

2015



# Oregon State Parks Columbia River Gorge Management Units Plan

*Columbia Roll On* by Slater Smith

Where the Ponderosa spires  
Reach far into the sky  
**Where the floods of ancient times**  
Carved canyons over miles  
And great volcanic mounts  
Stand guard before the sea  
Columbia, roll on  
This is as close as I can be

Remember Celilo Falls  
**Where people fished you from your sands**  
And traded there in peace  
For they declared it neutral land  
Then the Bonneville Dam rose,  
Traded history for lights,  
To drown the old dance halls  
**And flood the land for power lines**  
But as long's the stars are out at night  
The Columbia rolls on

Columbia roll on  
Through the forest and the stone  
If the Mississippi's long,  
My Columbia is old

From the Rockies to the waves  
They laid the railroad lines  
**To rival Great Pacific rails**  
'til the highway took its place  
as the steamboats of the age  
brought lumber to the sea  
when Mr. Guthrie sang,  
"It's close to heaven as I've been"  
It's as close to heaven as I've been  
So Columbia roll on

Columbia, roll on  
Through the forest and the stone.  
If the Rio Grand is strong,  
My Columbia is bold

Looking forward over years  
On the warm winds from the east  
May the trailhead never close  
Or the canopies recede  
May the salmon runs be strong  
**And fill you up with awe**  
May the river's quiet course  
Inspire other songs  
As the Columbia rolls on

*The mission of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is to provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.*

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City of Hood River -- Honorable Arthur Babitz, Mayor  
City of Mosier -- Barb Ayers  
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Hood River County Community Development -- Eric Walker, Chief Planner  
Multnomah County Commission -- Jeff Cogen, Adam Barber  
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Columbia Gorge Racing Association -- Bill Symes  
Columbia Gorge Running Club  
Columbia Gorge Windsurfing Association -- Greg Stiegel  
Columbia River Orienteering Club  
Columbia River Volkssport Club  
Fort Dalles Rider's Association  
Gorge Equestrian Club -- Heidy West  
Gorge Photography Club  
Hood River Area Trail Stewards  
Hood River County Forest Rec Trail Committee, Equestrian Rep -- Ruth Chausse  
Hood River Saddle Club -- Barbara Hicks  
Hood River Yacht Club  
Mazamas -- Lee Davis, Executive Director  
Mountain Home Canoe Club -- George Mills  
Native Plant Society  
Northwest Trails Alliance -- David Roth, Director & Andrew Jansky  
Portland Wheelmen Touring Club -- Bob Wong  
Trails Club of Oregon  
Trail Keepers of Oregon -- Tom Kloster



# How to Use This Plan

## Section One: Existing Conditions

Read this section to understand the status of state parks in the Columbia River Gorge at the time this plan was written. This section explores the existing uses, facilities, natural and cultural resources, history, and geographical context of the parks within the management unit. Parks are described from a variety of perspectives, with an emphasis on visitor experience.

Section One includes chapters:

- 1: *Introduction and Planning Approach*
- 2: *Regional Context*
- 3: *Cultural and Natural Resources*
- 4: *Visitor Experience Assessments*

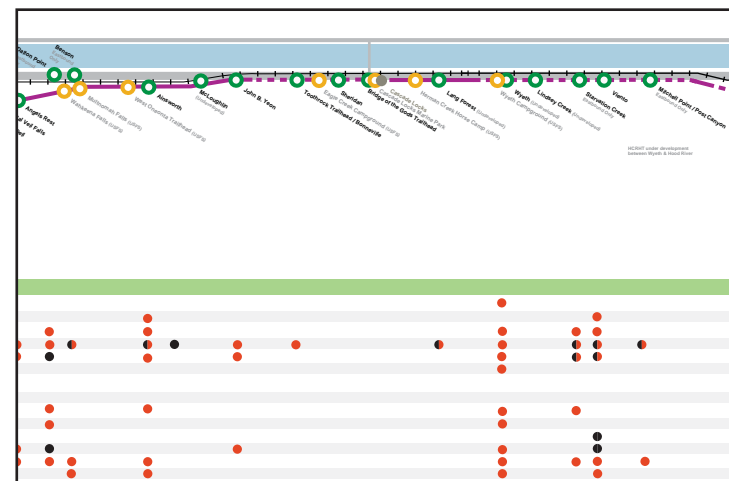


## Section Two: Analysis

Read this section to understand the discussion and collective thought behind the proposals shown later in this plan. This section describes the public process for gathering input about the plan, the opportunities and constraints that were identified, and an analysis of the major themes that arose during the existing conditions studies.

Section Two includes chapters:

- 5: *Public Involvement*
- 6: *Needs, Constraints, and Opportunities*



## Section Three: Plan Proposals

Read this section to understand the long term vision for how OPRD will serve visitors to its parks in the Gorge and the management strategies that will maintain these parks going forward.

Section Three includes chapters:

- 7: *Values, Goals, and Strategies*
- 8: *Visitor Experience Plans and Recommendations*



## Section Four: Plan Implementation

Read this section to learn about the steps for implementing the proposals in this plan, including the priorities and phasing identified for improvements to parks, the costs, and the permitting processes required to make this plan happen over the next 20 years, and find out what you can do to help.

Section Four includes chapters:

- 9: *Plan Implementation*
- 10: *Project Phasing*
- 11: *Land Use: Reviews and Approvals*
- 12: *Stewarding the Plan*

## Appendix

Finally, an appendix (outlined in Chapter 13) includes relevant documents summarized or referenced in the comprehensive plan: reports, plans, vision statements, public comments, historic documents, and others. This appendix is delivered to park management at the end of the planning process to guide implementation.

## Understanding the Connectivity Diagrams

The Gorge is a complex place, despite its linear geography. To better make sense of the how Oregon state parks fit into the context of the Gorge the connectivity diagram was created to assist in visualizing geographic themes and potential connectivity across management boundaries throughout the 70-mile wide study area.

**Columbia River:** The Columbia River is undoubtedly most persistent organizing feature of the Gorge. Even though the river is a constant feature viewable from many parks and vistas in the Gorge, access to the river is a challenge given the steep geography and transportation routes that utilize the river banks. Parks and features located on the river are located on the diagram as such, however access should not be assumed and varies by individual site conditions.

**Commercial Railroad:** The Union Pacific Railroad runs the length of the Gorge sometimes bisecting state parks. Access across the railroad is an ever-present challenge in the Gorge as current federal law requires crossings to be constructed above or below railroad grade. The diagram roughly depicts the path of the railroad as it weaves across either side of the interstate.

**Historic Columbia River Highway & Trail:** The Historic Columbia River Highway was constructed in the early nineteenth century to allow tourists to explore the Gorge from behind the wheel of an automobile. It was one of the crowning national engineering achievements of the time and many portions still exist today, however by the mid-century there was a need to move goods and people through the Gorge more efficiently by road. Pieces of the old highway were sacrificed to make way for I-84.

Currently sections of the old highway are a popular tourist destination, especially in the western gorge, and drivers can wind through the original system of parks, highlighting unmatched vistas, waterfalls, and other natural features unique to the Gorge. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is currently

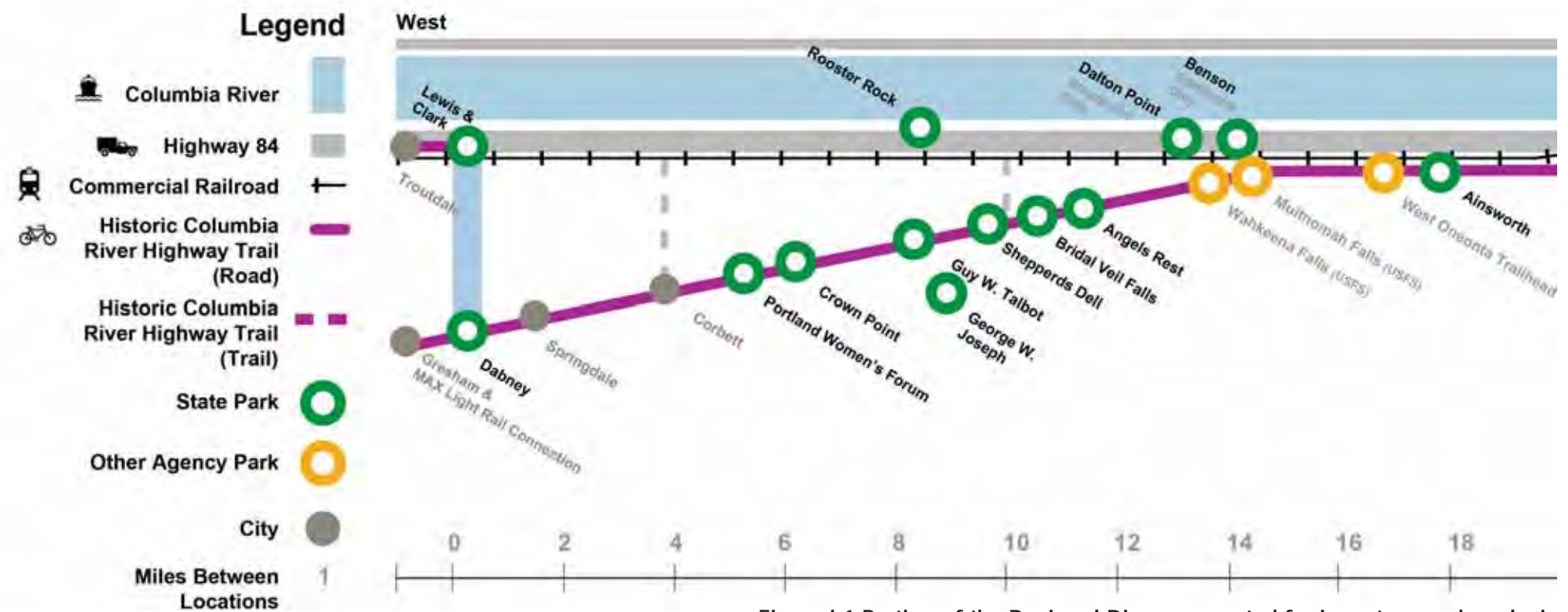


Figure i.1 Portion of the Regional Diagram created for inventory and analysis

planning and constructing trail connections between existing segments of the old highway making the Gorge passable by bike and hiking. At the time of this plans publication three trail sections exist between John B. Yeon State Park and Cascade Locks, Hood River and Mosier at the Hatfield Trailheads, and Starvation Creek to Viento, while additional segments are being planned for construction in the next few years. The diagram distinguishes these sections of trail with a dotted line indicating trail with no vehicular traffic. Trail sections between Wyeth and Hood River are shown as existing for planning purposes.

**State Park Properties** managed by Oregon State Parks (those which fall within the scope of this plan) are shown in green.

**Other Agency Park Recreation Facilities** operated by organizations other than OPRD are shown in orange. This includes United States Forest Service, Ports, and Washington State Parks to name a few.

**Cities and unincorporated communities** are shown as grey circles. Most are within Urban Areas designated by the National Scenic Act. Often these areas provide services to recreation users in the Gorge.

**Miles Between Locations:** Linear distance is shown roughly to demonstrate scale, however these distances are approximate. They are not to be confused with milepost measurements along the Historic Highway or Interstate 84.

**W6 Management Zones** identified at the base of the diagram illustrate collections of park properties that are managed together within one of two OPRD management units in the Gorge. They are coded by a W for west or an E for east and a corresponding number. The many trail heads, view points, and recreation sites in the Gorge go by a variety of different names. Identifying the management zones helps to clarify which sites and properties are being referred to. In chapter eight and nine plan proposals are also organized by these Management Zones.



# The Role of Oregon State Parks

## The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department mission is as follows:

*To provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.*

This mission gives the agency a dual mandate: serve people by operating the state park system and protect park resources so future generations may also understand and enjoy them.

Each park is a unique place where people play, picnic, camp, rest, hike, renew and everything in between. The park system is an everyday reminder of the things that make Oregon great and its existence is a testament to what Oregonians collectively value.

Oregon's outdoor recreation and cultural heritage values are explained in state law;

Oregon Revised Statute Chapter 390 states that the well-being of Oregonians is in large part dependent upon access to the state's outdoor recreation resources for their physical, spiritual, cultural and scientific benefits.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is empowered by state law to provide outdoor recreation and heritage programs and plans.

The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission (the Department's citizen oversight body), positions the agency to function at a high level by aligning programs to the powers and duties granted by state law, and by observing and planning for emerging trends.

Those laws direct the department to focus on four areas:

1. State Park System—Create and run a state system of parks that protects and manages resources in order to provide recreation opportunities.
2. Natural resources—Exercise forward-thinking, sustainable land stewardship in state parks and along ocean shores and state scenic waterways. Protect state park soils, waters, plants and animals.
3. Statewide recreation advocate—The agency is Oregon's lead advocate for outdoor recreation. Through research, financial and technical assistance, OPRD provides an Oregon context for federal, state and local governments to collectively fulfill their outdoor recreation-oriented missions.

4. Heritage Programs—Work to preserve and protect Oregon's heritage and historic resources.

## The State Park System

State parks are categorized based on three criteria: natural setting, facilities, and primary purpose. These criteria help OPRD plan the management and visitor experiences at each park, and combine to create nine types of state park system properties: parks, recreation areas/sites, scenic corridors/viewpoints, greenways, heritage areas/sites, natural areas, trails, and waysides. State scenic waterways are a special category; the state does not own scenic waterways, but works cooperatively with property owners to preserve each waterway's scenic and recreational qualities.

The Oregon state park system contains more than 100,000 acres, nearly all of it natural resource-based. There are more than 300 properties in the system, including 174 developed for day use, 50 campgrounds, and 110 undeveloped parcels along the Willamette River Greenway.

## The Centennial Horizon Plan

The Centennial Horizon Plan—a vision document that looks ahead to 2022, the 100th anniversary of the state park system—is a series of principles developed to guide the work and priorities of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department in fulfillment of its mission. Eight principles compose the Centennial Horizon plan:

- Principle One – Save Oregon's Special Places
- Principle Two – Connect People to Meaningful Outdoor Experiences
- Principle Three – Taking the Long View
- Principle Four – Engage People Through Education and Outreach
- Principle Five – Build the State Park System with Purpose and Vision
- Principle Six – Attract and Inspire Partners
- Principle Seven – Prioritize Based on the Vision
- Principle Eight – Oregon's Parks will be Tended by People Who Love Their Work

The first three principles play a substantial role in park acquisition, planning and development. The remaining five principles support the first three by offering more specific direction for park operations and programs. Each principle is more fully defined by a series of strategies and actions that change over time as opportunities arise. The full document is available at the department web site: <http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/>.

## 2012 Park System Plan

The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission has been engaged in doing long term business planning for the state park system. It has focused on developing a greater understanding of how the park system functions and what financial opportunities and challenges are likely over the next ten years. The Commission has reviewed the current business model; the relative mission impact and economic viability of various park system activities; the ways in which the park system creates value and wealth for the state; and projections of future revenues and expenditures. A number of strategies have been examined and refined about how best to sustain the park system and continue and improve its valuable contributions to the state economy and to the quality of life for Oregonians. These are summarized in a set of policy directions in the following areas: service delivery, park system maintenance, park system enhancement, workforce maintenance, and park system funding. This park system plan summarizes this work, and is intended to be used to guide investment, decision-making, and staff effort. The state park system generates significant wealth and value in Oregon, and good decisions today can keep this source of income active and contributing.

## System Maintenance Strategy

The strategy for maintenance of the park system is to:

- Maintain up-to-date land and facility condition and mission effectiveness assessments;
- Consider profitability, mission impact, and economic activity prior to every maintenance investment decision to reduce under-performing assets and related activities;
- Complete preventive maintenance on facilities with high mission impact; and
- Reserve and dedicate a portion of earned revenues to a fund to be used for preventive maintenance.

Determinations about system maintenance investments should rely on many of the criteria provided in the section above. Where maintenance can bring a lower performing property more in line with these criteria, then they are better maintenance projects to consider.

The system maintenance metrics for consideration are:

- Percent of scheduled preventive maintenance tasks completed;
- Ratio of facility-closure months to total park facility program months;
- Percent of lands and facilities with condition assessments less than five years old;
- Asset condition index; and
- Ratio of under-performing assets to total assets.



## System Enhancement Strategy

The strategy for enhancement of the park system is:

- Create new projects, parks, programs, and services without expanding existing department staff;
- Focus land acquisitions on improving performance of existing parks and addressing under-served markets; and
- Create opportunities for new trails, water access sites, nature viewing, and learning about history by finding internal savings and generating external support. Determinations about system enhancement investments should rely on many of the criteria provided in the section above. Where enhancements can bring a lower performing property more in line with these criteria, then they are better enhancements to consider.

The system enhancement metrics for consideration are:

- Current operating expenditures for previous biennium enhancements;
- Change to park system staffing levels;
- Percent of parks with significant in-holdings, adjacent unprotected natural areas, or access problems;
- Percent and density of Oregonians within a 60 minute drive of five or more destination parks; and
- Value of external support towards capitalization of enhancements.

## Resource Management Role

The natural resources staff of OPRD is responsible for land stewardship, marine conservation and the rocky intertidal shores, several permit programs, department-wide resource policies, and park plants and animals. We strive to provide a safe environment while maintaining the natural beauty and historic importance of our parks.

OPRD is committed to managing the natural, scenic and cultural resources within the Oregon state park system. The agency writes plans and conducts management to balance resource protection with recreation use; resources are the essential foundation for nearly all forms of recreation.

The following categories best summarize the OPRD approach to resource stewardship:

- Forest Health
- Fish and Wildlife
- Ecosystems
- Invasive Species
- Protected Species
- Natural Heritage Sites
- National Register of Historic Places, Sites and Districts
- Historic Buildings
- Cultural Landscapes
- Iconic Oregon Views and Scenic Corridors

## Role as Recreation Advocate

OPRD connects people to meaningful outdoor experiences by protecting Oregon's special natural and historic places. This inherent tension between recreation and preservation, between the needs of today and tomorrow, has always defined the mission of Oregon State Parks. ORS 390.010 describes the state's broad policy toward outdoor recreation. In summary:

1. Present and future generations shall be assured adequate outdoor recreation resources coordinated across all levels of government and private interests.
2. The economy and well-being of the people are dependent on outdoor recreation.
3. Outdoor recreation opportunities should be increased commensurate with growth in need in the following:
  - Oregon's scenic landscape
  - Outdoor recreation
  - Oregon history, archaeology and natural science
  - Scenic roads to enhance recreational travel and sightseeing
  - Outdoor festivals, fairs, sporting events and outdoor art events
  - Camping, picnicking and lodging
  - Tourist hospitality centers near major highway entrances to Oregon
  - Trails for hiking, horseback riding, bicycling and motorized recreation
  - Waterways and facilities for boating, fishing and hunting
  - Developing recreation in major river basins
  - Access to public lands and waters having recreation value
  - Development of winter sports facilities
  - Recreational enjoyment of mineral resources.



## A Vision for Oregon State Parks in the Columbia River Gorge

Wind, water, a slow and winding drive, Lewis and Clark, wildflowers, waterfalls, grand vistas accompanied by the sound of a train; mention the Columbia River Gorge and bright eyes begin to describe the powerful impression that the Gorge can leave on those who visit.

The Columbia Gorge is a truly unique place, one that hosts an enormous diversity of culture, nature, and activities. While the Gorge draws people for an increasingly variety of reasons -- recreation, business, vacation, work, lifestyle -- we all perhaps find ourselves drawn to the Gorge for one shared benefit: *inspiration*.

This chapter outlines the role of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) in the state of Oregon and the Department's approach to planning parks across the state.



## Values Based Approach

A critical component of OPRD's planning process is public involvement, including stakeholders and partners that have an interest in park properties. As a state agency that is accountable to the public, OPRD seeks to engage the community to develop a sense of collaboration and shared values for parks. The agency relies on public feedback to help identify these values, as well as opportunities, constraints, and desired outcomes for state parks. Identified values provide a lens through which to view inventories and assessments, and guide analysis so that a better vision for the future can be defined.

## Planning Framework

In the early stages of the planning process, planning staff compiles data from Department staff and other statewide and regional plans. This background information is used to inform and develop a framework for the plan, and is then taken to the public for comment and discussion. Public input and goals for the statewide system are synthesized to produce the values, goals, strategies, and management actions included in the comprehensive, long-term plan for a management unit like the Columbia River Gorge.

A management unit plan includes information about:

- Mission and mandates that define the role of OPRD (Oregon Constitution, Oregon Revised Statutes, and Oregon Administrative Rules, in the Gorge this includes the National Scenic Area Act and Management Plan);
- OPRD goals and objectives (Centennial Horizon, Commission Investment Strategy, Legislative Performance Measures, and Oregon Benchmarks);
- Existing OPRD organizational structure and roles of visitors, volunteers, staff, external parkland managers, and other partners; and
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), State Trails Plans, Regional Interpretive Frameworks.

# OPRD Management Unit Planning Process

*Understand*

*Communicate*

*Choreograph*

*Prioritize*

*Build  
Consensus*

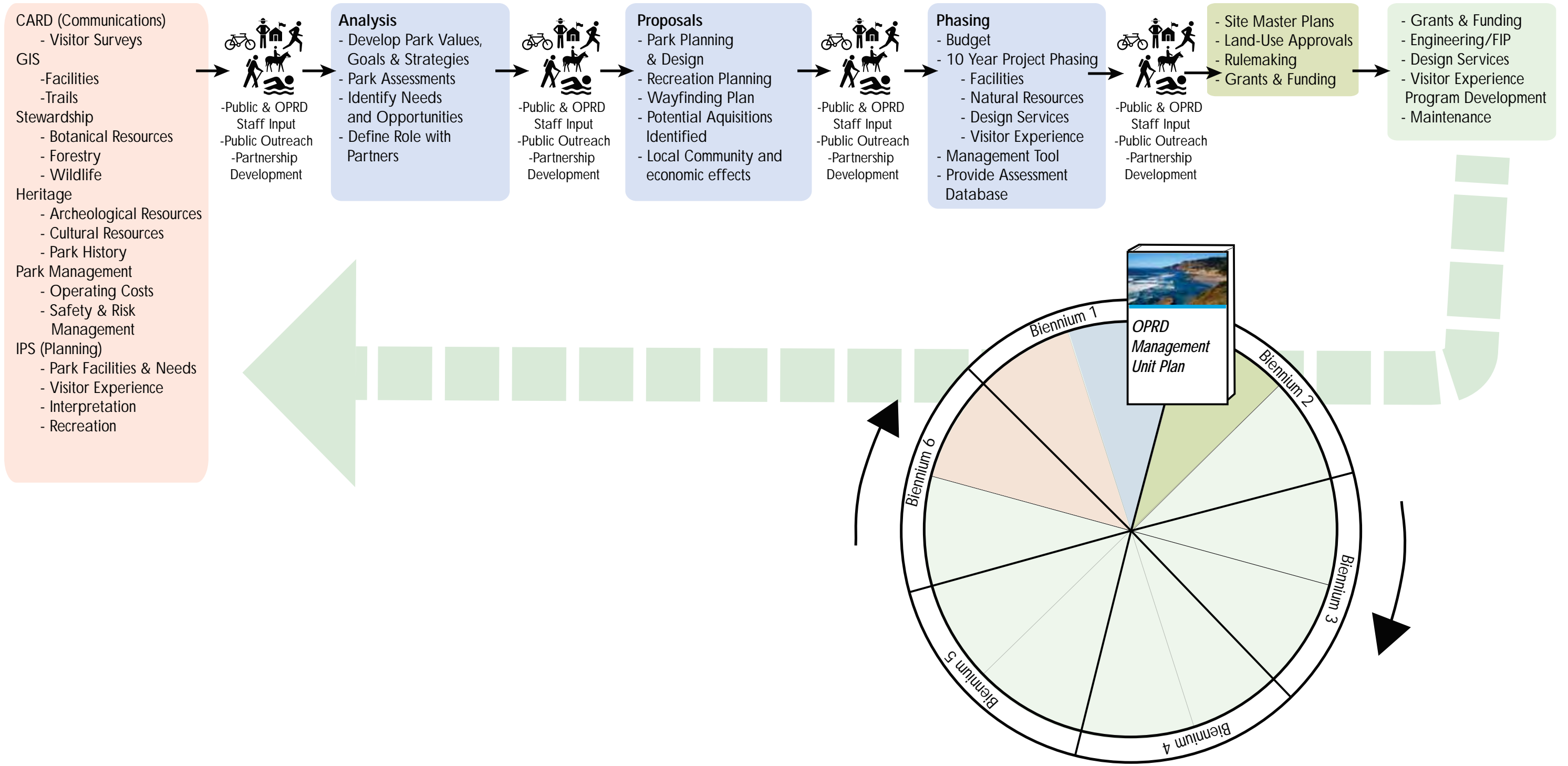
*Implement*

*Inventories*

*Comprehensive Planning*

*Land-Use*

*5-12: Projects*





## The Need for a Plan

The Columbia River Gorge was designated as a National Scenic Area in 1986, in recognition of its extraordinary scenic, cultural, natural, and recreational value. A Management Plan was written in 1992 to implement the Scenic Area Act and guide policies for governments and public agencies within the Scenic Area. This plan was revised and updated in 2004. Shortly after the Management Plan was implemented, OPRD's 1994 Master Plan for the Columbia River Gorge Management Unit was adopted by the State Parks Recreation Commission. In the nearly 20 years since these plans were created, recreation in the Columbia Gorge has soared. Recreation activities have evolved, parking needs have increased, and additional strain has been placed on the resources that the National Scenic Area designation was intended to protect.

These changes highlight the need not only for plan updates, but for increased collaboration between agencies managing recreation in the Gorge. Visitors to the Gorge are not often aware of the difference between a state park or US Forest Service property, but recreation providers understand the challenges of working across property boundaries. OPRD recognizes that state parks are part of a broader community and park staff are continuously working with other agencies to make sure the Gorge is an enjoyable place to recreate. The public process for this plan highlighted the need for a regional, collaborative planning effort in line with the regional management of the National Scenic Area. OPRD is not equipped to lead such an effort, however, to the extent possible, this plan strives for a regional and inter-agency approach to addressing recreation challenges.

OPRD is compelled by statute to plan for the management of natural resources and recreation activities on all state park lands. Starting in 2012, OPRD staff began a rotating cycle of long-range planning for state park properties by management unit. The current planning effort is part of a 15-year rotation through OPRD's park management units, with the Columbia Gorge management unit identified as a high priority need by agency and park staff. The plan takes a comprehensive approach, addressing natural, scenic and cultural resource conditions as well as management needs, outdoor recreation trends, community partnerships, and ideas and

concerns identified through public input.

Updates to the OPRD plan are needed to address the following factors:

- Enhanced understanding of the way the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail (HCHRST) relates to park lands, visitors, and management
- Incorporate the HCRHST Plan adopted by the State Parks Commission in February 2011
- Increase in overall visitation to Gorge, particularly at the west end
- Desire for more access to natural areas and recreation in the Gorge
- Aging facilities in need of maintenance or significant renovation
- Changing demographics of visitors
- New recreation practices, like windsports and mountain biking
- Technological innovations
- Recreation opportunities to local economies
- Increased sophistication in natural resource understanding and management

The purpose of this plan is to update the 1994 OPRD master plan to address current trends of visitation, recreation activities and natural resource health. The updated plan will emphasize management strategies for the parks facilities, natural, cultural, and scenic resources and the overall quality of visitor experience. This plan will aid OPRD in its mission to protect one of Oregon's most special places now and for the future.

Therefore, this OPRD plan will:

- Include updated master plans for state parks in the Gorge as well as prioritize operations and maintenance strategies for park managers;
- Conform with the 2011 Scenic Area Management Plan; fulfill the Scenic Area Act's recreation enhancement goals
- Conform with OPRD's mandate to maintain updated master plans for state park lands; and
- Highlight partnerships and shared management efforts with other land management organizations in the scenic area.

# Agencies in the Gorge

## National Scenic Area

Columbia River Gorge Commission  
*National Scenic Area Management Plan (1992)*

## Federal Agencies

Bonneville Power Administration  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
USDOT: Federal Highway Administration  
US Forest Service  
US Fish & Wildlife  
US Geological Survey

## Tribes

Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde  
Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians  
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

## Stakeholders

Friends of the Columbia River Gorge  
Friends of the Historic Columbia River Highway  
The Nature Conservancy

## Citizens of Oregon

## State Agencies

Oregon Department of Transportation  
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Oregon Department of State Lands  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
Oregon State Parks  
*Columbia River Gorge Comprehensive Plan (1994)*  
*OPRD Plan for CRG State Parks (2014)*

Washington State Parks

## Counties

Hood River County  
Multnomah County  
Wasco County

## Cities

Chambers of Commerce

Neighbors

Recreation groups  
Stewardship groups  
Tourism groups

# How does OPRD Fit in the Gorge?



## Recreation

- Hiking, swimming, wind sports, day-use, fishing, picnicking, wildlife viewing, biking, boating, sightseeing...
- Universally Accessible Properties
- Affordable Recreation



## Significant Properties

- Scenic Viewpoints
- Historical Sites
- River Access
- Gateway to USFS: Trailhead Management
- Overnight Camping
- Natural Areas & Natural Resource Management
- Parking



## People & Programs

- Beginner Recreation Education
  - Let's Go Program
- Interpretive Programs
- Interpretive Elements
- Wayfinding
- Human Connections

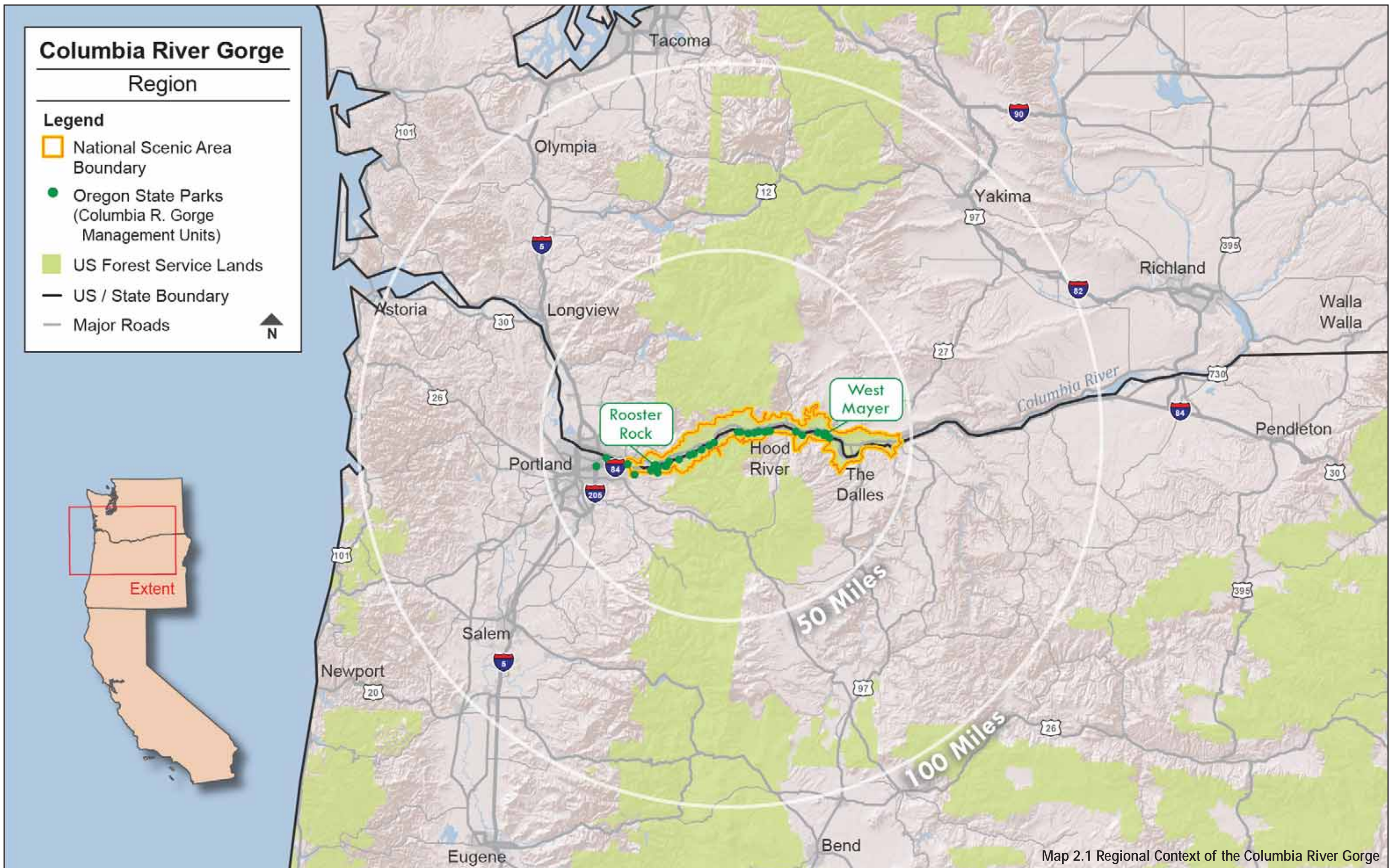




# 2

## Regional Context

Situated along the border between Oregon and Washington, the Columbia River Gorge is one of the most unique and inspiring landscapes in the United States. Characterized by steep, forested cliffs, and inscribed with dozens of waterfalls running over high canyon walls into the magnificent Columbia River, the Gorge's sheer beauty, coupled with its many layers of historic significance, moved Congress to declare it a federally protected National Scenic Area in 1986. The Gorge is now an international tourist destination, known for its scenery and varied recreational opportunities within close proximity to Portland, Oregon's largest metropolitan area.



## A Brief History of the Gorge

The Columbia River Gorge was created near the end of the last ice age by a series of catastrophic floods which carved out a dramatic canyon laying the course for the Columbia River. Prior to the floods, the area was covered by periodic lava flows, which were uplifted and folded by tectonic activity, then gradually eroded by the river. Around four million years ago the high Cascade Mountains were uplifted and the great volcanoes, including Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams, were formed.

There is evidence that native peoples inhabited the Gorge more than 10,000 years ago. The region's natural bounty (including large salmon runs up the river) allowed the first people to prosper and develop an elaborate and complex culture. The Gorge was a key transportation corridor, connecting the east and west sides of the Cascades, and developed into a great trading center where tribes met from across the continent.

The Gorge continued to be used as an important trade and transportation corridor beginning with the first European explorers and traders, followed by Lewis and Clark's expedition and later by the flow of immigrating settlers on the Oregon Trail. Eventually, major river locks, railroads and roads were constructed through the Gorge. Communities sprang up along the commercial routes to serve the major industries; timber, fishing, agriculture and hydropower. The Columbia River Highway, built at the turn of the century, was one of the first roads in the country built specifically to promote touring, scenery and outdoor recreation. Throughout the twentieth century, the Bonneville Power Administration (under the authority of the Federal Government) built several dams on the Columbia, including the Bonneville Dam in 1937, ensuring the public an abundant supply of hydroelectric power. In 1957, construction of The Dalles Dam flooded Celilo Falls, a 15,000-year-old native fishing area and cultural center upriver.

In 1986, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) was established with two purposes:

“(1) to establish a national scenic area to protect and provide for the enhancement of the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge; and



Native Americans Drying Salmon in the Gorge, c 1900

“(2) to protect and support the economy of the Columbia River Gorge area by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and by allowing future economic development in a manner that is consistent with paragraph (1).”

This was only the second National Scenic Act to be enacted, and to this day remains the largest at 292,500 acres and is unique for its inclusion of public and private lands, as well as lands across two states. The scenic area stretches for 85 miles along the Columbia River, from the Sandy River to the Deschutes River, and encompasses land in both Washington and Oregon.

The National Scenic Area Act delegates separate and parallel authority to the Columbia River Gorge Commission and US Forest Service, with the Gorge Commission overseeing General Management Areas (GMAs) and the Forest Service overseeing 'Special Management Areas' (SMAs). 80% of OPRD lands are located in the SMA's. For additional information about land use authority as result of this act and how recreation at state parks is designated please see Chapter 11.

## The Region Today

### Natural Resources

The Columbia River is the largest river in the Pacific Northwest, beginning in the Rocky Mountains of British Columbia and winding through Washington and Oregon to the Pacific Ocean. The Columbia River Gorge marks the river's passage through the Cascade mountain range, providing a near sea level connection between the coastal marine and inland continental climates of Washington and Oregon. Strong winds are created by this climatic shift and are a dominant feature of the Gorge. During the summer months, winds generally blow from the West, while warm fall winds and cold winter winds often blow from the East.

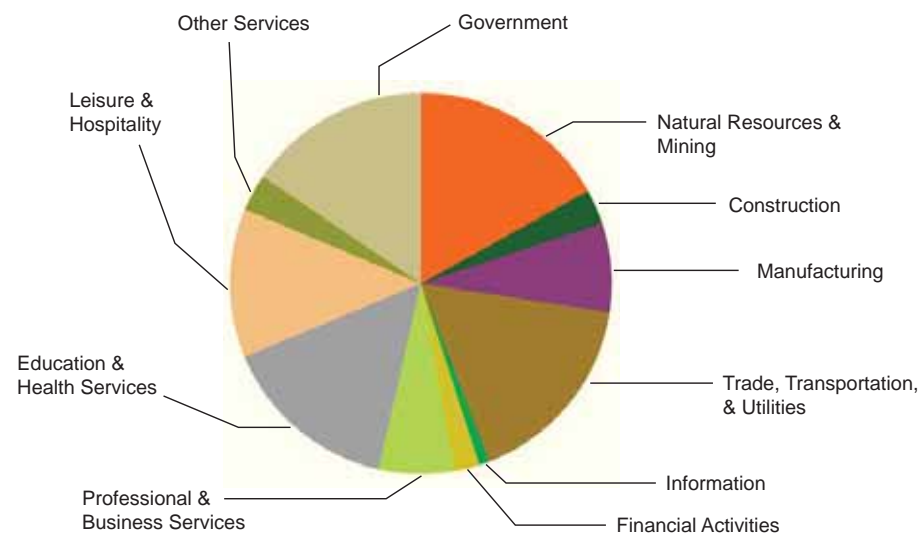
Plant and animal species diversity in the Gorge is high as a result of the varied topography, habitat gradient (from riverine to mountain) and east-west change in climate. A wide range of habitat types is present, including riparian forests and wetlands, douglas fir forests, rocky outcrops, grasslands, and oak and pine forests. A quarter of all plant species known to occur in the state of Oregon can be found in the Gorge, including over 800 species of wildflowers, which create spectacular displays in spring on the eastern plateaus.

Wildlife is abundant and includes bald eagles, cougars, black bear, deer, yellow-bellied marmots, pacific tree frogs, larch mountain salamanders, and salmon, among many other species. Several runs of chinook and sockeye salmon in the Gorge are federally endangered, while threatened species include runs of chinook, chum, and coho salmon, steelhead, green sturgeon, and the northern spotted owl. The Columbia River Gorge is known for its historic salmon runs, which supported native peoples as well as early Euro-American fishing and canning industries. Salmon, although greatly reduced by habitat loss, over-fishing and the construction of dams, are still an iconic part of the region's natural and cultural heritage.

## Economic Context

Today the Gorge is a major transportation corridor connecting Portland and Vancouver to communities within the Scenic Area and the greater interior Northwest. Goods are moved via river barges, national and state highways, and railways on both sides of the river. Transportation and natural resources (agriculture, forestry, hydro and wind power) represent the area's largest industries, but recreation and hospitality are also significant economic drivers. Overall, the region's economy is resilient and growing. Hood River and Wasco counties performed better than the state of Oregon as a whole during the recent recession and continue to outperform many areas of the state in terms of employment and job growth. The Gorge region also benefits from its proximity to the Portland Metropolitan Area, the largest population and employment center in Oregon.

Figure 2.1 Employment by Industry for Oregon Region 9 (Hood River, Wasco, Gilliam, Sherman, and Wheeler counties), 2013. Hood River and Wasco counties contain over 90% of the population and employment in Region 9 and the majority of urban areas within the Oregon portion of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area.



Source: Oregon Employment Department



OPRD Portland District Manager, Kevin Price

## Recreation Context

For local residents, living in the Gorge is like having a year-round membership to the neighborhood gym. Hundreds of miles of roads, trails, bike-paths, and navigable river provide access to hunting, fishing, hiking, watersports, and a host of other recreation activities. These attractions help draw approximately five million local and international visitors to the Gorge each year, bringing economic benefits to the region as well as management challenges.

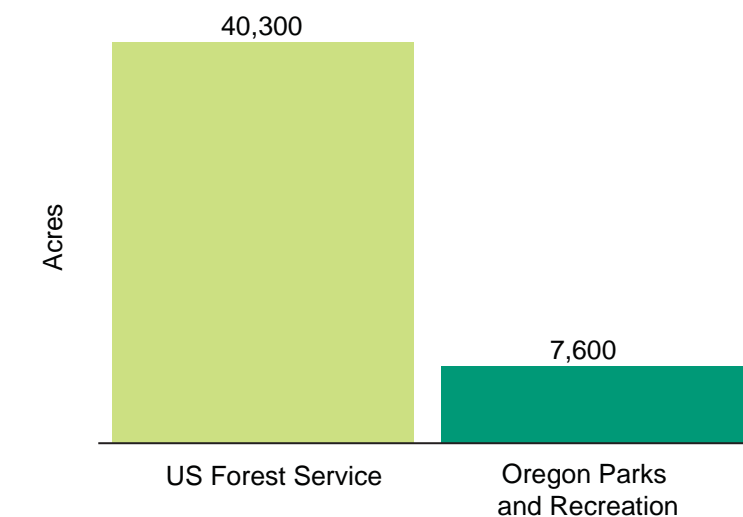
Although recreational opportunities abound on both the Washington and Oregon sides of the river, many of the most heavily visited sites in the Gorge are in Oregon along the first leg of the Historic Columbia River Highway. Demand for access to popular sites like Multnomah Falls, Vista House, and Dabney State Park has outstripped capacity during peak season and is only expected to grow over the next several decades, crowding parks and negatively impacting natural resources and visitor experience. Over-visitation is not limited to the western Gorge; some eastern sites, such as Catherine Creek, a US Forest Service property in Klickitat County, have recently undergone management changes to limit visitor impacts.

Demand for access to the river also presents a challenge for recreation providers to circumvent access barriers such as the railroads and highways.

Recreation in the Gorge is made more complicated by the presence of multiple land managers. Visitors generally do not know (or care) who manages the land unless an issue arises, and often the wrong agency is contacted to address the issue. Agencies responsible for managing recreation on publicly-accessible land in the Gorge include Oregon State Parks (OPRD), Washington State Parks, the US Forest Service (USFS), the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, local governments, The Nature Conservancy, and other land trusts. On the Oregon side of the Gorge, the primary land managers in terms of acres managed are the USFS and OPRD (see Map 2.2). Extensive recreation assessments in the NSAMP (Recreation Development Plan and Recreation Development Proposals List) form the basis of the NSAMP goals. This framework provides additional context for how state parks can advance these goals and objectives.

In Oregon, OPRD and USFS recreation sites are interspersed along a linear travel corridor and the two agencies share responsibility for coordinating and managing a seamless visitor experience. OPRD parks also overlap with scenic viewpoints and rest areas managed by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Rest stops connected to state parks, like Memaloose, are managed by ODOT. Chapter 5 describes other agencies that OPRD works with to provide and maintain recreation facilities in the Gorge.

