public officials and Oregon residents.
  - Support existing private programs dedicated to the care of park systems and encourage creation where appropriate of other private park foundations or open space enhancement programs.

## SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS FOR OPRD-ADMINISTERED GRANT PROGRAMS

Project applicants are encouraged to address the following sustainability recommendations for Land Acquisition, New Facility Development, and Major Rehabilitation grant project proposals. Since trail projects have unique design considerations, a separate set of sustainability recommendations are included for trail projects.

### Land Acquisition Considerations

- Project protects and enhances floodplain functions.
- Land is purchased to prevent or reduce erosion, sedimentation, and/or to improve water quality.
- Land is purchased to protect or restore damaged ecosystems.
- Land is purchased to protect or enhance identified sensitive or endangered species.
- Land is purchased to protect cultural and/or scenic byways.
- Project will involve the removal of non-native invasive species from the site.
- Project will create a diverse set of recreational experiences which are currently unavailable in the local area—addresses an identified unmet need.
- Access to the project site is easily available by foot (1/2 mile), non-motorized vehicles, or public transportation.
- Project will reduce current costs to the public and/or result in an increase in property values.

## New Facility Development Considerations

### Development Projects

- Project protects endangered species, restore habitat, and maximize open space.
- Careful site selection so that new park sites protect existing ecosystems and sensitive habitat areas and utilize in-fills for new developed park locations.
- Project maintains water features, including shorelines and riparian areas to conserve water and other resources.
- Project uses water efficient landscaping and use of native species.
- Project increases the number of native trees.
- Project increases conversion to renewable energy sources
- Project includes the use of solar energy sources for exterior lighting, parking lots, restrooms, etc.
- Project includes the use of a centrally controlled irrigation system.
- Project utilizes recycled water for landscape irrigation.
- Project provides public recycling containers at all developed park and recreation facilities.
- Project involves the control and management of invasive plants found on the site.
- Project is designed to restore damaged ecosystems.
- Project incorporates passive solar heating, daylighting, and natural cooling.
- Project includes gray water collection for landscaping irrigation.
- Project is designed for storm water retention and/or includes partnering with local flood control entities so that the project is designed to contribute to large-scale flood protection efforts.
- Project includes the use of bioswales to handle storm run-off.
- New buildings are a minimum LEED Silver.
- Project involves an appropriate use of pervious or impervious surfaces.

### Activity Based Projects

- Project will provide new access for the public to recreate in sensitive natural/preserved areas using boardwalks, trails, fishing piers, platforms, etc.

- Project will create a diverse set of recreational experiences which are currently unavailable in the local area—addresses an identified unmet need.
- Project will increase public awareness of the benefits of natural/preserved areas with interpretive signs, educational brochures/posters, etc.
- Project includes a Community Garden for local residents to grow edible food products and interact with other local residents.
- Project includes an edible landscape demonstration garden within site.
- Project is designed to encourage physical fitness and reduce the obesity rate among Oregon residents.
- Project will increase equitable distribution of park and recreation facilities and provide for an unmet need.
- Project will provide recreational opportunities for underserved populations.

## Major Rehabilitation Considerations

### Development Projects

- Project increases conversion to renewable energy sources.
- Project includes the use of solar energy sources for exterior lighting, parking lots, restrooms, etc.
- Project reduces energy demand for the park site.
- Project reduces water use and increases plantings of native species.
- Project includes the use of a centrally controlled irrigation system.
- Project utilizes recycled water for landscape irrigation.
- Project provides public recycling containers at all developed park and recreation facilities.
- Project involves the control and management of invasive plants found on the site.
- Project increases the number of native trees.
- Project is designed to restore damaged ecosystems.
- Project incorporates passive solar heating, daylighting, and natural cooling.
- Project includes gray water collection for landscaping irrigation.
- Project includes the use of bioswales and is designed for storm water retention and/or includes partnering with local flood control entities so that the project is designed to contribute to large-scale

flood protection efforts.

- Project includes the use of redeveloped buildings that are a minimum LEED Silver.
- Project involves an appropriate use of pervious or impervious surfaces.

### Activity Based Projects

- Project will provide new access for the public to recreate in sensitive natural/preserved areas using boardwalks, trails, fishing piers, platforms, etc.
- Project will increase public awareness of the benefits of natural/preserved areas with interpretive signs, educational brochures/posters, etc.
- Project will increase equitable distribution of park and recreation facilities and provide for an unmet need.
- Project provides the opportunity to enhance physical, mental, and social well-being as a result of interaction with nature.
- Project includes development of interactive areas such as a community garden, natural play area, or other such facility, for local residents to grow edible food products and interact with other local residents.
- Project includes edible landscape demonstration gardens within site.
- Project is designed to encourage physical fitness and reduce the obesity rate among Oregon residents.
- Project will create a diverse set of recreational experiences which are currently unavailable in the local area—addresses an identified unmet need.

