Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

November 20, 2024

Agenda Item: 5c Action

Public Comment Allowed: Yes

Topic: Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area Transfer

Presented by: Matt Rippee, Deputy Director Field & Community Services

Background:

Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area is a 110-acre property in Polk County.

The park was developed and opened as part of the Park-A-Year program under Governor Kulongoski, in 2006.

This historic site has been the focus of archaeological research associated with the Coast Range fort and restoration of the one building on-site dating to the fort's active period—the officer's quarters.

The park surrounded by lands that are owned and managed by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (CTGRCO), and the CTGRCO assisted OPRD in developing interpretive material. Their adjacent lands are used for community events and functions.

In June 2023, OPRD and CTGRCO entered into a Memorandum of Understanding that created a formal agreement that memorializes the basis, intention and collaborative effort to protect and manage Ft. Yamhill. Since that time, the two parties have worked cooperatively to manage Ft. Yamhill with the intent to eventually transfer the property from OPRD to CTGRCO.

The arrangement has been very successful. Operations are going well; CTGRCO would like to assume ownership and use the site as a hub for celebration in addition to keeping the property open to visitors. OPRD and CTGRCO are committed to an ongoing relationship.

Department staff have completed due diligence associated with a no-cost transfer of land.

Prior Action by Commission: September 2022 Informational; June 2024 Informational

Action Requested: Transfer Ft. Yamhill State Heritage Area to the CTGRCO

Attachments: 5c - Attachment A - Map

Prepared by: Matt Rippee

Fort Yamhill SHS

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Attachment A



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