Figure 2.2. Acres managed by the two primary recreation agencies within the Oregon Side of the National Scenic Area



Source: OPRD Analysis

LEGEND

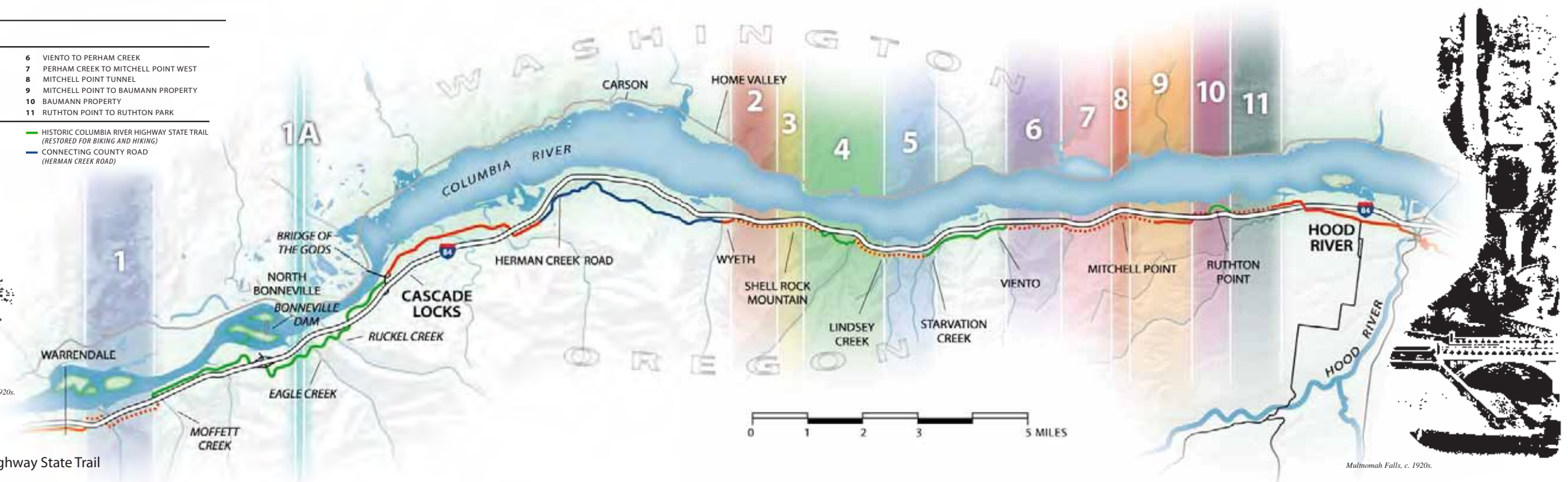
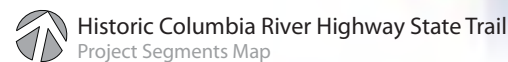
LOCATE PROJECT SEGMENTS

- |                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 WARRENDALE TO MOFFETT               | 6 VIENTO TO PERHAM CREEK              |
| 1A EAGLE CREEK VIADUCT - EAST         | 7 PERHAM CREEK TO MITCHELL POINT WEST |
| 2 WYETH TO SHELL ROCK MOUNTAIN        | 8 MITCHELL POINT TUNNEL               |
| 3 SHELLROCK MOUNTAIN                  | 9 MITCHELL POINT TO BAUMANN PROPERTY  |
| 4 SHELLROCK MOUNTAIN TO LINDSEY CREEK | 10 BAUMANN PROPERTY                   |
| 5 LINDSEY CREEK TO STARVATION CREEK   | 11 RUTHTON POINT TO RUTHTON PARK      |

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY (MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC) | HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY STATE TRAIL (RESTORED FOR BIKING AND HIKING) |
| FUTURE HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY STATE TRAIL      | CONNECTING COUNTY ROAD (HERMAN CREEK ROAD)                                   |



Touring the Historic Columbia River Highway, c. 1920s.



Mulnomah Falls, c. 1920s.

Milepost 16 Map defining segments of the HCRHST (ODOT)

## Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail

The 2011 *Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail Plan (OPRD/ODOT)* outlines the restoration of sections of the Historic Columbia River Highway for use as a bicycle and pedestrian path. This plan was adopted by the OPRD Commission in 2011.

For more than two decades, ODOT (in partnership with OPRD) has been restoring the Historic Columbia River Highway in recognition of its exceptional historic and scenic value as a national treasure as outlined in the Scenic Area Act. Current operational sections have been restored to its original design with new interpretive features added to enhance trailheads and waysides. Abandoned segments of the old highway are being restored for exclusive use as a bicycle and pedestrian path to become a state trail.

When complete, the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail will be a world-class destination, drawing bicycle tourism from around the world to experience the Columbia Gorge as it was first interpreted by highway designer Samuel Lancaster, just over a century ago. The Historic Highway and State Trail will extend from Troutdale to The Dalles, transecting the Cascade Range and passing through temperate rainforest to arid oak steppes ecosystems.

The restored Historic Columbia River Highway will serve as a unifying feature for most state parks described in this plan. When complete, these additional sections of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail will be managed by OPRD and will significantly enhance access to recreational opportunities along the Oregon side of the Gorge. The completed trail will increase connections between OPRD and Forest Service properties as well as communities in the Gorge. It will be managed as a unifying transportation, recreation, cultural and interpretive thread for all parks in the Gorge.

At the time of this plan's completion, portions of the trail are open between John B. Yeon State Park and Cascade Locks, Starvation Creek and Viento, and Hood River to Mosier. The construction of this trail is one of the driving reasons for updating the 1994 OPRD Gorge plan (see page 14) as state parks play a unique role in supporting trail users throughout the Gorge.

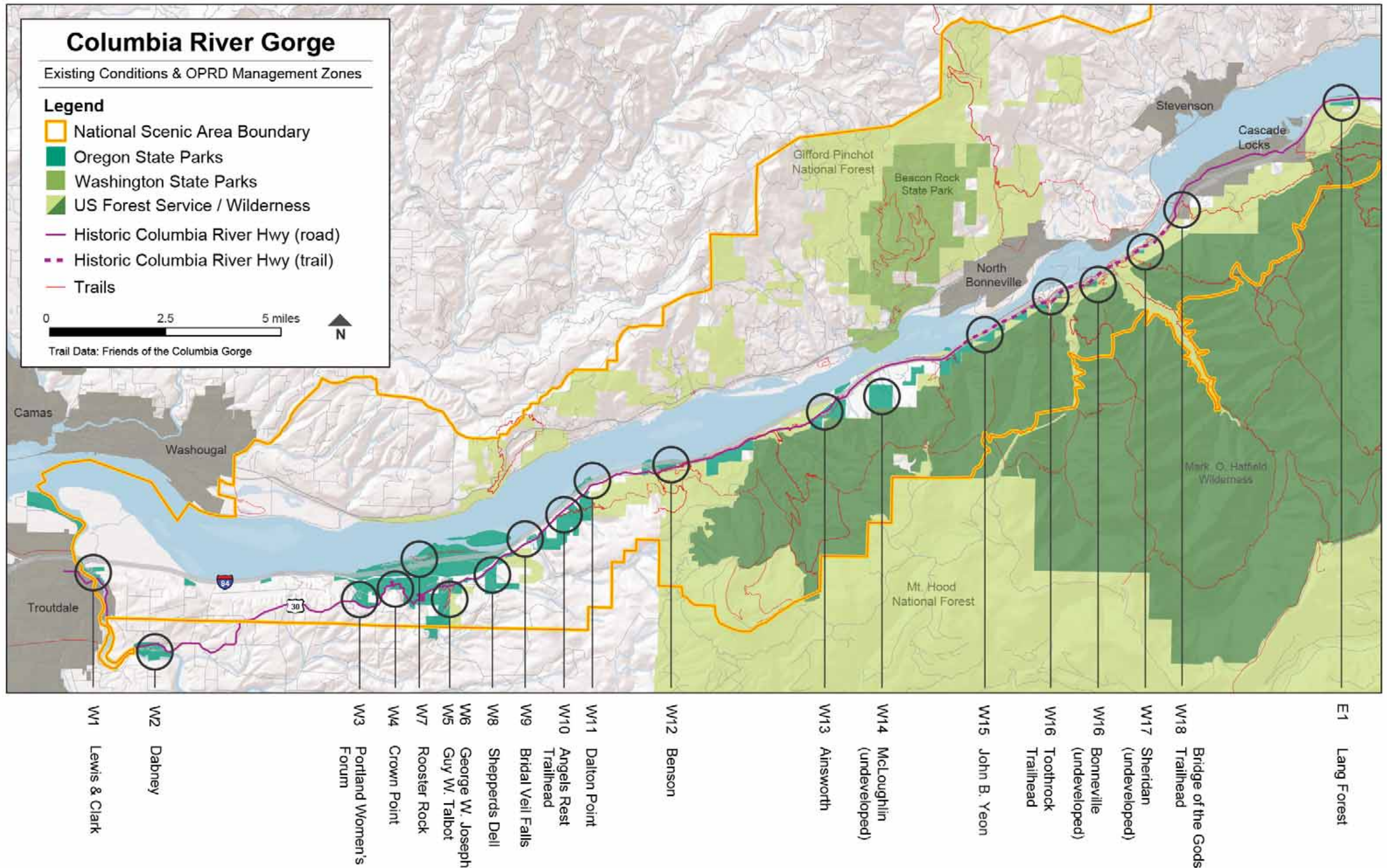
This plan considers the trail as it is planned to be constructed in the 2011 *Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail Plan*, and projects found in this plan reference that document. Project phasing in Chapter 10 references timing considerations that should be adjusted based on construction of the HCRHST.

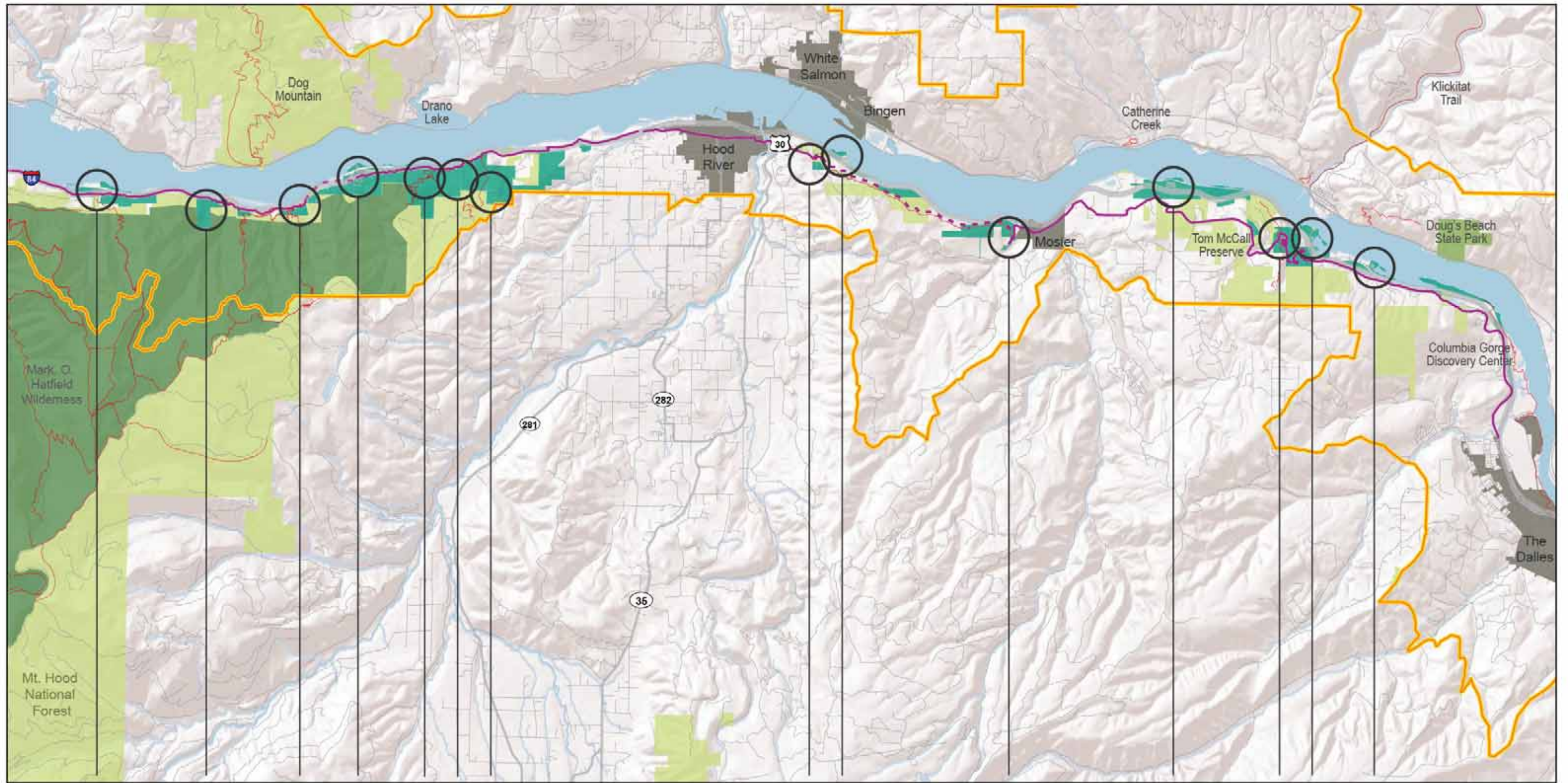
Remaining portions of the trail that have yet to be constructed are identified in Chapter 8 and 9 of this plan as development proposal projects, however readers looking for more details of the specific sections of the trail should reference the *2011 Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail Plan*.

## OPRD's Role as a Recreation Provider in the Columbia River Gorge

OPRD was established in 1921 as a branch of the Highway Department. In 1989, the Oregon Legislature separated the agency from the Department of Transportation, forming OPRD as it exists today. State law now requires OPRD to plan for state parks and to update plans on a ten year cycle.

The previous Columbia River Gorge Management Unit Master Plan was approved in 1994. The goal of this plan is to update the 1994 plan to address current trends in recreation and natural resources, emphasizing management strategies for park facilities, natural, cultural, and scenic resources, and the overall quality of visitor experience. The geographic scope includes all current OPRD properties in the Columbia Gorge Management Unit and opportunity areas for future development.





E2 Wyeth

E3 Lindsey Creek

E4 Starvation Creel

E5 Viento

E6 Mitchell Point:  
Seneca Fouts /  
Post Canyon/  
Vincenz Lausman  
Wygant

E7 Hatfield West  
Trailhead

E8 Koberg Beach

E9 Hatfield East  
Trailhead

E10 Memaloose

E11 Rowena Crest  
Viewpoint

E12 West Mayer

E13 East Mayer

Table 2.1. OPRD Properties in the Columbia Gorge Management Unit (listed geographically, from west to east)

Park	Acres
Government Island SRA	1,937.7
Rocky Butte SSC	13.3
W1 Lewis and Clark SRS	224.9
W2 Dabney SRA	146.8
W3 Portland Women's Forum SSV	243.5
W4 Crown Point SSC	82.4
W5 Guy W. Talbot SP	392.2
W6 George W. Joseph SNA	151.8
W7 Rooster Rock SP	1,088.5
W8 Shepperd's Dell SNA	164.2
W9 Bridal Veil Falls SSV	17.7
W10 Angel's Rest Trailhead	374.0
W11 Dalton Point SRS	39.0
W12 Benson SRA	313.9
W13 Ainsworth SP	178.8
W14 McLoughlin SNA (Undeveloped)	219.5
W15 John B. Yeon SSC	254.5
W16 Bonneville SSC	46.3
W16 Toothrock Trailhead	2.0
W17 Sheridan SSC (Undeveloped)	12.4
W18 HCRHST: Bridge of the Gods Trailhead	1.0
E1 Lang Forest SSC (Undeveloped)	73.5
E2 Wyeth SRA (Undeveloped)	265.9
E3 Lindsey Creek SSC (Undeveloped)	134.1
E4 Starvation Creek SP	124.7
E5 Viento SP	293.4
E6 Mitchell Point: Wygant SNA	746.1
Vinzenz Lausman (Memorial) SNA	126.7
Seneca Fouts (Memorial) SNA	428.9
E7 Hatfield West Trailhead (Approx 1 acre)	19.6
E8 Koberg Beach SRS	141.9
E9 Historic Columbia River Highway Trail/ Hatfield East Trailhead	211.9
E10 Memaloose SP (and Eastbound Rest Stop)	414.7
E11-13 Mayer SP (incl. East & West, Rowena)	689.3
<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>	<b>9,575.1</b>

The Gorge area, now divided into two Management Units (East and West), includes 34 individually named OPRD properties totaling approximately 9,500 acres, of which 7,500 acres are located within the CRGNSA. Government Island, Rocky Butte, and Dabney are outside the boundary of the CRGNSA. OPRD properties addressed in this plan are located in Multnomah, Hood River and Wasco counties (see Map 2.2). The East and West Unit headquarters are located at Viento and Rooster Rock State Park, respectively, the Valleys Region headquarters is in Portland, and the state headquarters is in Salem.

The 34 park properties in the Columbia Gorge Management Unit include a variety of designations, including:

- State Parks (SP) provide a variety of general outdoor recreational uses within an extensive scenic setting, under OPRD ownership.
- State Natural Areas (SNA) protect outstanding, or important portions of Oregon's ecosystems for continued public education, and/or for contributing to larger ecosystem health.
- State Recreation Sites (SRS) provide access to resource-dependent, recreational activities, without OPRD ownership of extensive scenic setting.
- State Scenic Corridors (SSC) and State Scenic Vistas (SSV) protect corridors and viewpoints along state highways which are in jeopardy. For those single viewpoints which cannot be easily included in a grouping along a highway, the subclass State Scenic Viewpoint can be used.
- State Trails (ST) and State Trailheads (STH) provide recreation trail opportunities for hikers, equestrians, cyclists, and, where appropriate, motorized recreation vehicles such as snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, and jeeps.

Definitions are referenced from the 1995 OPRD System Plan.

### History of State Parks in the Columbia River Gorge

Many of the state park properties in the Gorge were previously owned by important figures in Oregon history. These individuals influenced the development of the Columbia River Gorge as a recreation destination by donating scenic properties for public use and by advocating for better roads as part of the Good Roads

movement. The Good Roads movement, initiated by bicyclists and bolstered by the rise in automobile ownership, was a key factor in spurring the construction of the Columbia River Highway through the Gorge was constructed between 1913 and 1922. The highway was America's first planned scenic road and was supervised by landscape architect and engineer Samuel Lancaster, who had been hired by Good Roads advocate Samuel Hill.

Current state parks in the Gorge supported the Historic Columbia River Highway as recreation destinations. Scenic places like Crown Point and Latourell Falls drew visitors to the highway and many were added to the state park system throughout the 1920s. OPRD has continued to acquire properties along the highway route and elsewhere in the Gorge up to as recently as 2006.

Since the development of the first Oregon state parks in the Gorge, the over-arching philosophy has been to balance natural and cultural elements, and provide access to the natural wonders of the Gorge through integrated and complementary recreation facilities. This philosophy can be seen in the historic sites associated with the Columbia River Highway and continues as a driving force behind planning in the Gorge today.

### The Role of Oregon State Parks in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

1. Acknowledge that all state agencies must comply with the National Scenic Area Act and Management Plan. Note that any inconsistencies between the Park Plan and the Act or NSA Management Plan should be interpreted in favor of the Act and NSA Management Plan.
2. Acknowledge mandate to protect and enhance SNCR resources.
3. Acknowledge role in advancing the recreation development and enhancement goals, including restoration of the HCRH as a recreational trail.
4. Reference role as partner for providing access to Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, Oregon Pioneer National Historic Trail, and the Ice-Age Floods National Geologic Trail all of which are administered by the National Park Service.





# 3

## Existing: Cultural & Natural Resources

OPRD prepares resource inventories and assessments as a basis for resource management and recreation planning. This chapter summarizes the cultural and natural resource assessments for the Columbia Gorge Management Unit. Landscape character assessments are found in the following chapter, *Chapter 4: Visitor Experience Assessments*. These reports were prepared by OPRD staff during 2011-2013 in preparation for this plan and can be found in full in the appendix along with additional supporting documents.

## Cultural Resources

The Columbia River Gorge is a geographical region rich with human history and culture. Since the first native peoples arrived more than 10,000 years ago, successive generations have left stories and signs of their presence. The following section outlines key cultural components of the Gorge and OPRD state park properties in order to inform management decisions in these areas.

## Cultural Overview of the Gorge

### Native Americans (pre-1800s)

The Columbia River Gorge is the home of tribes belonging to the Chinook people of the Northwest Coast and the Sahaptin people of the interior Columbia Plateau. Native Americans used the Columbia River Gorge as a major trading and travel corridor, drawing in people from all over the North American continent. On the Oregon side, trading centers and settlements were concentrated at the east end of the Gorge, near the present day site of The Dalles. Salmon were harvested in huge numbers from nearby Celilo Falls and other points in the Gorge, providing an important source of food and trade.

Although little physical evidence remains, pre-1800s Native American culture can still be felt in State Parks in the Gorge through names and stories. The name Memaloose, for example, is derived from the Chinookan words for 'island of the dead', a reference to the nearby islands in the Columbia River where native peoples buried their dead. At Guy W. Talbot State Park, a Native American legend describes Latourell Falls as the wife of the coyote god Speelya. The legend holds that Speelya transformed his wife into the waterfall to prevent her from escaping him, thus preserving her beauty forever. Stories like these are a reminder that human relationships with the Gorge's special places go back thousands of years.



Lewis & Clark at Celilo Falls Oregon Capitol Mural by Frank Schwarz

### Lewis and Clark Expedition

Lewis and Clark's passage through the Gorge in 1805 and 1806 is well-documented in their journals. By this time the Columbia had been used by Western fur traders for decades. The explorers were duly impressed by the area's beauty and grandeur, as well as by the vibrant Native American culture along the River's banks. Journal accounts indicate that Lewis and Clark stopped at several current state park properties at the west end of the Gorge, including Shepperd's Dell and Rooster Rock, where they camped for a night.

### Homesteaders, Railroads, Timber, and Fishing (19th century)

The arrival of Euro-American settlers ushered in many changes to the physical and cultural make-up of the Gorge. Homesteaders built farms, orchards, and eventually towns, while loggers cut down forests to produce lumber and fishermen set up large-scale salmon fishing and canning operations. Steamboats initially provided passage and transportation of goods along the river. Later, the construction of railroads along both banks of the River helped to spur the new economy and established a new type of transportation corridor. Many cultures came together in the Gorge during this tumultuous time, including Native American, European, and Chinese cultures, among others.

State parks in the Gorge retain the legacy of these cultures and activities in the form of National Historic Trails, park namesakes, historic accounts, and proximity to the railroad. Many park properties were donated by homesteaders like George Shepperd or early successful businessmen such as Guy Talbot and Simon Benson. Some parks, like Viento, were built around

railroad stations; others, like Starvation Creek, get their name from railroad-related events. Many parks are still significantly impacted by railroad noise and limited access across tracks even though passenger service no longer exists. Most of the physical evidence of 19th century settlement and industry has disappeared from state parks. The Bridal Veil Timber Company mill that once operated near Bridal Veil Falls is gone, as is the cannery built beneath Rooster Rock in the 1880s.



Historic Columbia River Highway Construction

### The Historic Columbia River Highway (Early 1900's)

The historic remnants of the Columbia River Highway, constructed between 1913 and 1922, represent perhaps the most significant cultural resource for state parks in the Gorge. The highway, which was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2000, originally connected all of the most scenic landmarks along the Oregon side of the Gorge, including many that are now part of the state park system. Construction of I-84 in the 1950s, cut off or destroyed many portions of the historic highway. However, the remaining drivable sections still connect visitors to some of the most popular sites in the Gorge, such as Crown Point and Guy Talbot in the west, and Mark O. Hatfield Trailhead and Rowena Crest Overlook in the east. In addition, long unused portions of the highway are being resurrected to serve as hiking/biking sections of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail (HCRHST). Many of the cultural resources along the route will be managed by OPRD as part of the HCRHST. These resources include original asphalt, stonework, bridges, and tunnels. OPRD is also responsible for maintaining many of the historic landmarks associated with the Historic Columbia River Highway, such as Vista House at Crown Point, which was built at the same time as the highway to showcase its scenic offerings.

After the 1930s, sections of the historic highway were gradually abandoned as the modern highway was built at river level. Sections of the highway that did remain, many of the original design features were at risk of being lost due to maintenance backlog and absence of policy to preserve the route.

This era of decline was finally reversed in the early 1990s, when ODOT began to restore the old highway back to its former glory, including formerly abandoned sections that have been restored as exclusive bike-walk trails. This work is expected to continue until a completely restored route of general traffic and exclusive trail sections extends the highway to its original distance.

#### Civilian Conservation Corps (1930s)

President Franklin D. Roosevelt formed the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the Great Depression to combat unemployment and enhance the Nation's infrastructure. A CCC camp was located at Benson State Park and a number of enhancement projects were conducted in Benson and other state parks in the Gorge. CCC crews built and refurbished roads and trails, completed extensive fire hazard reduction, and constructed day use features such as table and bench combinations. Although little evidence of the camp at Benson remains, the paths, benches, bridges, and many other improvements made by the CCC are still present in many parks. One of the more interesting CCC-constructed features is the historic fountain at Ainsworth State Park, where workers enhanced a natural cold water spring with elaborate stonework, steps, and a fountain. The fountain is now a contributing feature of the Columbia River Highway National Historic Landmark District.

#### Bonneville Dam and Construction of I-84 (Post 1930s)

Bonneville Dam's construction in the late 1930s altered the flow of the Columbia River and inundated riverside settlements and structures upstream of the dam. These changes have impacted cultural resources in state parks in a number of ways. For example, a popular resort at Koberg Beach was forced to close after the rising river inundated the dance hall, bathhouse, and most of the beach.

I-84 replaced the old Columbia River Highway as the primary means of travel through the Gorge in the 1950s and 1960s, cutting off or destroying sections of the old highway. I-84's alignment along the flatter ground near the railroad has impacted many state parks in terms of noise, access, and cultural resources. A settlement at Viento, for example, was removed to make way for the highway, and Rooster Rock's facilities were developed in conjunction with work on I-84 to allow large numbers of people to access the park.

#### The National Scenic Act

In 1986, Congress passed the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Act (CRGNSA) in order to preserve and enhance the Gorge's natural, scenic, cultural, and recreational resources. The CRGNSA called for the creation of a regulatory oversight body (the Columbia River Gorge Commission and the Forest Service) and a Management Plan (last updated in 2004), establishes development standards for all development within the Special Management Areas (SMAs) and General Management Areas (GMAs). These standards are implemented by County's NSA land use ordinances, discussed in more detail in Chapter 11.

The Forest Service and Gorge Commission based the management plan on extensive inventories of scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources. The Forest Service has responsibility to prepare the Management Plan provisions for the SMAs, which the Commission must adopt without change into the final Management Plan. Among other measures, areas with large concentrations of cultural resources in state parks and throughout the Gorge are designated Open Space and generally may not be developed.

#### Contemporary Native American Culture

Native Americans continue to exercise their treaty rights and carry on many of the cultural traditions of their forbearers, including fishing and food gathering in traditional areas, use of traditional medicines, and celebration of native religious ceremonies. A treaty fishing access site is located adjacent to Wyeth State Recreation Area.

# Cultural Resources Inventory

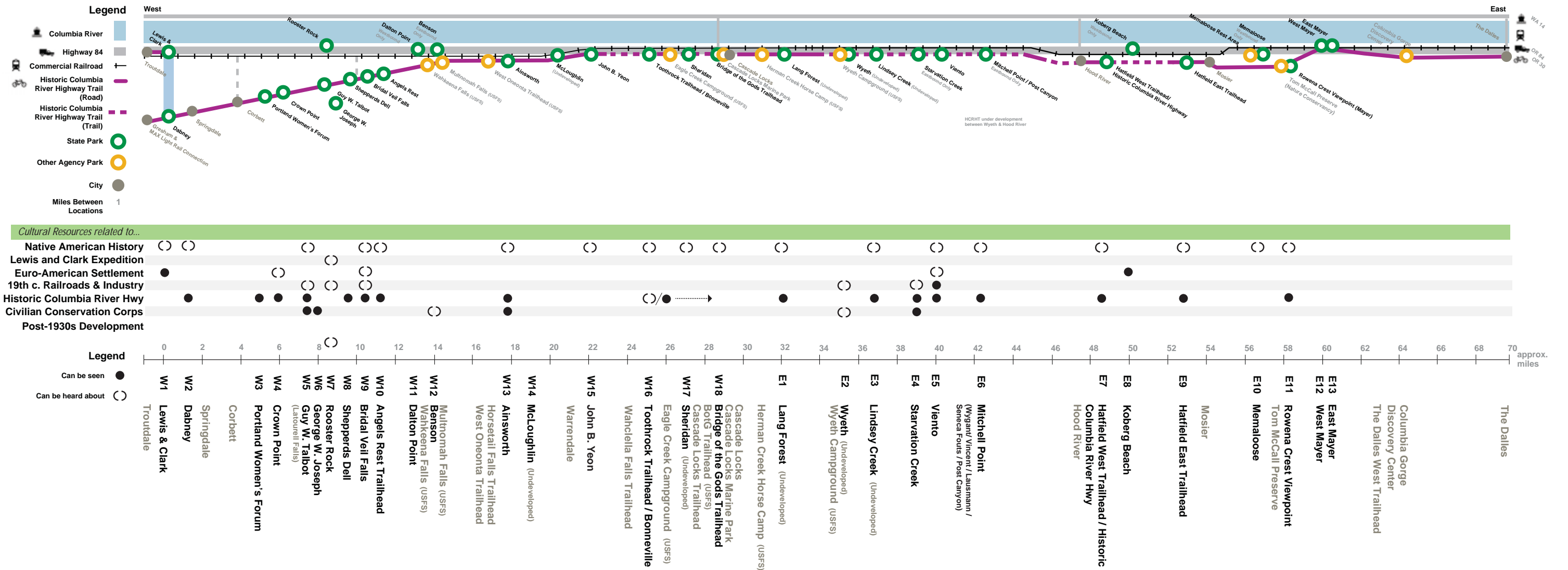


Figure 3.1 Existing Cultural Resource Inventory

## Oregon State Park Property Histories

### West Management Unit

#### W1 Lewis and Clark

The Park's namesakes, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, camped in this area on November 3, 1805. They were preceded by an earlier European visitor, Lt. William Robert Broughton of the Vancouver Expedition in 1792, for which Broughton Bluff is named. Thirteen tent sites were constructed in 1961 at the base of Broughton Bluff in the former location of the Hicklin Ranch buildings. The number was later increased to 22 and the area was used as an RV park until 1978, when the camping sites were removed and filled with dirt. Smelt fishing was formerly a popular draw to the park and dip nets were used to catch the tiny fish from the Sandy River. Smelt runs have begun to reoccur in 2013.



Smelt Fishing on the Sandy River at Dabney State Park (c.1930)

#### W2 Dabney

Richard T. Dabney and his wife Martha Amanda Renshaw originally owned the land and maintained a summer house at the park site until 1916. Henry Renshaw Dabney, their son, filed a subdivision plat on the land in May 1916. The subdivision was never built, and by 1968 the land had been transferred to OPRD.



Sculpture (Alonzo Lewis) at Portland Women's Forum

#### W3 Portland Women's Forum

Land for this park was donated to the state in 1962 by the Portland Women's Forum, a group of women active in preserving the natural beauty of the Columbia Gorge. The Chanticleer Inn operated here from 1912 to the 1930s, offering travelers country dining and spectacular view of the Gorge. Samuel Hill, Sam Lancaster, John B. Yeon, Simon Benson, and others met at the Inn to plan the construction of the Historic Columbia River Highway. Prior to this, the Inn was as far east from Portland on the county's road network as anyone could drive (some diners even traveled by train to Rooster Rock, at the river's edge and then by automobile or carriage up a steep road to the Inn, some 700 feet above the river). In the 1930s, a fifty-ton basalt boulder was moved to the site from the Rocky Butte Quarry to memorialize the road-builder Sam Hill. A relief bust of Sam Hill and bronze plaques depicting Columbia River Gorge history were designed by Seattle sculptor Alonzo Lewis.



Construction of Vista House (Image: Friends of Vista House)

#### W4 Crown Point

Lorens Lund homesteaded the high ground above and including Crown Point in the 1880s and later donated the land for public enjoyment. The dedication of the Columbia River Scenic Highway took place here in 1916. The highway borders much of the south side of the park and extensive historic stone retaining walls and guardrails remain. Outside the park boundaries, the 560-foot spiral viaduct was constructed of reinforced concrete and runs for 225 degrees of a circle around Crown Point. Vista House is part of the National Historic Landmark district and was constructed in 1918 to provide a place of refreshment and rest for highway travelers. A restaurant, the Crown Point Chalet opened in 1915 and operated until 1927; it was demolished in the 1950s.



Historic Photo of Guy W. Talbot State Park

**W5** Guy W. Talbot

Guy Talbot and his wife Geraldine donated the initial land for the park to the State in memory of their only son, Guy W. Talbot, Junior. The Talbots also donated a house and several outbuildings along with the land. Additional purchases were made in the 1950s and 1960s, including the property containing Latourell Falls. A particularly noteworthy section of the Historic Columbia River Highway called the 'Figure-Eight Loops' is adjacent to Guy Talbot State Park. This stretch of highway curves back on itself four times within a short distance as it descends 600 feet between Crown Point and Latourell Falls.

The CCC and the State made a number of improvements to the park in the 1930s, including construction of a foot bridge, guard rails, picnic table-bench combinations, and a stone drinking fountain that still stands.

**W6** George W. Joseph

The CCC made small improvements to George W. Joseph in 1933 and 1934, including natural resource enhancements and completion of the path and bridges to access upper Latourell Falls.



Beachgoers at Rooster Rock, (photo c. 1960)

**W7** Rooster Rock

Lewis and Clark camped at Rooster Rock in 1805 on their expedition westward. Around 1880, the Rooster Rock Cannery was built by the Columbia River Packers Association in connection with the fish seining and canning industry that dotted the banks of the Columbia River in the late 19th century. Historic 'penny postcards' show the location and configuration of the buildings. Rooster Rock State Park was proposed and developed in conjunction with the construction of I-84. The park was dedicated on July 25, 1957, after years of delay caused by highway construction challenges. A large concession building was constructed with restrooms, baths, and office space for the police department. Lifeguards were employed to supervise the thousands of people who visited the beach daily in summer.

**W8** Shepperd's Dell

Historic accounts of the Lewis and Clark Expedition indicate that they stopped at Shepperd's Dell in 1806. George G. Shepperd, a local farmer of modest means, gave the initial ten acres of this park to the city of Portland in 1915 as a memorial to his wife. It was transferred to the state in 1940. From the Shepperd's Dell

Bridge on the Historic Columbia River Highway, a short concrete staircase leads to a narrow pedestrian trail and masonry guard wall designed by Sam Lancaster. The trail ends at view of the stream cascading down from the Dell.

**W9** Bridal Veil Falls

The land for Bridal Veil was purchased from various owners between 1970 and 1984. The park adjoins the former location of the Bridal Veil Timber Company, a large logging outfit and mill that operated from 1886 until 1991. The Bridal Veil Post Office is all that remains of the nearby townsite; it remains open for the benefit of people who wish to send wedding invitations stamped "Bridal Veil".

**W12** Benson

Simon Benson, a lumber magnate and one of the principal promoters of the Historic Columbia River Highway, donated land for a park to the City of Portland in 1915. The park served as a CCC camp in the 1930s, from which trails and improvements were built in surrounding areas. The camp was gone by 1939, when the City of Portland transferred the property to the State of Oregon. By this time, Benson State Park was a scheduled stop for sightseeing and interstate busses and a large concessionaire's building sold meals and merchandise. By the 1950s, the park had day use areas with restrooms, parking, stoves, tables, and a swimming beach.

**W13** Ainsworth

The land for Ainsworth State Park was donated by John and Alice Ainsworth of Portland. John was associated with the Oregon Good Roads movement, which grew out of bicyclists and motorists desire for improved roads. The movement spurred construction of the Columbia River Highway, which passes through Ainsworth. In 1934, the CCC surveyed the park boundaries, cleared an acre of land for a campground, and built picnic facilities. In 1935, they developed trails, built the existing fountain next to the highway, and constructed two fireplaces and three table and bench combinations, which have since been replaced.



The Historic Fountain at Ainsworth State Park, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935 (photo c. 1940)

### **W16** Bonneville Scenic Corridor

This area was named for Captain Benjamin Bonneville, a French-born explorer who traveled the West in the 1830s. Sam Lancaster, the primary engineer for the Columbia River Highway, owned a portion of the current park and built a resort on it in 1915. The resort later burned and he sold the property, but came back in the 1930s to live in a cabin on the edge of the park. Waldo and Mildred Alcorn sold the first parcel of land to the state in 1933. This parcel was subsequently given to the United States Government in 1933 to service Bonneville Dam, but additional nearby properties were acquired by the state. In 1935, Bonneville Park was laid out by Sam Lancaster on part of his former resort grounds for use by construction workers building the dam.

## East Management Unit

### **E2** Wyeth

Wyeth State Recreation Area takes its name from the nearby former railroad station and post office, named for Nathaniel J. Wyeth. Wyeth was a trader and patriot who came to Oregon in 1832 and established several trading posts. Cape Sebastian, a CCC company was located at Wyeth in the 1930's and in the 1940's it was a conscientious objector camp.

### **E4** Starvation Creek

Starvation Creek was acquired from a private landowner to preserve the falls and surrounding forest. The creek derives its name from the winter of 1884-1885, when a heavy snow fall stalled two trains near the creek and men from Hood River on homemade skis packed supplies to the passengers to keep them from starving. Initial developments at the park were built by the CCC and included an entrance road, parking lot, trails, picnic tables, a water system, and restrooms. Wooden two-rail guard fences, painted white, were erected along the Columbia River Highway at many locations, including Starvation Creek. By 1920, the United States Bureau of Public Roads had adopted this design as the standard for guard fences in western Federal-Aid roads.

### **E5** Viento

The name 'Viento' originates from a railroad station named for three railroad pioneers by taking the first two letters of each of their last names. Coincidentally, it is one of the windiest points in the entire Gorge, and the name translates to 'wind' in Spanish. By the 1920s, the community of Viento consisted of several families, a school, gas stations, recreational cabins, and housing for railroad personnel. The first parcel acquired for Viento State Park was a 3.6 acre purchase in 1925 followed by additional purchases in the 1950s, when the community of Viento was removed to make way for I-84. A hydropower station on Viento Creek was built in the 1920s to power a gas station and light homes.



An Advertisement for Koberg Beach, Prior to the Construction of Bonneville Dam

### **E6** Mitchell Point: Wygant State Natural Area/Vinzenz Lausman State Natural Area/Seneca Fouts State Natural Area (incl. Post Canyon)

The Wygant trail was a gift to Oregon honoring the memory of the Wygant family, formerly part of the Oregon Pioneer Trail and later the Historic Columbia River Highway. Adjacent to Mitchell Point Viewpoint, the "Tunnel of Many Vistas" once allowed cars the travel around the steep rock as part of the HCRH. This tunnel was inspired by the Axenstrasse un Germany.

### **E8** Koberg Beach

Koberg Beach was once a recreation destination for nearby communities. Initially a farm and ferry launch, John Koberg bought the beach area in 1894 and built a dance hall and "fine stone bathhouse" by the 1930s. Rising water levels after construction of the Bonneville Dam reduced the size of the beach and inundated the buildings. In 1951, approximately 90 acres were purchased for the creation of a state park in conjunction with the construction of I-84. The dance hall was demolished in 1954 and picnicking and rest area facilities were built in 1962.



Historic Photo From Rowena Crest in Mayer State Park

### E10 Memaloose

Originally a small overlook area on the old Columbia River Highway, Memaloose State Park expanded to its current size with the addition of several parcels in the 1950s. The word ‘memaloose’ is derived from a Chinook word meaning ‘island of the dead’ in honor of two nearby islands in the Columbia River that were Sacred Native American burial grounds. The campground loop was constructed in 1970 using fill material taken from a quarry to the west of the park.

### E12 Mayer

The first land acquired for Mayer State Park was a parcel of 260 acres given by Mark A. Mayer from Mosier, an industrialist and local orchardist, in 1924. Land purchases between 1952 and 1961 increased the total acreage to 308, including Rowena Crest Overlook. The overlook, which provides a view of the Columbia River and surrounding plateaus, was constructed in conjunction with the Historic Columbia River Highway and is bordered by a masonry guard wall characteristic of those found along the Highway.

## Natural Resource Inventory

Three separate assessment reports were prepared by OPRD staff to provide guidance to the planning process and inform broad management strategies to park staff:

1. Vegetation Inventory, Botanical Resource Assessment, and Natural Landscape Characterization
2. Forest Management Technical Report
3. Wildlife Assessment

The findings from these reports have been summarized in this section and the full reports can be found in Appendix 2. The reports describe the natural resources on the Oregon side of the Columbia River Gorge between Portland and The Dalles. Unlike previous plans, the natural resource assessment for this plan was conducted over a broad study area encompassing all land, public and private, within approximately one mile of the south bank of the Columbia River (Figure 3.1). This approach reflects the regional nature of the plan and the emphasis on evaluating state parks within the larger context of the Gorge.

## Natural History Overview of the Gorge

The Gorge study area spans four eco-regions and a wide range of ecosystems, climatic zones, and landforms. The following section summarizes the varied natural resources in the study area, including topography, hydrology, soils, climate, and historic vegetation/landcover.

### Geology

#### Columbia River Basalt Flows

The Columbia River Gorge began forming six to sixteen million years ago in the Miocene (well before the Missoula floods), as lava flowed from deep cracks on the Idaho border and covered the land all the way to the ancient coastline (near what is now McMinnville).

As tectonic plates jostled against one another, concurrent with the Columbia River Basalt Group flows, the lateral pressure caused the earth’s crust to fold. A series of these gentle but immense folds in the Columbia River Basalt lava flows cross the Columbia River at



Starvation Creek Falls

an angle. Several beautifully exposed set of folds (including the Ortley and Bingen-Hood River anticlines and The Dalles syncline) can be seen from OPRD properties in the eastern Gorge.

The V-shaped ancestral valleys of the Columbia River offered the easiest downhill route to the sea for many inland lava flows. Successive lava flows solidified into basalt in the river’s channel, with the river cutting a new channel each time to the north of the old one. Basalt remnants of several of the inter-canyon flows can be seen in several OPRD properties.

In the long periods between Columbia River Basalt flows, the Columbia River deposited river gravel, silt and sand in its former channels. These became The Dalles Formation, found in the basins of The Dalles and Mosier, and the Troutdale formation, found in the Hood River and Portland basins. More recent folding and faulting have caused some pieces of these sedimentary formations to rise well above their original locations to places that can be seen from some OPRD properties.





Figure 3.1 Columbia River Gorge Study Area

The High Cascades, located to the east of the older, eroded Cascades, were uplifted about 4 million years ago. During the same period the great composite volcanos, Mt. Hood and Mt. Adams, began their eruptive phase, which continues to the present era. Hundreds of smaller volcanoes and fissures also began to flow with Boring and Cascade lavas.