## Trail Considerations

### Development Projects

- Project involves an appropriate use of pervious or impervious surfaces.
- Trail will require less maintenance through sound construction techniques and using materials designed for long term self-sustaining use and by using on-site materials as much as possible. This may include alignment using natural topography, hydrologic techniques, and proper slope of and around the trail.
- Trail design and alignment to reduce water runoff and water retention on the trail tread.

### Activity Based Projects

- Trail is designed for alternative transportation including bicycle storage, changing rooms and plug-in facilities for electric vehicles.
- Trail route will improve linkages to and between Federal trail systems, neighborhood, community and regional trails, community parks and other public facilities, scenic overlooks, historical sites, rivers/lakes, local communities and/or promote safe routes to schools.
- Project includes the development of a portion of a regionally significant trail which is part of a larger trail system and has the benefit of increased economic activity through recreational concessions.
- Project will provide new access for the public to recreate in sensitive natural/preserved areas using boardwalks, trails, fishing piers, platforms, etc.
- Project will increase public awareness of the benefits of natural/preserved areas with interpretive signs, educational brochures/posters, etc.
- A trail project that includes the development of multi-use trails. The applicant must identify which of the trail user groups included will be allowed to use the trail.

# Top Statewide Outdoor Recreation Issues and Strategic Actions

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a description of the most significant issues effecting outdoor recreation provision in the state of Oregon. It also provides a framework for collective action in addressing these issues for the next five years.

Early in the planning process, OPRD conducted a needs assessment survey of public recreation providers in the state. A set of questions allowed respondents to rate the level of importance of issues effecting recreation provision in the state. Survey results were presented to members of the SCORP Advisory Committee during the May 6, 2011 meeting. A voting process was used to identify the following list of top statewide issues to address in the plan:

- Provide adequate funds for routine and preventative maintenance and repair of facilities.
- Fund major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities at the end of their useful life.
- Add more recreational trails and better trail connectivity between parks and communities.
- Recognize and strengthen park and recreation's role in increasing physical activity in Oregon's population.
- Recommend a standard set of sustainable park practices for outdoor recreation providers.

A set of strategic actions for addressing each statewide issue were finalized during the January 31, 2013 SCORP Advisory Committee meeting.

### Statewide Issue 1: Provide adequate funds for routine and preventative maintenance and repair of facilities.

The need for adequate funding for routine and preventative maintenance and repair of facilities was identified as the top statewide issue by close-to-home recreation providers in the recreation provider survey. It was also a top statewide issue in the 2003-2007 Oregon SCORP. A slowing economy, increasing fuel prices, higher priorities for funding (e.g., transportation, health, and education), and stagnant or declining tax revenues have contributed to park budgeting challenges as they attempt to continue providing recreation services for a

growing and changing population. According to recreation providers, continued heavy use and inadequate maintenance are taking a toll on our outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure across the state.

A 2012 survey of Oregon public recreation providers conducted by OPRD identified that 27% of the state's outdoor recreation providers experienced a reduction in their department's current budget from the previous fiscal year, while 35% stayed the same, and 38% had an increase. The primary reason for budget reductions was loss of general funding. For those with decreasing budgets, the top strategies used to reduce expenses included reducing park maintenance levels (71%), delaying capital projects (71%), receiving grants (59%), and reducing staff (53%).

**Table 17. Revenue Sources for Funding of Park Operations**

Revenue Source	Percent of Providers Using Source
General Funds	78%
Recreation Fees/Charges	57%
Grants	57%
Volunteers & Donations	53%
Intergovernmental Agreements	27%
Tax Levies	25%
Concessions	25%
Intergovernmental Transfers	21%
Sponsorships	16%

Agencies across the state have attempted to reduce tax subsidies through fee increases, sponsorships, grants and other alternative funding sources. The survey identified that park providers in Oregon currently use a number of revenue sources for funding park operations (Table 17). The public is very reluctant to increase taxes and the restrictions imposed by statewide initiatives make raising taxes and gaining voter approval on bond measures or levies difficult. However, replacement funding is often difficult to secure, requiring the elimination or reduction of services. Strategic partnerships, corrective legislation, accelerated parks and recreation benefits marketing, and increased or additional revenue



sources are necessary to maintain service provision and existing facilities and infrastructure.

Strategic actions for addressing this issue include:

**ACTION 1.1:** OPRD will expand current small community planning grant funding for county, community, or site-specific park and recreation plans through the Local Grant Program to include funding for park system maintenance and financial planning.

**ACTION 1.2:** OPRD will explore developing a statewide volunteer program (similar to the Oregon Heritage MentorCorps program) for professional park and recreation volunteers to provide information and assistance for county, community, or site-specific park and recreation planning and park system operation, maintenance and financial planning.

**ACTION 1.3:** Oregon's park and recreation providers should develop system-wide maintenance plans that include an inventory of park amenities/facilities; major rehabilitation projects needed; routine maintenance schedules for grounds, facilities and structures; budgets for major rehabilitation projects and routine maintenance; and funding available for improvements and routine maintenance. OPRD will provide additional priority for grant applicants that submit a system-wide maintenance plan.

