

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

September 18, 2024

Agenda Item: 7e Information

Public Comment Allowed: Yes

Topic: Master Plan for State Parks in Curry County

Presented by: Jenna Marmon, Planning and Design Lead
Haley Cox, Long Range Planner

Background:

State Park Master Planning is a critical function of OPRD, allowing for time and resources to complete a robust inventory of current conditions and set a vision for the next 20 years for our properties and programs. The State Park Master Planning process is outlined in Oregon Administrative Rule and must include a thorough assessment of park natural and cultural resources, forestry, recreation facilities, and interpretive programs. Other considerations include property acquisition/disposition, demand and capacity for new and different recreational amenities, scenic resources, climate hazards, and management goals. A Steering Committee of key partners, integration with local government planning staff, and robust public engagement are also critical to the park master planning process.

The current Curry County State Parks Master Plan (<https://tinyurl.com/2003curryparksplan>) was completed in 2003. OPRD initiated an update to the plan prior to the pandemic with acquisition of lidar data, aerial imagery, and completion of a vegetation and wildlife assessment for the Harris Beach Management Unit. The project was re-ignited in Spring 2024 following a discussion with county government and the public about the possibility of leasing a portion of a state park to the county for management, and a new project team of planners, resource specialists, park managers, and other field experts has been established.

The Department is currently undertaking significant field work to complete the resource assessments in-house. The project area includes over 9,000 acres across 18 park sites in two OPRD Management Units (Harris Beach and Cape Blanco). Outreach to federally recognized tribes in Oregon, Curry County staff, ODOT, and other partners who may participate in the Steering Committee is also underway. The first public engagement open house for the project is tentatively scheduled for late October, with in-person and online options anticipated. The project is expected to occur throughout 2024 and 2025, with a request for plan adoption by the commission and county targeted for early 2026.

Prior Action by Commission: Adoption of Curry County State Parks Master Plan ~2003.

Action Requested: No Action

Attachments: No Attachments

Prepared by: Haley Cox, Long Range Planner