#### The Missoula Floods

At the end of the last Ice Age, 15,000 to 13,000 years ago, a series of cataclysmic floods scoured nearly 16,000 square miles of the Columbia River drainage basin. Flood waters were held behind colossal, 1,000 to 2,500 foot high ice dams on the Clark Fork of the Columbia, on the Idaho-Montana border near Lake Pend Oreille. The floods travelled across eastern Washington, tearing away the landscape as it went. They funneled out toward the Pacific through what would become the Columbia Gorge. It is estimated that there were at least 25 floods, recurring on an average of 55 years over the 2,000 year period. The approximate elevation of the flood waters as they passed The Dalles were 1,000 feet above sea level, 600 feet as it passed Crown Point and 400 feet in the Willamette Valley.

The Missoula Floods composed of water, mud, and innumerable ice flows packed with boulders, were incredibly destructive in the erosion they caused, creating cliffs up to 3,000 feet high adjacent to the Columbia River with suspended water falls. The major waterfalls later developed large alcoves in the canyon wall, as water froze and expanded in the microscopic cracks of the brickbat- and columnar-jointed basalt. Since the last ice age, alcoves have been eroded several hundred feet back into the cliff face through this process.

Some significant geologic examples at state parks in the Gorge include:

- The oldest known basalt flow is located near the Latourell Falls parking lot.
- The glacial erratic visible from the Hatfield East Trailhead in Mosier.
- The Bridge of the Gods, natural dam that was created by the Bonneville Slide.

#### Topography

The area's unique topography has been shaped by the Columbia River and other erosive forces. On the Oregon side, the River's



Rooster Rock and Crown Point, circa 1937 (State Archives)

floodplain gives way abruptly to steeply rising cliffs. Elevation within the study area ranges from approximately 10 to 600 feet above sea level, often within the space of a mile or less. Landforms such as stair-stepped cliffs, sheer-walled canyons, rock spires, and waterfalls are common. This topographic variability contributes to a diversity of habitat types, and as a result, a high diversity of native plants and wildlife species.

#### Hydrology

Water flow patterns are correlated with topographic features and a strong east-west precipitation gradient and rain shadow effect. Surface water features include the Columbia River, a number of smaller tributary rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands. Many of the streams form spectacular waterfalls as they cascade over cliff faces, eroded rock features, and through canyons, contributing to the dramatic character of the landscape. Meanwhile, below-ground water availability exerts a strong influence over the types of vegetation colonizing the landscape.

Flooding impacts a large portion of the Columbia River Gorge study area (although impacts are significantly reduced now that dams control much of the river's flow). Areas most prone to flooding are at low elevations within the 100-year flood plain and along stream terraces. These areas contain the most alluvial soil and are covered by early to mid-seral riparian vegetation. Normal annual flood activity occurs as a result of high precipitation

and snow-melt during spring rains. Annual floods affect soil and vegetation composition by scouring soils and knocking down or dislodging established vegetation. Infrequent catastrophic floods have occurred many times in the study area's past. The Missoula, or Bretz, Floods are an example of catastrophic flood events in the area, as are lesser floods, lahars, and pyroclastic flows caused by volcanic eruptions. Catastrophic flood events such as the Bretz Floods likely had huge effects on the local topography and soils through the combined actions of scouring and deposition of sediment.

Now, however, much of the area's flooding activity is controlled by dams, a change that is transforming soil and vegetation patterns along the banks of the Columbia River and has significantly altered habitat for native fish and wildlife.



Rooster Rock's Beach Was Severely Eroded During Flooding in 1996 (Image from Crown Point)

## Climate

Climate in the Gorge is generally mild and the area has a relatively long growing season, from mid-February to late November. Precipitation ranges from 44 inches per year at the western end to 30 per year in the arid eastern end, with the heaviest precipitation occurring between the months of November and May. Because of the area's low elevation, almost all of this precipitation is in the form of rain. The entire area typically has several months of summer drought. The Gorge sees an average of 40 days per year with temperatures below freezing. East winds in winter can be strong and can cause ice storms. Summer east winds are hot and dry and contribute to wildfire spread and risk.

## Soils

Most of the low elevation soils within the study area are alluvial, having been deposited by flooding and river flows over several

millennia. The majority of these soils have been deposited incrementally from upstream locations, but some, characterized by high sand and gravel content, were probably deposited by the Missoula Floods. Above the flood plain, a variety of soil types are present. Many upland soils were formed on-site from the weathering of native rock; others contain silt and sand components that may have been deposited by the Bretz floods. These mixed soils are deeper in areas of moderate slope that lie at the base of the Gorge's cliff walls.

## Historic Vegetation

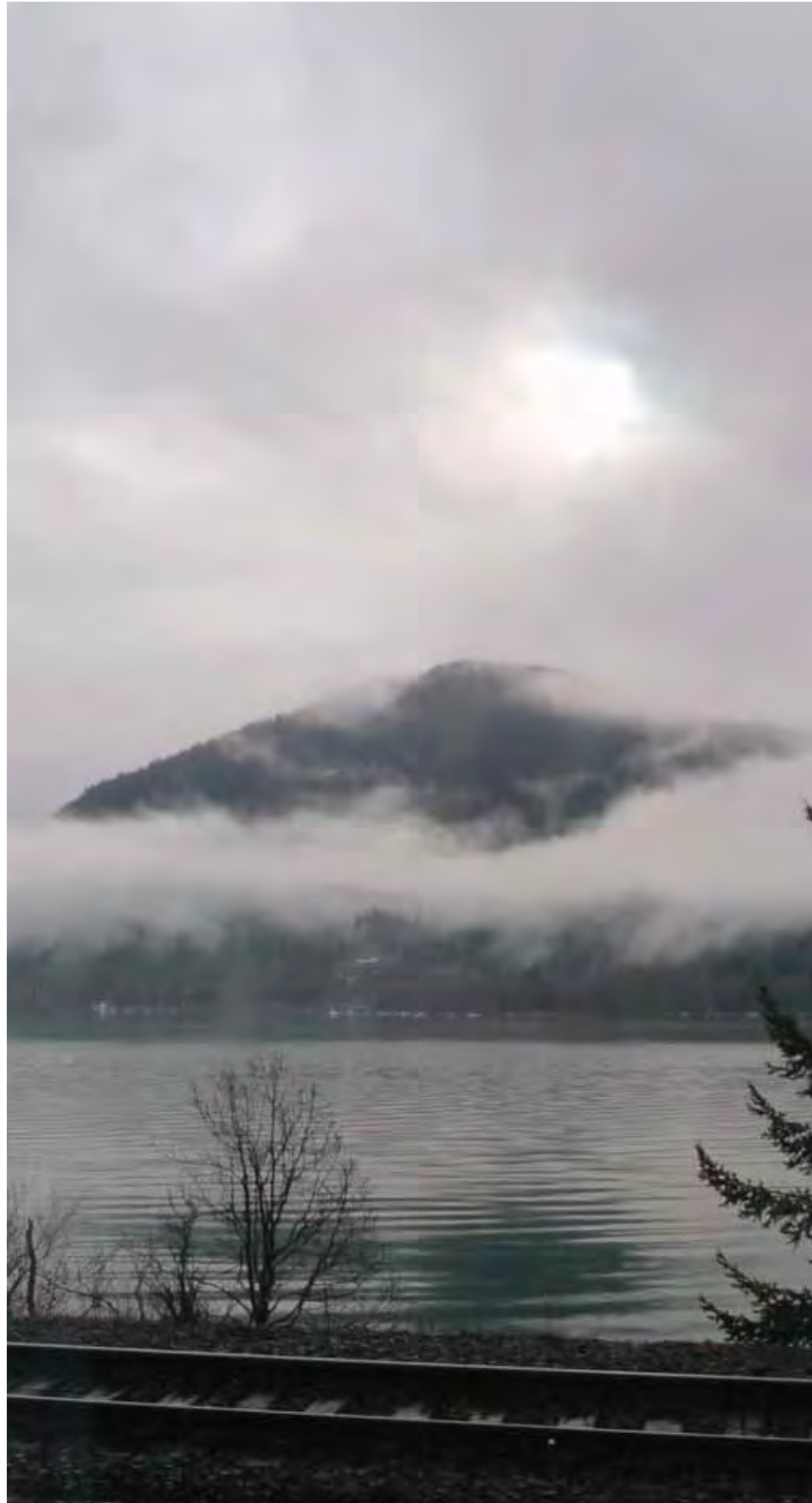
Indigenous land management was a key factor in establishing historic vegetation types. Native American tribes managed the land to increase production of camas, acorns, and other plants that are key elements of the Gorge ecosystem. Historic and prehistoric vegetation cover can be inferred from early surveyors' accounts, as well as several large-scale modeling efforts conducted by different organizations, including the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center (ORBIC) and the U.S. Forest Service. Of these, the ORBIC data provides the best approximation of pre-European-American settlement vegetation patterns along the Oregon side of the Columbia River Gorge.

The broad vegetation types present throughout the Gorge just prior to and soon after European-American settlement are reported by all sources to include forest, savanna, grassland, and wetlands. Forest types are assumed to have included Douglas fir forest, mixed Douglas fir and deciduous forest, ponderosa pine forest, and Oregon white oak forest.

## Fire Patterns

Lightning was probably the primary cause of prehistoric fires in the Gorge. Prior to European-American settlement, Native Americans throughout the Willamette Valley and the Columbia River Gorge also periodically burned grasslands in order to maintain edible plant and wild game availability.

Different parts of the Gorge have been subject to different fire regimes as a result of local environmental factors. As a rule, fire frequency has historically been higher in the eastern Gorge than in the west. As a result, oak/pine forests and grasslands have



The Morning Fog Near Mosier From Washington

burned more frequently than coniferous forests. Peaks, ridges, and drier slopes (east, south, or west facing) have likely burned more frequently than wetter north facing slopes and low-lying, sheltered areas.

Fire frequency has generally decreased in recent times as a result of human intervention and suppression, although fires may have increased along railway and highway corridors. Current fire return intervals may be as long as 150 to 200 years in some parts of the Gorge.

### Vegetation Communities

OPRD conducted a comprehensive assessment of plant communities, wetlands, ecological condition, forest age class, noxious weeds, historic vegetation, and rare plant species within the Oregon Columbia River Gorge study area. A stratified approach to characterizing vegetation and ecology was used because of the large size and difficult terrain of the study area. This stratified approach included detailed, ground-based surveys, as well as remotely-sensed characterization of vegetation using aerial imagery. Over 1,200 sample plots were also created based on staff-identified 'areas of interest' on state park properties.

The term landcover describes general vegetation and landscape characteristics. For the purposes of this plan, landcover was modeled at two scales: regional and park-specific. The regional scale mapping presents a summary of landcover types most useful at or around the 1:24,000 scale. Twenty-five broad classes of landcover were selected from a multitude of vegetation communities and landscape features to represent the study area. From these, priority habitats were identified and mapped.

Management goals and park-specific management strategies were drafted based on this and prior assessments, taking into account landscape context and the relative importance of OPRD-owned properties within the overall Oregon Gorge environment.

### Existing Vegetation

Vegetation in the study area ranges from temperate rainforest and marsh at the western end of the Gorge to semi-arid steppe, savanna, and grassland at the eastern end, varying locally

depending on topographic and hydrologic conditions. The rather abrupt transition between wetter western habitats and the more arid eastern habitats is striking and occurs just west of Hood River, near Viento State Park.

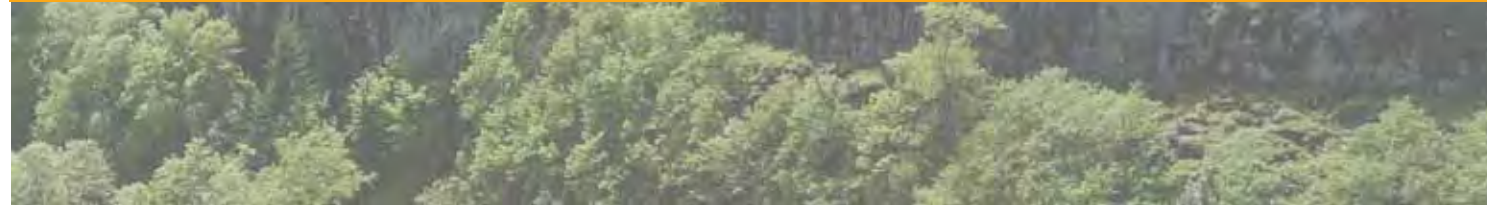
Although non-native invasive plant species are widespread and abundant, much of the landscape retains a natural character and



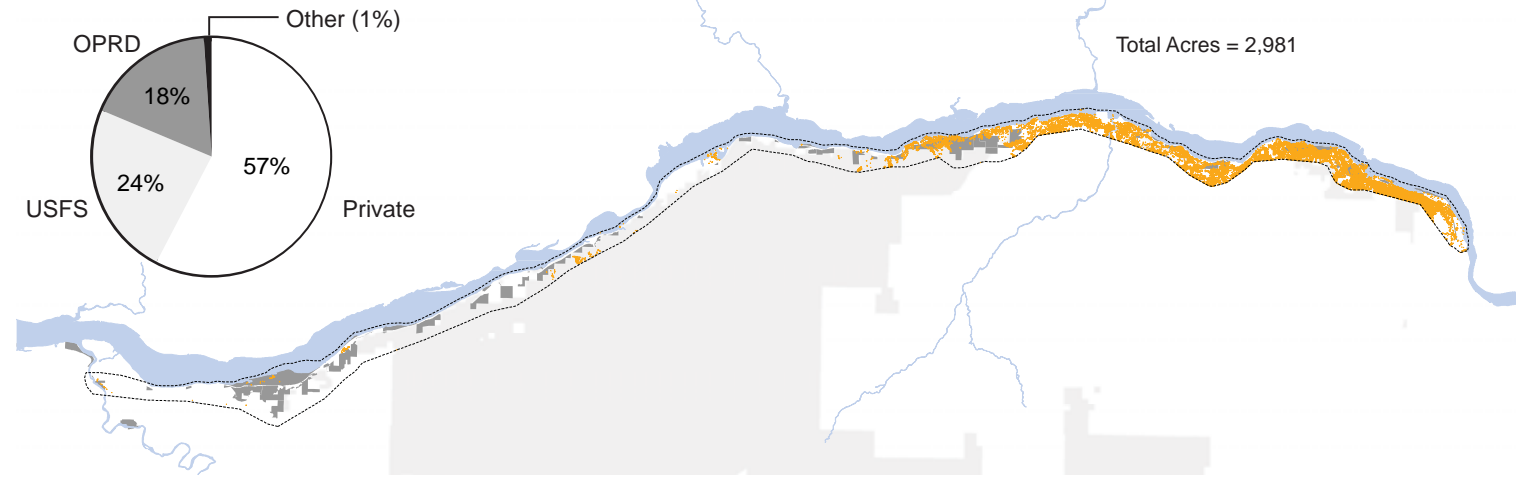
Lewis' Mock-orange, a native plant present in a variety of habitat types throughout the western Gorge

# Oregon Conservation Strategy and Other Significant Habitats

## Oregon Oak



Percentage of Oak Area by Land Ownership



## Ponderosa Pine



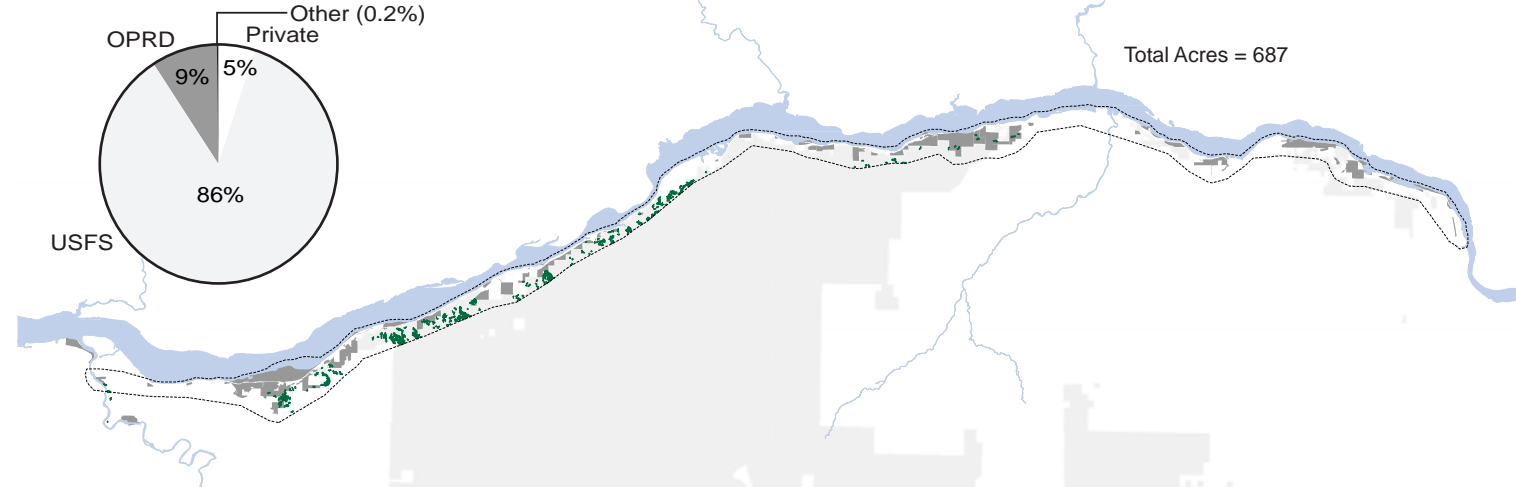
Percentage of Pine Area by Land Ownership



## Late Seral Forest



Percentage of Late Seral Forest Area by Land Ownership



## Semi-Native Grassland



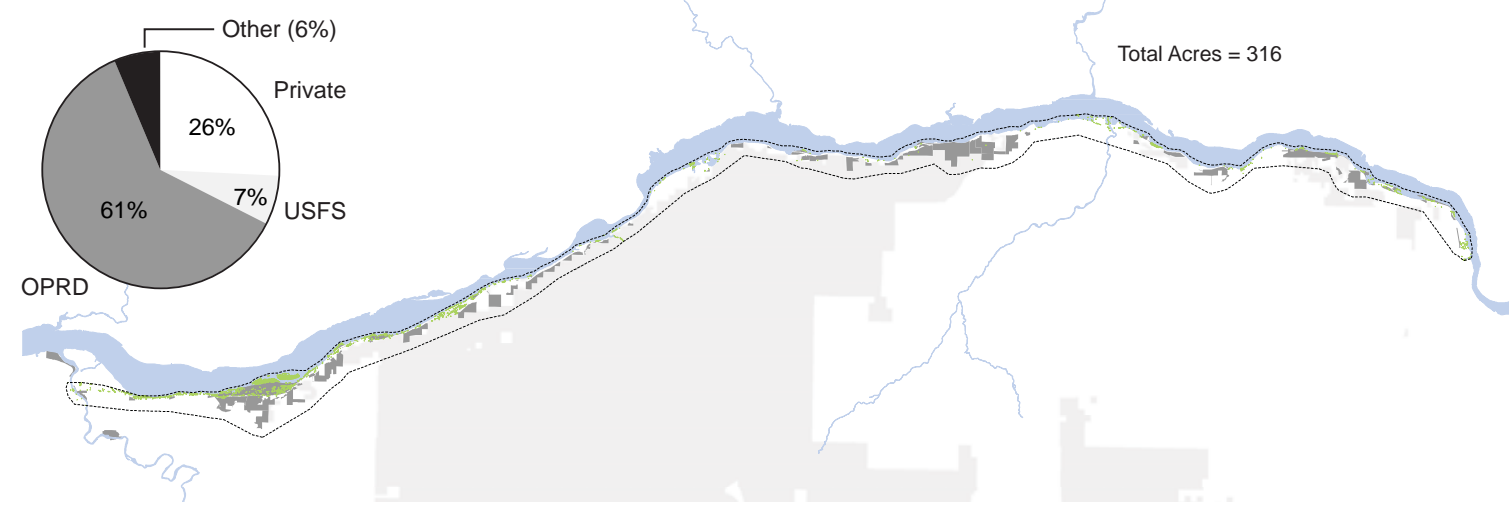
Percentage of Semi-Native Grassland Area by Land Ownership



## Riparian Shrub/Willow



Percentage of Riparian Shrub/Willow Area by Land Ownership



## Emergent Wetland



Percentage of Emergent Wetland by Land Ownership



## Riparian Forest



Percentage of Riparian Forest by Land Ownership

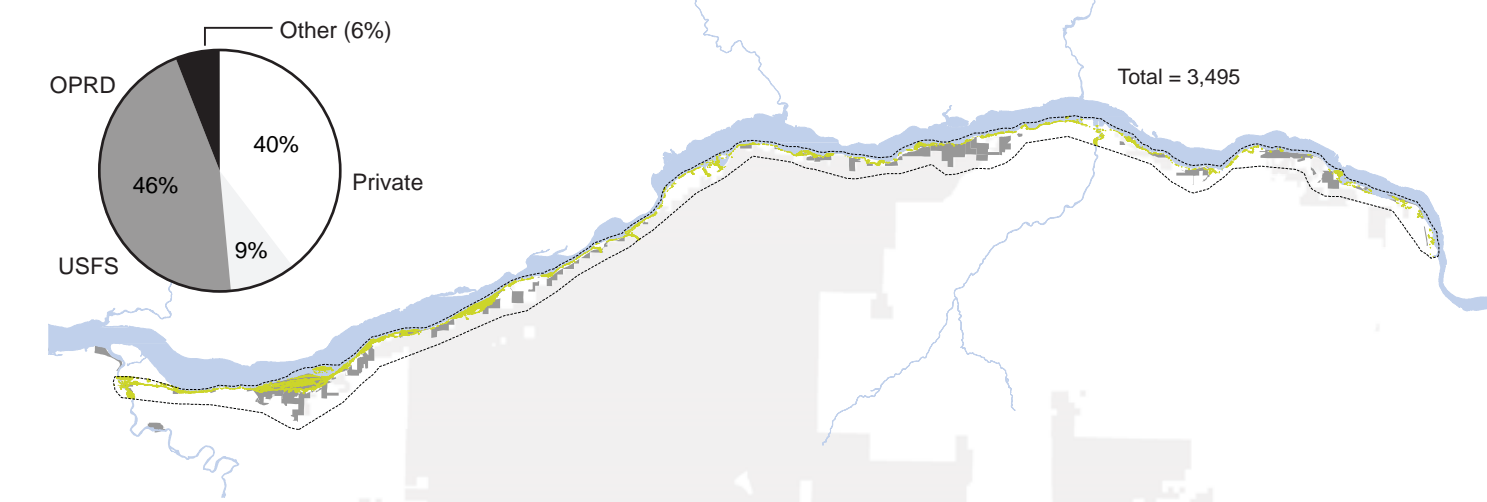
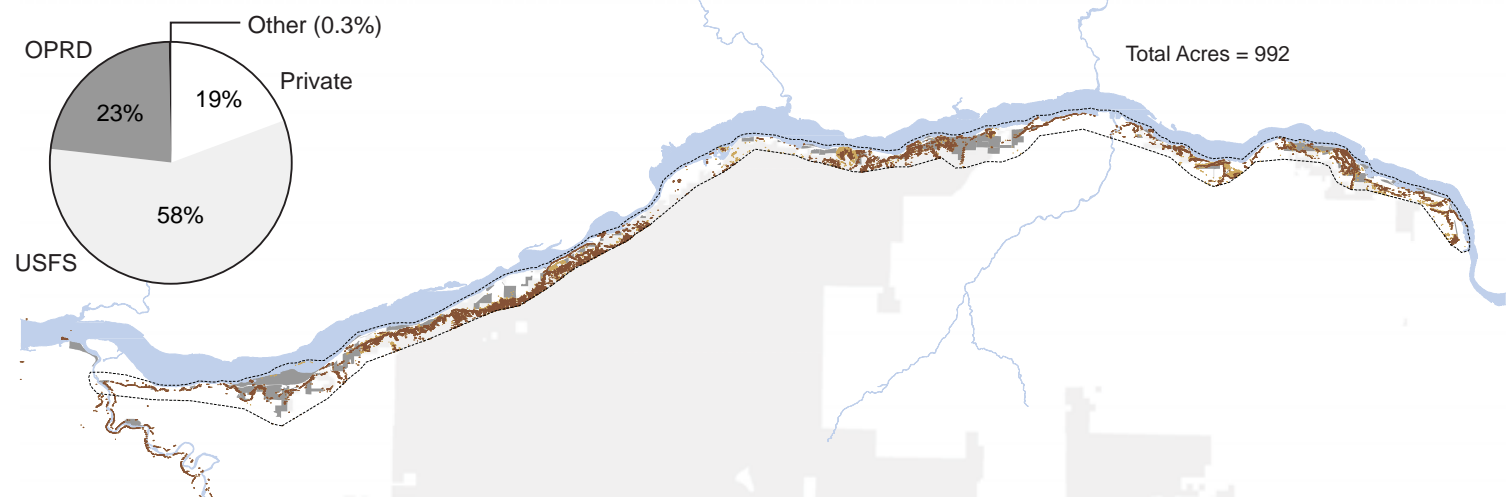


Figure 3.2 Oregon Conservation Strategy Habitats in the Columbia River Gorge

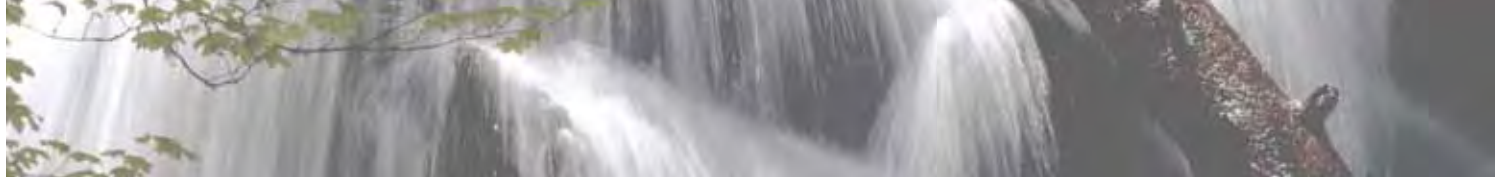
## Cliffs, Rock and Scree



Percentage of Cliffs, Rock and Scree Area by Land Ownership



## Waterfalls



Percentage of Waterfalls by Land Ownership



Figure 3.4 Non-Conservation Strategy Significant Habitats in the Columbia River Gorge

provides valuable plant and wildlife habitat. A number of Oregon Conservation Strategy Habitats (at-risk habitats prioritized by the state for preservation and restoration) occur in the study area (See Figure 3.2):

- Oregon oak forest
- Ponderosa pine forest
- Late seral conifer forest
- Native and semi-native grasslands
- Riparian habitats

Other significant habitats, which may support rare plant and animal species, include:

- Cliffs, rock outcroppings, and scree slopes
- Waterfalls and associated spray zones

OPRD-owned lands in the study area contain a majority of the significant low-lying habitats associated with riparian areas. In contrast, upland habitats like cliffs and waterfalls are found primarily on U.S. Forest Service lands. Three of the Conservation Strategy Habitats (Oregon Oak, Ponderosa Pine, and Grassland) are associated with the arid eastern side of the Gorge and are most abundant on private lands, while late seral conifer forests are found primary on U.S. Forest Service property in the western Gorge. Riparian habitats are distributed along the Columbia River throughout the Gorge; however, Rooster Rock State Park in particular contains a significant proportion of the important riparian habitat in the Gorge.

### Rare Plants

Many rare plants (as well as rare lichens and fungi) occur within the Columbia Gorge. Most of these species are associated with uncommon or threatened habitats, such as waterfall spray zones, cliffs and rock outcroppings, mudflats, and native bunchgrass grasslands. Some species have naturally limited distributions (such as those that live in waterfall spray zones) and some have been made rare because of human disturbance to their habitats (such as those relying on native bunchgrass prairies).

A number of rare plant species in the Gorge have been listed as 'species of concern' by the state or federal government. A few (less than five) have been listed as threatened or endangered. These species are subject to strict protection under federal and state laws, however, all sensitive species within the Gorge National Scenic Area are protected under the Gorge Management Plan.

### Invasive Plants

Invasive, non-native plant species are prevalent in many parts of the Gorge, particularly around urban and agricultural areas. Other areas, primarily high elevation conifer forests and cliffs, are relatively or even completely free of non-native plants.

# Oregon Conservation Strategy & Other Significant Habitats

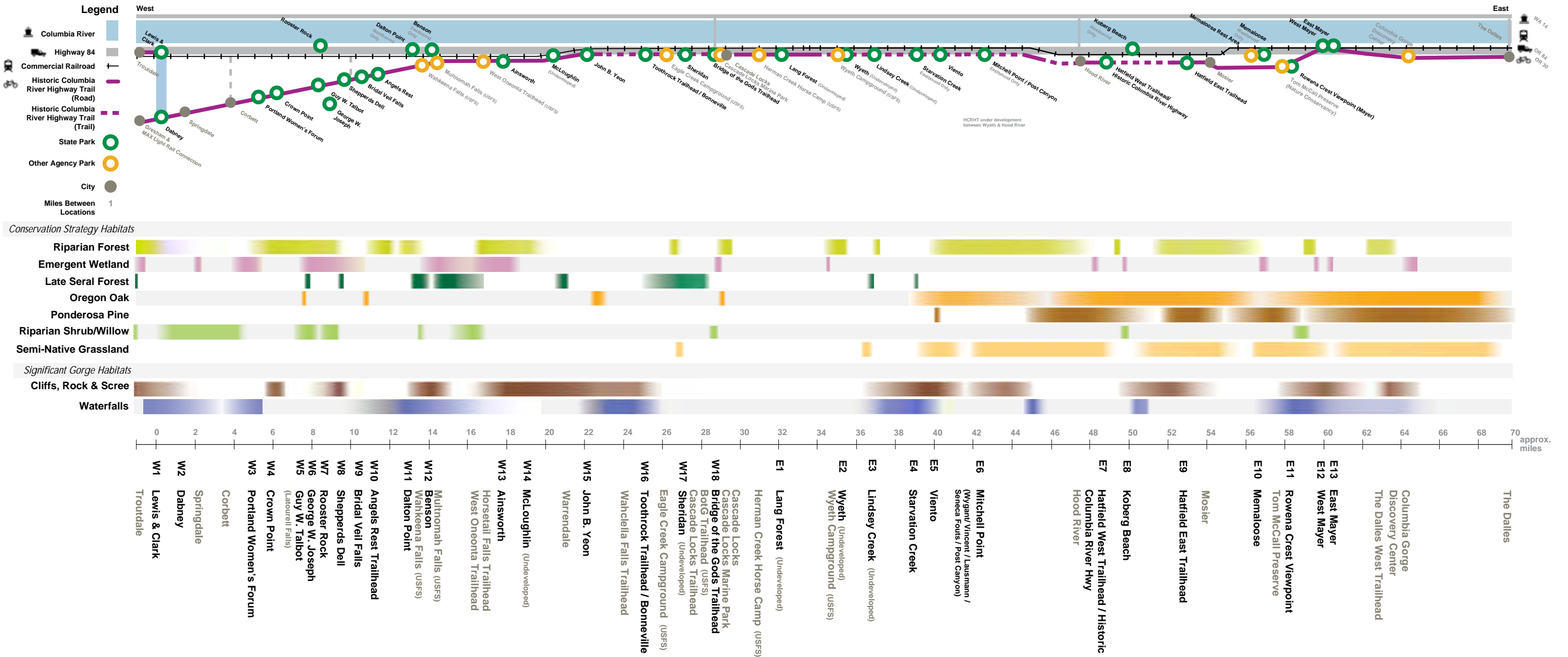


Figure 3.4 Existing Oregon Priority Habitats



Sand Island Area at Rooster Rock State Park

Some of the most established, ‘system-modifying’ invasive plant species present in the Gorge include Armenian blackberry, reed canarygrass, non-native knapweeds, tree of heaven, Japanese knotweed, garlic mustard, false brome, English ivy, old man’s beard, dog rose, non-native thistles and geraniums, herb robert geraniums, and yellow flag iris. These species are competitive colonizers in hospitable environments and can completely displace all other species in the habitats they invade. Additional invasive species present in the Gorge, but not as damaging to native habitats, include non-native pasture grasses, dandelion, hairy cat’s ear, and others.

Invasive species have not been mapped at a regional scale in the Gorge, although weed infestations were recorded opportunistically by OPRD during the vegetation assessment. Weed mapping was done on OPRD properties in the Gorge between 2006 and 2008 (See Natural Resource Reports in Appendix), and selected species have been mapped by members of the Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) as part of species-specific assessment and control projects.

## State Natural Area Reserves

Twelve State Natural Area reserves have been designated within the Oregon portion of the Gorge. More information on how these areas were identified can be found in the state’s *Oregon Natural Areas Plan (2010)*. Eleven of the reserves are within OPRD parks, at Benson, Bridal Veil, Koberg Beach, Shepherd’s Dell, John Yeon, Guy Talbot, George Joseph, Memaloose, Rooster Rock, Mayer, and Starvation Creek. The remaining reserve in the Gorge is owned by The Nature Conservancy adjacent to Rowena Overlook. These areas have been conserved as important examples of native habitats occurring in Oregon, and natural values have been identified for each that should be protected and enhanced where possible.

## Individual Oregon Natural Areas Values

The following descriptions of natural values for each State Natural Areas that occur in state parks have been adapted from text prepared by the Oregon Natural Heritage Advisory Council to the State Land Board.

Please note that these identified natural areas are different than the Oregon State Park identified as State Natural Areas. As well these identified reserves form the basis of areas set aside as reserves within state parks, however in the scope of this plan, additional areas were identified by natural resource staff as



Licorice Fern growing near a spray zone at Bridal Veil Falls



forestry reserves, or habitat refuges. These areas are mapped in the Management Zone maps in Chapter 9 of this plan.

**W3** Benson

The state reserve near and within Benson contains some of the best examples of waterfalls and spray zones in the Gorge, providing a unique habitat that supports rare plants and animals. The reserve also contains a small, late seral stand of Douglas fir forest.

**W5** Guy Talbot & **W6** George W. Joseph

These two parks contain a relatively large, protected reserve with two waterfall areas. The waterfall spray zones support rare plant populations and potentially rare animal populations as well.

**W7** Rooster Rock

The state reserve within Rooster Rock contains the highest quality example of wapato wetland remaining in Western Oregon. This wetland type was formerly common along sloughs in the Portland area between Rooster Rock and Sauvie Island. Almost all of the sites have now been destroyed by overgrazing or development. These wetlands are important biologically and culturally; historically, Native Americans in the area relied on wapato as a staple food.

The Sand Island portion of the reserve contains the last remaining unstabilized sand dunes on the lower Columbia River. They are a product of Gorge winds and sands presumably derived from the Table Mountain landslide near Cascade Locks. Cyclical stabilization and subsequent wind erosion have created a landscape reminiscent of the coastal Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, with imposing 100-foot dunes and active burial of riparian cottonwood forest. This feature is of great regional significance, as almost all other riparian sand dune features in the Gorge have been inundated behind dams on the Columbia River or stabilized by vegetation. The site also contains excellent examples of riparian ash-cottonwood forest and river willow-Pacific willow thickets.

**W8** Shepperd's Dell

This reserve contains small but excellent examples of waterfalls and associated spray zones, providing a unique habitat at the western end of the Gorge that likely supports rare plants and animals. There are also small stands of late seral Douglas fir forest.

**W9** Bridal Veil Falls

The reserve at Bridal Veil Falls includes waterfalls and associated spray zones, potentially supporting rare plants and animals. It also contains a small, undisturbed stand of late seral Douglas fir forest.

**W15** John B. Yeon

The park contains a small but excellent example of waterfall and cliff vegetation representative of this portion of the Columbia River Gorge. It has more than a dozen plant species of concern, making it one of the most diverse rare plant habitats in the Gorge.

**E4** Starvation Creek

The reserve site at Starvation Creek includes an excellent example of waterfall and talus vegetation, as well as small stands of late seral Douglas fir forest. A number of rare plant and animal species are known to occur here.

**E8** Koberg Beach

The Columbia Oaks area has some of the best remaining examples of Oregon oak/ponderosa pine savanna and grand fir-Douglas fir forest in the eastern Gorge. It also has Oregon's largest population of the very showy, cliff dwelling Barrett's penstemon.

**E10** Memaloose

Memaloose has some of the best remaining riparian vegetation in the eastern Columbia River Gorge, including willow, cottonwood and hawthorn woodlands. The reserve contains diverse uplands with pine, oak, bunchgrass and native shrubs. It also has Oregon's largest population of Nevius' onion, a species endemic to the Columbia River Gorge.



Mixed Conifer Forest at Ainsworth State Park

# Habitat Connectivity & Wildlife Resource Values

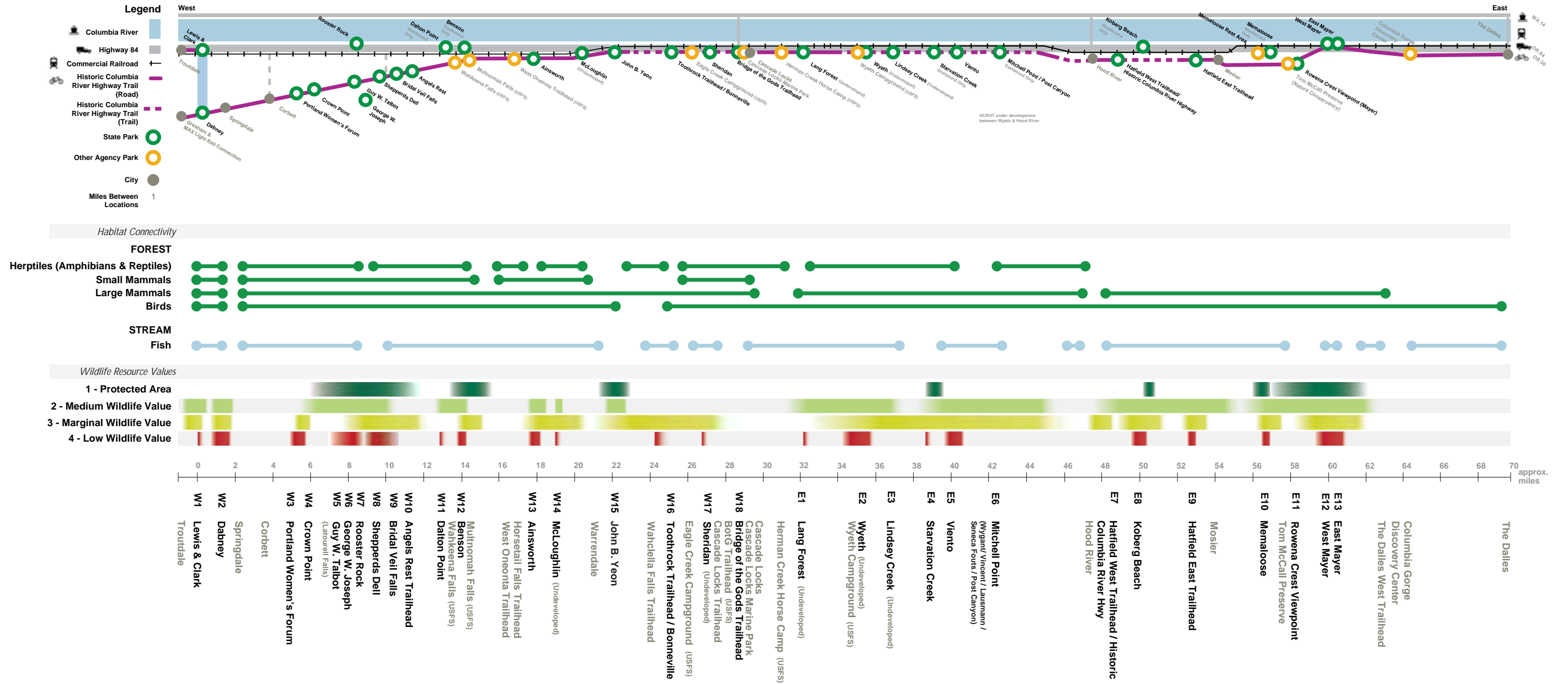


Figure 3.5 Existing Wildlife Connectivity and Habitat Value

## E12 Mayer

Rowena Plateau is one of the premier natural areas in the eastern half of the Columbia River Gorge. The grasslands, ponderosa pine-Oregon oak covered talus slopes, and vernal ponds provide a unique and important matrix of natural ecosystems. Rowena has Oregon's largest population of the Hood River milkvetch, a plant only found in the eastern Columbia River Gorge. The reserve also contains dramatic basalt cliffs from which visitors can enjoy spectacular vistas of the eastern Gorge.

Squally Point Dunes, east of Rowena, represent the only remaining Columbia River Gorge sand dunes on the mainland. This dune ecosystem characterized The Dalles area before the construction of dams on the lower Columbia River.

### Forestry Management Report Summary

The Forest Management Technical Report (2013) was prepared to accompany and provide guidance for the Comprehensive Plan for OPRD properties in the Columbia River Gorge Management Unit. The report summarizes current conditions and broad management recommendations for forest stands within the planning area. Stand conditions were assessed and management recommendations were made based on the guidelines in the OPRD Forest Management Policy. This policy was created in 2004 and guides forest management decisions on OPRD property statewide. The NSAMP has specific forest practice guidelines for SMAs. Forest Practices in the GMA are exempt from Management Plan review, but forest practices in the SMA are not.

Ninety-nine individual forest stands, totalling 4,228 acres, were identified on 23 OPRD properties using digital orthophotos and GIS software. Properties on which trees are not the dominant vegetation, or where OPRD or transportation infrastructure would be the major management influence on vegetation, were not included. Accessible stands (75 out of the 99) were visited to ground-truth orthophoto observations, using a combination of ocular estimation and inventory plots

Most of the forested areas in the Columbia Gorge Planning Area are currently in a condition that meets the guidelines in the OPRD Forest Management Policy. Management intervention is

recommended on less than 10% of the 4,228 acres surveyed in the planning area. Stands requiring urgent intervention to meet OPRD objectives have been identified, as have stands with rare or unique characteristics (for more details, see the full report in the Appendix).

Forest management in the Gorge requires lengthy and complex permitting processes. As a result, implementation of some forest management recommendations may be cost-prohibitive without dedicating additional funding. Current stand conditions will change over time with disturbances such as storm damage, insect attack and fire, so it is likely that forest management activities will be warranted on a larger percentage of the surveyed area in the future.

#### OPRD Forest Reserves

OPRD Forest Reserves are areas of particularly high quality or unique forest communities. They are identified in the Gorge Forestry Report as 'Condition Class A' stands. Like Wildlife Refuges, Forest Reserves are not "officially" designated; they are presented in this plan to guide management of park properties. Efforts should be made to site development away from reserves and minimize impact to these areas from recreation.



Spawning coho salmon

### Wildlife Assessment Summary

Several different types of wildlife assessments were completed for the Columbia Gorge Management Units (CGMUs), including high-level, broad habitat availability and management challenges; a brief, but focused individual analysis of each of the state parks located within the CGMUs; an assessment of habitat connectivity at regional and park-specific scales; a discussion of at-risk wildlife species; and an analysis of threats to these species. The following sections summarize these portions of the report. The full report can be found in the Appendix.