**ACTION 1.4:** Each public-sector recreation provider in the state should evaluate whether current facilities are consistent with desires and values the public feels for an area through a process including public feedback. If the recreation area/facility is no longer relevant - a change in recreational use should be identified (e.g., removal of obsolete facility and replacement with currently needed facility).

**ACTION 1.5:** Oregon's park and recreation providers will use sustainability recommendations from the SCORP support document, *Developing Sustainable Park Systems in Oregon*, to reduce operation and maintenance costs.

**ACTION 1.6:** Establish regional working groups including representatives from federal, state, county, and local agencies, tribal governments and other stakeholders to identify opportunities for inter-agency partnerships to reduce operation and maintenance costs.

**ACTION 1.7:** OPRD will hold a statewide partnership forum at an upcoming Oregon Recreation and Park Association (ORPA) Conference to identify opportunities for inter-agency partnerships, help local providers work together, and seek ways to integrate OPRD-administered

grant programs into broader efforts to generate more effective linkages between local outdoor recreation efforts and other community development goals - economic development, livability, human health, environmental stability and conservation, community identity, and cultural preservation and enhancement.

**ACTION 1.8:** Public and recreation-focused nonprofit organizations should work together to identify more stable sources of financial and in-kind support for all local, county and state recreation programs. In addition to providing slightly more stable operation and maintenance and major rehabilitation funding for park providers, funding should be used to address the needs of a growing number of non-motorized boaters and those involved in nature and wildlife observation, bird watching, and outdoor photography.

**ACTION 1.9:** Local park and recreation providers will review the updated SCORP list of funding sources to identify potential new grant funding sources for operation and maintenance. See page 115 of the *Guide to Community Park and Recreation Planning For Oregon Communities*.

**ACTION 1.10:** Oregon's park and recreation providers should use SCORP survey results regarding Oregon resident opinions about value and deliver of benefits by park and recreation agencies to develop messages and communication tools to use locally to build political, community and financial support for their individual organizations.

**ACTION 1.11:** Oregon's park and recreation providers and associations such as ORPA and the Oregon Parks Association (OPA) will consider using value and delivery of benefits results to support a parks and recreation marketing effort similar to the California Park and Recreation Society's "Building the Brand" project at the statewide level.

## **Statewide Issue 2: Fund major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities at the end of their useful life.**

The need for funding for major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities at the end of their useful life was identified as a top statewide issue by both close-to-home and dispersed-area recreation providers in the statewide recreation provider survey. The issue was also a top statewide issue in the 2003-2007 Oregon SCORP.

For SCORP planning purposes, major rehabilitation projects involve the restoration or partial reconstruc-

tion of eligible recreation areas and facilities, which is necessitated by one or more of the following:

- the recreation area or facility is beyond its normal life expectancy,
- the recreation area or facility is destroyed by fire, natural disaster or vandalism,
- the recreation area or facility does not meet health and safety codes/requirements,
- the recreation area or facility requires rehabilitation to ensure critical natural resource protection,
- the recreation area or facility does not meet access requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and
- changing recreation needs (e.g., changes in demographics within the service area) dictate a change in the type of recreation area or facility provided.

The recreation provider survey included a question, “If grant funds were available for acquiring lands, developing facilities, rehabilitating facilities, or staffing, in what percentages would you allocate these funds?” Survey results are compared with actual 2000-2010 OPRD-administered grant program (total LWCF, Local Grant, & Recreation Trails Program) distributions in Table 18. Survey results show that Oregon’s recreation providers would prefer more grant funding for major rehabilitation projects than any other project funding type - even more than new facility development. Past grant funding shows that facility rehabilitation / replacement projects received only ten percent of grant funding compared to 68% for new facility development. It appears that a much greater investment is needed in major rehabilitation projects to protect

and upgrade existing outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure in the state.

A 2012 report focusing on deferred maintenance in Oregon’s County Parks found that county park systems across the state have a large backlog of deferred maintenance. The 21 counties that replied to a survey documented 924 deferred maintenance projects (most with a cost of \$5,000 or more), costing an estimated \$81 million. The cost of deferred maintenance is nearly four times the annual budget of county park systems. The report stated that the backlog of deferred maintenance projects is a major hurdle to county parks becoming self-supporting and if left unaddressed, deferred maintenance issues may make park facilities unavailable for use.

Strategic actions for addressing this issue include:

**ACTION 2.1:** OPRD will provide additional priority for grant requests for major rehabilitation projects. Examples of major rehabilitation projects include trail restoration after natural disasters, sewer system replacement, potable water system replacement, and converting old restroom facilities to satisfy current ADA standards.

**ACTION 2.2:** Each public-sector recreation provider in the state should evaluate whether current facilities are consistent with desires and values the public feels for an area through a process including public feedback. If the recreation area/facility is no longer relevant - a change in recreational use should be identified (e.g., removal of obsolete facility and replacement with currently needed facility).

**ACTION 2.3:** Oregon’s park and recreation providers will use sustainability recommendations from the SCORP support document, Developing Sustainable Park Systems in Oregon, when considering major rehabilitation projects to reduce ongoing operation and maintenance costs.

**ACTION 2.4:** Public and recreation-focused nonprofit organizations should work together to identify more stable sources of financial and in-kind support for all local, county and state recreation programs. (See Action 1.8).

**ACTION 2.5:** Measure the effectiveness of the effort to

**Table 18. Grant Funding Allocations: Preferred vs. Actual**

Grant Project Type	Average % Preferred by Providers	Actual 2000-2010 LWCF, Local, RTP Distribution
Facility rehabilitation / replacement	27%	10%
New facility development / new amenities	22%	68%
Routine maintenance	16%	-
Land acquisition	12%	21%
New program development	7%	-
Natural resource protection	6%	-
Environmental education	3%	-
Cultural resource protection	3%	-
Other	1%	-

substantially reduce the backlog of outdoor recreation areas and facilities in need of major rehabilitation using the methodology described in the 2003-2007 Oregon SCORP.

### **Statewide Issue 3: Add more recreational trails and better trail connectivity between parks and communities.**

The need for more non-motorized recreational trails and better trail connectivity between parks and communities was identified as a top statewide issue by both close-to-home and dispersed-area recreation providers in the statewide recreation provider survey. It was also a top statewide issue in the 2003-2007 Oregon SCORP and the 2005-2014 Oregon Non-motorized Trails Plan.

During a period from 2000 to 2010, approximately one quarter of the combined LWCF, Local Government and Recreation Trails Program funding went to trail projects in Oregon. Results of the recreation provider survey identified close-to-home statewide funding need for community trail systems, acquisition of trail corridors and right of ways, and trails connected to public lands. Top dispersed-area statewide priority was identified for acquisition of trail corridors and right of ways. Despite this substantial grant funding investment, there remains an ongoing need for non-motorized trail development in the state to accommodate a growing user base.

SCORP statewide resident survey results show that close-to-home activities dominate the total user occasions for Oregon residents since these activities can occur on a daily basis with limited travel time. Besides walking, bicycling and jogging on local streets / sidewalks; top outdoor activities include walking on local trails / paths, dog walking, and bicycling on paved trails. Recreational planners should note the high public priority for dirt and other soft surfaced walking trails and paths and off-street bicycle trails and pathways. Such close-to-home facility investments will maximize everyday use by local residents and encourage participation by current non-participants who identified lack of time as the primary reason for not participating in outdoor recreation in 2011.

As in previous statewide plans, recreation providers consistently report the need for non-motorized trail connectivity within their regions. According to recreation providers, trail connectivity involves linking urban trails to outlying Federal trail systems; linking neighborhood, community and regional trails; connecting community parks and other recreational and public

facilities; connecting parks to supporting services and facilities; and connecting neighboring communities (e.g., Ashland to Medford); and providing alternative transportation routes. Recreation providers feel that increasing non-motorized trail connectivity will result in better use of the state's existing non-motorized trail infrastructure and provide more trail opportunities.

Strategic actions for addressing this issue include:

- ACTION 3.1:** OPRD will provide additional priority for trail-related grant requests satisfying priority needs identified through a local trails or park planning process.
- ACTION 3.2:** OPRD will provide additional priority for trail-related grant requests making significant contributions to local and regional trail systems providing trail connectivity.
- ACTION 3.3:** OPRD will develop an updated Statewide Trails Plan with input from federal, state, special district, county and municipal providers and advocacy groups.
- ACTION 3.4:** Establish regional working groups (e.g., Coos Regional Trails Partnership, Metro Trails Forum) including representatives from trail organizations, federal, state, and local agencies, tribal governments and other stakeholders, to work in cooperation with managing agencies in trail planning, funding, and design to facilitate the identification of multi-jurisdictional priorities.
- ACTION 3.5:** Oregon's recreation providers will improve the accessibility and use of trails by using information from the publication "Guidelines for Providing Trail Recreation to People With Disabilities" published by the Access Recreation Committee and Independent Living Resources. The publication is available online at <http://accessrecreation.org/>
- ACTION 3.6:** OPRD will approach the "Oregon Community Foundation" to investigate interest in developing a grant program for funding trail planning, construction and maintenance projects.
- ACTION 3.7:** Oregon's recreation providers will make greater use of transportation rights-of-way and public utility and irrigation easements for recreational trail development.
- ACTION 3.8:** Oregon's park and recreation providers will continue to develop water trails on public waterways throughout the state.

#### **Statewide Issue 4: Recognize and strengthen park and recreation's role in increasing physical activity in Oregon's population.**

The need to recognize and strengthen park and recreation's role in increasing physical activity in Oregon's population was identified as a top statewide issue by close-to-home recreation providers in the statewide recreation provider survey. It was also a top statewide issue in the 2008-2012 Oregon SCORP.