The Gorge is a large and diverse management area. It is home to a wide array of plants and animals, including a number of endemic species found only in the Gorge. State parks within this area are diverse as well. They range in size from eight to over 2,000 acres, with an average size of 300 acres. Many are highly developed, featuring recreation facilities, while others are entirely undeveloped and contain relatively undisturbed habitat. Most of the parks within the CGMU, however, are a mixture of developed and undeveloped areas.

State parks in the Gorge provide habitat for a variety of species, including songbirds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Unique habitats within parks provide homes for many at-risk species, such as the Larch Mountain salamander and the peregrine falcon. In addition, parks contain numerous streams and wetlands with backwater or side channel areas providing key habitats for fish and wildlife. Many of the state parks border land managed by the USFS, creating opportunities for habitat connectivity and management partnerships.

The majority of state parks in the Gorge are adjacent to I-84, the Union Pacific Railroad, or the Historic Columbia River Highway. Both highways and the railroad impact habitat quality and quantity by severing habitat connectivity and causing disturbance from noise, litter, stormwater runoff, noxious weeds and other factors. Invasive weeds associated with these transportation corridors also impact native fish and wildlife by degrading habitat quality and limiting species movement.

Many of the state parks in the Gorge host some form of recreation. Public use of recreation facilities such as roads, trails, boat ramps, kite launch sites, disc golf courses, picnic areas, viewing platforms, and campsites disturbs wildlife both directly (e.g., noise, human presence) and indirectly (e.g., litter, informal trails, etc.). In many areas, recreation impacts are effectively controlled through fencing, signage and carefully placed facilities, however, public use continues to impact the quality and quantity of habitat available.

### OPRD Wildlife Refuges

OPRD Wildlife Refuges are areas within existing park properties that have unique potential to support wildlife populations because of their relatively large size, low disturbance level, and the presence of important, high quality habitat. Refuges have no “official” designation and are presented in master plans for internal management purposes. Efforts should be made to site development away from wildlife refuges and minimize impact to these areas from recreation. These are included on the management zone maps in Chapter 9.

### Habitat Connectivity

Protecting and promoting habitat connectivity is one of the larger challenges facing the management of state parks in the Gorge, in part because many of OPRD’s properties are separated by large distances. On the other hand, the large tracts of US Forest Service land adjacent to many state park properties benefit connectivity, since USFS lands in the Gorge are afforded special protection for fish and wildlife habitat. Where USFS lands abut state parks, large swaths of quality, relatively undisturbed habitat are. In addition, the scenic natural cultural and recreational protections that cover parts of the Gorge also provides some protection for fish and wildlife even on privately owned lands, allowing for broad-scale species movement and dispersal.

However, in many locations where state park properties abut privately-held lands, habitat connectivity is generally lacking. Private lands bordering the CGMU have largely been developed

for agriculture, rural residential, or commercial forestland purposes. In particular, parks located at the far western and eastern edges of the Gorge, which are more populated and more apt to be in private ownership, lack habitat connectivity more than those parks located in the center of the Gorge along USFS land ownership.

I-84 presents a significant barrier to species movement in the Gorge. Terrestrial species of all kinds are killed by vehicles while trying to cross the highway, and aquatic species movement is impacted by stream barriers and stream re-routes imposed by the highway’s construction. The Historic Columbia River Highway and Union Pacific Railroad, although narrower, also limit species movement. The Historic Highway, in particular, may actually be a more significant barrier (especially for smaller species like salamanders) because its elevated location bisects terrestrial migration routes. While some individuals may successfully cross these barriers there is inherent risk to them in doing so, including increased predation risk and collision with vehicles. For more information on habitat connectivity for specific groups of animals please see the Wildlife Assessment in the appendix.

Natural barriers to species movement also exist in the Gorge. The Columbia River, although a key east-west migration corridor for fish and aquatic species in the Columbia Basin, presents a large barrier to terrestrial species movement and ends habitat connectivity to the north for the majority of state parks. In addition, the steep slopes and cliff faces in the Gorge are a barrier to movement for many species, especially large species, such as elk and deer. Waterfalls at these cliff faces limit aquatic species movements upstream. These natural barriers, combined with artificial north-south barriers like the highways, make habitat connectivity along the east-west corridors in the Gorge especially important for wildlife.

### Threats to At-Risk Fish and Wildlife Species

The Gorge provides habitat for a variety of at-risk species. Many of the at-risk wildlife require special habitats for survival. As these habitats diminish or are impacted by disturbances and habitat degradation, at-risk species become more imperiled.

Threats to at-risk fish and wildlife species within the Gorge can generally be categorized into one of the following:

- Habitat destruction caused by development and land conversion
- Habitat degradation from current and future land uses
- Loss of habitat connectivity due to barriers to species movement, habitat destruction, and a patchwork of land ownership (especially in the eastern Gorge).

### **Existing Condition Assessment Role in the Planning Process**

Collectively, these existing condition assessments provide guidance to the planning process with new facilities proposals, project prioritization, interpretive opportunities, and natural resource protection. These assessments also assist park staff as they manage the parks for historical, scenic, and natural resource quality over the coming years.



# 4

## Visitor Experience Assessments

What does a visitor do at a state park? How would they describe their day of recreation? Likely it would be with descriptions of the weather, scenery, photographs, and adjectives illustrating how they felt out in the natural world. Even more likely the parking lot and restrooms would only be mentioned if they were out of order. In assessing visitor experience at Oregon State Parks it is important to remember that a visitor's day is a collection of experiences and activities characterized by the sense of place that a state park provides.

The goal of this chapter is to review existing conditions of state parks through a variety of lenses. While surveys and condition assessments are extremely useful to planning efforts, they don't always describe the way a park 'feels'. When planning a new park facility or program it is important to understand if that experience is compatible with existing park practices, natural settings, and historical context. This is where visitor experience and landscape setting evaluations help a park planner understand the character of a park.

Thinking about visitor surveys, activity data, existing facility conditions, and landscape settings provides a multifaceted analysis of visitor experience in state parks. The National Scenic Area has established an understanding of how visitor experience applies to visiting and living in the Gorge; this informs our analysis. This chapter provides existing condition assessments organized by regional analysis followed by individual parks. Data was collected primarily by OPRD staff, while referencing the National Scenic Area Management Plan (NSAMP).

## Visitor Experience

Park visitors may come for a specific purpose like rafting or seeing a waterfall, yet their experience at a park is made up of many other components: finding the park easily because of clear road signage, delighting at the sound of the birds in the trees, or learning something about the history of the state during their visit. If we are to plan our parks for high quality visitor experiences we must consider the cumulative effects of the many experiences a visitor has when spending a day in the park. One way we can do this is by considering the relationship between the activities that visitors participate in, the facilities that support those activities and the natural setting in which those activities occur. Descriptions of positive and negative visitor experiences are included in this chapter.

The orange diagrams on this page represent 42 activities that take place at state parks in the Columbia River management unit. As you can see, the Gorge provides a wealth and variety of activities for all types of people, including active and passive recreation activities and organized programs. Throughout the next few pages of the chapter, visitor experience is described as it currently occurs in the Gorge.



Boat Ramp Area at West Mayer State Park

## Visitor Experience Activities in Gorge State Parks

 Backpacking	 Beach	 Bicycling	 Bike/Hike-In Camping	 Car Camping
 Court Games	 Canoe/Kayak	 Clothing Optional Beach	 Dog Walking	 Collecting
 Day Hiking	 Disc Golf	 Fishing from Bank	 Fishing from Boat	 Fly Fishing
 General Play	 Historic Site	 Horseback Riding	 Interpretation	 Jogging
 Mountain Biking	 Motorboating	 Outdoor Skills	 Orienteering	 Photography
 Park Events	 Personal Watercraft	 Picnicking	 Rafting	 Ranger-Led Programs
 Relaxing	 Climbing	 RV Camping	 Sailing	 Sightseeing
 Swimming	 Tent Camping	 Tubing	 Walking	 Waterfowl Hunting
 Wildlife Viewing	 Wind Sports			

# Recreation Activities

This chart describes where recreation activities occur throughout the Gorge, in state parks and at other recreation facilities, including US Forest Service and Nature Conservancy properties. This chart depicts passive and active, self-guided recreation activities. Organized activities are described in a chart on the next page.

This chart allowed park planners to quickly see which parks provide a wider variety of recreation opportunities, as well as where there are gaps in the Gorge for recreation.

The connectivity diagram was introduced in Chapter One. Please reference page 6 for an explanation of the diagram. It was created to illustrate existing conditions and proposals for the Gorge, at a glance on one page.

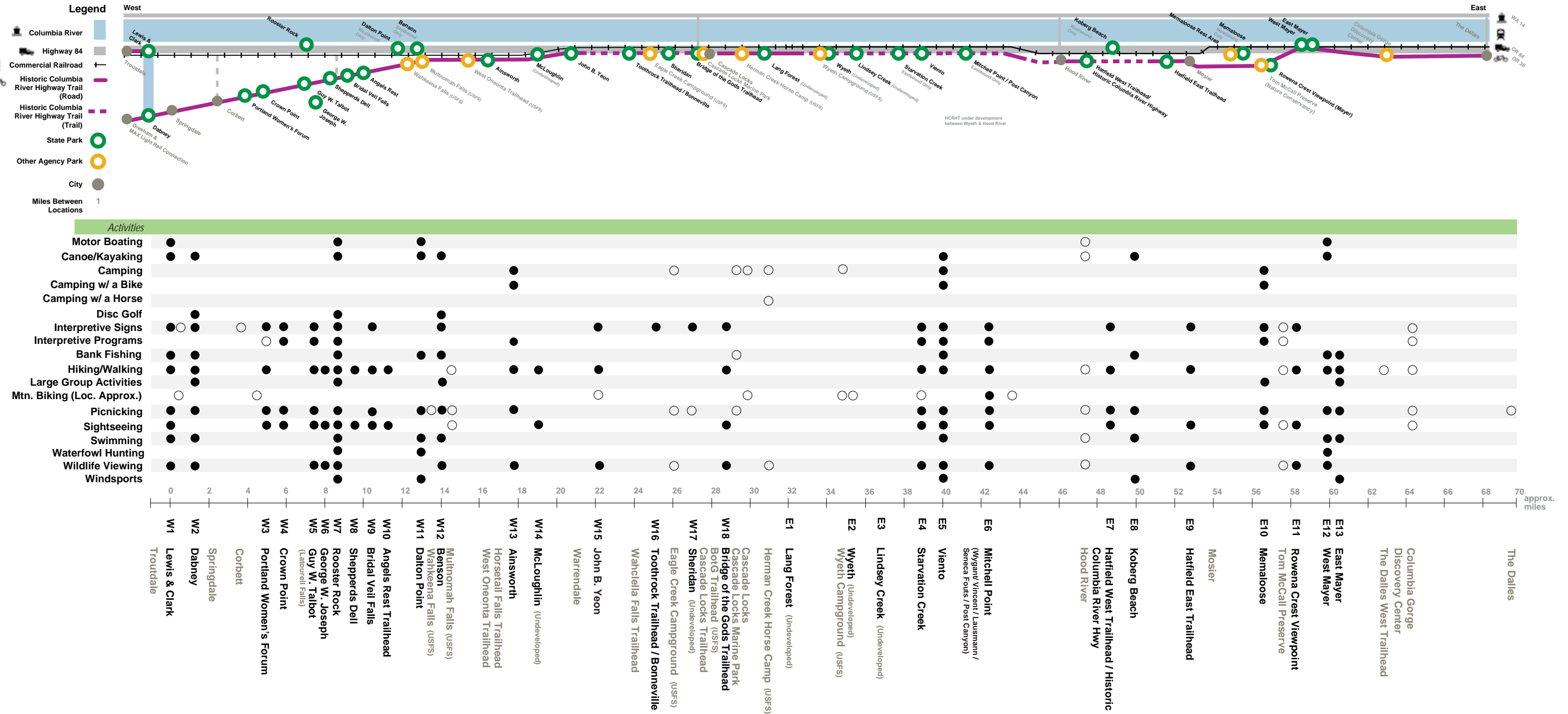


Figure 4.1 Visitor Experience: Recreation Activities

# Organized Activities

This chart describes where organized activities occur throughout the Gorge, in state parks. Organized Activities include programs, public events, and volunteer activities, or all the things that happens in a state park that are not self-guided recreation experiences. These activities are defined below.

**Public Events** Organized and publicized special events, held annually or one time, in state parks and coordinated with the local community, ie Star Parties, and Holiday Events.

**Environmental Education** Organized programs for children and adults that are usually aligned with state curriculum standards, often including hands-on field experiences. These include school field trips, instructor workshops, and Jr. Ranger programs.

**Interpretive Media** Interpretive elements that are not guided by staff, ie panels, and exhibits, and brochures.

**Guided Interpretation** Programmed, scheduled activities led by a trained staff that connect visitors with park resources and stories including guided hikes, campfire programs, etc.

**Outdoor Skills** Programmed activities focusing on teaching or promoting participation in outdoor skills in a safe, responsible manner. Includes 'Let's Go' Program.

**Partnerships** Provide support through donations or other financial resources, materials, staffing, or through other agreements. Most are non-profits, including Adopt-A-Park Groups, Friends Groups, Oregon State Parks Foundation, schools, and corporations.

**Volunteer Groups** Non-paid individuals or groups who work alongside park staff in providing services to visitors. Duties may include greeting visitors, selling firewood, staffing visitor centers, pulling invasives, gardening and tree planting, etc. This includes Park Hosts, Maintenance Hosts, Scout Groups, and Corporate Groups.

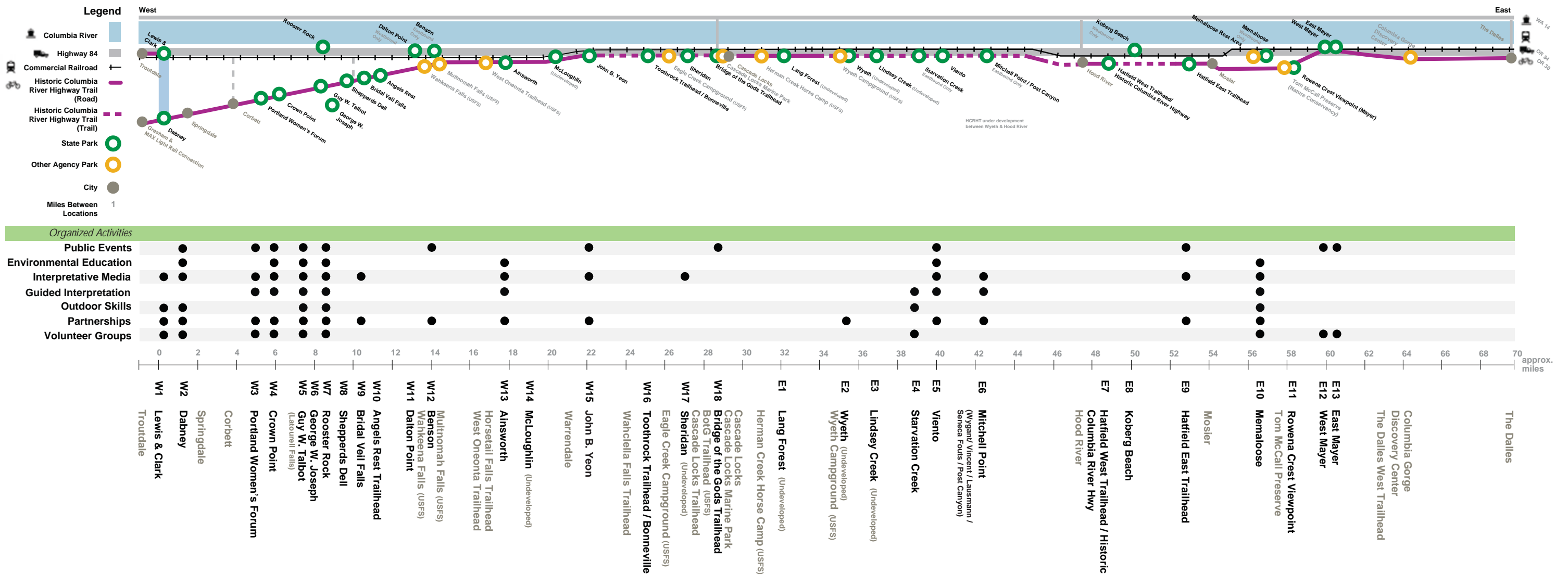


Figure 4.2 Visitor Experience: Organized Activities



# Facilities

This chart describes existing facilities throughout the Gorge, in state parks and other recreation areas.

**Day Use** Recreation facilities providing places for activities that take place during the day, i.e. hiking, picnicking, etc.

**Overnight** Parks that provide camping or cabins.

**Day Use Fee** Parks where users are required to pay a fee for parking.

**Universal Access Amenities** Provides equal access to facilities and experiences for visitors of all levels of ability.

**Trailheads** A starting point providing access to a trail and light facilities, usually containing parking, maps, and water. 'Regional Trailheads' connect to longer USFS trails for multiday backpacking trips.

**Bike Trailheads** Trailheads with direct access to the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail.

**Boat Ramp/River Access** A designated access point for visitors to safely enter the water, or enter with a motorized boat.

**Waterfalls** Parks that feature scenic waterfalls.

**Food** Locations where restaurants or take-out food is available.

**Lodging** Locations where there are hotels.

**Recreational Services** Retail shops that provide equipment, rentals, or repairs for local recreation.

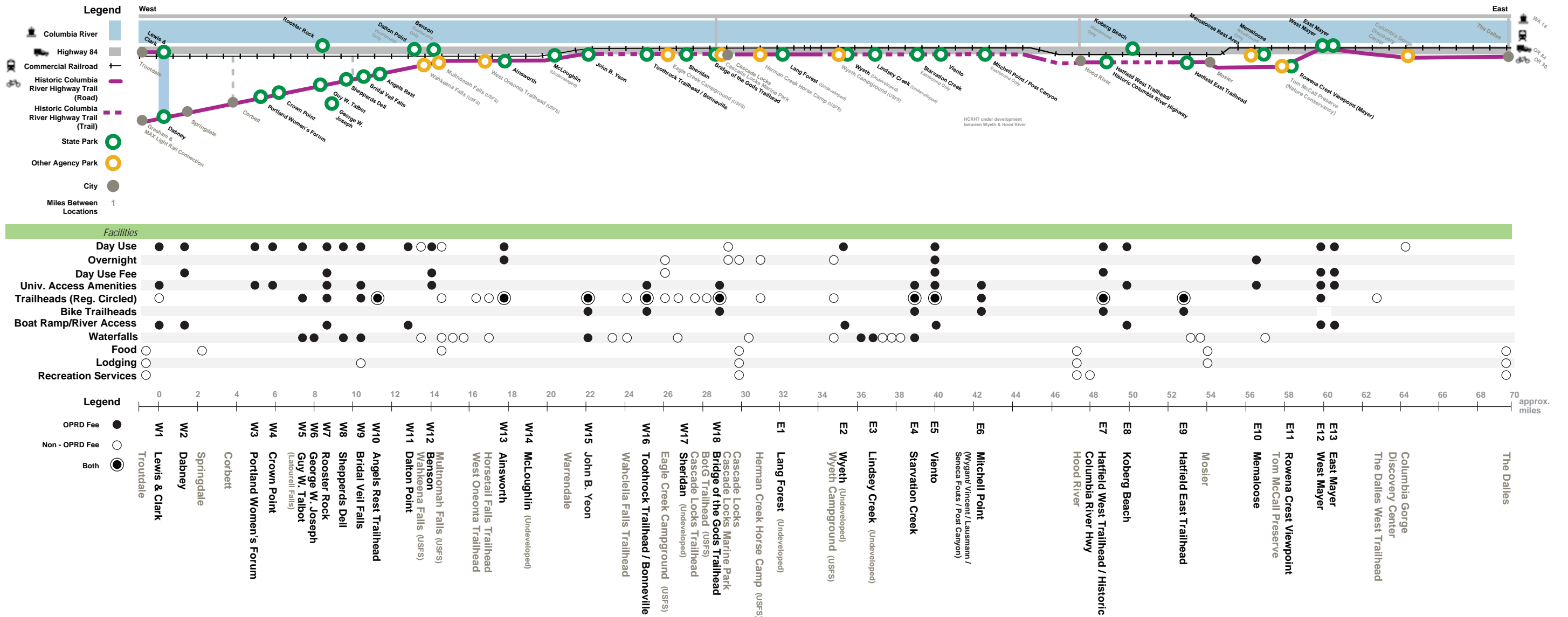


Figure 4.3 Facilities

# Universal Access Inventory

This chart describes existing universal access facilities throughout the Gorge, in state parks and other recreation areas. Universal access facilities are accessible to all people with all abilities.

One of the goals in the planning process was to do an assessment of universal access in state parks, to determine how accessible parks were. One measure we used was determining if the 'Major Park Attraction' was accessible. Results of the inventory are described in the diagram above.

**Universal Access Amenities** Parks that contain features that provide equal access to facilities and experiences for visitors of all levels of ability.

**Trailhead** Parks that provide trailheads with accessible features, i.e. viewpoints, amenities.

**Trails** Parks where all users can access trails or trail segments.

**Picnicking** Parks that provide accessible picnic facilities.

**Interpretive Elements** Interpretive elements tell the cultural and natural histories of state parks. Parks are identified where these features are accessible.

**Scenic Viewpoint** Parks that provide an accessible viewpoint.

**Gathering Space** Indoor or outdoor spaces for large gatherings, including amphitheaters.

**Water Access** Parks that provide universal access to the river.

**Boat Ramp** Motor boat ramps that are universally accessible.

**Fishing** Parks that provide universal access for fishing from the bank.

**Restrooms** Parks with universal access restroom facilities.

**Overnight** Parks providing universal access camping options.

**Major Park Attractions** Is the major park attraction universally accessible?

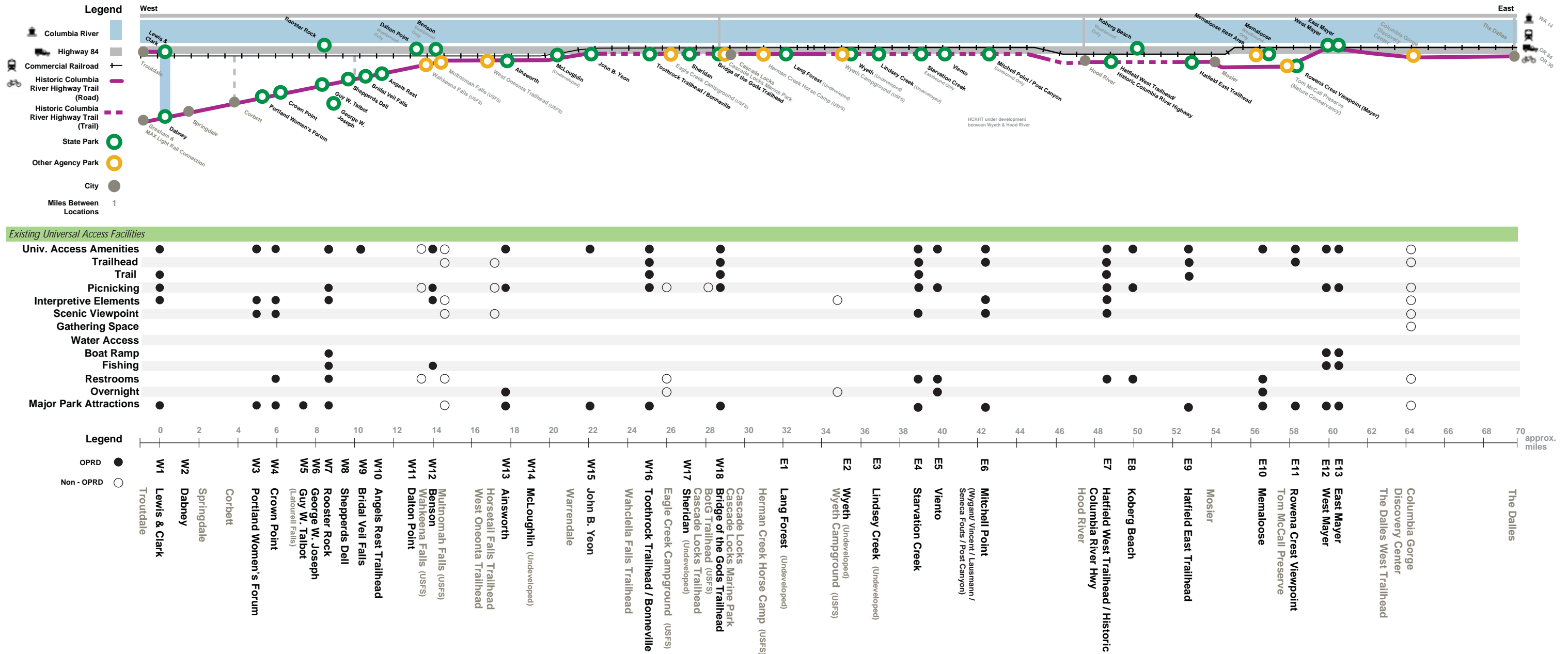


Figure 4.4 Universal Access Inventory

# Park Fees & Revenue

This chart describes existing park fees and revenue sources at parks in the Columbia Gorge Management Unit.

Day Use Fee Parks where users are charged a fee for parking.

Camping Fee Parks that charge users for camping. There are different rates depending on they type of camp site (RV, Full hook up, Walk-In, Hiker/Biker). Some parks are on the reservation system and some are not.

Picnic Shelter Reservation Fee These parks have a picnic shelter that can be rented for a fee.

Picnic Area Reservation Fee These parks have a picnic area that can be rented for a fee.

Concessionaires Parks where there are outside concessionaires, selling food or services.

OPRD Sales of Goods Parks that have a shop operated by OPRD, typically in partnership with a Friend's Group.

Friends Groups Parks that partner with an organized group that hosts park events, operations or volunteer work, including fundraising for park projects.

Special Use Permit Fee Parks that provide permits for hosting regular events where users pay a fee.

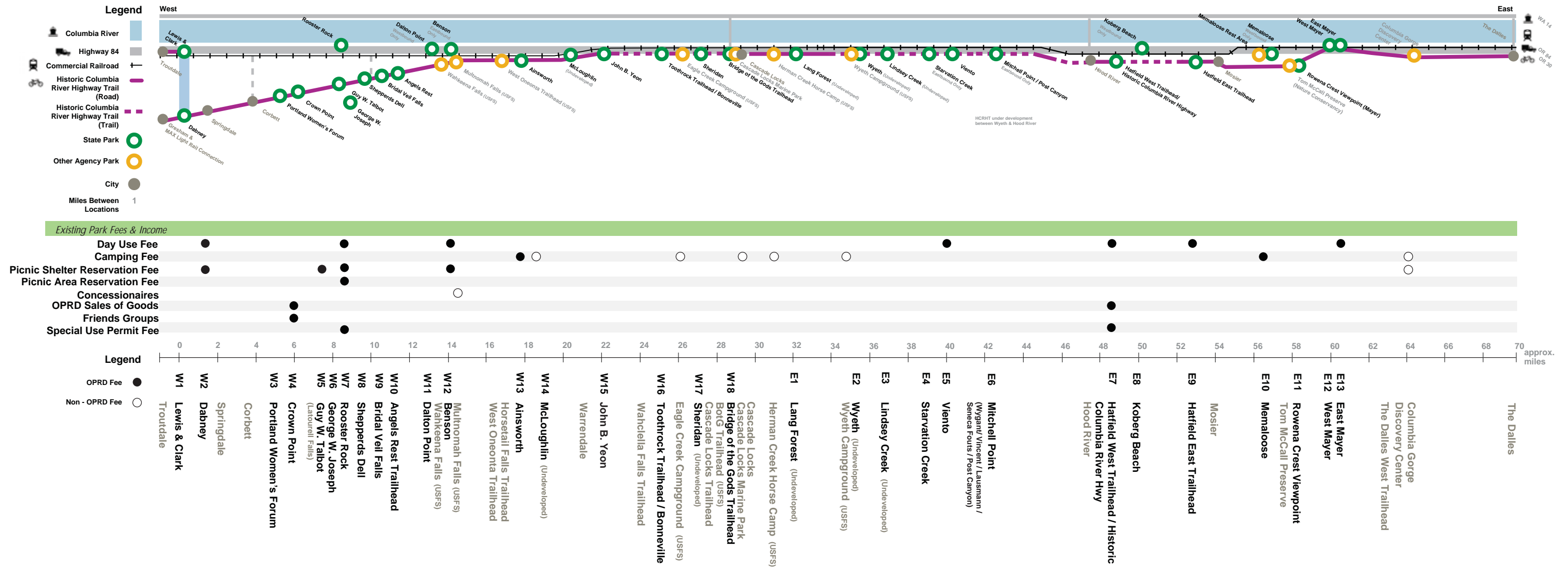


Figure 4.5 Park Fees and Revenue

# Landscape Setting

Landscape setting, or landscape character assessment, is a tool for identifying what makes one place different from another. Landscapes encompass both the physical and cultural qualities of outdoor spaces. Experientially, landscapes deeply influence the way people feel when they visit state parks. Picnicking on a bench at Ainsworth alongside the Historic Highway is a very different experience than laying a blanket out by the river at Rooster Rock. By assessing the landscape settings present in our parks in relation to the facilities and activities present within them, staff gain a better understanding of the quality of experiences visitors have and where they occur.

Landscape setting assessment is a tool utilized by most Federal land managers and has several benefits to state park planning:

- Inform the scale and siting of potential enhancements and decommissioning of facilities within existing parks
- Help plan for future acquisitions, supplementing settings not present in our current parks.
- Allow visitor experiences to be planned in tandem with natural resource restoration projects
- Contribute a framework to advise recreation and environmental planning at parkwide and regional scales

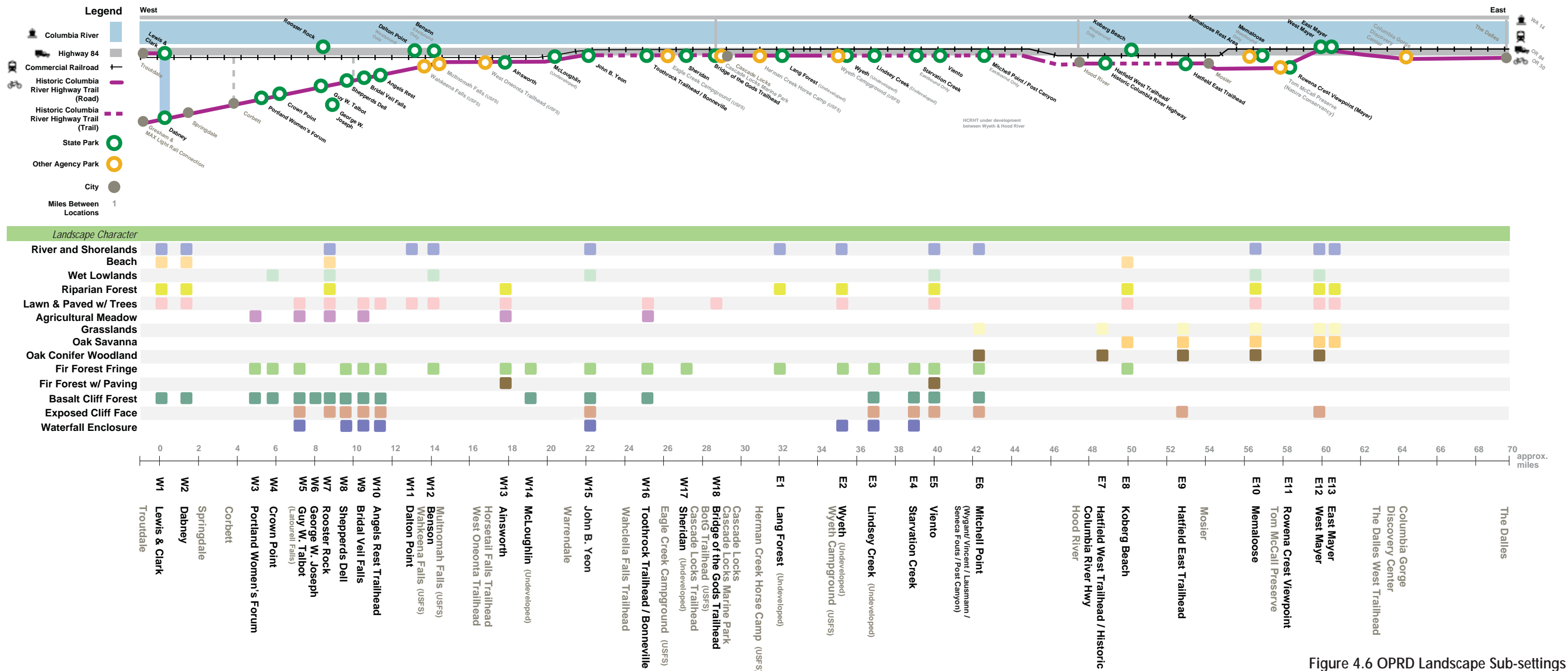


Figure 4.6 OPRD Landscape Sub-settings

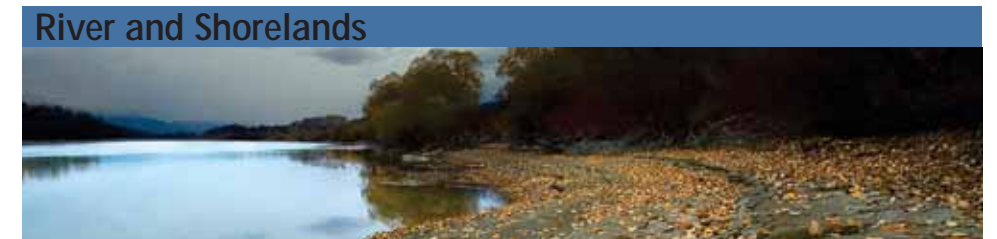
## Gorge National Scenic Area Landscape Settings

Landscape setting assessments differ from natural resource assessments, describing human experience as opposed to habitat value. While considering the history of a particular landscape and understanding its current place in time as continuously changing, landscape settings focus on the aesthetic and cultural values - the overall character of a place, as opposed to the biological composition. The Scenic Area Management Plan defines eight landscape settings to be protected and “character is defined as the land use, landform and vegetation” (I-1-36 - I-1-38)”. The NSA landscape settings, based on the *Forest Service Visual Management System*, in combination with the land use designations dictate the applicable scenic resource protection standards.

## OPRD Landscape Sub-Settings

The OPRD landscape sub-settings defined in this chapter were informed by the intensive natural resource assessments discussed in Chapter 3. Designed to sit within the landscape settings defined in the National Scenic Area Management Plan, the sub-settings are more specific to the conditions found within state parks. In creating them, we aim to establish a tool to assess the variety of settings a park provides, therefore increasing visitor experiences in our parks.

The following landscape sub-settings occur within our state parks in the Columbia River Gorge and are identified throughout the chapter as they apply to each park. An overview of these sub-settings and how they are nested within NSA landscape settings appears in Figure 4.7.



**Key Characteristics:** Columbia and Sandy Rivers, includes river edges and shoreline riparian habitats  
**Geology and Landform:** Scoured canyon bottom  
**Soils and Vegetation:** Water, cobble, sand, willows, cottonwoods  
**Views:** Open views of river surface, unprotected and exposed to the elements - rain, sun, wind, spray  
**Cultural:** Human interference with river’s edge, stabilized river channel, buoys and channel markers, jetties and docks



**Key Characteristics:** Sandy shoreline on river’s edge, low slope meeting water, access to river, river flow and occasional wavelets, exposure to elements- rain, wind, and sun  
**Geology and Landform:** Flat, open expanse of sand, cobble  
**Soils and Vegetation:** Water, sand, willows  
**Views:** Open views of river and river gorge  
**Cultural:** Footpaths through the understory to access the beach



**Key Characteristics:** Wetlands, wet meadows and forests, open views of horizon and distance, backdrop of Columbia Gorge canyon walls  
**Geology and Landform:** scoured canyon bottom, flat, delta landscape  
**Soils and Vegetation:** dense grass, sedges, rushes, willow, alder  
**Views:** Open views across landscape, limited views of the Columbia River with possible views of the Gorge canyon walls  
**Cultural:** restoration projects - mowed grasses, native plantings

## National Scenic Area Landscape Settings & OPRD Landscape Sub-settings

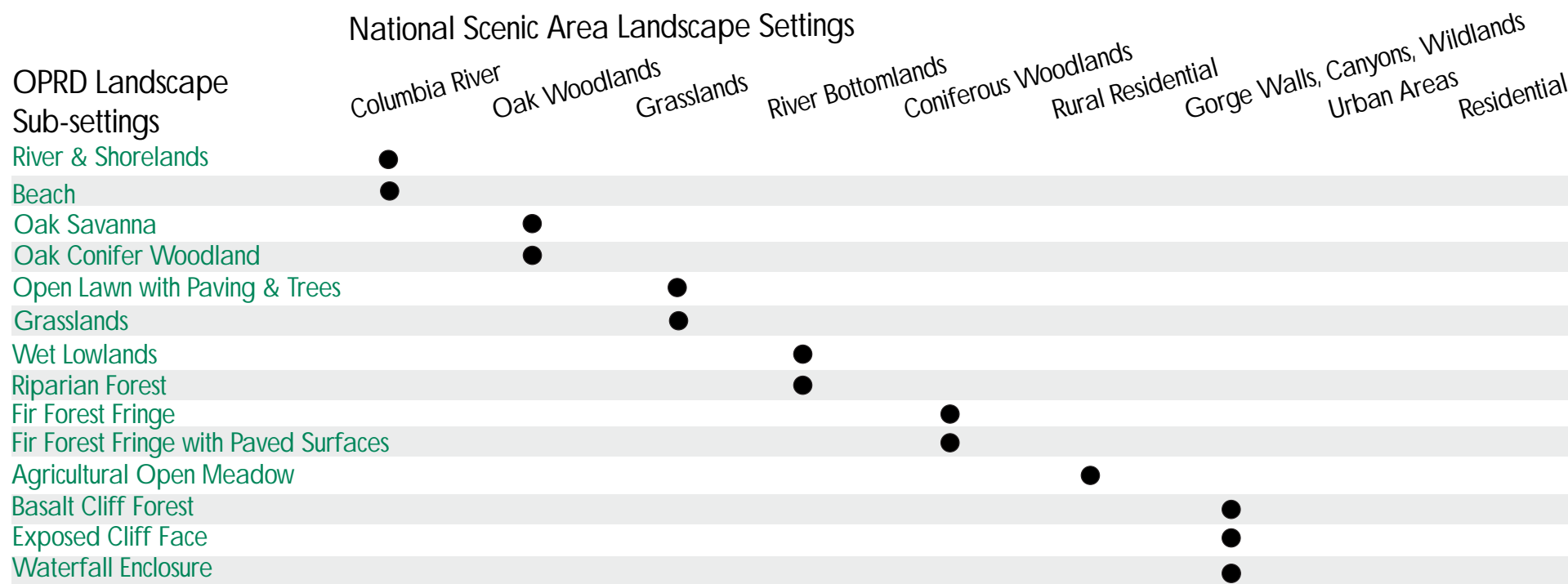


Figure 4.7 National Scenic Area Landscape Settings & OPRD Landscape Subsettings

### Riparian Forest



**Key Characteristics:** Mixed Deciduous Coniferous Forest, dense understory vegetation, diverse native plant communities  
**Geology and Landform:** scoured canyon bottom, flat, delta landscape  
**Soils and Vegetation:** Gravel, silt and sand deposits, mixed Coniferous/Deciduous forest, typically native plant communities  
**Views:** Seasonal changes, screened views of Gorge canyon walls  
**Cultural:** Occasional trails, nature observation areas

### Open Lawn & Paved Surfaces with Scattered Trees



**Key Characteristics:** Pastoral landscape, ornamental trees, lawn  
**Geology and Landform:** Open flat expanses, scoured canyons, viewpoints atop canyon walls  
**Soils and Vegetation:** Gravel, silt and sand deposits, Mixed Coniferous/Deciduous forest, native and non-native species, lawn  
**Views:** Limited views of horizon, intermittent views Columbia River, limited views of the Columbia Gorge canyon walls  
**Cultural:** Scattered parking lots, roads, trailheads, benches and picnic tables

### Agricultural Open Meadow



**Key Characteristics:** Agrarian managed use of land for production, top of canyon walls, open unlimited views of horizon, high exposure to the elements - wind, rain, and sun. Agricultural outbuildings/barns and vernacular architecture dot the landscape  
**Geology and Landform:** Plateaus of gorge walls, Col. river basalt  
**Soils and Vegetation:** Basalt base, crops or pasture  
**Views:** Open, unlimited views of horizon & the Columbia River Gorge  
**Cultural:** Agricultural outbuildings /barns and vernacular architecture dot the landscape

### Grasslands



**Key Characteristics:** wildflower meadows and open grasslands, wide open views of horizon and distant landforms, exposure to the elements - wind, rain, and sun.  
**Geology and Landform:** Plateaus of the gorge walls, Columbia river basalt  
**Soils and Vegetation:** Basaltic rock, grass, seasonal wildflowers  
**Views:** Open views of horizon and the Columbia River Gorge  
**Cultural:** Visible roads, occasional footpaths

### Oak Savanna



**Key Characteristics:** Stands of oak and pine mixed with grassy meadows covering plateaus and flanks of eastern Gorge down to the river's edge  
**Geology and Landform:** Open flat expanses, typically near river  
**Soils and Vegetation:**  
**Views:** Open, limited views of the horizon and the Columbia River Gorge, with occasional large oaks  
**Cultural:** Visible roads, trails and footpaths, fir removal to prevent encroachment

### Oak Conifer Woodland



**Key Characteristics:** Pine-oak forests covering plateaus and flanks of eastern Gorge, interspersed with oak savannah and grassland, areas of dense understory (often including poison oak!)  
**Geology and Landform:** Plateaus atop gorge walls, sloping Columbia river basalt flows  
**Soils and Vegetation:** Basaltic rock, ponderosa pine  
**Views:** Open, unlimited views of horizon and the Columbia River Gorge  
**Cultural:** Trails and footpaths, fir removal to prevent encroachment

### Fir Forest Fringe



**Key Characteristics:** Fir Hemlock forest community on medium slopes, typically immediately adjacent to riparian areas  
**Geology and Landform:** Scoured canyon bottom, shallow slopes less than 15%, typically the toe of the slope of canyon walls  
**Soils and Vegetation:** Basalt base, tall conifers, deciduous trees, dense shrubby understory  
**Views:** Occasional views of canyon walls above trees  
**Cultural:** Roads, trails, stream crossings

### Fir Forest Fringe with Paved Surfaces



See above for natural characteristics, but with campsites or other paved facilities

### Basalt Cliff Forest



**Key Characteristics:** Steep slopes and vertical sensations, exposed Columbia River basalt outcrops, deep forest pockets  
**Geology and Landform:** Entablature/colonnade blocks of Columbia River basalt. Ancient pillow lava flows formed spherical masses. Steep slopes in excess of 15% form the canyon walls of the Columbia Gorge.  
**Soils and Vegetation:** Basalt outcrops, talus slopes, coniferous forest, moderately dense understory, vibrant ferns, mosses, and lichens on canyon walls  
**Views:** Limited views within forested landscape, breaks in trees allow window views of the canyon walls, Columbia River, and distant horizon  
**Cultural:** Bridges, trails and footpaths, stream crossings, rock climbers

**Exposed Cliff Face**



**Key Characteristics:** Exposed cliffs of entablature colonnade jointed block of Columbia River basalt. Dark brown/grey when wet, lighter grey when dry. Extreme slopes in excess of 30 percent.