Today's obesity epidemic is a leading health concern. A large number of deaths, serious illnesses, disabilities, and health care costs are attributable to risk factors such as obesity. Health concerns such as these emphasize the essential role that regular physical activity and healthy eating plays in reducing the risk for obesity and related health consequences. Park and recreation provide a convenient and cost-effective way for individuals to access physical activity opportunities, and lead a more active and healthy lifestyle.

Public facilities such as trails, swimming pools and parks that are conveniently located have been found to be positively associated with vigorous physical activity in a number of studies, among both adults and children. By providing facilities and programs which encourage physical activity and healthy eating, parks and recreation providers can directly contribute to the battle on physical inactivity, obesity, and rising health costs in Oregon.

Strategic actions for addressing this issue include:

**ACTION 4.1:** Park and recreation providers should support the development of close-to-home recreation facilities, including non-motorized trails, and promote their use by providing information about them and other existing resources.

**ACTION 4.2:** OPRD will provide additional priority for close-to-home non-motorized trail acquisition and development grant requests. Support for close-to-home non-motorized trail development is a key recommendation included in the 2007 SCORP Health and Recreation Linkages study. According to the report, trails provide an important opportunity for people to be physically active. Accessibility is one of the primary attributes of trails, including distance from home. The study identified that urban trail density was positively associated with physical activity rates and that trail activities were positively associated with physical activity rates and negatively associated with obesity rates within the Oregon population.

**ACTION 4.3:** Park and recreation providers are encouraged to apply for trail-related projects within public rights-of-way through the Oregon Department of Transportation's Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Program and to work with grant staff to strengthen project applications.

**ACTION 4.4:** Park and recreation providers will work with the health community to provide increased access to physical activity opportunities by underserved populations.

**ACTION 4.5:** Park and recreation providers will work to increase the number of trailheads with mass transit connections.

**ACTION 4.6:** Oregon's local park and recreation providers will become strong advocates for the development of walkable communities. National programs such as Walk Friendly Communities (<http://www.walkfriendly.org/>) and America Walks (<http://americawalks.org/>) provide guidance for such efforts.

**ACTION 4.7:** Oregon's local park and recreation providers should consider auditing local parks for their potential to promote youth physical activity using the Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT) evaluation system. The CPAT was originally developed and tested in summer and fall 2010 in Kansas City, Missouri. Development of the CPAT was supported by a grant from Active Living Research, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The following are links to the audit tool and its guide:

([http://web.missouri.edu/~wilhelmstaniss/KCParks-PA/Audit\\_Tool\\_files/cpat\\_5\\_2\\_2011.pdf](http://web.missouri.edu/~wilhelmstaniss/KCParks-PA/Audit_Tool_files/cpat_5_2_2011.pdf))

([http://web.missouri.edu/~wilhelmstaniss/KCParks-PA/Audit\\_Tool\\_files/cpat\\_guidebook\\_5\\_2\\_2011.pdf](http://web.missouri.edu/~wilhelmstaniss/KCParks-PA/Audit_Tool_files/cpat_guidebook_5_2_2011.pdf))

**ACTION 4.8:** Park and recreation providers should promote the overall health benefits of being active via outdoor recreation. The SCORP survey included Oregon resident opinions about value and delivery of benefits by park and recreation agencies. At the statewide level, the benefit rated highest on value and delivery was improving physical health and fitness.

**ACTION 4.9:** Park and recreation providers and associations such as ORPA and the Oregon Parks Association (OPA) will consider launching a statewide educational/ awareness campaign to promote the health benefits of recreation and active recreation opportunities in Oregon's outdoors.

**ACTION 4.10:** Using guidance from the Institute at the

Golden Gate publication “Food For the Parks: A Roadmap to Success,” Oregon’s park and recreation providers are encouraged to implement sustainable and healthy food practices within their food service provision (in-house food services, vending machines, and concession programs). The report is available online at: <http://parkshealthguide.org/resources/food-for-the-parks-a-roadmap-to-success>

**ACTION 4.11:** Oregon’s park and recreation providers will continue to develop community gardens throughout the state. Community gardens offer physical and mental health benefits by providing opportunities to engage in physical activity, skill building, and creating open space. Studies have shown that community gardeners and their children eat healthier, more nutrient rich diets than do non-gardening families.

### **Statewide Issue 5: Recommend a standard set of sustainable park practices for outdoor recreation providers.**

In recent years, the concept of sustainability has been emerging due to significant concerns regarding the unintended social, environmental, and economic consequences of population and economic growth and the consumption of our natural resources. The 1987 United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development’s report, “Our Common Future”, defines sustainability as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” More recently the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stated that sustainability is based on a simple principal: Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. Sustainability creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations.

The need to provide outdoor recreation providers with sustainable park practices recommendations was identified as a top statewide issue by the SCORP Steering Committee. The OPRD is a strong proponent of sustainable parks, sometimes called Green Parks. The overall goal of Sustainable Parks is to promote the use of sustainable practices, maximize the useful life of buildings and park facilities, and enhance the natural environment.

The OPRD encourages park and recreation providers to build sustainable communities by improving neighborhood and community livability and improving the health and wellness of Oregon residents. In addition, park and

recreation providers should strive to develop financially sustainable parks by ensuring long-term operation and maintenance of park systems (see Action items 1.1- 1.6).

The following strategic actions are summarized from an Oregon SCORP support document entitled, Developing Sustainable Park Systems in Oregon. This support document is included in the disk at the back of the plan and is available online at:

[http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/docs/scorp/2013-2018\\_SCORP/Developing\\_Sustainable\\_Park\\_Systems.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/docs/scorp/2013-2018_SCORP/Developing_Sustainable_Park_Systems.pdf)

Strategic actions for addressing this issue include:

**ACTION 5.1:** Oregon’s park and recreation providers will use sustainable development practices that reduce energy demand, increase conversion to renewable energy sources, improve vehicle efficiencies and reduce vehicle use, reduce water use and increase planting of native species, improve waste management and increase utilization of on-site composting, improve the natural environment and habitat, reduce material resources and increase the use of environmentally preferred products, use sustainable building practices and materials, measure and monitor sustainability efforts, and develop communication, education, and interpretive materials on sustainability for park visitors.

**ACTION 5.2:** OPRD will provide additional priority in grant programs for projects addressing sustainability recommendations included in Chapter Seven (pages 138-140) under the heading “Sustainability Recommendations for OPRD-Administered Grant Programs.”

**ACTION 5.3:** Oregon’s park and recreation providers will use materials from the SCORP support document Developing Sustainable Park Systems in Oregon including the Self-Assessment Sustainable Park and Recreation Practices Score Card (starting on page 35) to assess their current sustainability efforts, the Sustainability Performance Improvement System Recommendations (starting on page 32) to develop and implement a sustainability program within their organization, and the Sustainable Guidelines Checklist (starting on page 45) to incorporate sustainable practices in design, construction, and maintenance of park projects.

**ACTION 5.4:** To insure long-term sustainability of the LWCF program in Oregon, OPRD will apply for a LWCF grant to develop GIS mapping for all previously funded LWCF grant projects in the state.

# LWCF Open Project Selection Process Review and Scoring

## CHAPTER NINE

### INTRODUCTION

As a requirement of federal regulations, Oregon has developed an Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) that provides objective criteria and standards for grant selection that are explicitly based on Oregon’s priority needs for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation resources as identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The OPSP is the connection between SCORP and the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants to assist in meeting high priority outdoor recreation resource needs. The OPSP assures equal opportunity for all eligible project applicants and all sectors of the general public to participate in the benefits of the LWCF State Assistance Program and to affirmatively address and meet priority recreation needs. Oregon has developed a priority rating system for selecting projects that ensures the fair and equitable evaluation of all projects and a project selection process which evaluates and selects projects on the basis of quality and conformance with its priority rating system.

Above right is a summary of the LWCF OPSP criteria point distribution.

### 1. Pre-Application Review

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) will support high-quality outdoor recreation grant projects that have a reasonable likelihood of being funded. Project applicants are encouraged to contact OPRD grant staff with questions regarding the LWCF grant application process. New applicants who have not received prior LWCF funding are encouraged to participate in the program. Due to the large number of requests for LWCF funds, OPRD staff will review submitted pre-applications to determine if the project applicant and proposed project meets minimum requirements for LWCF grant funding. No scoring points will be awarded for the pre-application review. The following are factors that will be considered in the pre-application review.

A. Grant Performance and Compliance. The success-

CRITERIA TYPE	Possible Points
1. Pre-Application	0
2. SCORP Criteria	
A. Consistency With Statewide Priorities	0-20
B. Local Needs And Benefits	0-30
C. Long-Term Commitment To Maintenance	0-15
3. Overall Site Suitability Criteria	0-10
4. Community Support and Financial Commitment Criteria	
A. Community Support	0-5
B. Financial Commitment	0-10
5. Discretionary Committee Criteria	0-10
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>100</b>

ful completion of projects in a timely and efficient manner is an important goal of the LWCF grant program. A project applicant’s past performance in effectively meeting the administrative guidelines of the program is also an important factor in evaluating performance and compliance.

- a. The project applicant is on schedule with all active OPRD-administered grant projects. (See Compliance Schedule in Section 2 of the LWCF Manual)
  - b. The project applicant is in compliance with applicable guidelines at previously assisted project sites (e.g., no unresolved conversions, overhead utility lines, maintenance issues or public access restrictions).
- OR
- c. The project applicant has never received an OPRD-administered grant.
- B. General Project Suitability/Minimum Program Requirements. Since LWCF grant funding is limited, OPRD wants to ensure that all proposed projects are a good fit with the intent of the program and meet minimum program requirements.
- a. Is the project a good fit for this particular grant program? If not, is there another grant program that would provide a better fit?
  - b. Is the project’s budget well researched and complete? Does it anticipate the time needed to navigate the application process and complete the project?