**Geology and Landform:** Entablature colonnade jointed block of Columbia River basalt.

**Soils and Vegetation:** Basalt base, Moss, lichen and sedums form the overall carpet on the canyon walls, slope may be spotted with intermittent doug fir trees

**Views:** Scenic landmarks, recognizable features of the landscape, limited views at base of cliffs

**Cultural:** Paths for access, rockclimbers

**Waterfall Enclosure**



**Key Characteristics:** Open waterfall landscape on sheer cliff walls, visible from far distances

**Geology and Landform:** Columbia River basalt, sheer cliff walls of the Gorge

**Soils and Vegetation:** Columbia River basalt, intermittent doug fir and hemlock trees

**Views:** Exposed open views of waterfalls, unprotected, open expanse of the greater landscape and canyon walls

**Cultural:** Paths to waterfall lookout platforms/areas.

**Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)**

The SCORP plan is OPRD’s statewide five year plan for outdoor recreation. At the time of planning for Gorge state parks, 2013-2017 is the current SCORP plan. It guides the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funds that come into the state, provides guidance for other 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. A primary intent of the SCORP plan is to provide up-to-date, high-quality information to assist recreation providers with park system planning in Oregon. A total of 8,860 randomly selected Oregonians completed a mail/internet survey questionnaire and the current SCORP plan was the first in the U.S. to provide statistically reliable survey results at the county level. The Recreation Assessment of the CRGNSA included review of each state’s SCORP. The SCORP may serve as a tool for updating any CRGNSA recreational resource assessments and inventories. Additional details about methods can be found in the complete SCORP plan.

There are 11 SCORP planning regions across the state. Most state parks within the scope of this plan are in SCORP Region 2, while Region 6 includes Columbia Gorge Management Unit Parks in Wasco County (See the map detail below). Data for both regions is reflected in tables on the next few pages. We have included a selection of findings that

helps characterize existing recreation patterns in the Gorge, as well as needs based on this statewide survey.

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 proportion of the population that participated in the activity. Definitions of activities can be found in the 2013 -2017 SCORP documents.

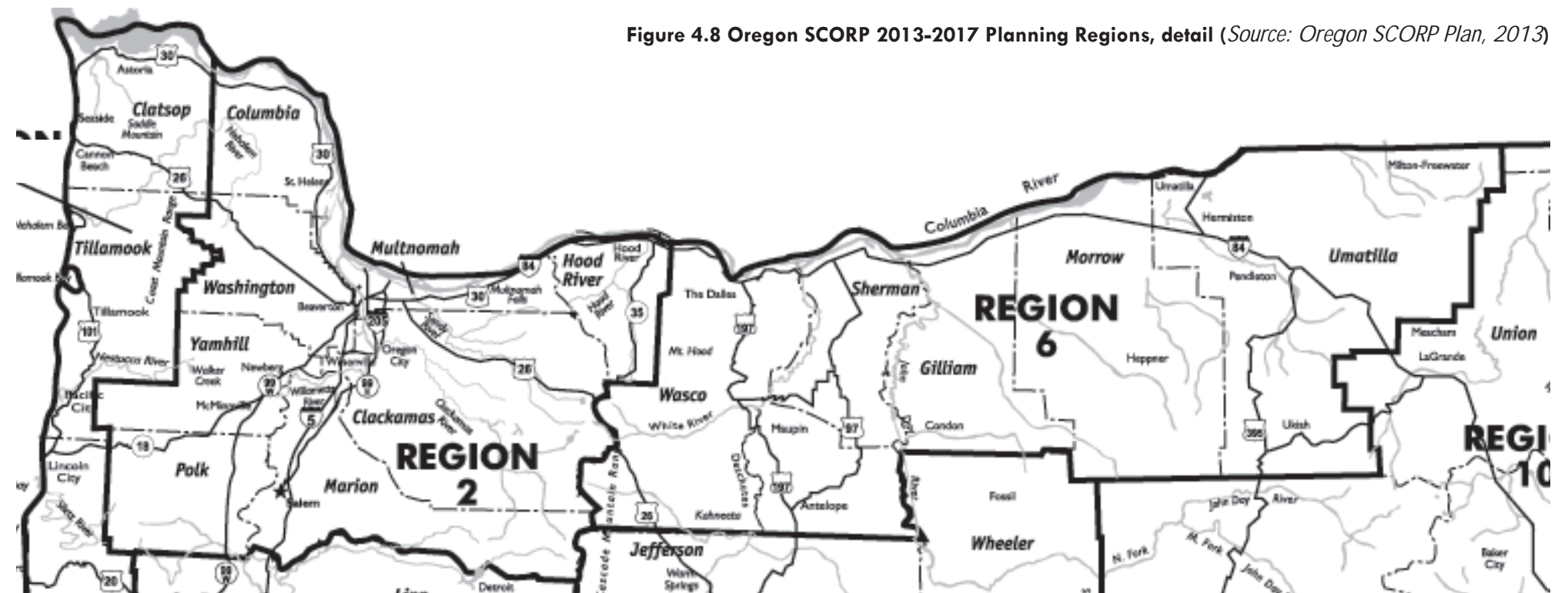
*Top Ten Activities per SCORP Region, Percent Population Participating:*

Region 2:

1. Walking on Local Streets
2. Walking on Local Trails
3. Beach-Ocean
4. Sightseeing
5. Relaxing
6. Outdoor Concerts/Fairs
7. General Play
8. Day Hiking on Non-Local Trails
9. Picnicking
10. Visiting Historical Sites

Region 6:

1. Walking on Local Streets
2. Sightseeing
3. Walking on Local Trails
4. Picnicking
5. Relaxing
6. General Play
7. Visiting Historical Sites
8. Outdoor Concerts/Fairs
9. Day Hiking on Non-Local Trails
10. RV Camping



**Figure 4.8 Oregon SCORP 2013-2017 Planning Regions, detail** (Source: Oregon SCORP Plan, 2013)

This SCORP plan 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. 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. Regions 2 and 6 demonstrated some interesting contrasts in results: Region 6 has the highest likelihood of use and priority need for RV sites, while Region 2 is the least on both (Figure 4.10).

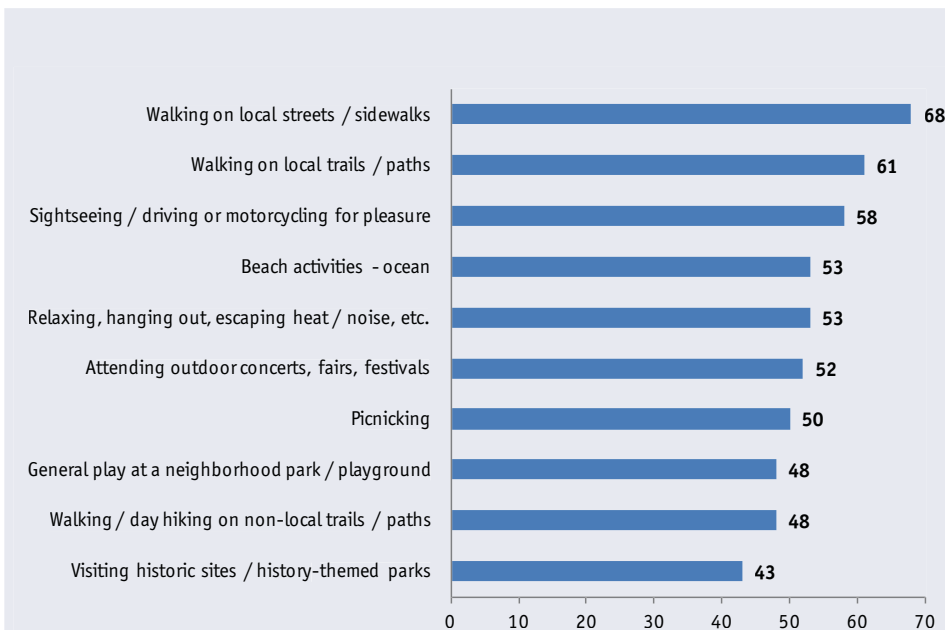
Oregonians were asked their opinions about priorities for the future. Respondents were asked to rate several items for investment by park and forest agencies using a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Lowest priority need to 5 = Highest priority need). The following priority lists are based on number of individuals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

*The top priority needs for Oregonians are:*

- 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.



**Figure 4.9 Top Ten Activities for Oregon Residents, 2011**  
**Percent Population Participating** (Source: Oregon SCORP Plan, 2013):  
*The table above demonstrates how the recreation activities compare in each region to statistics for the state.*

Camping Type	Oregon SCORP Region	
	2	6
RV sites	1.9	2.8
Cabins or yurts w/ heat, lights	2.8	2.7
Cabins or yurts w/ heat, lights, bathroom, kitchen	2.7	2.8
Drive-in tent sites	3.3	3.2
Hike-in tent sites	2.8	2.6
Hiker-biker sites	2.3	2.2
Other	2.6	2.6

**Figure 4.10 Priority Need of Camping Type near community, Oregon SCORP Regions - Mean for 5-Point Likert (1='Lowest Priority Need' to 5 = 'Highest Priority Need')** (Source: Oregon SCORP Plan, 2013)

## Visitor Survey Data

Visitor Surveys were conducted for ten parks in the Gorge in summer 2012.

- W1 Lewis & Clark
- W2 Dabney
- W4 Crown Point, Vista House
- W7 Rooster Rock
- W9 Bridal Veil Falls
- W12 Benson
- W13 Ainsworth (Overnight)
- E4 Starvation Creek
- E10 Memaloose (Overnight)
- E11-13 Mayer

Project objectives were to describe overnight activities, demographic characteristics, and opinions about conditions and management at this park and provide recommendations for maintaining or improving conditions at this park. Data was obtained from questionnaires administered to random samples of dayuse and overnight (Ainsworth & Memaloose) visitors to the park.

Results of these surveys described information pertaining to:

- Popular Activities at the Parks,
- Average Duration of Visits,
- Distance Visitors Traveled from Home to the Park,
- Number of Return Visits,
- Group Size,
- Data about Travel Method,
- Visitor Spending Data,
- Trip Planning Information Availability,
- Satisfaction with Experience and Park Conditions,
- Attitudes about Management Strategies,
- Sociodemographics

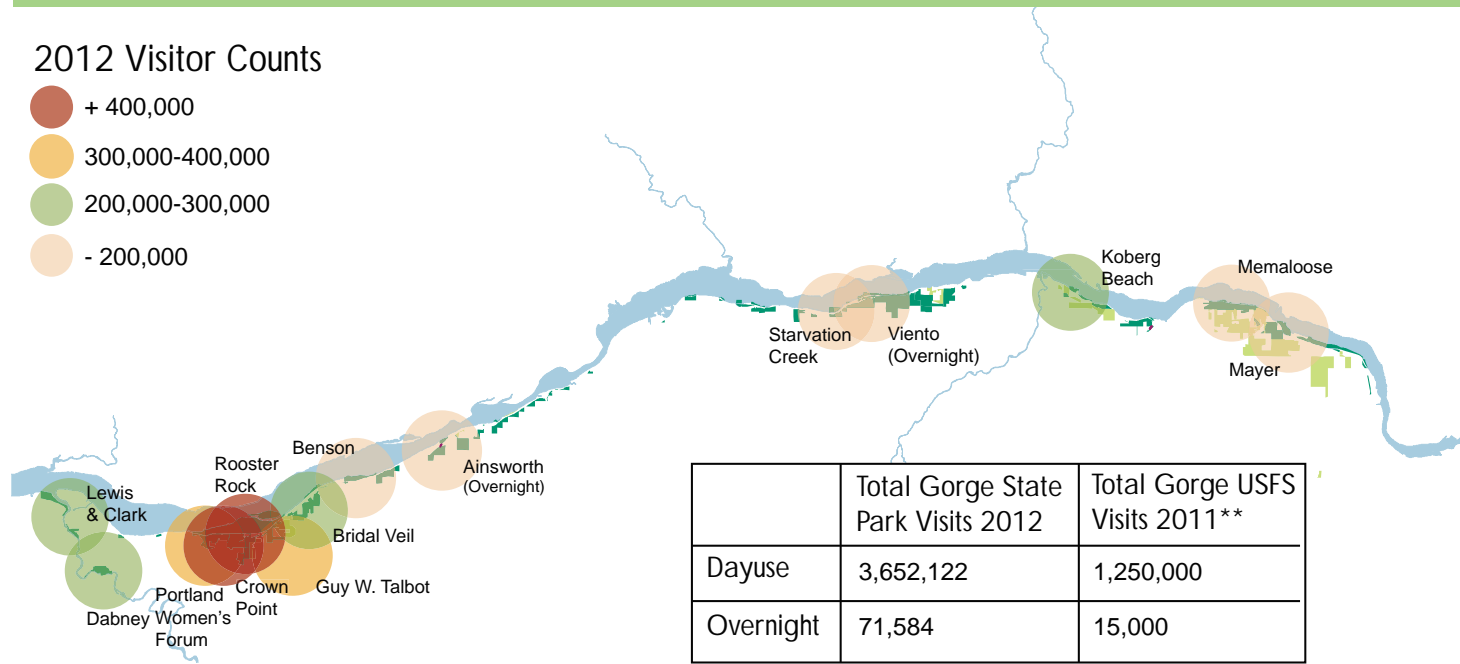
Results of these surveys have been summarized in the following graphics and on park visitor experience summaries throughout the rest of the chapter. The full surveys can be found on the OPRD website at: [http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/Pages/planning\\_SCORP.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/Pages/planning_SCORP.aspx).



## Visitation Levels

### 2012 Visitor Counts

- + 400,000
- 300,000-400,000
- 200,000-300,000
- - 200,000



## Gorge-wide Primary Activities



### Oregon State Parks

Hiking/Walking  
Swimming/Wading  
Picnicking/Barbecuing  
Sightseeing



### USFS\*\*

(w/ percent participating)

Viewing Natural Features 78%  
Hiking/Walking 74%  
Relaxing 43%  
Viewing Wildlife 35%  
Driving for Pleasure 30%



### Gorge Scenic Area\*\*\*

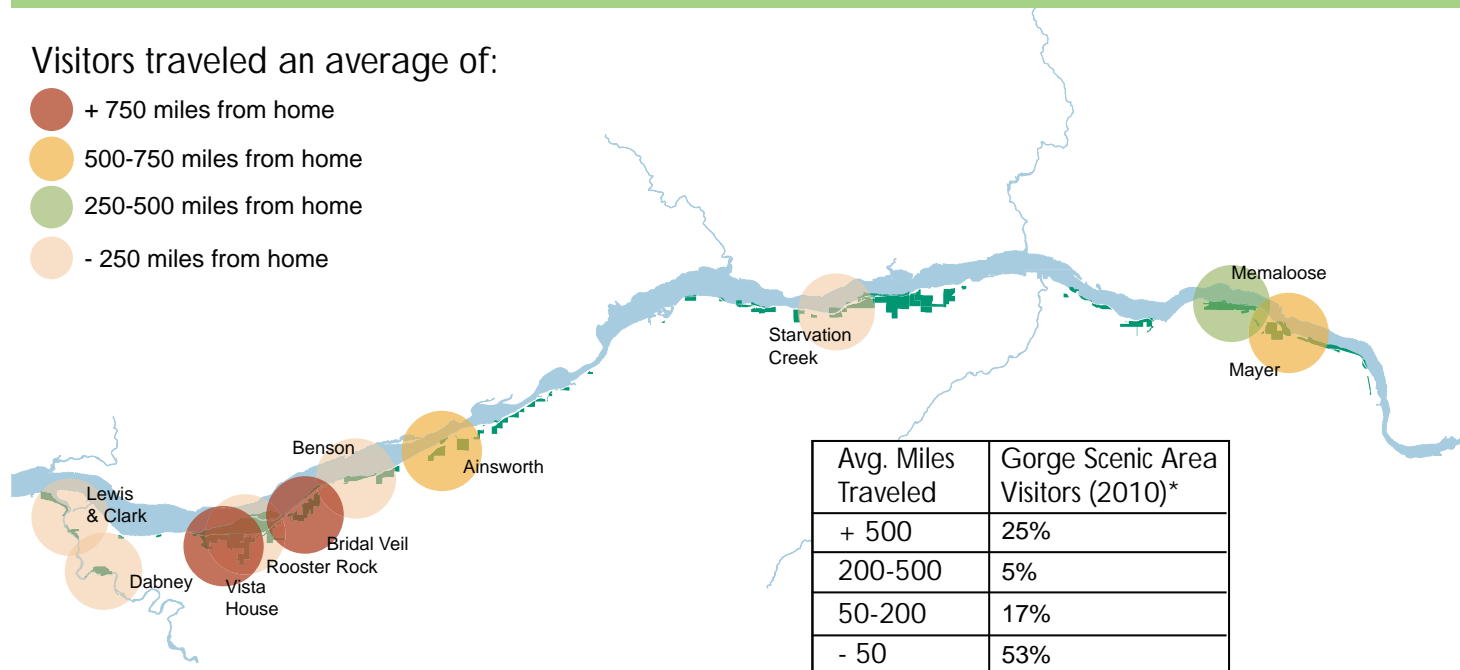
(w/ percent participating)

Viewing Natural Features 84.4%  
Hiking/Walking 72%  
Sightseeing 61%  
Relaxing 47%  
Driving For Pleasure 42%

## Draw

### Visitors traveled an average of:

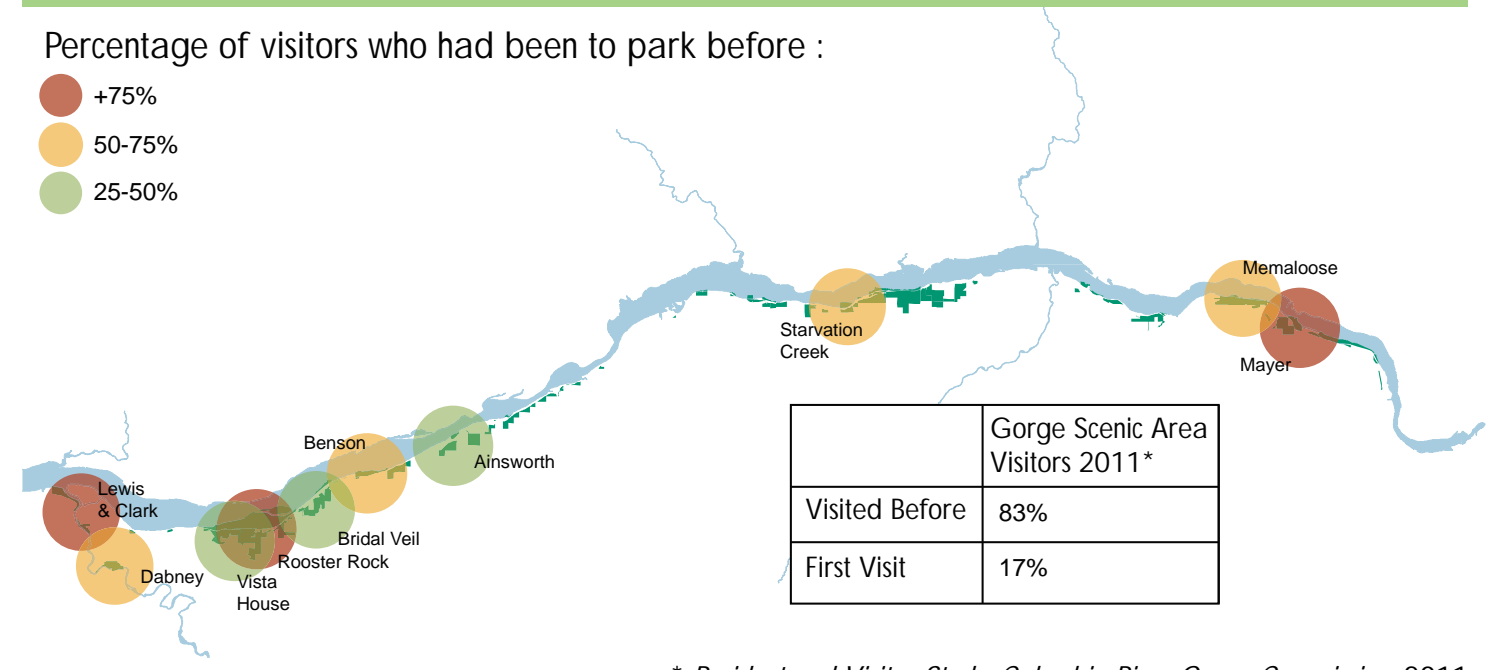
- + 750 miles from home
- 500-750 miles from home
- 250-500 miles from home
- - 250 miles from home



## Return Visits

### Percentage of visitors who had been to park before :

- +75%
- 50-75%
- 25-50%



\* Resident and Visitor Study, Columbia River Gorge Commission, 2011

\*\* USDA FS Visitor Use Report, 2011

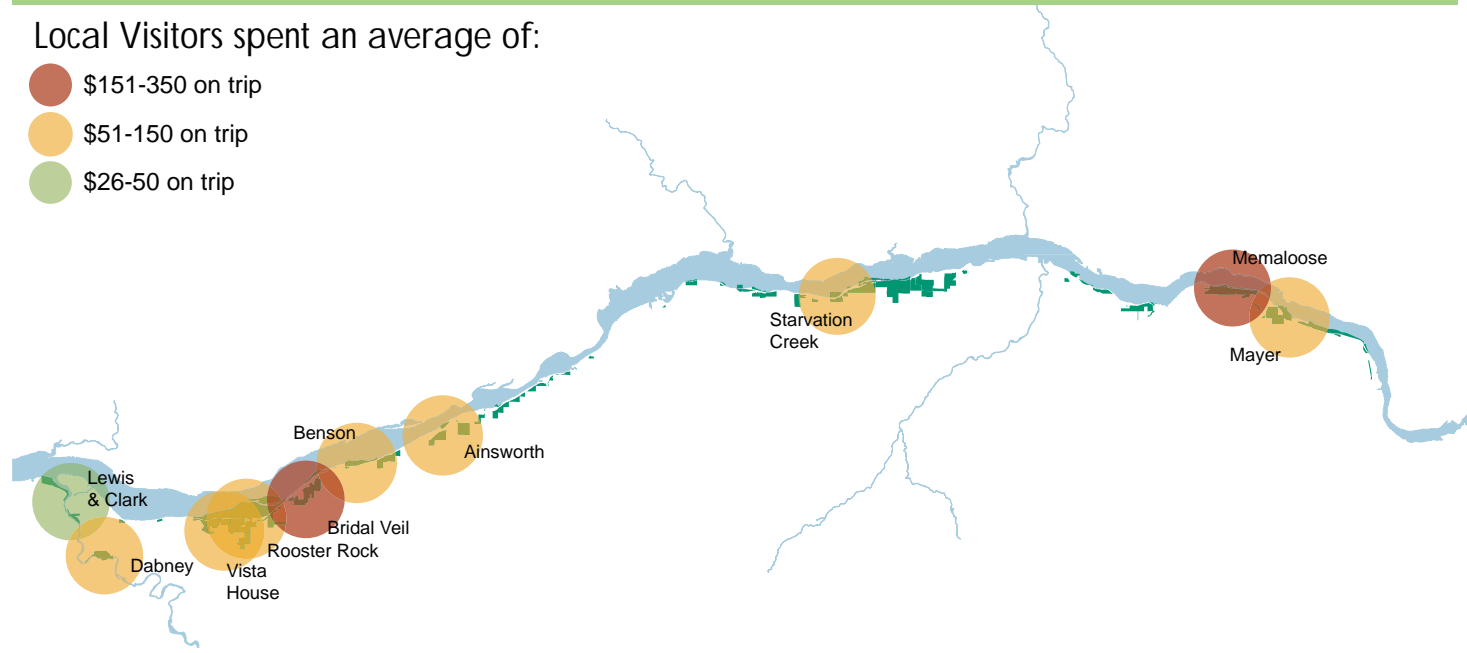
\*\*\* Columbia River Gorge Meta-Analysis: A Spatial and Temporal Examination of Outdoor Recreation, 2013

Figure 4.11 Visitor Survey Statistics Informational Graphics (Source: 2012 OPRD Visitor Surveys, unless otherwise noted)

## Average Trip Cost

Local Visitors spent an average of:

- \$151-350 on trip
- \$51-150 on trip
- \$26-50 on trip



## Overcrowding

Percentage of users indicating park felt:

- Overcapacity
- Normal
- Suppressed

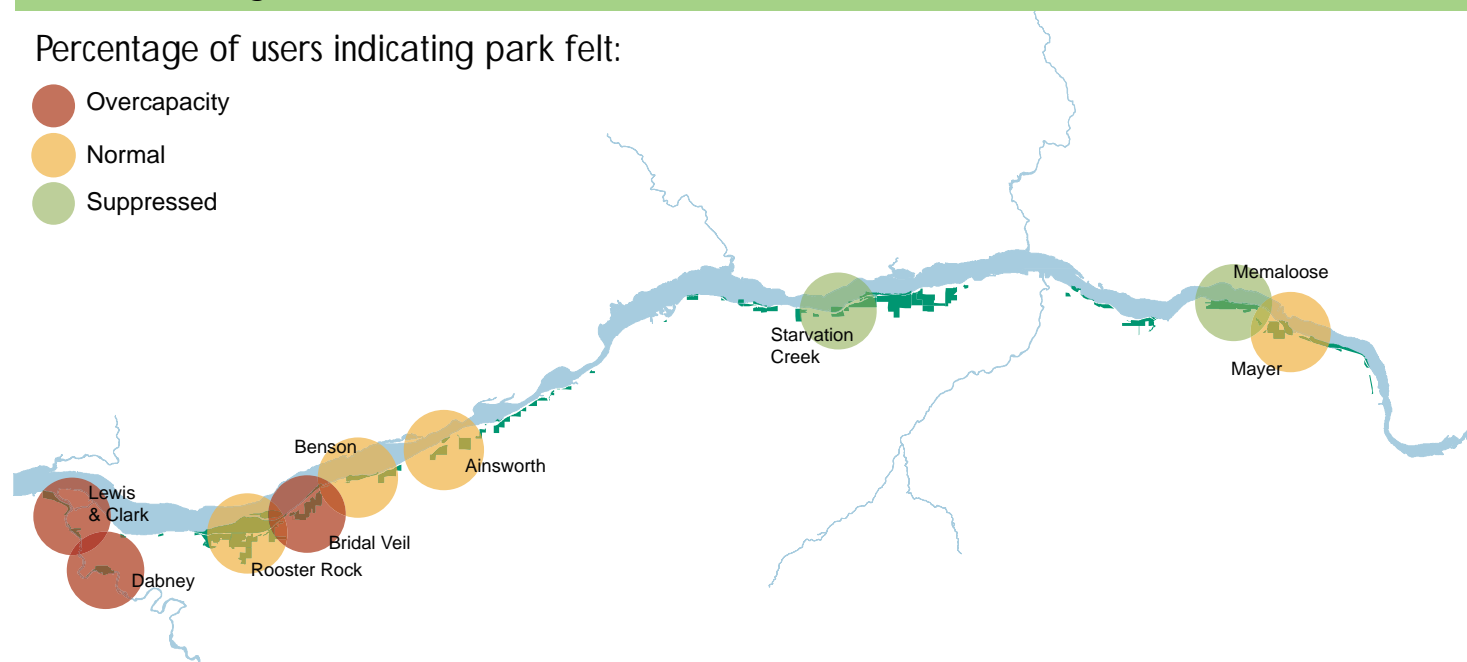


Figure 4.11 Visitor Survey Statistics Informational Graphics (Source: 2012 OPRD Visitor Surveys)

## Park Visitor Experience Assessment

The following pages summarize existing condition information, park statistics, visitor surveys, recreation activities, park maps, and landscape setting assessments, in two page spreads. Definitions of the conditions displayed on the pages are described below.

*Park Character* A quick assessment of the park's contributions to recreation in the Gorge.

*Primary Landmarks* Scenic or identifying characteristics in or near the park that contribute to the park's character.

*Volume* A non-scientific, comparative assessment of how road and train noise detract from the natural setting (1 Truck = 'Low Noise', 3 Trucks = 'High Noise').

*Acresage* The overall size of the park. Inaccessible areas are limited to public enjoyment by a lack of trails, or disconnected by property boundaries, roads, railroad, and geography.

*Total Trails* The current number of trail miles within the park boundary.

*Day Use/Overnight Visitors 2012* The number of visitors in 2012, based on primary types of park use.

*Day Use Fee* The absence or presence of a parking fee in the park.

*Day Use Parking* The current number of parking spaces in the park.

*Top suggestion for improving the park* Based on Visitor Surveys.

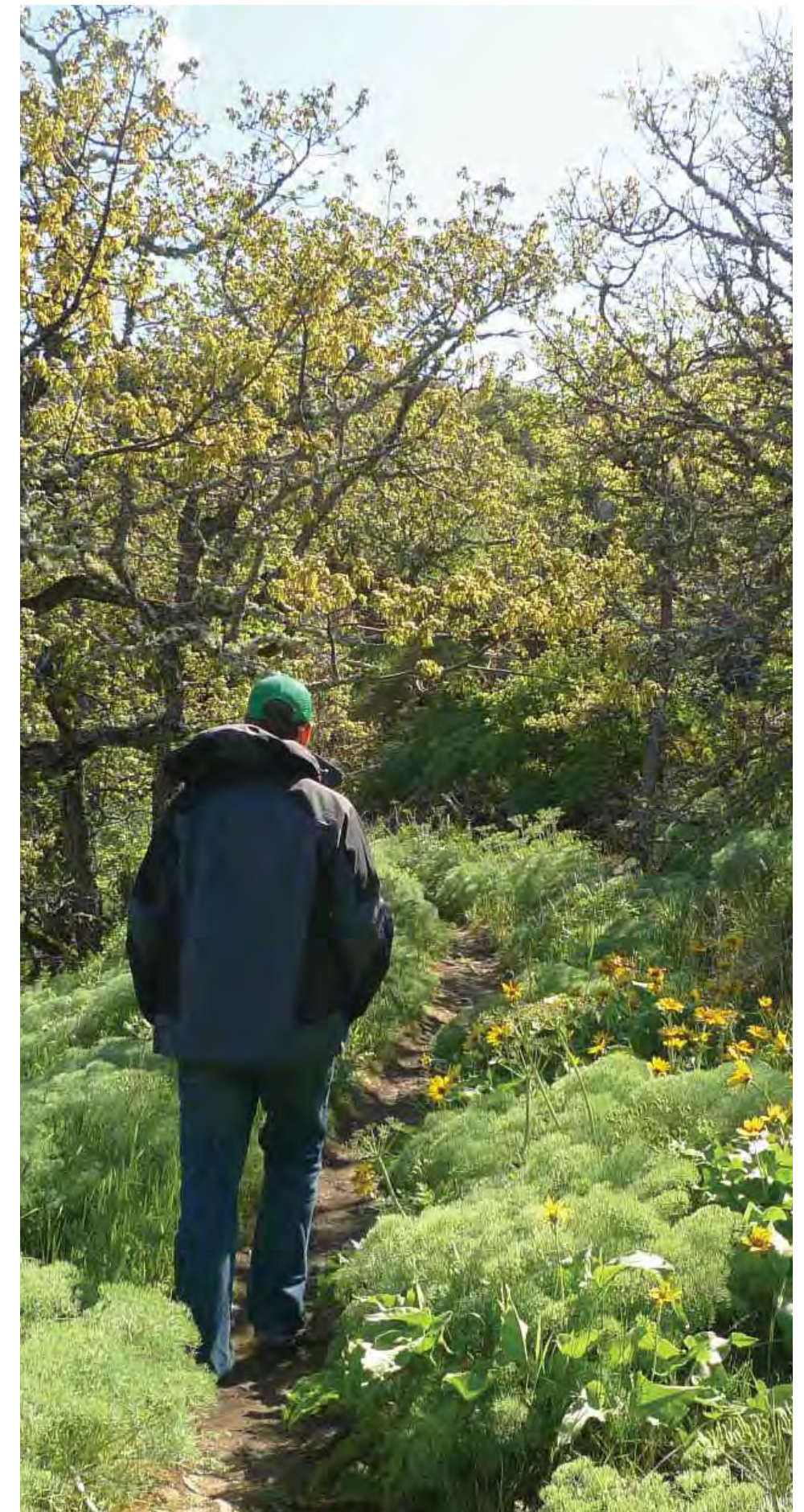
*Percentage Indicating Overcrowding* Based on Visitor Surveys.

*Current Interpretive Programs* Current organized activities currently present in the park. See Figure 4.2. for a detailed breakdown.

*Landscape Settings* The natural character of a landscape area. See detailed explanation on page 52-55.

*Primary Activities* Based on Visitor Surveys.

*Park Activities by Landscape Setting* An analysis of which recreation activities occur in various landscape settings across the park.



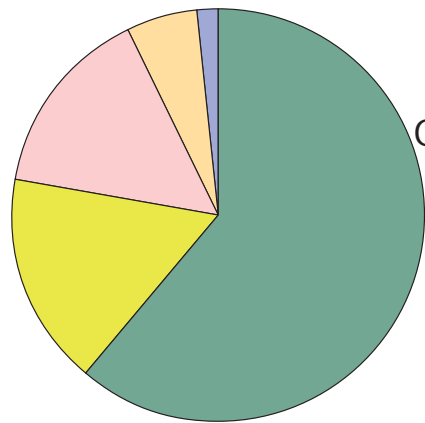
# W1 Lewis & Clark State Park

**Park Character:** Day use recreation and access to the Sandy River, close to Portland/Metro region. Hub for connecting Sandy River Delta (USFS), the HCRH, and 40-Mile Loop Trail.  
**Primary Landmarks:** Sandy River, Broughton Bluff, Interstate 84

**Acreage:** 55.2 (170.9 Inaccessible)  
**Total Trails:** 1.7 Miles  
**Dayuse Visitors 2012:** 257,046  
**Day Use Fee:** No  
**Day Use Parking :** 174 spaces

**Noise Level:**  
 L L

**Top suggestion for improving the park:** Improve parking  
**Percentage indicating overcrowding:** 70% (Overcapacity)  
**Current Interpretive Programs:** None



**OPRD Landscape Subsettings:**  
 Basalt Cliff Forest 61%  
 Riparian Forest 17%  
 Open Lawn w/ Paved Surfaces 11%  
 Beach 6%  
 River & Shorelands 1%



## Park Activities by Landscape Subsetting

### River & Shorelands



Fishing From a Boat  
 Flatwater Canoe/Kayaking  
 Motorboating  
 Rafting  
 Sightseeing  
 Swimming  
 Tubing

### Beach



Fishing from a Bank  
 Fly Fishing  
 Relaxing

### Riparian Forest



Day Hiking/Walking  
 Bird Watching/ Nature Observation

### Open Lawn & Paving with Scattered Trees



Dog Walking/Pet Exercise  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Learning: Botanical Trail  
 Picnicking  
 Relaxing

### Basalt Cliff Forest



Climbing  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Orienteering

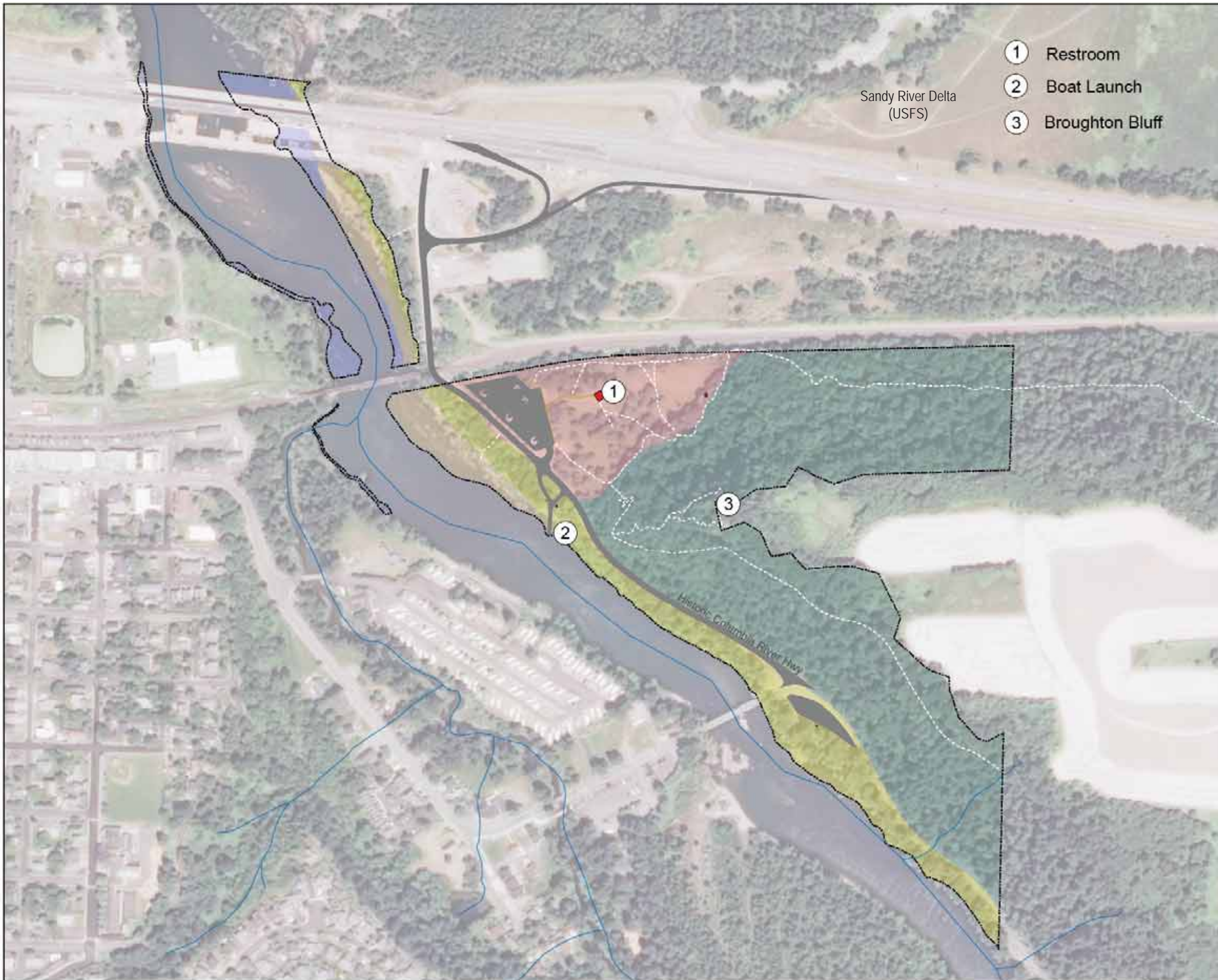
*Note: Lewis and Clark State Recreation Site was the subject of a 2011 Comprehensive Plan which this plan's recommendations will refer to. Statistics are provided here for comparative analysis.*

# Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area

## Existing Conditions

HUB 210

July 2014



- ① Restroom
- ② Boat Launch
- ③ Broughton Bluff

### Legend

- Park Boundary
- Buildings
- Road / Parking Lot
- Walkway/Sidewalk
- Trail
- Streams

### OPRD Landscape Sub-setting

- Open Lawn with Paved Surfaces and Scattered Trees
- Beach
- River and Shorelands
- Riparian Forest
- Basalt Cliff Forest

### Location



### Park Boundary / Map Extent



0 200 400 800 Feet



# W2 Dabney State Recreation Area

**Park Character:** Day use recreation and access to the Sandy River, close to Portland/Metro region

**Primary Landmarks:** Sandy River, Disc Golf Course, Historic Columbia River Highway, Railroad Trestle

**Acreage:** 146.8

**Total Trails:** 2 miles

**2012 Day Use Attendance:** 232,560

**Day Use Fee:** Yes

**Day Use Parking:** 209 spaces

**Noise Level:**



**Top suggestion for improving the park:** Improve parking

**Percentage indicating overcrowding:** 66% (Overcapacity)

**Current Interpretive Programs:** None

### OPRD Landscape Subsettings:

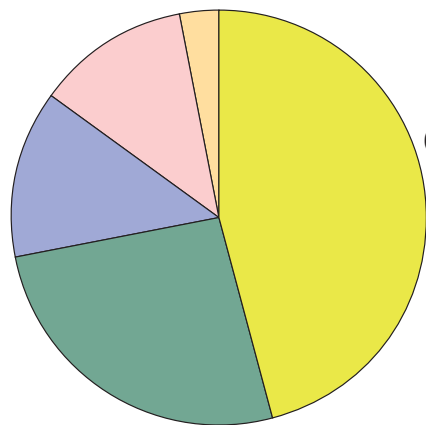
Riparian Forest 46%

Basalt Cliff Forest 27%

River & Shorelands 13%

Open Lawn w/ Paved Surfaces 12%

Beach 3%



### Primary Activities:

Swimming/Wading (66%)

Picnicking/Barbecuing (53%)

Hiking/Walking (38%)

Tubing (29%)

Sightseeing (26%)



## Park Activities by Landscape Subsetting

### River & Shorelands



Fishing, Fly Fishing  
Flatwater Canoe/Kayaking  
Floating  
Rafting  
Sight Seeing  
Swimming

### Riparian Forest



Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
Disc Golf  
Day Hiking/Walking  
Learning: Interpretive Signs  
Relaxing

### Open Lawn & Paving with Scattered Trees



Biking on Road  
Disc Golf  
Picnicking



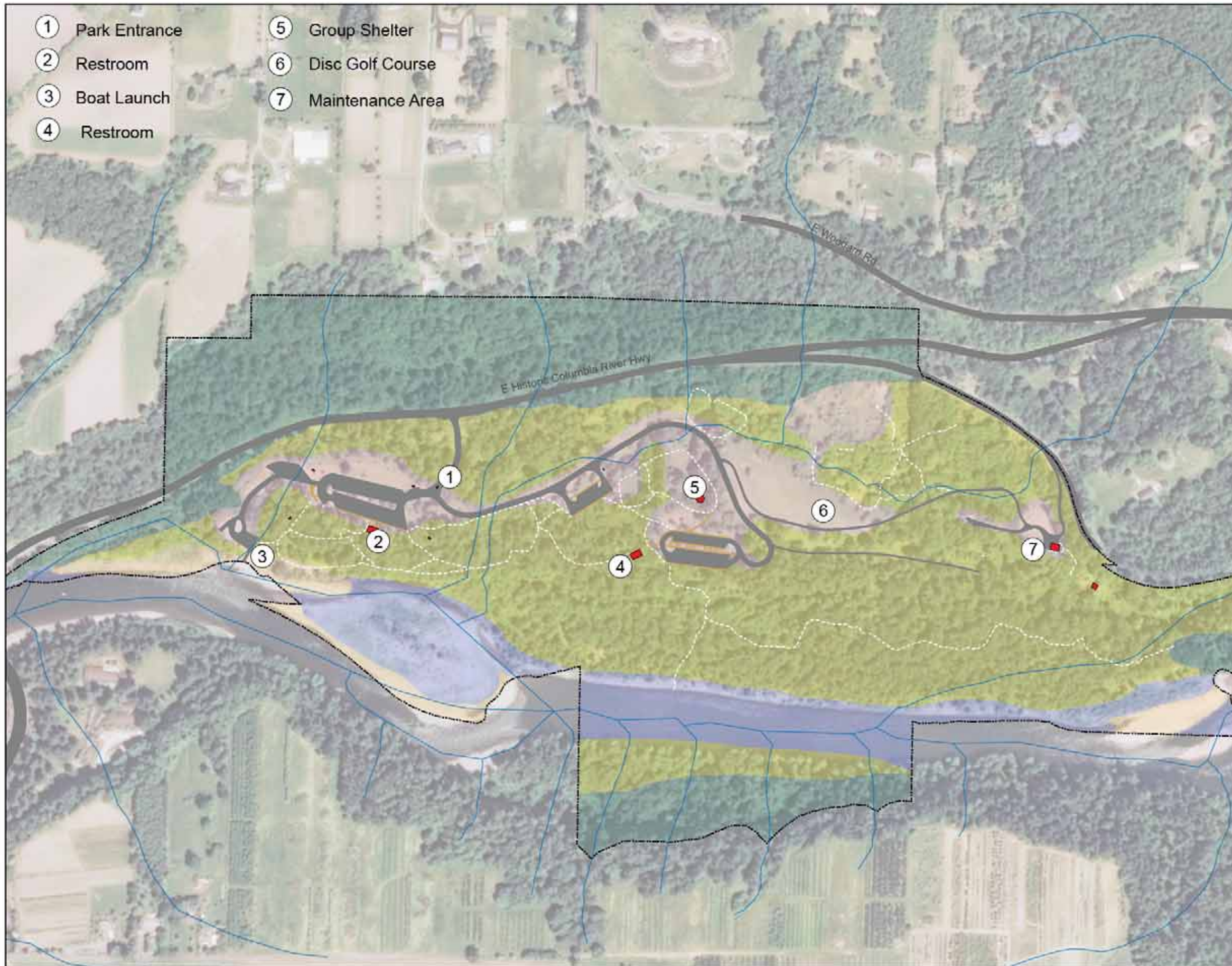
# Dabney State Park

## Existing Conditions

HUB 91

July 2014

- ① Park Entrance
- ② Restroom
- ③ Boat Launch
- ④ Restroom
- ⑤ Group Shelter
- ⑥ Disc Golf Course
- ⑦ Maintenance Area