- c. Is the scope of work appropriate and complete? Does it follow “best practices” and incorporate the use of proven materials and products?
  - d. Has the applicant demonstrated that they are capable of completing a project of this size and scope?
  - e. Has the applicant demonstrated that this project is a priority in their community, that it has strong public support, and that an adequate public process has been followed in selecting it?
- C. **Accessibility Compliance.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a law ensuring equal access to park and recreational facilities and services. In Oregon, there is a need for the retrofitting of existing facilities constructed before current ADA accessibility requirements were in place.
- a. The project applicant has provided evidence of a board or city council adopted/approved ADA Transition Plan and/or Self Certification.
- D. **Readiness To Proceed.** OPRD intends to ensure that available LWCF grant funds are used in a timely manner and appropriate local land use and consistent zoning is applied to the property once funding is awarded to a project applicant.
- a. **Planning / Design Status.** The project applicant has demonstrated, through sufficient documentation:
    - Land use compatibility (by providing a land use compatibility statement).
    - Construction or concept plan completed.
  - b. **Acquisition Status\*.** The project applicant has demonstrated, through sufficient documentation:
    - Completed appraisal.
    - Proof of willing seller or donor.
    - Land use compatibility by providing a land use compatibility statement.
    - Can the sponsor demonstrate adequate legal ability to ensure the site is managed for public outdoor recreation purposes in perpetuity?

*\*Note: Acquisition Status does not apply to rehab/development projects.*

### Technical Review

As part of the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant evaluation process, OPRD and National Park Service (NPS) grant personnel conduct a technical review of all grant applications. Each submitted grant application packet will need to include all of the materials requested in Section 2 (The Application) of the current Land and Water Conserva-

tion Fund Oregon Grants Manual. Ineligible or incomplete applications will be returned to the project applicant with an explanation of why their application was returned.

### Project Priority Scoring System

Projects presented to OPRD for grant funding and that satisfy the requirements of the pre-application and technical reviews will be scored by Oregon Outdoor Recreation Committee (OORC) members according to the criteria, rating factors, and points shown in the following “Project Priority Scoring System.” A project’s final score will be calculated as an average of the sum of all individual committee member scores. The highest possible score for a project will be 100 points. Sixty five of the 100 possible points are tied to specific priorities identified in the 2013-2017 Oregon SCORP. The priority rank of a project will depend on its score relative to other projects and in relation to the amount of LWCF grant funds available each year.

### 2. SCORP Criteria (0-65 Points)

OORC members will determine a value from 0 to 65 points based on the information provided by the applicant for addressing one or more of the four SCORP priorities, demonstrating that the project satisfies high priority needs identified within their jurisdiction through the SCORP needs assessment or local planning efforts, and demonstrating a commitment to long-term maintenance for the recreation area/facility.

- A. **Consistency With Statewide Priorities (0-20 points).** To what extent does the project address one or more LWCF priorities identified in SCORP? The 2013-2017 SCORP identifies four priorities for LWCF grant support:
  - a. **Major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities at the end of their useful life.** Major rehabilitation projects involve the restoration or partial reconstruction of eligible recreation areas and facilities, which is necessitated by one or more of the following:
    - the recreation area or facility is beyond its normal life expectancy,
    - the recreation area or facility is destroyed by fire, natural disaster or vandalism,
    - the recreation area or facility does not meet health and safety codes/requirements,
    - the recreation area or facility requires rehabilitation to ensure critical natural resource protection,
    - the recreation area or facility does not meet access requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and

- changing recreation needs (e.g., changes in demographics within the service area) dictate a change in the type of recreation area or facility provided.
- b. Non-motorized trail projects satisfying priority needs identified through a local trails or park planning process and trail projects making significant contributions to local and regional trail systems providing trail connectivity. Trail connectivity involves linking urban trails to outlying Federal trail systems; linking neighborhood, community and regional trails; connecting community parks and other recreational and public facilities; connecting parks to supporting services and facilities; connecting neighboring communities (e.g., Ashland to Medford); and providing alternative transportation routes.
- c. Projects supporting or providing a base for individual active participation. “Active” means those forms of recreation that rely predominantly on human muscles, and includes walking, sports of all kinds, bicycling, running, and other activities that help people achieve currently accepted recommendations for physical activity levels. If the project does not include specific active recreation facilities, please explain how the project will promote physical activity by improving access to such facilities.
- d. Projects addressing sustainability recommendations for OPRD-administered grant programs included in SCORP Chapter Seven (pages 115-117). Recommendations are included for land acquisition, new facility development, major rehabilitation, and trail projects.
- B. Local Needs and Benefits (0-30 points). Project applicants are strongly encouraged to develop project applications that meet high priority needs of their jurisdiction. Need can be demonstrated through results of the SCORP needs assessments (item a below), coordinated, long-range planning with a minimum of a 5-year planning horizon (item b below), or through a substantive public involvement process (item c below). If the project isn’t identified as a county-level need by the SCORP needs assessment, local need should be demonstrated through the project’s inclusion in a current local planning document, or by describing the project’s public involvement process.
- a. The 2013-2017 Oregon SCORP effort included a county-level analysis to identify priority projects using the following two methods. Please identify if the project satisfies county-level needs identified by one or both of these methods.
- Public recreation provider identified need. The first method involved a survey of Oregon public recreation providers to identify priority projects for the distribution of LWCF funds for both close-to-home areas (located within an urban growth boundary (UGB), unincorporated community boundary, or a Tribal Community) and for dispersed areas (located outside of these boundaries). Data were collected and analyzed to identify need for each of Oregon’s 36 counties. Results are included in SCORP Chapter Five. If the project is located within a UGB, unincorporated community boundary, or a Tribal community use the close-to-home area priorities. Projects outside of these areas will use the dispersed-area priorities. A map clearly identifying the project location and UGB or unincorporated community boundary or Tribal community boundary drawn on it must be submitted.
  - Oregon resident identified need. The second method was a component of the statewide survey of Oregon residents. Residents were asked to rate several items for investment by park and forest agencies using a 5-point Likert scale (1=Lowest priority need to 5=Highest priority need). Top priority needs are identified for each of Oregon’s 36 counties in SCORP Chapter Five.
- b. The extent to which the project will satisfy priority needs, as identified in a current local planning document (park and recreation master plan, city or county comprehensive plan, trails master plan, transportation system plan or a bicycle and pedestrian plan).
- c. If the project is not included in a current local planning document, describe the public involvement effort that led to the selection of the project including citizen involvement through public workshops, public meetings, surveys, and local citizen advisory committees during the project’s planning process.
- C. Long-Term Commitment to Maintenance. (0-15 points). According to recreation providers, continued heavy use and inadequate maintenance are taking a toll on our outdoor recreation facilities and infrastructure across the state. Many jurisdictions are reporting reductions in department budgets and park maintenance levels. As a result, it is critical that once a recreation area/facility is built or rehabilitat-



ed, the provider puts a priority on maintaining the area/facility at a level that will ensure it does not slip into needing major rehabilitation and that the state is properly investing limited resources in providing long term, high quality recreation opportunities.

- a. The applicant should carefully explain how they plan to continue area/facility operation and maintenance after the project is complete by providing the following information:
  - How will the project's future maintenance be funded? A Resolution to Apply submitted with your application should address funding for on-going operation and maintenance for this project. Please include specific maintenance funding sources such as tax levies, fee increases, and other funding sources which will be used.
  - How much do you expect to spend annually or number of hours needed to maintain?
  - What degree of commitment do you have?
  - Do you have partnerships with other agencies or volunteer maintenance? Where appropriate provide documentation such as letters of support from volunteer organizations, cooperative agreements, donations, private project applicant support letters, or signed memoranda of understanding to demonstrate commitment to maintenance should be provided.
  - Will this project reduce maintenance needs and costs?

### 3. Overall Site Suitability Criteria (0-10 Points)

OORC committee members will determine a value from 0 to 10 points based on the information provided by the applicant related to site and design suitability.

- A. Site and Design Suitability Evaluation (0-10 points). To what extent is the site suitable for the proposed development? Also, describe the extent to which the site or project design minimizes negative impacts on the environment and surrounding neighborhood and integrates sustainable elements.

### 4. Community Support and Financial Commitment Criteria (0-15 Points)

OORC committee members will determine a value from 0 to 15 points based on information provided by the applicant related to the degree to which the project demonstrates broad community support and that financing for the project is in place for successful completion.

- A. Community Support (0-5 points). Project applicants should demonstrate community support for the project by providing information such as letters of support and/or survey analysis.
- B. Financial Commitment (0-10 points). Project applicants should demonstrate that finances are available for the project by showing agency budget information or other documents demonstrating financial commitment to the project. What is the source of local matching funds? Project applicants are encouraged to develop project applications involving partnerships between the project applicant, other agencies, or non-profit organizations. Project applicants are also encouraged to demonstrate solid financial commitment to providing necessary project maintenance and upkeep. To what extent does the project involve partnerships with other agencies or groups? Is the funding from other agencies or groups guaranteed? To what extent are local matching funds available? What is the local commitment to the project from the local community through donations? To what extent has enough money been budgeted to successfully complete the work?

*Note: Donations of land, cash, labor, equipment or materials cannot occur until written authorization to proceed has been received from OPRD.*

### 5. Discretionary Committee Member Criteria (0-10 Points)

The OORC membership is representative of state geographic regions, agencies and communities. This assessment allows committee members to bring their knowledge of statewide and local recreation patterns, resources, and needs into consideration. The determination of points awarded is an individual decision, based on informed judgment. OORC committee members will determine a value from 0 to 10 points. Applicants do not need to provide any additional material for this committee member review.









Download the report online at: <http://tinyurl.com/k68w43v>



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