### Legend

Park Boundary

### Facilities

- Buildings
- Road / Parking Lot
- Walkway/Sidewalk
- Trail
- Streams

### OPRD Landscape Sub-setting

- Open Lawn with Paved Surfaces and Scattered Trees
- Beach
- River and Shorelands
- Riparian Forest
- Basalt Cliff Forest

### Location



### Map Extent



0 200 400 800 Feet



# W3 Portland Women's Forum

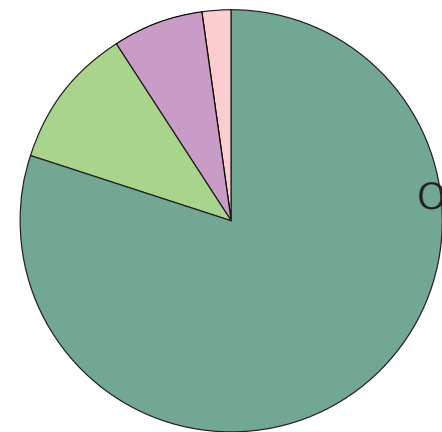
## State Scenic Viewpoint

**Park Character:** Viewpoint, close to Portland/Metro region  
**Primary Landmarks:** Scenic Viewpoint, Interpretive Elements, Historic Columbia River Highway

**Acreage:** 8.39 (51 Inaccessible)  
**Total Trails:** 0.70 miles  
**2012 Day Use Attendance:** 307, 368  
**Day Use Fee:** No  
**Day Use Parking:** 35 spaces

**Noise Level:** 

**Current Interpretive Programs:** Photography Classes



**OPRD Landscape Subsettings:**  
 Basalt Cliff Forest 80%  
 Fir Forest Fringe 11%  
 Agricultural Open Meadow 7%  
 Open Lawn w/ Paved Surfaces 2%

### Park Activities by Landscape Subsetting

#### Open Lawn & Paving with Scattered Trees



Biking on Road: Historic Columbia Highway Access  
 Outdoor Photography  
 Picnicking  
 Scenic Viewpoints  
 Sightseeing

#### Fir Forest Fringe

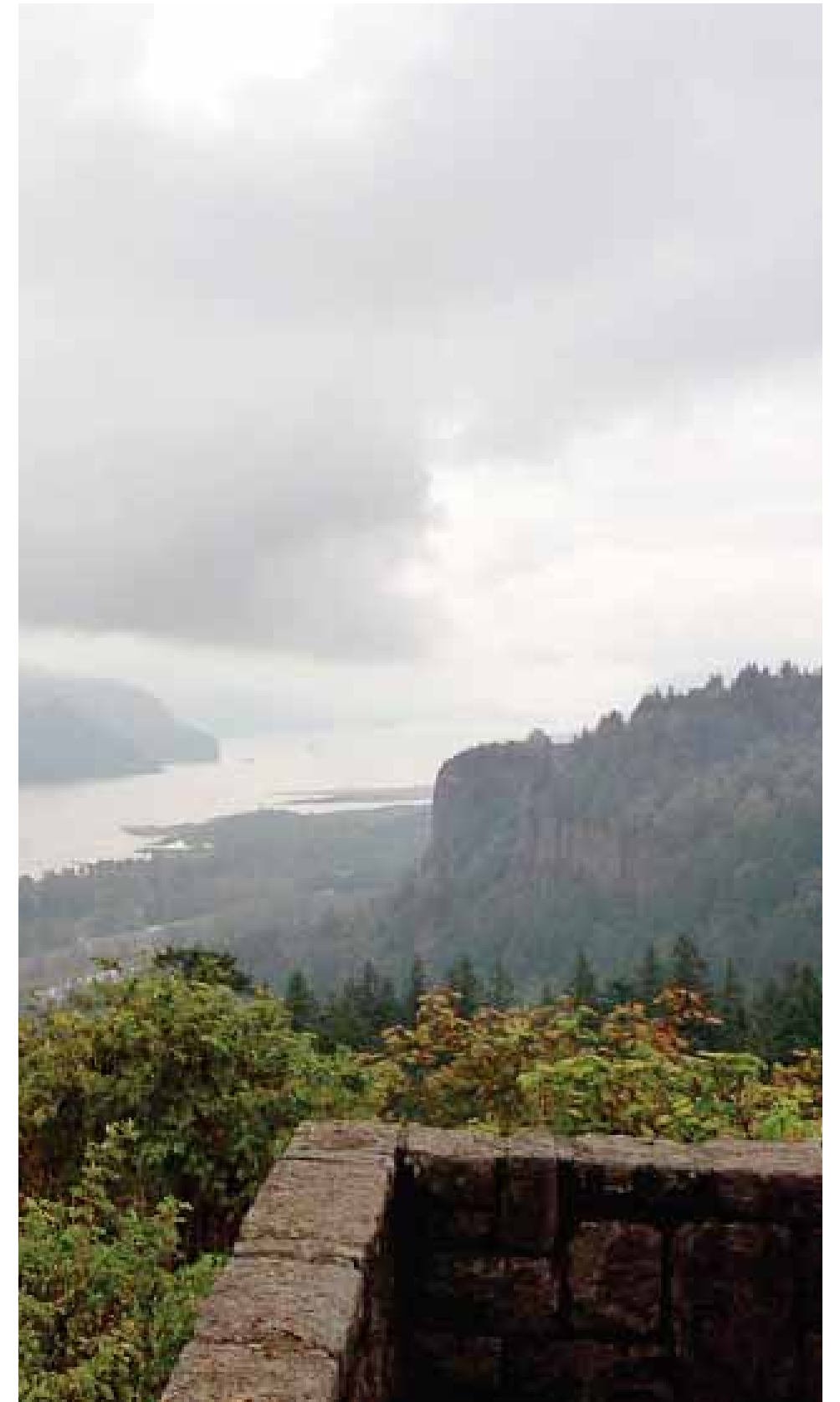


Dog Walking  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Jogging on Trails  
 Orienteering  
 Wildlife Viewing

#### Basalt Cliff Forest



Dog Walking  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Jogging on Trails  
 Orienteering  
 Sightseeing  
 Wildlife Viewing







# Portland Women's Forum State Scenic Viewpoint

## Existing Conditions

HUB 66

July 2014

### Legend

-  Road / Parking Lot
-  Walkway/Sidewalk
-  Trail
-  Park Boundary

### OPRD Landscape Sub-setting

-  Open Lawn with Paved Surfaces and Scattered Trees
-  Fir Forest Fringe
-  Basalt Cliff Forest
-  Agricultural Open Meadow

### Location



### Map Extent



0 100 200 400 Feet



# W5 Guy W. Talbot State Park

**Park Character:** Scenic Waterfall access close to Historic Columbia River Highway and Quiet Picnicking

**Primary Landmarks:** Latourell Falls, Historic Logging Town, Historic Columbia River Highway

**Acreage:** 392.18

**Total Trails:** 2 miles

**2012 Day Use Attendance:** 306,010

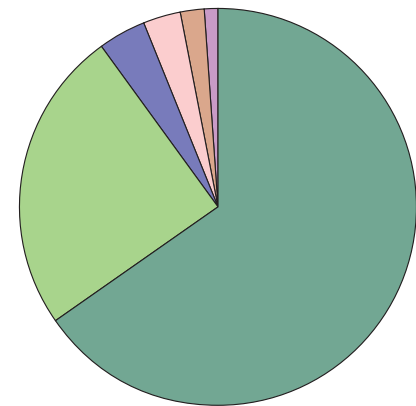
**Day Use Fee:** No

**Day Use Parking:** 31 spaces

**Noise Level:**



**Current Interpretive Programs:** Friends of Columbia Gorge



## OPRD Landscape Subsettings:

Basalt Cliff Forest 65%

Fir Forest Fringe 25%

Waterfall Enclosure 4%

Open Lawn w/ Paved Surfaces 3%

Exposed Cliff Face 2%

Agricultural Open Meadow 1%

## Park Activities by Landscape Subsetting

### Open Lawn & Paving with Scattered Trees



Dog Walking  
Learning: Interpretation Sign  
Picnicking  
Relaxing  
Scenic Viewpoint  
Day Hiking/Walking

### Fir Forest Fringe



Biking on Roads: Access to  
Columbia River Highway  
Dog Walking  
Day Hiking/Walking  
Jogging on Trails  
Orienteering  
Wildlife Viewing

### Basalt Cliff Forest



Dog Walking  
Birdwatching/Nature  
Observation  
Day Hiking/Walking  
Orienteering



### Waterfall Enclosure



Learning: Interpretation Sign  
Outdoor Photography  
Scenic Viewpoint  
Sightseeing

# Guy W. Talbot State Park

## Existing Conditions

HUB 168

July 2014

### Legend

- Buildings
- Road / Parking Lot
- Walkway/Sidewalk
- Trail
- Park Boundary
- Streams

### OPRD Landscape Sub-setting

- Open Lawn with Paved Surfaces and Scattered Trees
- Agricultural Open Meadow
- Fir Forest Fringe
- Basalt Cliff Forest
- Waterfall Enclosure
- Exposed Cliff Face

### Location



### Map Extent



- ① Group Shelter
- ② Restroom
- ③ East Talbot House
- ④ Storage Barn
- ⑤ West Talbot House
- ⑥ Vault Toilet
- ⑦ Lower LaTourell Falls

To Upper LaTourell Falls  
↓

0 200 400 800 Feet



# W7 Rooster Rock State Park

**Park Character:** Day use recreation and access to the Columbia River close to Portland/Metro Area

**Primary Landmarks:** Columbia River, Rooster Rock, Interstate 84, Clothing Optional Beach

**Acreage:** 1088.45 (82 Inaccessible)

**Total Trails:** 6.9 miles

**2012 Day Use Attendance:** 486,256

**Day Use Fee:** Yes

**Day Use Parking:** 1387 spaces

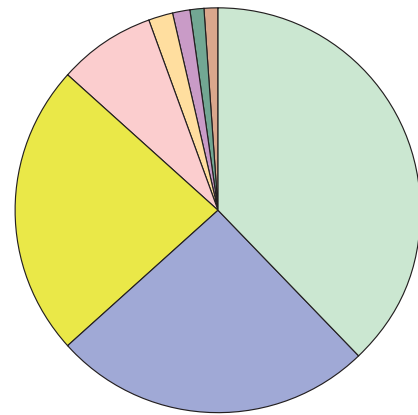
**Noise Level:**



**Top suggestion for improving the park:** Improve trails and beach swimming opportunities

**Percentage indicating overcrowding:** 51-65% (High Normal)

**Current Interpretive Programs:** Stargazing, Waterfalls, Vista House



**OPRD Landscape Subsetting:**  
 Wet Lowlands 38%  
 River & Shorelands 26%  
 Riparian Forest 23%  
 Open Lawn w/ Paved Surfaces 9%  
 Beach 2%  
 Basalt Cliff Forest 1%  
 Exposed Cliff Face 1%

**Primary Activities:**

Hiking/Walking (55%)  
 Picnicking/Barbecuing (53%)  
 Swimming/Wading (40%)  
 Sightseeing (36%)  
 Bird/Wildlife Observation (22%)



## Park Activities by Landscape Subsetting

### River & Shorelands



Fishing from a Boat  
 Flatwater Canoe/Kayaking  
 Motorboating  
 Paddling, stand-up  
 Swimming  
 Wind Sports

### Beach



Bird Watching  
 Clothing Optional Beach  
 Fly Fishing, Fishing from Bank  
 Outdoor Photography  
 Picnicking  
 Relaxing  
 Sight Seeing

### Wet Lowlands



Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
 Day Hiking/Walking

### Riparian Forest



Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Waterfowl Hunting

### Open Lawn & Paving with Scattered Trees



Biking on Road  
 Disc Golf  
 Dog Walking  
 Information Gathering  
 Learning: Interpretation Sign Painting  
 Picnicking  
 Playground  
 Relaxation

### Exposed Cliff Face



Climbing  
 Day Hiking/Walking





# Rooster Rock State Park - West -

## Existing Conditions

HUB 288

July 2014

### Legend

- Buildings
- Road / Parking Lot
- Walkway/Sidewalk
- Trail
- Park Boundary
- Streams

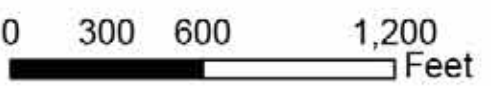
### OPRD Landscape Sub-setting

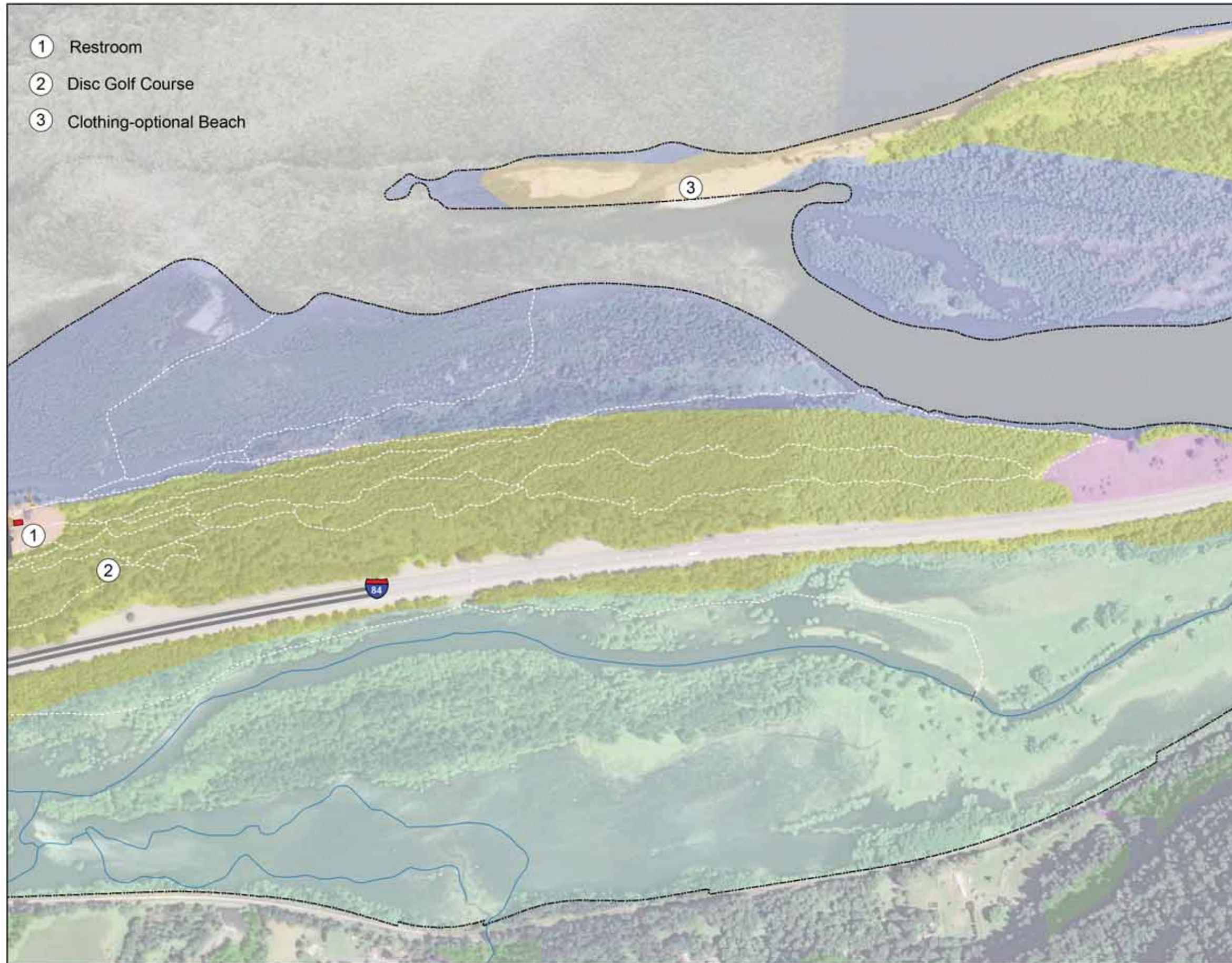
- Open Lawn with Paved Surfaces and Scattered Trees
- Riparian Forest
- Wet Lowlands
- Basalt Cliff Forest
- River and Shorelands
- Exposed Cliff Face

### Location



### Map Extent





- ① Restroom
- ② Disc Golf Course
- ③ Clothing-optional Beach

# Rooster Rock State Park - East -

## Existing Conditions

HUB 288

July 2014

### Legend

- Buildings
- Road / Parking Lot
- Walkway/Sidewalk
- Trail
- Park Boundary
- Streams

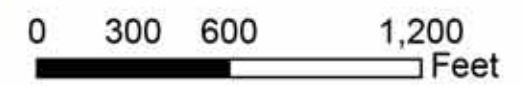
### OPRD Landscape Sub-setting

- Beach
- Open Lawn with Paved Surfaces and Scattered Trees
- Riparian Forest
- Wet Lowlands
- River and Shorelands
- Agricultural Open Meadow

### Location



### Map Extent



# W9 Bridal Veil Falls State Scenic Viewpoint

**Park Character:** Short hiking to day use recreation and scenic viewpoints

**Primary Landmarks:** Bridal Veil Falls, Scenic Viewpoints of Columbia River Gorge

**Acreage:** 17.67

**Total Trails:** 1 mile

**2012 Day Use Attendance:** 221,566

**Day Use Fee:** No

**Day Use Parking:** 22 spaces

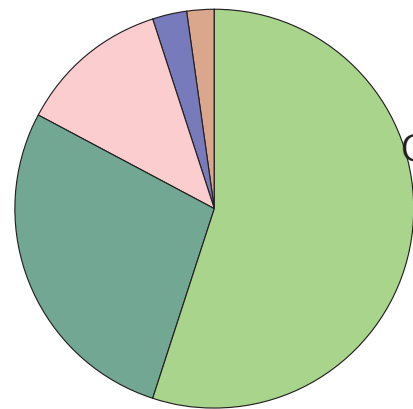
**Noise Level:**



**Top suggestion for improving the park:** Improve wildlife viewing, hiking, education, opportunities to escape crowds, and keep dogs on leash

**Percentage indicating overcrowding:** 66% (Overcapacity)

**Current Interpretive Programs:** None



**OPRD Landscape Subsettings:**  
 Fir Forest Fringe 55%  
 Basalt Cliff Forest 28%  
 Open Lawn w/ Paved Surfaces 12%  
 Waterfall Enclosure 3%  
 Exposed Cliff Face 1%



**Primary Activities:**  
 Hiking/Walking (96%)  
 Sightseeing (63%)  
 Bird/Wildlife Observation (13%)  
 Picnicking/Barbecuing (10%)

## Park Activities by Landscape Subsetting

### Open Lawn & Paving with Scattered Trees



Dog Walking  
 Learning: Interpretive Signage  
 Picnicking  
 Scenic Viewpoints

### Basalt Cliff Forest



Biking on Roads: Access to Columbia River Highway  
 Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Orienteering  
 Visit Historic Sites

### Waterfall Enclosure



Outdoor Photography  
 Scenic Viewpoint  
 Sightseeing





# Bridal Veil Falls State Scenic Viewpoint

## Existing Conditions

HUB 24

July 2014

- ① Restroom
- ② Viewing Platform
- ③ Bridal Veil Falls
- ④ Viewpoint
- ⑤ Viewpoint
- ⑥ Viewpoint
- ⑦ Picnic Area

### Legend

- Buildings
- Road / Parking Lot
- Walkway/Sidewalk
- Trail
- Park Boundary
- Streams

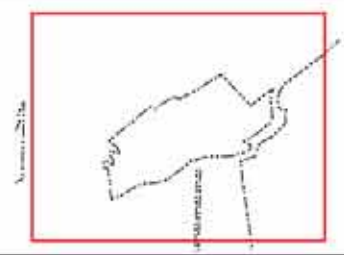
### OPRD Landscape Sub-setting

- Open Lawn with Paved Surfaces and Scattered Trees
- Fir Forest Fringe
- Basalt Cliff Forest
- Waterfall Enclosure
- Exposed Cliff Face

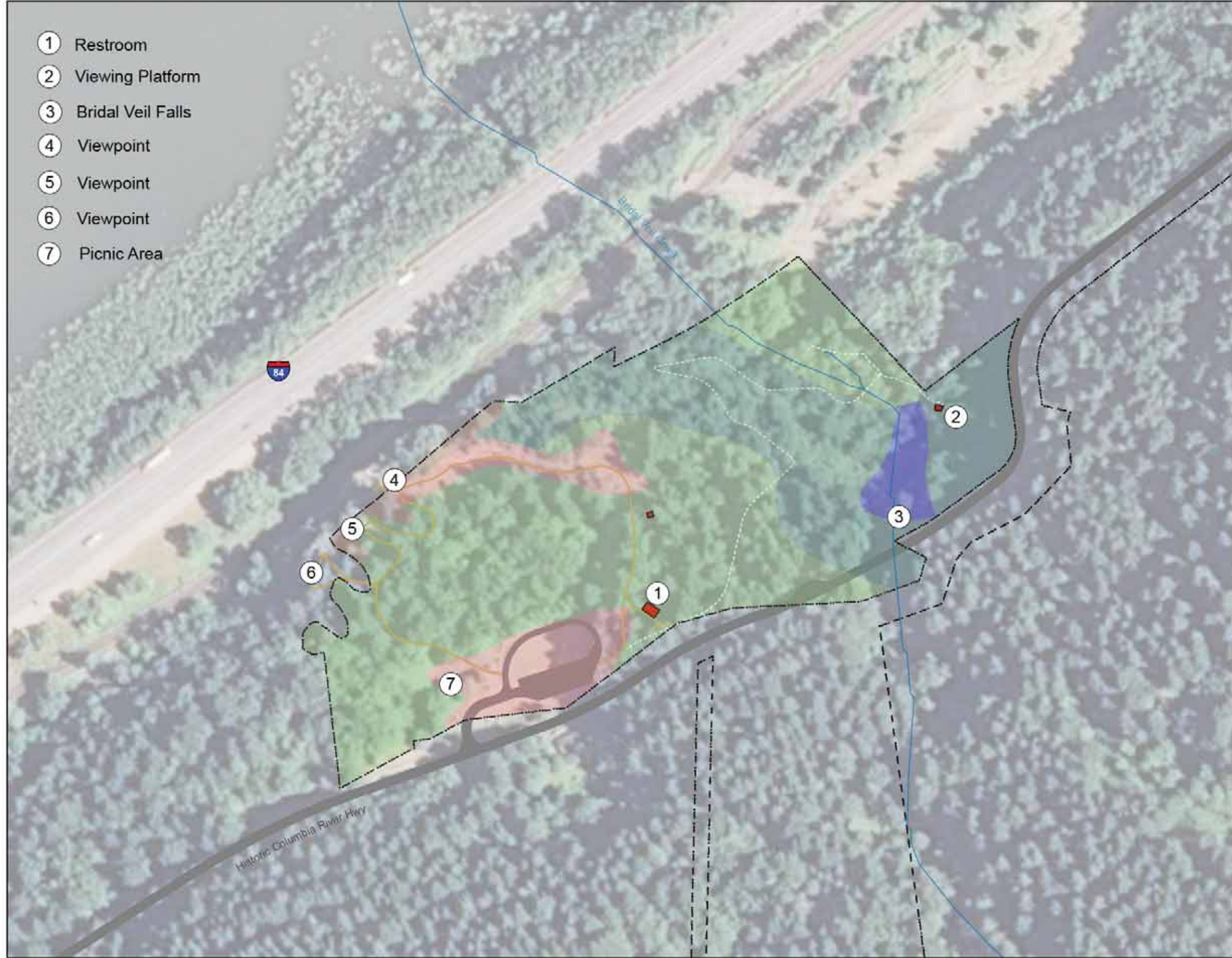
### Location



### Map Extent



0 100 200 400 Feet



# W12 Benson State Recreation Area

**Park Character:** Day use recreation and lake access for fishing and swimming close to Interstate 84

**Primary Landmarks:** Lake, Interstate 84

**Acreage:** 77.5 (236.39 Inaccessible)

**Total Trails:** 0 miles

**2012 Day Use Attendance:** 118,624

**Day Use Fee:** Yes

**Day Use Parking:** 197 spaces

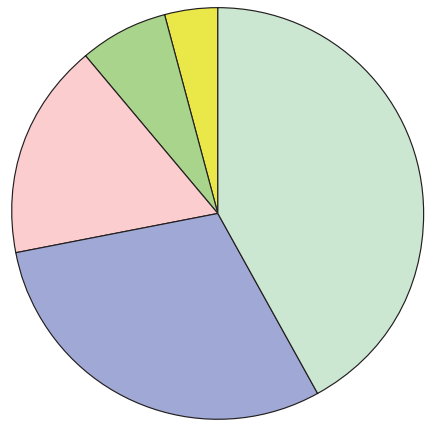
**Noise Level:**



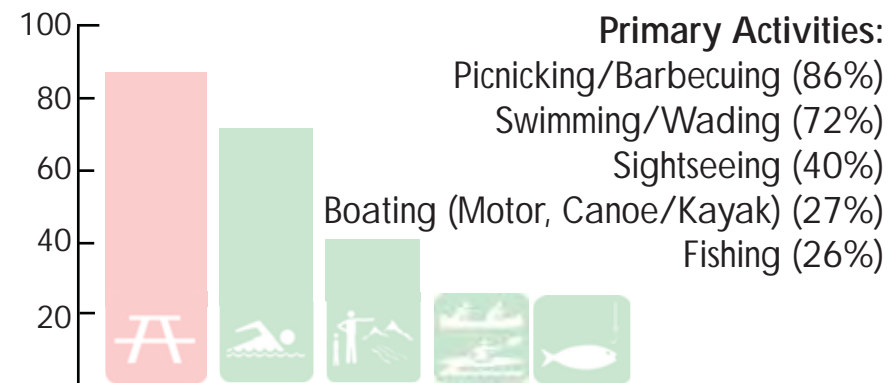
**Top suggestion for improving the park:** Cash fee option, Improved lake access for fishing and swimming

**Percentage indicating overcrowding:** 51-65% (High Normal)

**Current Interpretive Programs:** None



**OPRD Landscape Subsettings:**  
 Wet Lowlands 43%  
 River & Shorelands 30%  
 Open Lawn w/ Paved Surfaces 17%  
 Fir Forest Fringe 7%  
 Riparian Forest 3%



## Park Activities by Landscape Subsetting

### Wet Lowlands



Fishing from a Pier  
 Flatwater Canoe/ Kayaking  
 Swimming  
 Sightseeing

### Riparian Forest



Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
 Orienteering  
 Day Hiking/Walking

### Open Lawn & Paving with Scattered Trees



Disc Golf  
 Dog Walking  
 Horseshoes  
 Picnicking, Group Picnicking  
 Relaxing  
 Volleyball  
 Day Hiking/Walking



# Benson State Recreation Area

## Existing Conditions

HUB 32

July 2014

- ① Restroom
- ② Group Shelter
- ③ Disc Golf Course
- ④ Volleball / Horseshoes
- ⑤ Fishing Pier / Gravel Boat Launch
- ⑥ ADA Fishing Pier
- ⑦ Multnomah Falls
- ⑧ Wahkeena Falls

### Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Buildings
-  Road / Parking Lot
-  Walkway/Sidewalk
-  Trail
-  Streams

### OPRD Landscape Sub-setting

-  Open Lawn with Paved Surfaces and Scattered Trees
-  River and Shorelands
-  Wet Lowlands
-  Fir Forest Fringe

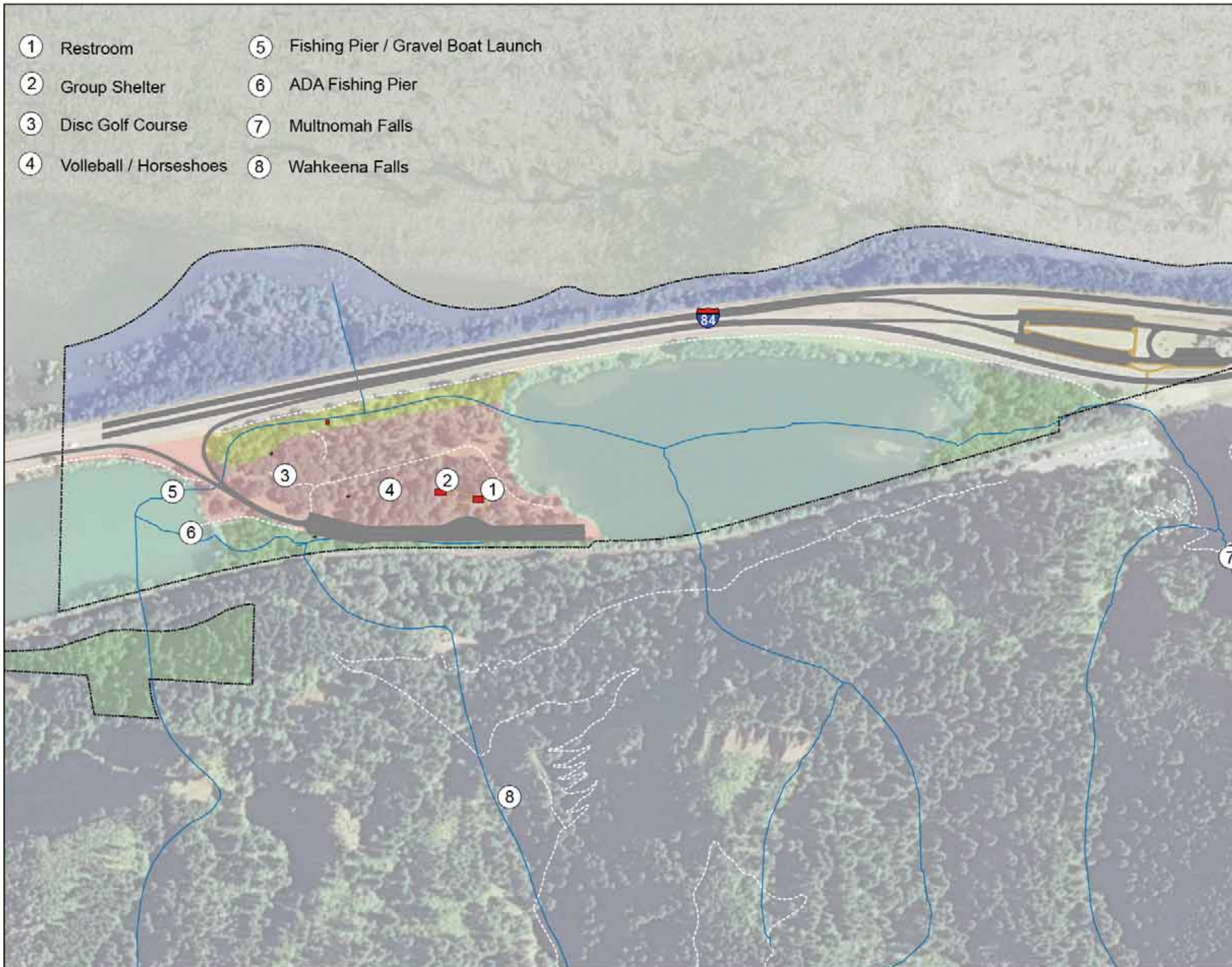
### Location



### Map Extent



0 200 400 800 Feet



# W13 Ainsworth State Park

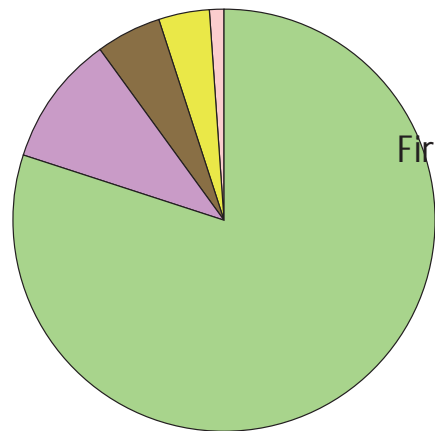
**Park Character:** Campsite with access to hiking trails  
**Primary Landmarks:** Campground, Trail Access, Historic Columbia River Highway

**Acres:** 178.78  
**Total Trails:** 1.5 miles  
**2012 Overnight Attendance:** 22,744  
**Day Use Fee:** No  
**Overnight Fee:** Yes  
**Day Use Parking:** 13 spaces  
**Camping Spaces:** 40 full hook up, 6 walk-in

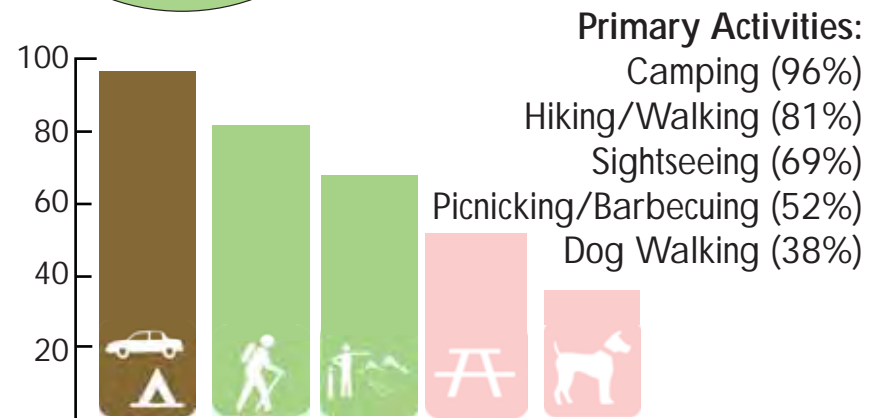
**Noise Level:**



**Top suggestion for improving the park:** Management of dogs on leash, Increased opportunities for wildlife viewing  
**Percentage indicating overcrowding:** 51-65% (High Normal)  
**Current Interpretive Programs:** Columbia River, Historic Columbia River Highway, Night Skies, Ice Age Floods



**OPRD Landscape Subsettings:**  
 Fir Forest Fringe 80%  
 Agricultural Open Meadow 10%  
 Fir Forest Fringe w/ Paved Surfaces 5%  
 Riparian Forest 4%  
 Open Lawn w/ Paved Surfaces 1%



## Park Activities by Landscape Subsetting

### Open Lawn & Paving with Scattered Trees



Dog Walking  
 Learning: Ranger Led Programs  
 Picnicking  
 Playground  
 Relaxing

### Fir Forest Fringe



Backpacking  
 Bicycling on Roads  
 Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
 Camping (Walk-in)  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Jogging on Trails  
 Orienteering

### Fir Forest Fringe with Paving



Camping (Tent, RV)



# Ainsworth State Park


## Existing Conditions

HUB 6

July 2014

- ① Main Campground
- ② Restroom / Shower
- ③ Restroom / Shower
- ④ Walk-in Campground
- ⑤ Parking / Trailhead / Restroom
- ⑥ Program Area

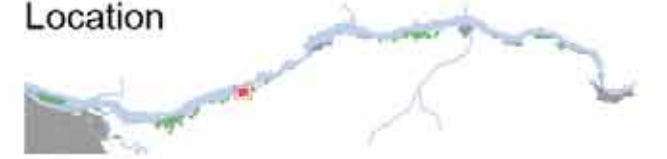
### Legend

-  Buildings
-  Road / Parking Lot
-  Walkway/Sidewalk
-  Trail
-  Park Boundary
-  Streams

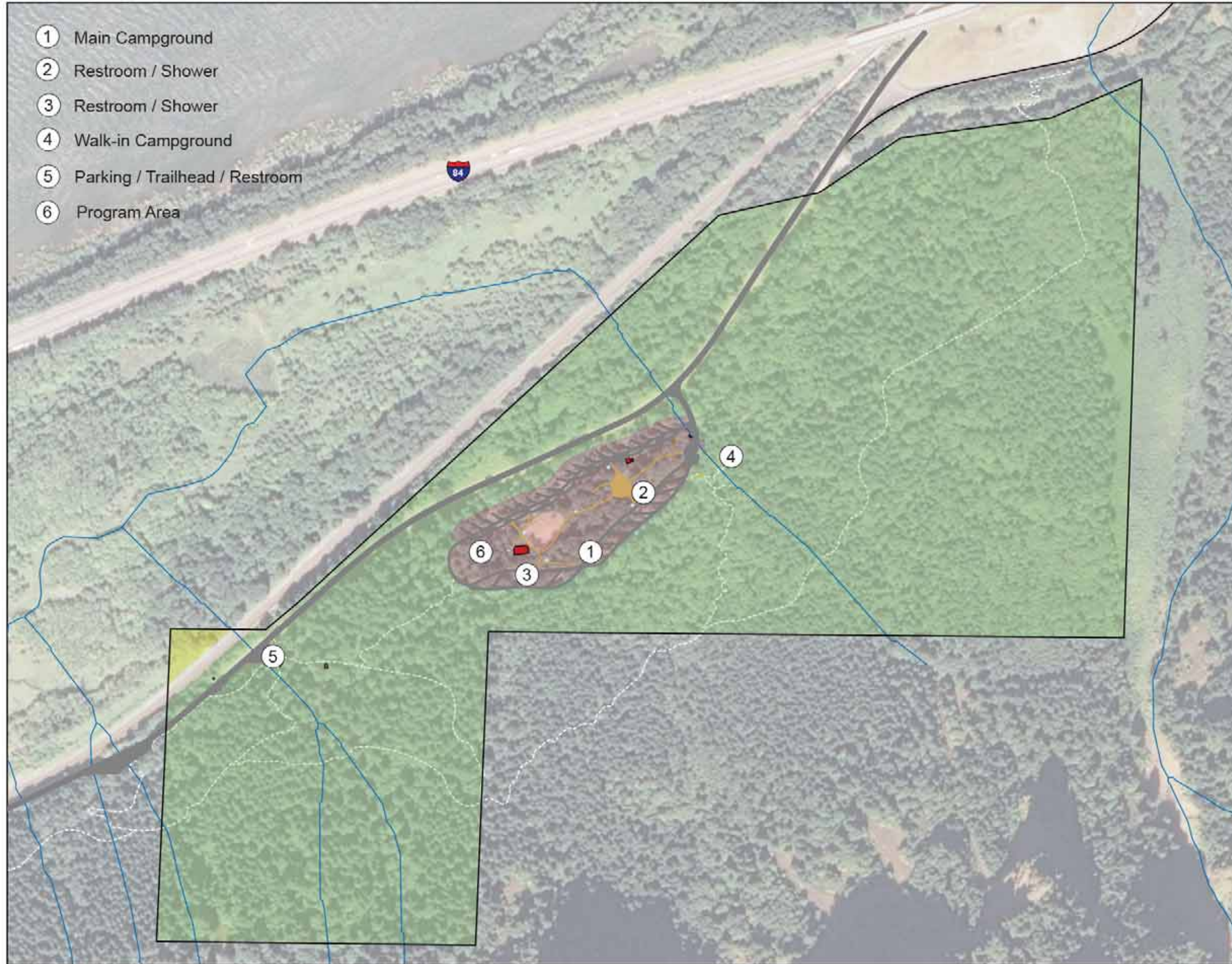
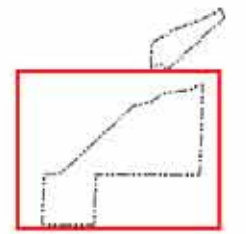
### Landscape Setting

-  Open Lawn with Paved Surfaces and Scattered Trees
-  Fir Forest Fringe with Paved Surfaces
-  Fir Forest Fringe
-  Riparian Forest

### Location



### Map Extent



# W16 Tooth Rock State Trailhead

**Park Character:** Open grass and landscaped trailhead with parking alongside I-84, with forested Gorge walls behind.

**Primary Landmarks:** Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail, Overflow for nearby Wachella Falls parking area (USFS), which required a NW Forest Pass.

**Acreage:** 46.34

**Total Trails:** 0.7 miles

**Day Use Parking:** 41 spaces

**Current Interpretive Programs:** None

**Noise Level:**



## Park Activities by Landscape Subsetting

### Open Lawn & Paving with Scattered Trees



Picnicing

### Fir Forest Fringe



Backpacking: Access to Gorge Trail 400

Biking on Roads: Access to Columbia River Highway

Bird Watching/ Nature Observation

Day Hiking/Walking

Jogging on Trails

Orienteering



# Tooth Rock State Trailhead

## Existing Conditions

HUB 42

July 2014

### Legend

-  Park Boundary
-  Road / Parking Lot
-  Walkway/Sidewalk
-  Trail

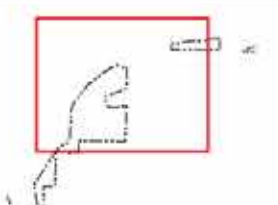
### OPRD Landscape Sub-setting

-  Open Lawn with Paved Surfaces and Scattered Trees
-  Fir Forest Fringe
-  Basalt Cliff Forest
-  Agricultural Open Meadow

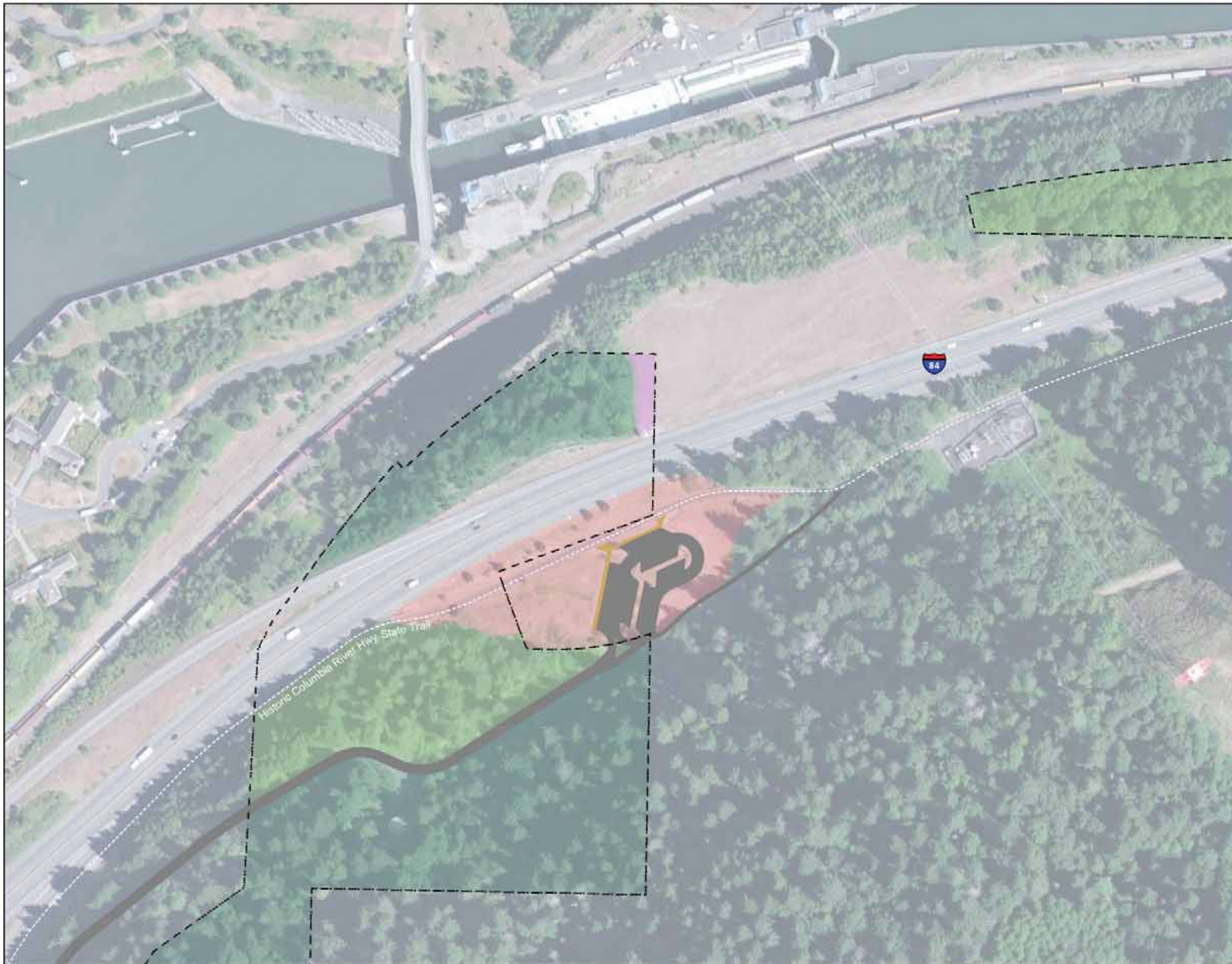
### Location



### Map Extent



0 100 200 400 Feet



# E2 Wyeth State Recreation Area

**Park Character:** Mostly undeveloped property with river access, gravel parking lot, and unimproved boat ramp

**Primary Landmarks:** Wyeth Tribal Fishing Site, Wyeth Campground (USFS), Columbia River

**Acreage:** 85.3 (75 Inaccessible including Lang Forest)

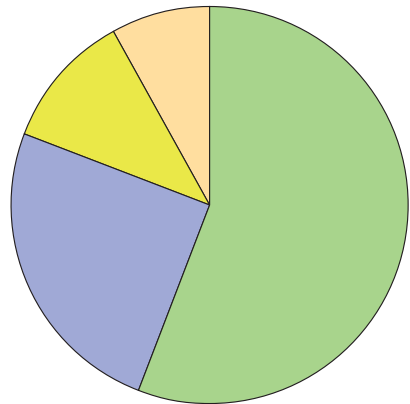
**Total Trails:** None

**Day Use Parking:** Very large gravel lot - no marked spaces

**Noise Level:**

**L L**

**Current Interpretive Programs:** None



**OPRD Landscape Subsettings:**  
 Fir Forest Fringe 56%  
 River & Shorelands 25%  
 Riparian Forest 11%  
 Disturbed 8%

## Park Activities by Landscape Subsetting

### River & Shorelands



Fishing From a Boat  
 Flatwater Canoe/Kayaking  
 Paddling, stand-up  
 Powerboating  
 Swimming  
 Wind Surfing

### Riparian Forest



Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
 Fishing From a Bank/Fly Fishing  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Outdoor Photography  
 Picnicking  
 Relaxing  
 Sightseeing

### Fir Forest Fringe



Backpacking: Access to Pacific Crest Trail  
 Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Jogging on Trails  
 Orienteering





# Wyeth State Recreation Area

## Existing Conditions

HUB 369

July 2014

- ① Parking Area (Gravel)
- ② Unimproved Boat Launch



### Legend

- Park Boundary
- Road / Parking Lot
- Trail
- Streams

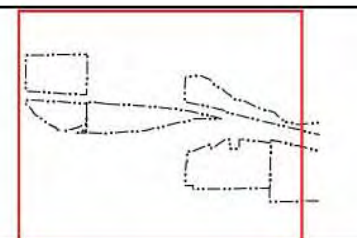
### OPRD Landscape Sub-setting

- Disturbed Area (Gravel, Bare Dirt, Paved Surfaces, and Invasive Species)
- Riparian Forest
- Fir Forest Fringe
- River and Shorelands

### Location



### Map Extent



0 250 500 1,000 Feet



# E4 Starvation Creek State Park

**Park Character:** Rest stop and day use access to hiking trails and scenic viewpoints

**Primary Landmarks:** Starvation Creek Falls, Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail, Interstate 84

**Acreage:** 67.5  
**Total Trails:** 1 mile  
**2012 Day Use Attendance:** 186,944  
**Day Use Fee:** No  
**Day Use Parking:** 29 spaces

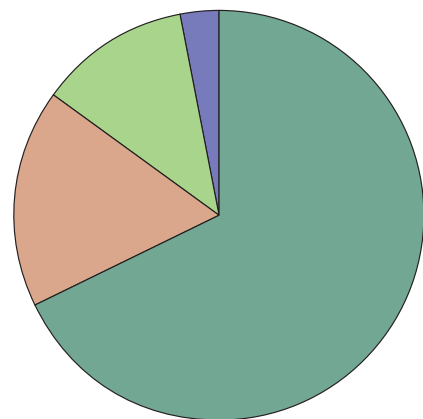
**Noise Level:**



**Top suggestion for improving the park:** Improvements to trail marking/signage

**Percentage indicating overcrowding:** 32% (Suppressed Crowding)

**Current Interpretive Programs:** Friends of Columbia Gorge



**OPRD Landscape Subsettings:**  
 Basalt Cliff Forest 68%  
 Exposed Cliff Face 17%  
 Fir Forest Fringe 12%  
 Waterfall Enclosure 3%



## Park Activities by Landscape Subsetting

### Fir Forest Fringe



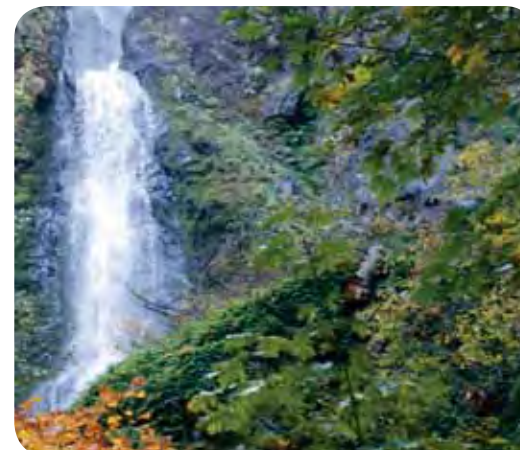
**Biking on Roads:** Access to Columbia River Highway  
 Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Jogging on Trails  
 Picnicking

### Basalt Cliff Forest

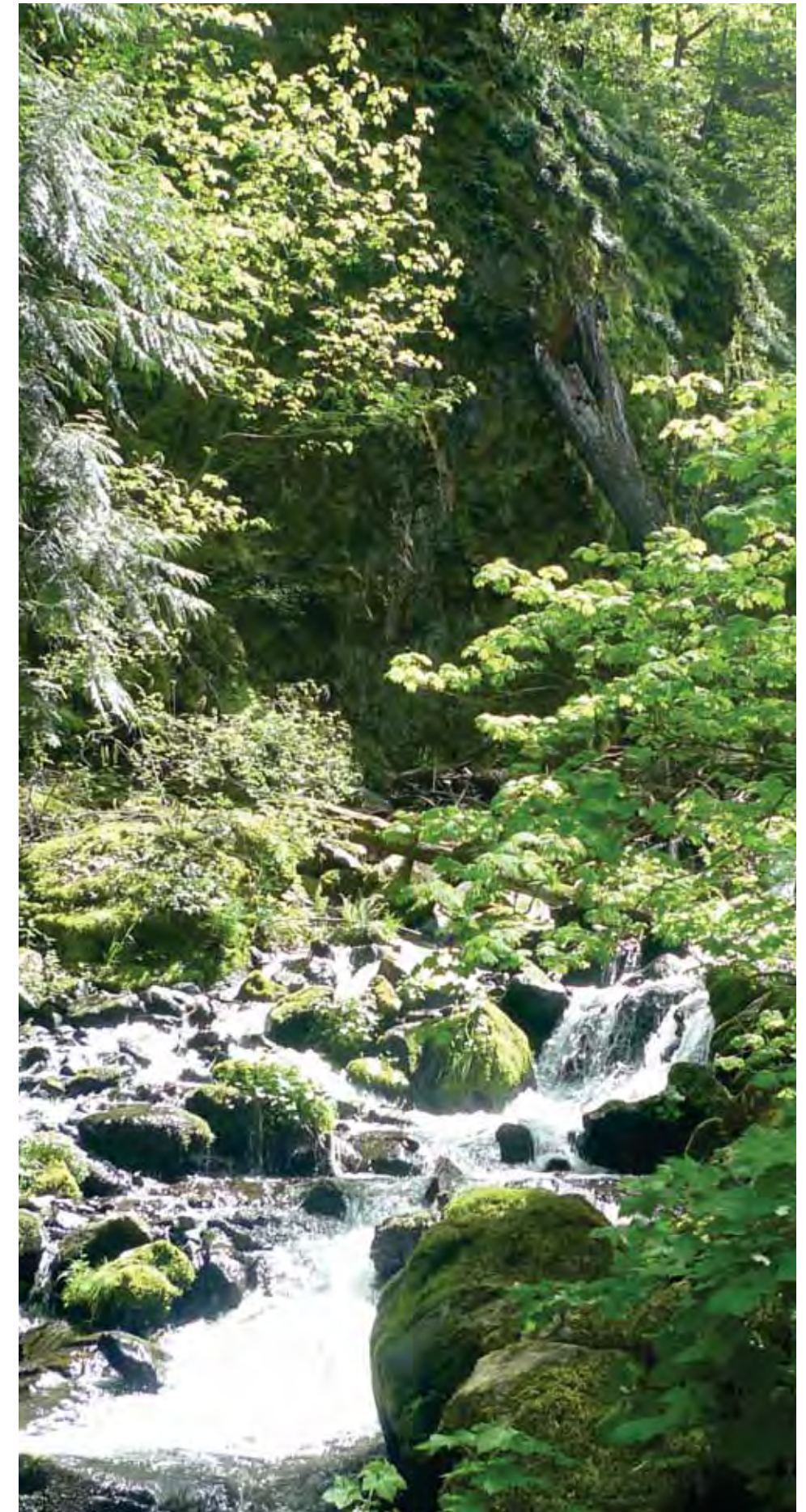


Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Dog Walking  
 Jogging on Trails  
 Orienteering  
 Outdoor Photography  
 Scenic Viewpoint

### Waterfall Enclosure



Outdoor Photography  
 Scenic Viewpoint  
 Sightseeing



# Existing Conditions

## Starvation Creek

HUB 325

July 2014

- ① Restroom
- ② Picnic Area
- ③ Viewpoint
- ④ Starvation Creek Falls
- ⑤ Trailhead
- ⑥ Viewpoint

### Legend

- Buildings
- Road / Parking Lot
- Walkway/Sidewalk
- Trail
- Park Boundary
- Streams

### OPRD Landscape Sub-setting

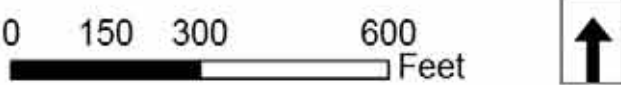
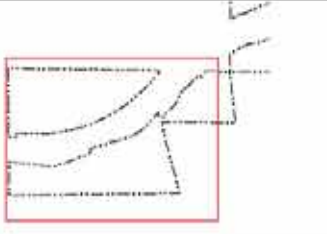
- Fir Forest Fringe
- Basalt Cliff Forest
- Riverlands
- Waterfall Enclosure
- Exposed Cliff Face



### Location



### Map Extent



# E5 Viento State Park

**Park Character:** Campground with river and trail access  
**Primary Landmarks:** Columbia River, Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail, Interstate 84

**Acreage:** 293.39 (30.79 Inaccessible)  
**Total Trails:** 1.1 Miles  
**2012 Day Use Attendance:** 72,304  
**2012 Overnight Attendance:** 14,662  
**Day Use Fee:** Yes  
**Overnight Fee:** Yes  
**Day Use Parking:** 78 spaces  
**Camping Spaces:** 55 electrical, 15 tent

**Current Interpretive Programs:** Pioneers, Native Plants/Birds, Dutch Oven Cooking

**Noise Level:**



## Park Activities by Landscape Subsetting

### River & Shorelands



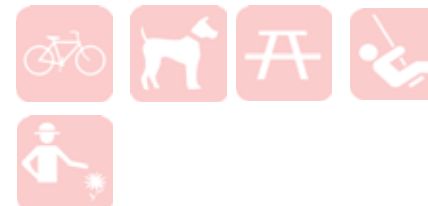
Flatwater Canoe/Kayaking  
 Fishing from a Bank, Fly Fishing  
 Paddling, stand-up  
 Picnicking  
 Swimming  
 Wind Sports

### Riparian Forest



Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Outdoor Photography  
 Relaxing

### Open Lawn & Paving with Scattered Trees



Biking on Roads: Access to Columbia River Highway  
 Dog Walking  
 Picnicking  
 Playground  
 Learning: Ranger Led Programs

### Fir Forest Fringe



Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Jogging on Trails  
 Orienteering

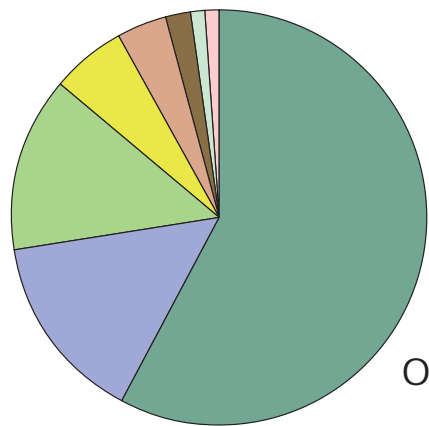
### Fir Forest Fringe with Paving

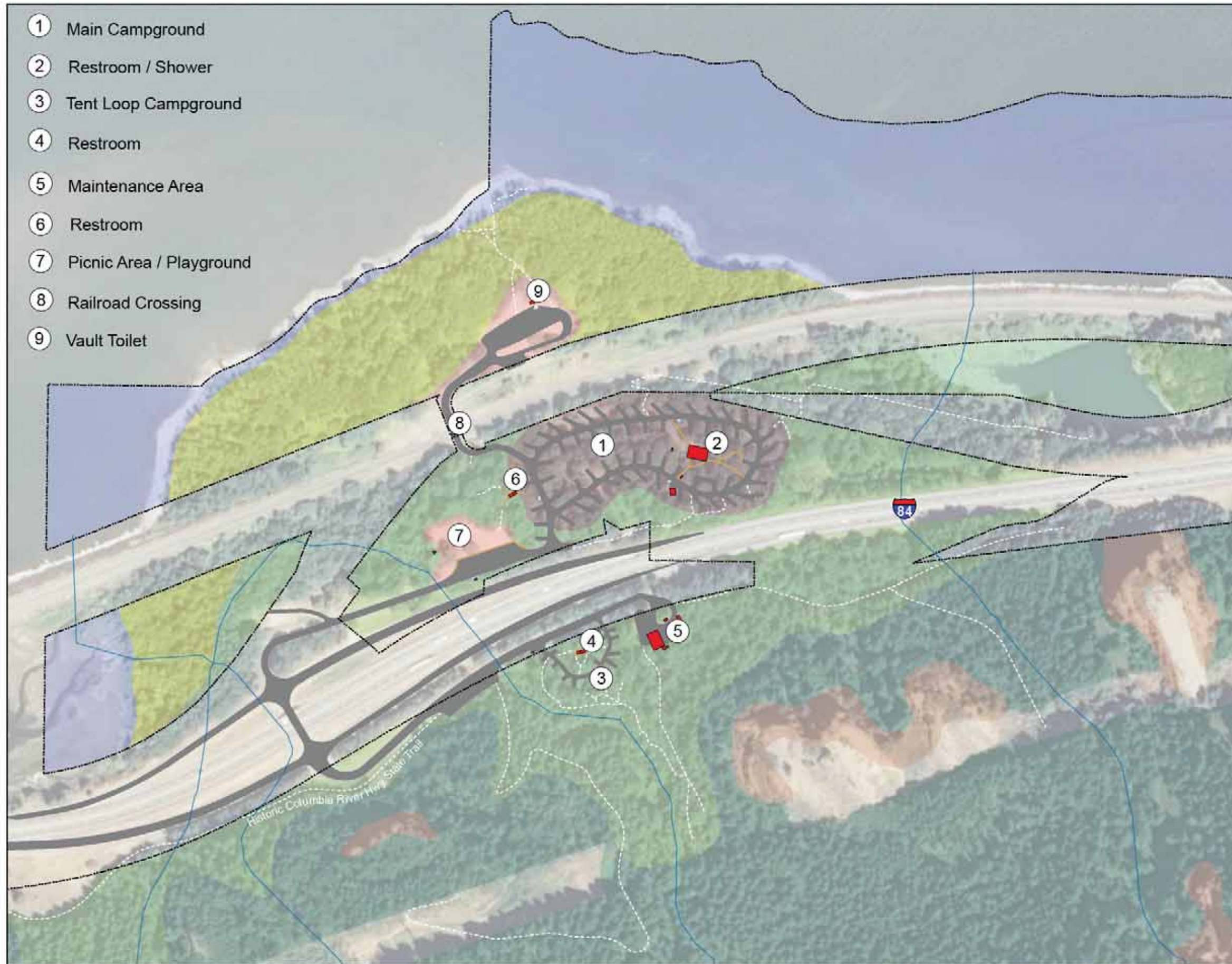


Camping (Tent, RV)

### OPRD Landscape Subsettings:

- Basalt Cliff Forest 56%
- River & Shorelands 15%
- Fir Forest Fringe 14%
- Riparian Forest 6%
- Exposed Cliff Face 4%
- Fir Forest Fringe with Paving 2%
- Wet Lowlands 1%
- Open Lawn w/ Paved Surfaces 1%





- ① Main Campground
- ② Restroom / Shower
- ③ Tent Loop Campground
- ④ Restroom
- ⑤ Maintenance Area
- ⑥ Restroom
- ⑦ Picnic Area / Playground
- ⑧ Railroad Crossing
- ⑨ Vault Toilet

# Viento State Park

## Existing Conditions

HUB 348

July 2014

### Legend

- Buildings
- Road / Parking Lot
- Walkway/Sidewalk
- Trail
- Park Boundary
- Streams

### Landscape Setting

- Open Lawn with Paved Surfaces and Scattered Trees
- Riparian Forest
- Wet Lowlands
- Fir Forest Fringe
- Basalt Cliff Forest
- River and Shorelands
- Exposed Cliff Face
- Fir Forest Fringe with Paved Surfaces

### Location



### Map Extent



0 150 300 600 Feet



# E6 Mitchell Point: Wygant, Vinzenz Lausmann, & Seneca Fouts State Natural Areas

**Park Character:** Viewpoint and day use access to trails from 1-84 Eastbound, Access to trail network through Hood River to Post Canyon for a variety of user groups

**Primary Landmarks:** Columbia River, Mitchell Point, Interstate 84, HCRH Site, Post Canyon

Noise Level:

L

Acreage: 1,302.0

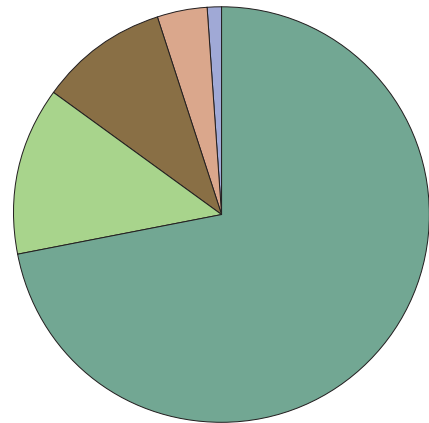
Total Trails: Approx. 12.5 miles

Dayuse Visitors 2012: No data

Day Use Fee: No

Day Use Parking: Approx. 25 spaces

Current Interpretive Programs: Interpretive Signage



**OPRD Landscape Subsettings:**  
 Basalt Cliff Forest 72%  
 Fir Forest Fringe 13%  
 Oak Conifer Woodland 10%  
 River & Shorelands 4%  
 Exposed Cliff Face 1%

## Park Activities by Landscape Subsetting

### Basalt Cliff Forest



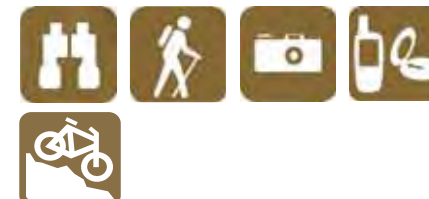
Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Dog Walking  
 Jogging on Trails  
 Orienteering  
 Outdoor Photography  
 Scenic Viewpoint  
 Mountain Biking

### Fir Forest Fringe



Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Jogging on Trails  
 Orienteering

### Oak Conifer Woodland



Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Jogging on Trails  
 Outdoor Photography  
 Orienteering  
 Mountain Biking

### Exposed Cliff Face



Day Hiking/Walking

### River & Shorelands

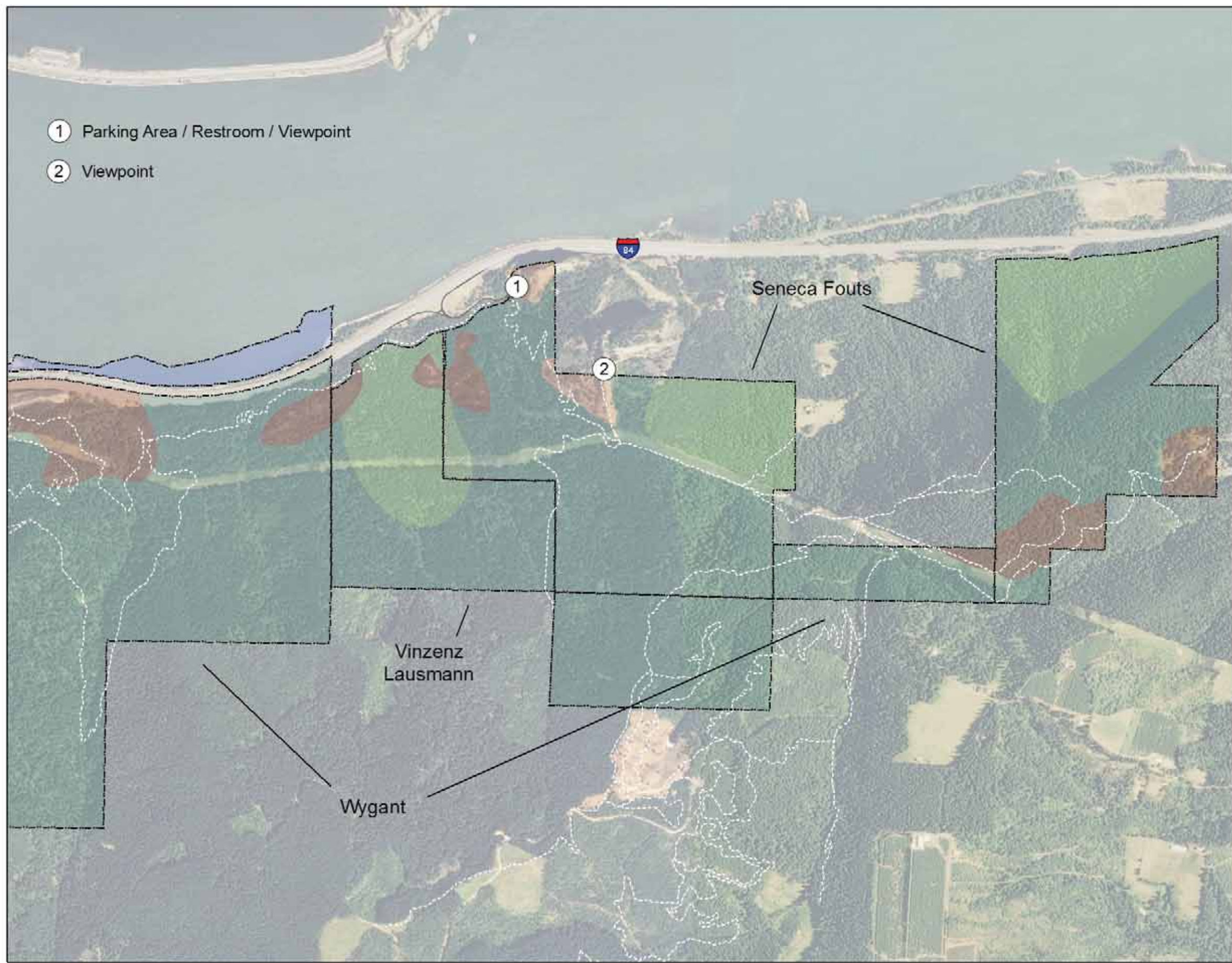


No access available

# Mitchell Point: Wygant, Vinzenz Lausmann, & Seneca Fouts State Natural Areas

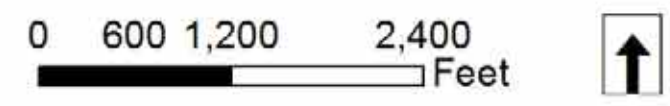
## Existing Conditions

HUB 374 / 347 / 307 January 2015



### Legend

- Buildings
  - Road / Parking Lot
  - Trail
  - Park Boundary
- 
- #### Landscape Sub-setting
- River and Shorelands
  - Fir Forest Fringe
  - Basalt Cliff Forest
  - Exposed Cliff Face
  - Oak Conifer Woodland



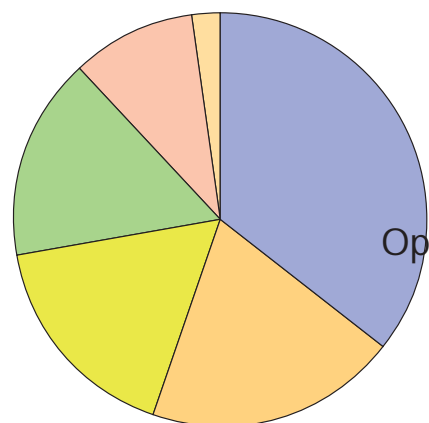
# E8 Koberg Beach State Recreation Area

Park Character: Rest stop and day use access to river  
 Primary Landmarks: Columbia River, bluffs, Interstate 84

Acreage: 141.85  
 Total Trails: 0.1 Miles  
 Dayuse Visitors 2012: 257,046  
 Day Use Fee: No  
 Day Use Parking: 20

Noise Level:  
 L L

Current Interpretive Programs: None



OPRD Landscape Subsettings:  
 River & Shorelands 36%  
 Oak Savannah 20%  
 Riparian Forest 17%  
 Fir Forest Fringe 16%  
 Open Lawn w/ Paved Surfaces 10%  
 Beach 1%

## Park Activities by Landscape Subsetting

### River & Shorelands



Flatwater Canoe/Kayaking  
 Fishing from a Bank, Fly Fishing  
 Paddling, stand-up  
 Picnicking  
 Swimming

### Open Lawn & Paving with Scattered Trees



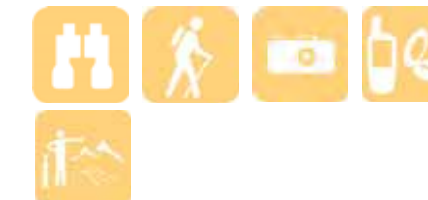
Dog Walking  
 Picnicking

### Beach



Bird Watching  
 Fly Fishing, Fishing from Bank  
 Outdoor Photography  
 Picnicking  
 Relaxing  
 Sight Seeing

### Oak Savannah



Bird Watching/ Nature  
 Observation  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Outdoor Photography  
 Orienteering

### Riparian Forest



Bird Watching/ Nature  
 Observation  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Outdoor Photography  
 Relaxing



# Koberg Beach State Recreation Area

## Existing Conditions

HUB 204

July 2014

- ① Restroom
- ② Beach

### Legend

- Buildings
- Road / Parking Lot
- Walkway/Sidewalk
- Trail
- Park Boundary

### OPRD Landscape Sub-setting

- Lawn with Scattered Trees
- Riparian Forest
- Riverlands
- Beach
- Oak Savannah
- Fir Forest Fringe



# E10 Memaloose State Park

**Park Character:** Campground with large open areas  
**Primary Landmarks:** Columbia River, Memaloose Island, Interstate 84

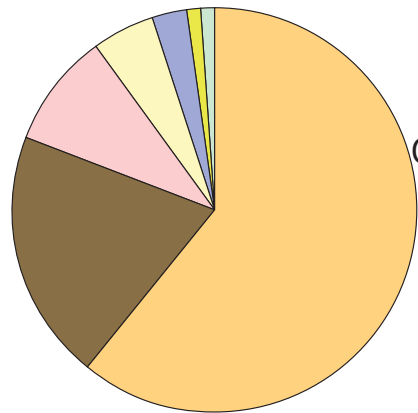
**Noise Level:**



**Acreage:** 414.65  
**Total Trails:** 1 mile  
**Overnight Visitors 2012:** 26,796  
**Day Use Fee:** No  
**Overnight Fee:** Yes  
**Day Use Parking:** 10 spaces  
**Camping Spaces:** 40 full hook up, 55 tent

**Top suggestion for improving the park:** Access to beach, reduce noise from freeway/railroad, landscape improvements  
**Percentage indicating overcrowding:** 0-35% (Suppressed crowding)

**Current Interpretive Programs:** Historic Highway, Ice Age Floods, Astronomy, Birds of Prey



**OPRD Landscape Subsettings:**  
 Oak Savannah 61%  
 Oak Conifer Woodlands 20%  
 Open Lawn w/ Paved Surfaces 9%  
 Grasslands 5%  
 River and Shorelands 3%  
 Riparian Forest 1%  
 Wet Lowlands 1%



**Primary Activities:**  
 Camping (94%)  
 Hiking/Walking (47%)  
 Sightseeing (38%)  
 Picnicking/Barbecuing (32%)  
 Dog Walking (27%)

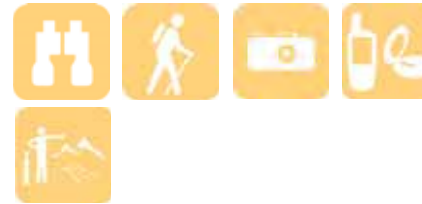
## Park Activities by Landscape Subsetting

### Open Lawn & Paving with Scattered Trees



Camping (Tent, Car, RV)  
 Picnicking  
 Relaxing  
 Volleyball/Horseshoes  
 Dog Walking

### Oak Savannah



Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Outdoor Photography  
 Orienteering

### Oak Conifer Woodland



Bird Watching/ Nature Observation  
 Day Hiking/Walking  
 Outdoor Photography  
 Orienteering



# Memaloose State Park

## Existing Conditions

HUB 231

July 2014

- ① Campground
- ② Park Entrance
- ③ Restroom / Shower
- ④ Restroom
- ⑤ Maintenance Area
- ⑥ ODOT Rest Stop

### Legend

- Buildings
- Road / Parking Lot
- Walkway/Sidewalk
- Trail
- Park Boundary

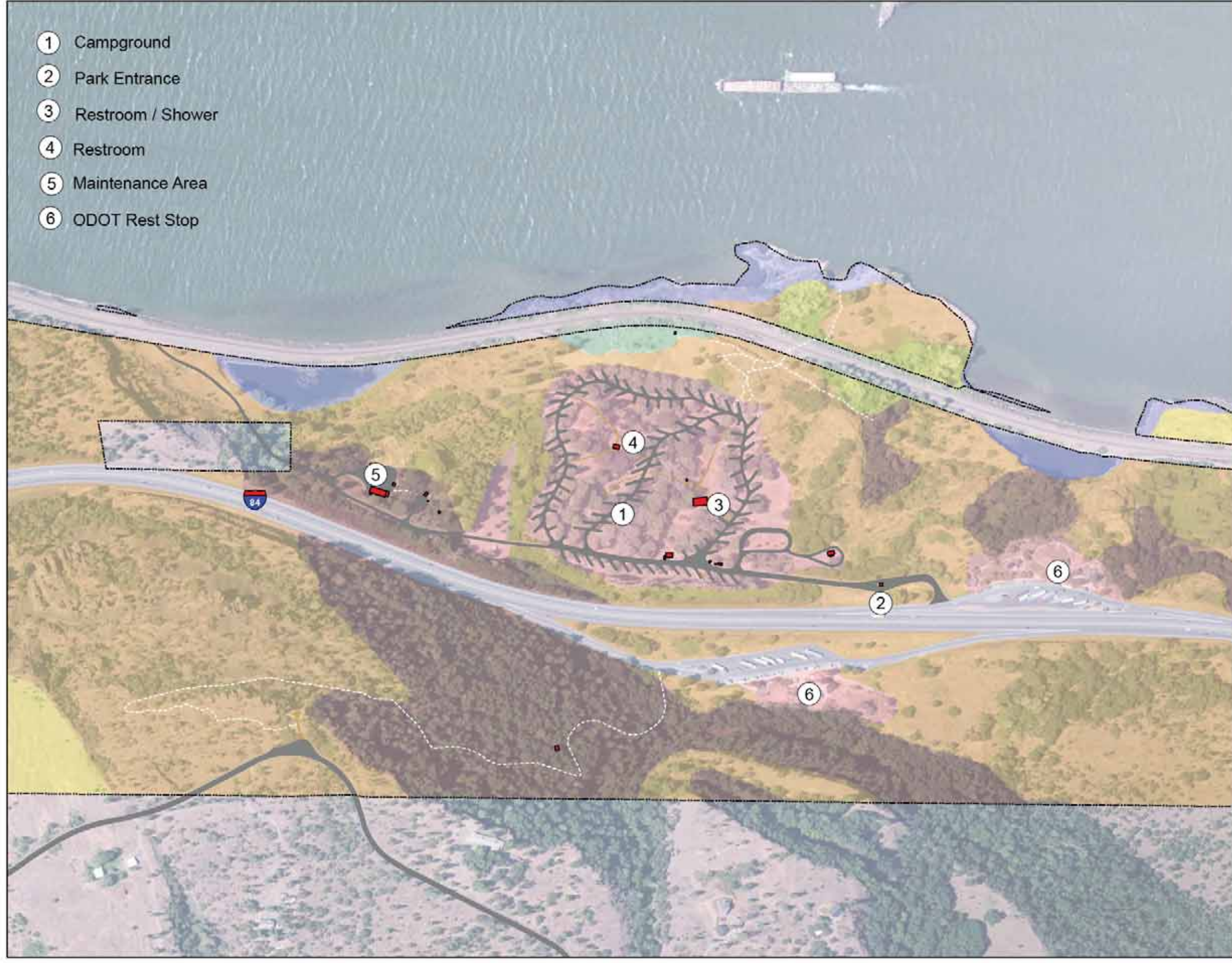
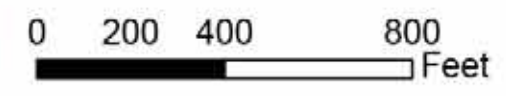
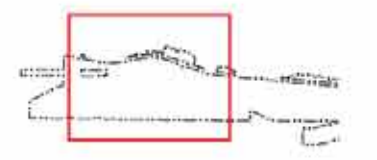
### OPRD Landscape Sub-setting

- Open Lawn with Paved Surfaces and Scattered Trees
- Riparian Forest
- River and Shorelands
- Wet Lowlands
- Grasslands
- Oak Savannah
- Oak Conifer Woodland

### Location



### Map Extent



# E12 & E13 Mayer State Park

**Park Character:** Day use access to the Columbia River, including boat ramp and popular windsurf launch area

**Primary Landmarks:** Columbia River, Interstate 84

**Acreage:** 87.6 (353.75 Inaccessible)

**Total Trails:** 2 miles

**Dayuse Visitors 2012:** 154,462

**Day Use Fee:** No

**Day Use Parking:** 265 spaces

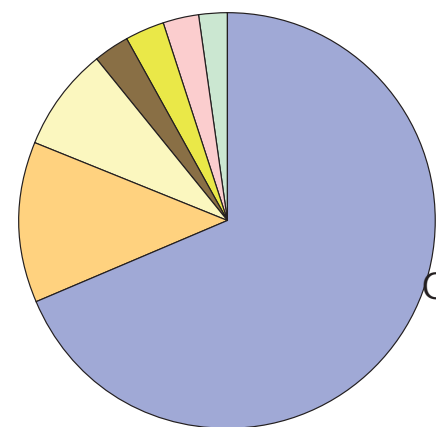
**Noise Level:**



**Top suggestion for improving the park:** Improved picnic areas and windsurfing facilities

**Percentage indicating overcrowding:** 51-65% (High normal)

**Current Interpretive Programs:** None



**OPRD Landscape Subsettings:**

River and Shorelands 70%

Oak Savannah 13%

Grasslands 8%

Oak Conifer Woodlands 3%

Riparian Forest 3%

Open Lawn w/ Paved Surfaces 3%

Wet Lowlands 2%

**Primary Activities:**

Windsurfing (45%)

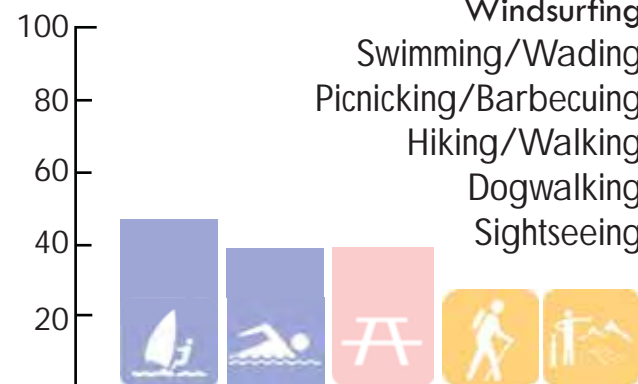
Swimming/Wading (39%)

Picnicking/Barbecuing (39%)

Hiking/Walking (22%)

Dogwalking (22%)

Sightseeing (19%)



## Park Activities by Landscape Subsetting

### River & Shorelands



Fishing From a Boat  
Flatwater Canoe/Kayaking  
Fishing from a Bank, Fly Fishing  
Paddling, stand-up  
Picnicking  
Motor Boating  
Swimming  
Wind Surfing

### Grasslands



Bird Watching/ Nature  
Observation: Wildflowers  
Day Hiking/Walking  
Outdoor Photography  
Sightseeing

### Riparian Forest



Bird Watching/ Nature  
Observation  
Day Hiking/Walking  
Outdoor Photography  
Waterfowl Hunting

### Oak Savannah



Bird Watching/ Nature  
Observation: Wildflowers  
Day Hiking/Walking  
Outdoor Photography  
Orienteering  
Sightseeing

### Open Lawn & Paving with Scattered Trees



Dog Walking  
Picnicking  
Relaxing  
Volleyball/Horseshoes

### Oak Woodland



Bird Watching/ Nature  
Observation  
Day Hiking/Walking  
Outdoor Photography  
Orienteering



# Mayer State Park - West -

## Existing Conditions

HUB 241

July 2014

- ① Vault Toilet
- ② Boat Ramp
- ③ Restroom

### Legend

- Buildings
- Road / Parking Lot
- Walkway/Sidewalk
- Trail
- Park Boundary

### OPRD Landscape Sub-setting

- Lawn with Scattered Trees
- Riparian Forest
- Riverlands
- Grasslands
- Oak Savannah
- Oak Conifer Woodland

### Location



### Map Extent



0 200 400 Feet



# Mayer State Park - East -

## Existing Conditions

HUB 241

July 2014

### Legend

- Buildings
- Road / Parking Lot
- Walkway/Sidewalk
- Trail
- Park Boundary

### OPRD Landscape Sub-setting

- Lawn with Scattered Trees
- Riparian Forest
- River and Shorelands
- Wet Lowlands
- Grasslands
- Oak Savannah

- 1 Registration Fee Booth
- 2 Vault Toilet



### Location



### Map Extent



0 150 300 600 Feet



## Additional West Park Visitor Data

Complete visitor experience assessments were not completed for the following parks due to their limited access, development potential and size. These parks may still have proposed improvements however surveys and visitor studies were not conducted during this process. Existing park statistics are provided below.

### **Crown Point State Scenic Corridor**

Acreage: 82.4  
Total Trails: None  
Dayuse Visitors 2012: 585,064  
Day Use Fee: No  
Day Use Parking : Approx. 56 spaces (3 ADA)

### **George W. Joseph State Natural Area**

Acreage: 151.8  
Total Trails: 0.35 miles  
Dayuse Visitors 2012: < 300,000  
Day Use Fee: No  
Day Use Parking : None

### **Shepperd's Dell State Natural Area**

Acreage: 164.2  
Total Trails: Approx. 200 ft.  
Dayuse Visitors 2012: Unknown  
Day Use Fee: No  
Day Use Parking : Approx. 2-4 unmarked spaces  
(small pullout along Hwy 30)

### **Angel's Rest Trailhead**

Acreage: 374.0  
Total Trails: 1.8 miles  
Dayuse Visitors 2012: Unknown  
Day Use Fee: No  
Day Use Parking : 18 spaces (1 ADA)

### **Dalton Point State Recreation Site**

Acreage: 39.0  
Total Trails: 300 ft.  
Dayuse Visitors 2012: 171,620  
Day Use Fee: No  
Day Use Parking : Approx. 30 spaces (unmarked)

### **McLoughlin State Natural Area**

Acreage: 219.5  
Total Trails: None  
Dayuse Visitors 2012: None (undeveloped)  
Day Use Fee: No  
Day Use Parking : None

### **John B. Yeon State Scenic Corridor**

Acreage: 254.5  
Total Trails: Approx. 6.5 miles  
Dayuse Visitors 2012: No data  
Day Use Fee: No  
Day Use Parking : 14 spaces

### **Sheridan State Scenic Corridor**

Acreage: 12.4  
Total Trails: Approx. 0.25 miles  
Dayuse Visitors 2012: No data  
Day Use Fee: No  
Day Use Parking : None



## Additional East Oregon State Park Visitor Data

### **E1** Lang Forest State Scenic Corridor

Acreage: 73.5  
Total Trails: None  
Dayuse Visitors 2012: None (undeveloped)  
Day Use Fee: No  
Day Use Parking : None

### **E3** Lindsey Creek State Scenic Corridor

Acreage: 134.1  
Total Trails: Approx. 0.3 miles  
Dayuse Visitors 2012: No data  
Day Use Fee: No  
Day Use Parking : None (no developed trailhead access)

### **E7** Hatfield West Trailhead

Acreage: 19.6  
Total Trails: 5 miles (between East and West Trailheads)  
Dayuse Visitors 2012: No data  
Day Use Fee: Yes  
Day Use Parking : 36 spaces (2 ADA)

### **E9** Hatfield East Trailhead

Acreage: 211.9  
Total Trails: 5 miles (between East and West Trailheads)  
Dayuse Visitors 2012: No data  
Day Use Fee: Yes  
Day Use Parking : 36 spaces (3 ADA)

### **E11** Rowena Crest Viewpoint

Acreage: 281.3  
Total Trails: 0.7 miles  
Dayuse Visitors 2012: No data  
Day Use Fee: No  
Day Use Parking : Approx. 30 spaces (unmarked)





## Public Involvement

If there is one take away from the public involvement efforts completed as part of this planning process, it is this: the Columbia River Gorge is a source of inspiration. The second is that this planning process is not the first time that the future vision of the Gorge has been planned for nor is it likely to be the last. Much thought and consideration has been given to recreation and scenic value in the National Scenic Area and to Oregon State Parks in the Gorge. Over the decades, several concepts have been identified. Therefore, this planning process

for Oregon State Parks in the Gorge focuses on choreographing unrealized ideas with existing recreation opportunities and emerging management needs into a unified park system that fits within the larger National Scenic Area visitor experience. Coordination at this level, including several existing plans, requires an elevated level of engagement with the many people and agencies that have been focused on the subject of the Columbia River Gorge for so long.



Advisory Committee members meet to share information and ideas in January 2014

## Outreach and Engagement

The initial step of engaging the public and creating awareness of the planning process was through developing the website: [www.gorgeparksplan.com](http://www.gorgeparksplan.com). The website was a centralized database for schedule updates, proposals, and meeting materials, allowing people the opportunity to directly comment in a public forum. Announcing meetings through the website was also helpful as it allowed partners to link to the site for updates or meeting times. In addition to the website public outreach was conducted via press releases, a quarter-mile mailing list to addresses around state parks, newspaper notifications, and radio interviews.

Tools for communication and outreach:

1. Values Based approach
2. Website out reach
3. Media out-reach
4. Communicating information and ideas
5. Public meeting check-ins, 1, 2, 3, & 4
6. Advisory committee
7. Stakeholder conversations.

## Values Based Approach

During the planning process, the community was asked describe values to help guide and define proposed management actions. OPRD looks to the community to help identify potential opportunities, conflicts, and desired outcomes for the property. The values developed in the public process describe the sense of place desired in potential outcomes for management actions. These values help to develop an analysis framework to view the resource inventories and recreation assessments, so that a better sense of future condition or experience can be defined that is relevant to the landscape.

At the first public meeting and through an online survey the public was asked the following questions:

1. *The first thing I think of when someone mentions the Columbia River Gorge is...*
2. *The most important thing about the Gorge is...*
3. *The benefits I get from visiting state parks in the Gorge are....*
4. *I would like the comprehensive plan for Oregon State Parks in the Gorge to CHANGE...*
5. *I would like the comprehensive plan for Oregon State Parks in the Gorge to ADD...*
6. *I would like the comprehensive plan for Oregon State Parks in the Gorge to KEEP...*

The answers to these questions helped to identify the following value statements:

### Value 1: Scenic Beauty

We value the aesthetic grandeur of the Columbia River Gorge as a source of inspiration.

### Value 2: Heritage

We value the generations of people who were drawn to the Gorge: their stories and cultures that have shaped the land we know today.

### Value 3: Recreation

In the Gorge we value recreation as a way of life, providing an outdoor place to explore, play and recharge through a variety of activities.

### Value 4: Natural Resources

We value protection and enhancement of the unique habitats, characteristic of the Columbia Gorge landscape, that support a diverse range of species.

### Value 5: Community

We value the connections that the Gorge provides and being a part of the communities that interact along a shared path.

These values are discussed in detail, and help create a framework for park proposals in *Chapter 7: Values, Benefits, and Strategies*.

## Organizing information and Ideas

The Gorge is a place of great complexity. As the earlier chapters on existing conditions show, there are many details to understand about this wonderful place. When planning, it is incredibly easy to get lost in these details and to have extended conversations while trying to understand what location in the Gorge is being discussed. Is it Mitchell Point or Post Canyon? Is it Latourell Falls or Guy Talbot? Different relationships with the land result in different names. Local residents, park managers, engineers, biologists, and tourists all have different understandings of this complex place.

A connectivity diagram of the Gorge was developed to communicate and help the public quickly make sense of how the several dozen state park properties fit into the region. This diagram depicts all state park properties as 'stations' in green, alongside other recreation facilities in orange, arranged along simplified lines that represent the major multi-modal transportation networks, hiking trails, and rivers. The map offers a simple, scaled representation of how recreationalists connect to parks and cities in the Gorge. As a planning tool, the map allows people to visualize data about park amenities and characteristics on a single page. It is helpful in understanding relationships across landownership for virtually any condition: natural resources, facilities, visitor experience, or cultural assets and it effectively describes the multilayered visitor experience that is a trip through the Columbia River Gorge with many possible stops in Oregon State Parks.



The kick-off public meeting in August 2013

## Public Meetings

Public meetings were hosted four times throughout the planning process, with each round including a west end meeting, east end meeting, and advisory committee meeting. Notes from these public meetings are available in the appendix.

### Meeting I. Kick Off: Welcome & Public Comment August 2013

At the first set of meetings, state parks in the Columbia Gorge management area were introduced and it was explained how the comprehensive planning process would set the vision and management of those parks for the next 15-20 years. OPRD staff listened to the voices of local citizens from the communities that are in the Gorge and also the voices of those who love to visit. The public shared what they value about state parks in the Gorge and the benefits they provide.

### Meeting II. Assessments January 2014

OPRD conducted existing condition assessments for Gorge state parks (including resource and visitor experience assessments) to better understand opportunities and constraints in the management of our park system. At the second set of public meetings OPRD representatives presented these findings. Community members and park staff also worked together to prioritize the most important values, strategies, and actions to guide the comprehensive planning and design efforts for all state parks in the Gorge.

### Meeting III. Concept Alternatives April/May 2014

At the third set of public meetings OPRD representatives presented concept plans for state parks in the Gorge and listened to public comment. These plans included major schematic designs for seven parks in the Gorge, including two new development areas at West Mayer and Wyeth. In addition to these seven parks, smaller proposals were included on a large diagram, outlining how improvements contributed to several different recreation activities, throughout the Gorge, while coordinating with existing recreation facilities.

### Meeting IV. Draft Comprehensive Plan Review October 2014

At the final set of public meetings in the comprehensive planning process, planning staff presented the draft plan. The draft plan includes summaries of the existing condition assessments, public input, the resulting values and desired benefits of the parks, and final recommendations for the future vision and management of the state parks in the Columbia River Gorge.

## Advisory Committee

The advisory committee is made up of partner agencies, neighboring land management agencies, stakeholders, recreation interest groups, and local municipalities. Representatives from these groups sit on the committee to advise the planning process, as well as take news of the planning process back to their agencies. This group is especially important to the planning process, helping to identify and analyze issues and opportunities that are multi-faceted and require partnership solutions. A full list of advisory committee members can be found at the beginning of the plan.



Members of the public examine preliminary planning proposals at one of the April/May public meetings

## Public Comment: Oregon State Parks Gorge Management Unit Plan Comments

The comments in this chapter were compiled with input from an advisory committee, OPRD staff and consultants, local officials, affected agencies and interest groups, tribal representatives and members of the public. Understanding the community needs and public expectations of a state park is an essential element of creating a comprehensive plan. During the process for the Gorge state parks plan, OPRD has implemented approaches to maximize the opportunity for comment and issue identification.

The opportunities to comment and efforts to raise awareness have included:

- Four sets of public meetings scheduled to increase awareness and gather comments
- Creation of a mailing list, including park neighbors
- Press releases
- Written comment periods
- A website with interactive comment capability
- Special meetings with relevant stakeholders
- Engagement with neighbors groups to comment on park proposals
- Issues raised and captured in the resource assessment process
- Advisory Committee made up of locals, agency partners, resource professionals, and community leaders to provide guidance and comment
- OPRD Commission input
- Meetings with OPRD staff for guidance and comment
- Media releases to increase awareness of the planning process
- Newsletters to mailing list.

Many of these opportunities yielded excellent feedback and comments that are reflected in the overall planning document. This section addresses the issues that were identified during the outreach process and summarizes responses to these issues.

During the planning process, OPRD reviewed hundreds of public comments that came from public meetings, advisory committee, planning website, correspondence, phone calls, partner agencies, OPRD staff, and informal external sources (such as online responses to news stories). The public discussion is summarized below and informs the values, goals and management strategies contained in the following chapters of the plan. Four major categories emerged from the public discussion: recreation needs, natural resource concerns, community values, and management issues.

### Recreation Needs

“Provide a dog walking, off-leash, and dog swim area. There is nowhere near Hood River or in the east Gorge to bring your dog.”

“Sandy River Delta is wildly popular with both on and off-leash dog owners, and cannot meet the demand for this type of recreation. Does Rooster Rock State Park offer possibilities for expanded off-leash trails/areas during the off-season? Could part of the excess parking be converted to some type of canine agility course or some other canine activity?”

“Provide additional water access for swimming and water sports.”

“More bike facilities – to encourage both long- tour bikers and 15-20 mile outings.”

“Complete the Highway State Trail from Wyeth to Hood River.”

“I love the trail proposals but differentiate between ‘need to have’ and ‘need to make safe.’”

“More restrooms are needed.”

“Priority should be giving some relief to the Angel’s Rest trail and increasing trail miles closer to Portland. A restroom for Angel’s Rest would go a long way towards eliminating side trails used as bathrooms.”

"I've seen some other proposed trails that weren't mentioned. For example, a Bridal Veil Canyon Trail to the upper waterfalls is a great idea I don't see here. And I also don't see any mention of adding any new parks."

"Develop a trail connection between Post Canyon, Wygant Trail and Mitchell Point trail head. This would be accomplished by rerouting the existing Mitchell Point trail and combine with Wygant Trail west up the next drainage to create a more sustainable and gentle trail suitable for bikes that has sufficient turns to keep speed low."

"I think we need cabins or yurts at Memaloose. People come from international areas, and they buy all this camping gear so that they can camp, but how can they camp without buying tons of gear?"

"Prioritize more trails and trail connections."

"Could you please fix the boat ramp at West Mayer?"

"More programs in parks to attract users in shoulder seasons."

"At Viento and Koberg there should be clearer signage permitting migratory bird hunting consistent with East and West Mayer State Park."

"Bridal Veil Canyon Trail to the upper waterfalls is a great idea that I don't see in the proposals."

"Prioritize children's natural play areas."

"Does State Parks still own lands by Squally Point? Maybe in 20 years it could be a spot for water access."

"We used to be able to access the river at Memaloose and now it is restricted."

*OPRD Response: Current access for recreation at Squally Point requires illegally crossing the Union Pacific railroad. OPRD does*

*not promote public access at this time as crossing the railroad is extremely dangerous.*

*Access to the river at Memaloose also requires illegally crossing the Union Pacific Railroad. While we understand that there is historical use, it is illegal and increased traffic on the railroad has resulted in some near tragic close calls. Park management has installed a fence to alert people to the constant risk of illegally crossing the railroad.*

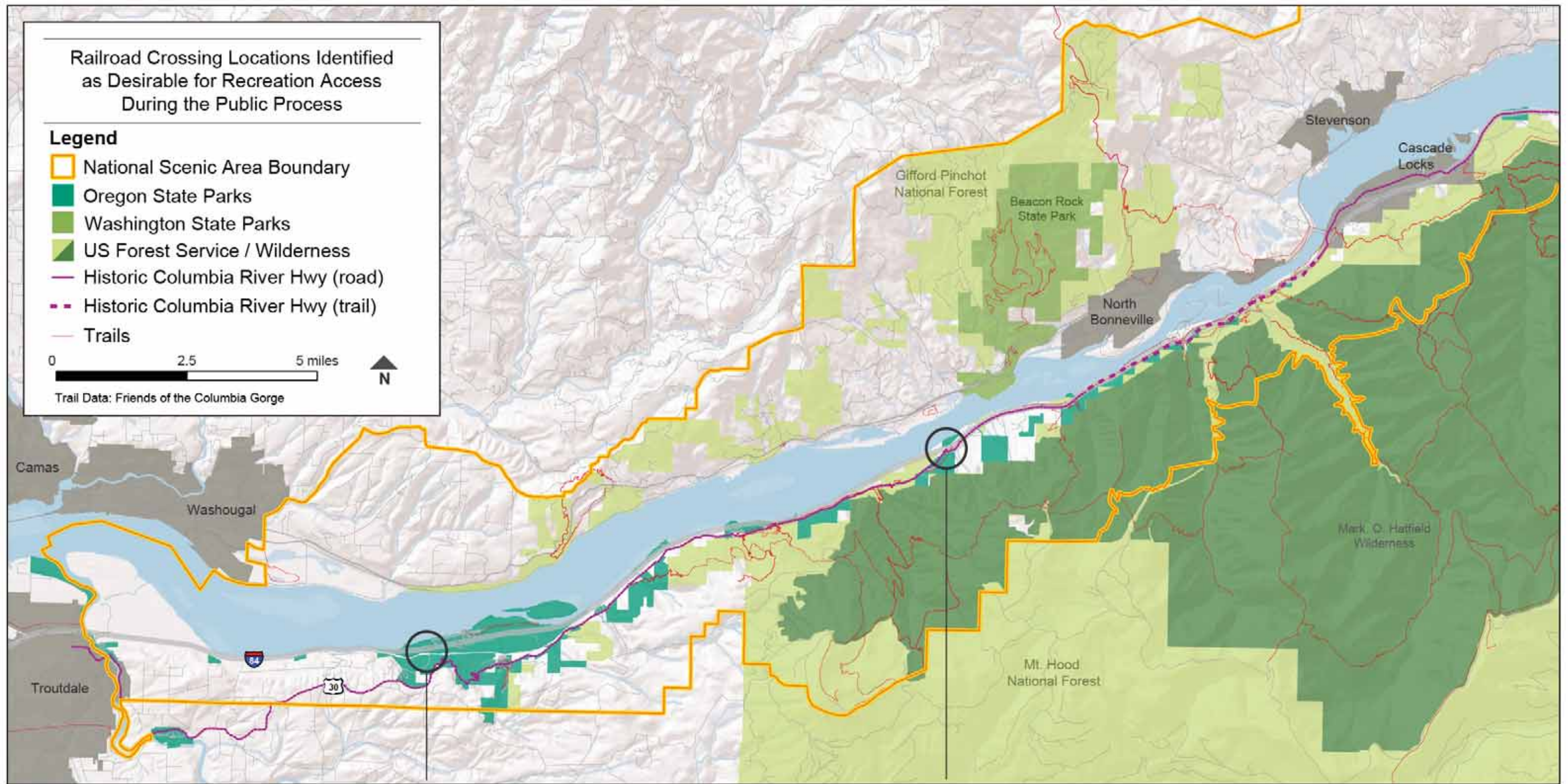
*Increasing pedestrian access points to the Columbia River has been a consistent theme we heard at our public meetings and safe river access has been expressed as a primary need for our visitors. However many of these locations have potential and severe limitations for development including the railroad, costs associated with development and construction for a railroad crossing, scenic area restrictions on development, geotechnical constraints, and natural and cultural resource protection. It was determined during the planning process that more information would be needed to*

*recommend some of the locations identified by the public, OPRD staff, and stakeholders for river access in this plan.*

*Therefore, OPRD will plan to conduct a Gorge-wide Pedestrian River Access Feasibility study to gain additional information on feasibility factors including available area for a crossing, natural resource protection, a geotechnical site assessment, recreation quality, and scenic area limitations among other possible factors. See Figure 5.1 for locations to be considered in the study. Once completed, the results of the study will be shared with the public and project phasing for these areas will be updated.*



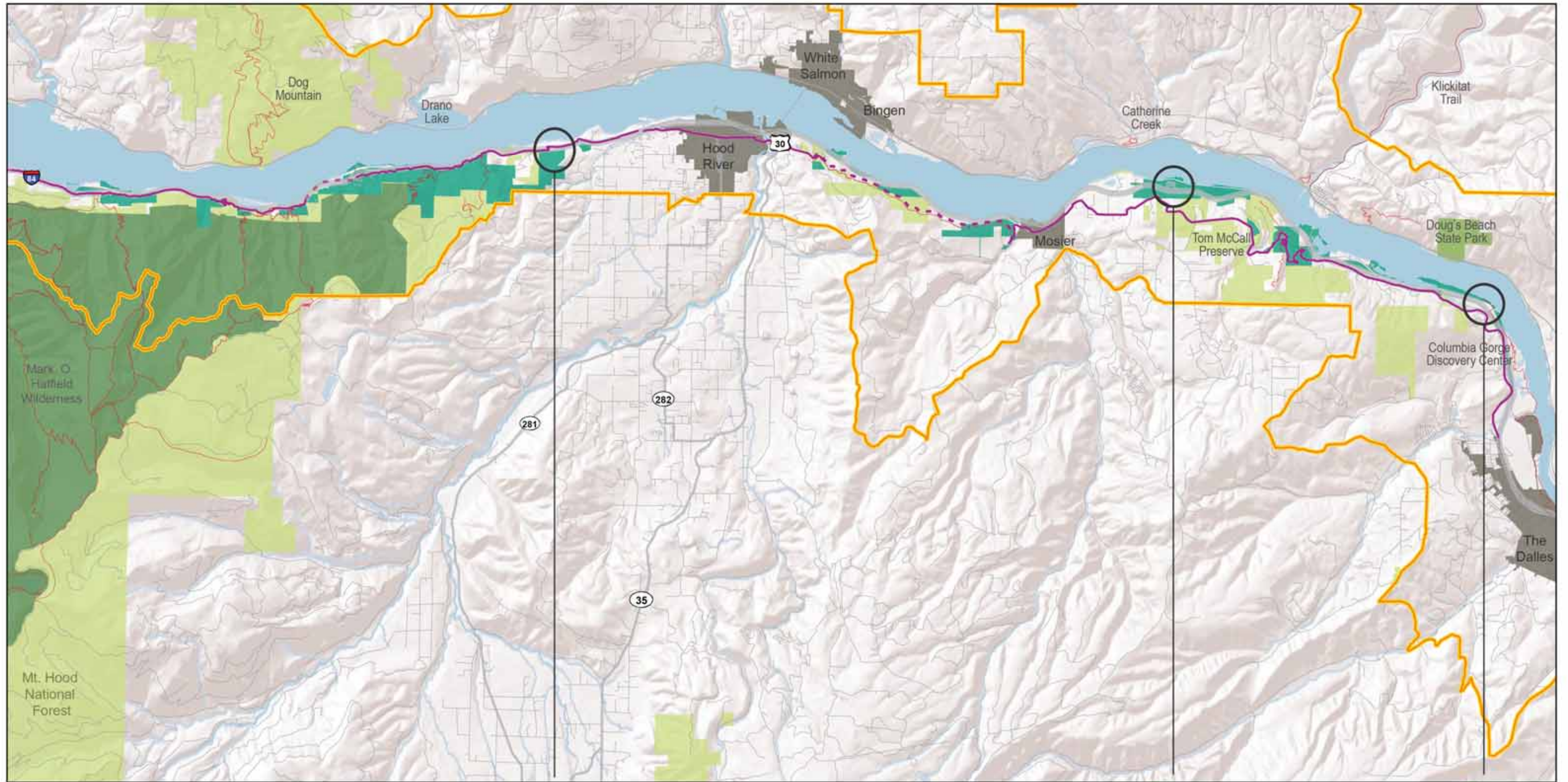
Public comments on a map of state parks in the Gorge



W3 W7 **Portland Women's Forum & Rooster Rock**  
 Restore historic road as a connection trail

W13 **Ainsworth**  
 Improve existing at-grade Union Pacific crossing to provide river access





**E6 Mitchell Point:**

Vincenz Lausman  
to the Baumann  
Property (Columbia  
Gorge Environmental  
Foundation)

**E10**

**Memaloose**

Provide access  
from campsite

**E13**

**East  
Mayer**

Provide legal  
access to  
Squally Point

**Figure 5.1 Locations Identified During the Public Process of Potential Pedestrian River Access Points**

## Cultural and Natural Resources

“OPRD should acquire, restore and operate the Viewpoint Inn (the last operating roadhouse on the Historic Columbia River Highway) and make it a State Heritage Site, as they did with the Frenchglen Hotel, which is well thought of.”

“Provide sites that focus on fishwheels and on sites significant to Native Americans, especially at Cascades and The Dalles—where human habitation goes back 10,000 years or more. In celebrating the Gorge I think the human history pre-settlement should be addressed via interpretation.”

“More interpretive signage to understand natural and cultural history.”

“The Re-routed road to the river should not have an impact on Viento Creek. ”

“I would like to add to calls for consideration of a wayside educational tribute to this generous man, Mr. George Shepperd. We are heirs to his contribution of his wonderful property.”

## Community Values

“I feel there are opportunities to strengthen the relationship between the local communities and our neighboring state parks; to build a sense of ownership and responsible, curious stewardship.”

“There is a key equity issue in providing parks that have no fee associated with them at parks. Please continue to provide low cost options so that all people can enjoy parks.”

## Park Management:

“Parking at Angel’s Rest is inadequate. It is dangerous parking along the road. Bridal Veil Falls could use more parking.”

“Spread out hikers to address trail overuse and parking issues.”

“Wait to provide additional parking at Portland Women’s Forum without clearly addressing crime, vandalism, maintenance, and traffic issues.”

“As park areas are expanded will there be adequate funding to staff them (including Multnomah County Sheriff’s Department Officers)?”

“Establish fees for use (Parking, trails, and road tolls).”

“More wayfinding and safety improvements.”

“Incorporate the opportunity for people to volunteer on trail improvement projects in parks. People could get a patch for volunteering from year-to-year.”

“I read often of smash and grab theft occurring at trailheads. Is there any plan to address the increased crime that inevitably follows increased usage of the gorge by hikers?”

*OPRD Response: We have identified car clout as one of the highest priority safety issues in the Gorge and it is a major factor as we consider trailhead improvements across the Gorge. While we understand that it is not the only answer to the problem, refraining from leaving valuables in your vehicle when visiting any of our parks is highly recommended to reduce opportunities for theft.*

“The safety of cargos moved on Union Pacific and BNSF railroads thru the gorge is a growing concern to many in Oregon and Washington...I am asking for inclusion by the OPRD and USFS in a response plan for the increased risks of incidents caused by increased transportation of volatile and polluting substances thru the area covered by the OPRD Gorge Plan. The safety of the public and protection of natural resources hinge on a comprehensive and well-publicized plan which would require public hearings on the response plans”

*OPRD Response: State parks will be included in a broad range of emergency response plans in different ways through our upcoming work with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. All Oregon State Parks maintain an Emergency Procedures Manual, which cover park-specific procedures for everything from fire and medical emergencies, to water and sewer failure, flooding, bomb threats, hazardous materials spills and more. Evacuations are covered in detail. These procedures are reviewed annually as a part of monthly safety meetings.*



Members of the public ‘put their mark on the map’ at the first round of public meetings.

## Public Comment: Regional Themes and Concepts Discussion Summary

Recreation in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area is a unique network, where individual recreation sites typically act as stops among a greater outdoor experience. OPRD recognizes that state parks are one part of an integrated, regional visitor experience. During the public planning process we heard many ideas that are outside the scope of state parks planning capacity but that are **significant regional planning themes in need of attention in this well-loved region.**

OPRD sees great value in many of these concepts, however they require strong partnership and coordination efforts for implementation, many of which are better led by other stakeholders and regional leadership organizations. Continuing to discuss, explore and act on these themes will help to better meet the needs of the Gorge communities and visitors we heard from, while also reducing overall costs and duplicative efforts across multiple stakeholders and organizations. OPRD has collected these ideas here on behalf of the Gorge community to help inform future region wide planning efforts. It is important to note that these **region wide themes and concepts have influenced the direction of this plan, however the actions identified in the coming chapters focus on state park properties.** There is a need for a larger regional planning effort to prioritize and implement the many planning themes and concepts that exists for the national scenic area. The CRGNSA Management Plan provides a foundation for regional recreation planning and priorities for CRGNSA-authorized recreation funds (See Recreation Development Plan in Management Plan Part III Chapter 1). This OPRD plan recognizes the importance of OPRD's continued participation in future region wide planning efforts.

### Theme 1: Connectivity

During the public process the planning team identified 'connectivity' or 'community' as a primary planning value. We sought a framework to describe and develop how state parks contribute to the larger Gorge community, made up of urban areas, other recreation facilities, private and public landowners and several agencies and organizations. In public meetings we asked how

we could support connectivity across the Gorge in our parks and we heard people provide ideas about how larger regional connectivity could be improved.

This theme encompasses physical connections, i.e. trails and roads, however improvements to physical connections cultivate relationships between physical areas in the Gorge. One comment we heard in the process that exemplifies this value came from a long-time Hood River resident: 'The development of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail between Mosier and Hood River not only connected the two cities, but made them think about each other in new ways. Prior to development of the trail these two communities hardly thought about each other at all.'

### Connectivity Concepts

1. Collaborate with stakeholders to provide a cohesive, accessible, and multi-modal recreation experience between all recreation areas in the Gorge.
2. Support efforts to retain and increase access to recreation areas in the Gorge.
  - Attract and engage partnerships with stakeholders in the Gorge to provide additional opportunities in the Gorge for river access and overnight camping.
  - Retain and engage partnerships with recreation-based groups to maintain facilities in accordance with park management and the protection of natural resources.
  - Extend and connect existing trails throughout the Gorge to create a cohesive, legible network to all Gorge visitors, as well as reduce strain off primary trailheads and trails.
  - Complete gaps in Gorge Trail 400 within state parks and partner to complete trails outside our parks.
3. Increase access to parks through Gorge-wide coordinated wayfinding tools.
  - Support development of Lewis and Clark and Mayer as gateway parks in coordination with Gorge-wide wayfinding efforts.
  - Retain and enhance partnerships with communities in the Gorge as gateways to provide recreation information to visitors to the Gorge.



OPRD and ODOT staff meet to discuss plans for the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail

- Support development of signage when appropriate in accordance with the National Scenic Area (NSA) and Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail Wayfinding Signage Plan (ODOT, 2013) to provide legible wayfinding for all Gorge visitors.
  - o Support development of highway signs describing important features (i.e. Rooster Rock, Crown Point) to inform motorists of their location.
  - o Support development of wayfinding tools to orient visitors to parks that can only be accessed from one direction of Interstate 84.
- Support development of wayfinding tools that help people visiting without prior knowledge of the Gorge know where to go and how to get to recreation destinations.
- Link to websites at parks and on the web to local resources that provide quality information on recreation and historical interpretive elements (i.e. NW Hikers, Travel Oregon, Ride Oregon Ride, NW Trail Alliance, Wyeast, etc.).
- Partner with Friends of the Gorge on their app that defines amenities within a certain radius.
- Partner with the USFS on their Online Recreation Map Application.

4. Increase trail connections and park land holdings to increase connectivity.

- The Gorge Recreation Coalition submitted two letters to OPRD during the planning process to identify regional connectivity projects including some identified in the 1994 state parks plan and new proposals. Details on these trails can be found in these letters. These projects included:
  - o A new state park at the Baumann property (currently owned by the Columbia Gorge Environmental Foundation) (New)
  - o Lewis and Clark to Portland Women's Forum (1994 plan)
  - o Portland Women's Forum to Latourell Falls (1994 plan)
  - o Latourell Loop Trail Enhancement (New)
  - o Bridal Veil Falls ADA Trail (1994 plan)
  - o Bridal Veil Upper Falls Trail (New)
  - o Angels Rest One Way Loop Trail (New)
  - o Trail 400 Gap – Ainsworth to John B. Yeon (New)
  - o John B. Yeon State Scenic Corridor to Lang State Park (New)
  - o Wyeth State Park (1994 Plan)
  - o Viento State Park Trails (New)
  - o Viento Ridge and Viento Creek Trails (New, restoration of historic trails)
  - o HCRH State Trail to Post Canyon Trail system (New):
  - o Mosier to Memaloose Overlook (New)
  - o Memaloose to Rowena Dell (1994 Plan)
  - o Rowena Overlook to Tooley Lake (1994 Plan)
  - o Wygant & Chetwoot Trails (New, restoration of historic trails)
  - o Mitchell Point Loops, East and West (New)

Additionally, members of the public expressed support during the planning process for the following trails:

- o A Trail connection from Guy Talbot to Bridal Veil
- o George Joseph and Larch Mountain
- o Limited backcountry access at Lindsay Creek.



Roadside Parking along Jordan Road at Lewis & Clark State Park

It should be noted that many of these proposals involve non-OPRD lands, crossing a combination of USFS, OPRD, and private lands.

## Theme II. Transportation and Congestion

### Regional Transportation Concepts

1. Partner with other Gorge stakeholders and organizations on a Gorge-wide alternative transportation study, including potential for ferries and shuttles using National Park Service models.
  - Study should consider design capacity of parks, maintaining a quality recreation experience.
  - Support development of shuttle to operate on regular interval schedule and make stops in some state parks.
  - Study options for rail service in the Gorge.
    - o Develop 'Ranger on the Train' program for passenger rail in Washington, based on USFS program in the 1990's. This could be an interagency partnership effort.
  - Partner with ODOT to consider developing a safer bike route from Gresham Max Train Station to Dabney State Park and the rest of the Historic Highway.

2. Promote carpooling, rideshare and public transportation options for accessing Gorge parks.

- Support development of electric car charging stations at parks and reserved parking spaces for using green energy vehicles or a carpool.
- Explore providing discount day use fees and overnight for arriving via car share or public transportation.

## Theme III. Partnerships

### Gorge-wide Partnership Concepts

1. Continue to engage in interagency communication to effectively manage shared lands and better establish cohesive visitor experiences in the Gorge.
  - Retain and enhance partnership with the USFS and Columbia River Gorge Commission on protection of the NSA, sign development, and the future vision for the Columbia River Gorge. The majority of OPRD's properties are within SMAs and the USFS has the authority to prepare the SMA resource inventories, recreation assessment, land use designations, and land use guidelines in the Management Plan. (See 16 U.S.C. § 544f(c), (d), (e), and (f).)
  - Retain and enhance partnership with the U.S. Forest Service on interagency trail management, boundary agreements and shared facility maintenance.
  - Retain and enhance partnership with ODOT on management of the HCRHST, roadways, transportation, inclement weather plans, and signage.
  - Retain and enhance partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers on education, training, tourism, and brochures.
  - Retain and enhance partnership with Washington State Parks on interagency problem solving, and collaboration on Gorge-wide recreation projects.
  - Retain and enhance partnership with the Bonneville Power Administration on recreation access.
  - Retain and enhance partnership with the Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee on signage and HCRHST planning.
  - Retain and enhance partnership with the Union Pacific Railroad to maintain safe crossings and shared boundaries.

- Work with the CWMA to identify and respond to high threat invasive species.
  - Work with conservation organizations on high priority habitat restoration projects.
2. Retain and consider partnerships with local organizations to enhance opportunities for public events in state parks.
    - Retain and enhance partnerships with educational institutions like OMSI and Rose City Astronomers, to host and develop unique outdoor education experiences like Star Parties.
    - Retain and enhance partnerships with local cities, organizations, and the HCRHST to host recreation-based events.
    - Retain and enhance partnerships with the Washington and Oregon Historic Car Clubs to host events at Rooster Rock, celebrating the touring history of the Gorge.
  3. Recognizing the synchronized energy between local economic health and recreation activities in the Gorge, we should retain and enhance partnerships that promote economic development opportunities for cities and communities with the Gorge.
    - Increase overnight opportunities within our state parks supporting tourism to the region.
    - Continue to partner our parks with communities in the Gorge to establish recreation based economies within cities.
    - Support development of additional community partnerships to activate shared goals, including concessions, tourism and recreation programs.

Additional public comments regarding Gorge-wide Planning:

“Transportation must be an essential consideration in planning for how parks users will get to and from the Gorge in the future. As generational shifts increase the share of people who choose to get around by bicycle and using transit rather than driving, the Gorge must change accordingly. New bicycle routes must be developed, including a river-level trail from Troutdale to Latourell, and a complete bicycle pathway system that continues to Hood River, allowing bicyclists and pedestrians to access parks in the Gorge that are currently inaccessible to all users. Additionally, transit access should be provided to the Gorge. Passenger rail with stops in Cascade Locks and Hood River should be provided to facilitate this, including trips on the weekends to serve visitor traffic.”

Wyeast blog posted a series of trail proposals addressed to the state park planning process. They can be read in full here: <http://wyeastblog.org/tag/gorge-parks-plan/>.

“There are definitely many opportunities to explore bicycling strategies in the Gorge that can be a win for resource management, parking pressures, and economic opportunity.”

“There needs to be more trails built in the Gorge to take the pressure off the popular ones. Connecting trails that would make a 5-6 mile loop (similar to the Multnomah-Wahkeena loop) out of existing one-way trails would be especially helpful to hikers, especially those of us who aren’t up to really long hikes. A number of these could be built in the mid-Gorge, using Trail 400 for the bottom end of the loop. A really easy connector would be to connect the Horsetail Falls and Oneonta trails with a trail parallel to the Scenic Highway, so that those of us hiking the Horsetail/Oneonta loop don’t have to walk the road back to our cars, an unpleasant and scary finish to what is otherwise a spectacular loop hike.”

“I’m impressed with many of the new improvements in the Gorge parks. However, I’m baffled at the lack of signage directing hikers and sightseers to the trails. Also at all trail starting points, forks, and questionable direction points. Signs should include: name of trail, trail number, a direction arrow (when necessary), and/or name of trail destination, and number of miles to the tenths of a decimal place. This is a problem with both state parks and FS land in the Gorge. Please consider a plan to improve all trail signs in the near future.”

“Parks plan should include more soft-surface biking trail opportunities in the Parks in the Gorge to respond to the strong demand in the Gorge and close proximity to a large user-base that could reach them via the major state investment in the Historic Highway.”





# 6

## Regional Needs, Constraints & Opportunities

Needs, opportunities and constraints within Gorge State Parks were identified from a range of inputs, including: existing conditions assessments, public comments, park visitor surveys, field staff reports, and site visits. This chapter provides a generalized discussion of challenges and opportunities for recreation in the Gorge, as well as a list of park-specific needs. Strategies to address these needs are identified in *Chapter 7: Values, Goals, and Strategies*, and implementation of these strategies is outlined in *Chapter 8: Visitor Experience Plans and Recommendations*.

# 1994 OPRD Gorge Management Plan & 2014 Park Identified Needs

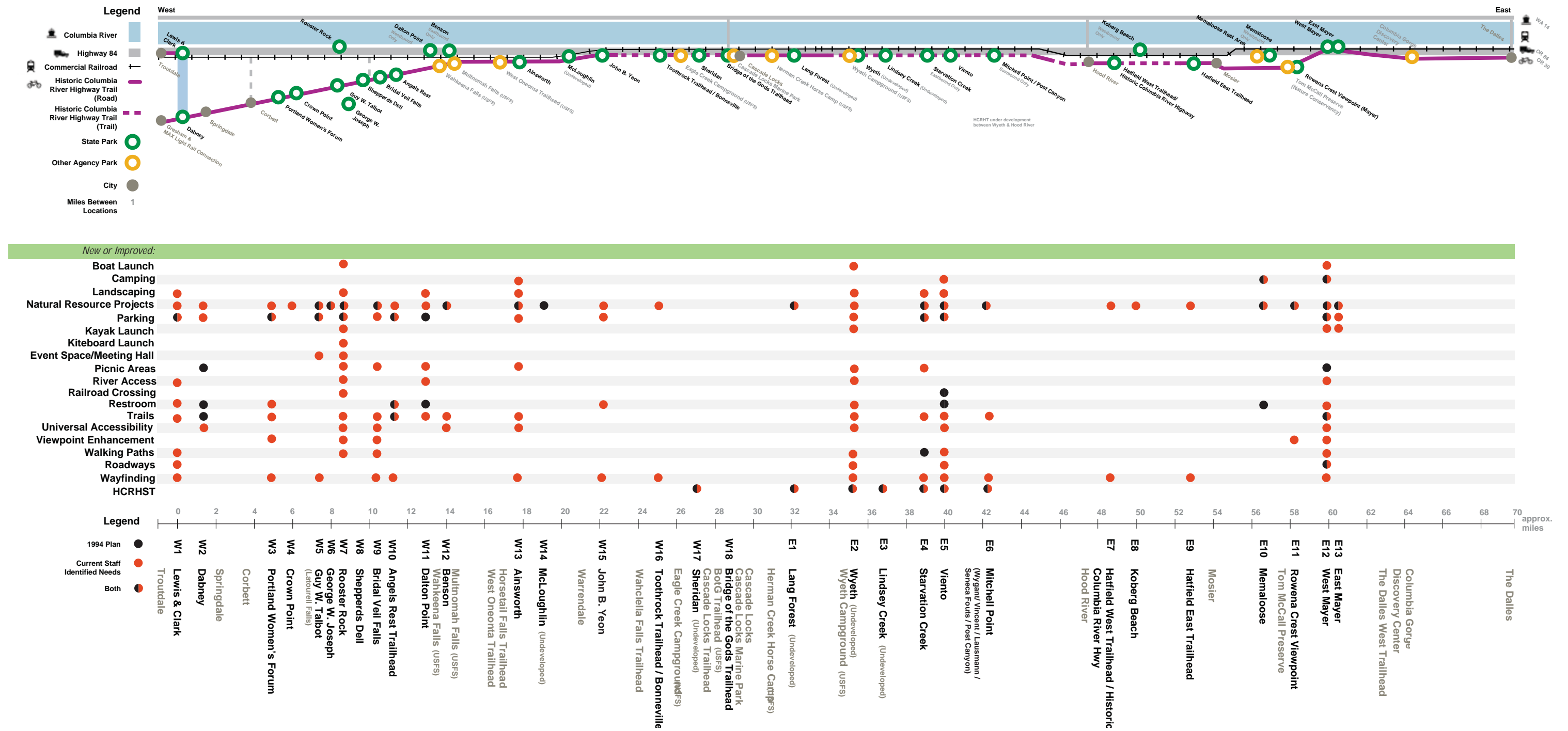


Figure 6.1: 1994 OPRD Gorge Management Plan & 2014 Identified Needs



# Regional Facilities

## Cumulative Effects

### Challenges

Inherent in the development of outdoor recreation is the consistent balance in weighing visitor experience with natural resource impacts. The Scenic Act and the Management Plan prohibit development that would cause cumulative adverse impacts to the scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources in the Gorge. OPRD This OPRD plan provides an initial screen for preventing cumulative adverse impacts. Individual projects will be subject to review for consistency with Management Plan guidelines prior to implementation.

### Opportunities

OPRD's ability to address development impacts and forecast future conditions across an area as large and diverse as the Gorge is limited. Nonetheless, this planning process recognizes the value of the cumulative effects analysis and planning staff have developed strategies to analyze the effects of development projects proposed in the plan in several ways:

- 1) The plan analyzes conditions including existing recreation practices, facilities, cultural and natural resources across the Gorge, to gain a clear understanding of where new development and restoration is most needed. Projects in this plan have been proposed based on this analysis (see Chapter 1: How to Use This Plan).
- 2) Based on a Gorgewide natural resource assessment, including botanical, forestry and wildlife conditions (See Chapter 3 and appendices), resource values were ranked on a 1-4 scale. Development was prioritized and designed within existing development footprints and where resource value is low.
- 3) Natural resource projects that complement development have been identified and prioritized to produce a neutral effect. Most development projects identify invasive species elimination and the establishment of native plant communities prior to construction (see Chapter 8).



Parking on a summer day at Lewis and Clark

- 4) Natural Resource projects that enhance the habitat and botanical diversity have been identified in non-developed areas, while management of existing non-developed areas will continue to be managed for the encroachment of invasive and undesired species (see Chapter 8).
- 5) In addition to existing State Natural Area Reserves, this plan proposes botanical reserve and wildlife refuge areas. These areas are intended to protect rare or high quality ecosystems by limiting development impacts (see Chapter 8 and 9).

## Parking

### Challenges

CRGNSA Management Plan Recreation Intensity Classes limit parking space capacities in the Gorge. Physical space for parking for recreation facilities in the Gorge is limited at OPRD recreation facilities, especially in the western 'walls to falls' area along the HCRH, and during peak season usage (spring-summer) as weather gets warmer.

Limited parking results in illegal shoulder parking along Highway 30, creating a strain on local residents, emergency services, law enforcement, park staff, visitor experience, and natural resources.

While adding parking spaces temporarily alleviates congestion, this solution is costly and temporary in the face of projected population increases.

### Opportunities

OPRD will continue to identify strategies for reducing the strain on congestion, including prioritizing development opportunities for additional river access in the Gorge, using meadows as temporary overflow parking during peak usage (which has been effective at Dabney State Park).

ODOT has recently published a preliminary congestion assessment, Historic Columbia River Gorge Highway Tourism-Related Congestion Mitigation Study (2014), that identifies strategies for alleviating congestion in this corridor. OPRD will continue to partner with USFS, ODOT, CRG National Scenic Area, USACOE, local counties, ports, and sheriff's departments on finding solutions to parking problems. These solutions could include increasing parking enforcement efforts and fees, Gorge-wide day use fees, shuttle services, and signage. Long-term solutions need to be planned as part of a Gorge-wide effort as they require multiple agency cooperation to carry them out.

## Restrooms

### Challenges

Restroom facilities are limited at Gorge recreation facilities, especially at trailheads. This results in use of private property or trails as makeshift restroom facilities, creating health hazards. The cost of developing additional restroom facilities is expensive and maintenance puts a strain on limited park staff. In some cases there is limited room to develop restroom facilities in a safe or visually subordinate manner, adhering to the National Scenic Area Act.

### Opportunities

Restroom facilities will be planned appropriately where practical and signage at recreation facilities without feasible restrooms should indicate nearby locations where restrooms are available. Restrooms should be located with universal accessibility, parking, and within reasonable distances throughout the Gorge.

## River Access

### Challenges

Access to the Columbia and Sandy Rivers for swimming, bank fishing, boating, windsports, and waterfowl hunting is limited because the few recreation areas located on these rivers also require safe and legal access across Highway 84 and the Union Pacific Railroad. Limited water access contributes to parking congestion at parks where rivers are present (especially Dabney and Lewis and Clark) as they become overcrowded on hot days. This has historically been a challenge for recreation facilities in the Portland metro area. Rooster Rock and Milo McIver State Parks were planned in the 1950's and 1960's to alleviate overcrowding at the Sandy River, however the problem persists decades later. There is a need for additional park staff at parks with river access during the summer.

Additionally, some park properties contain river access points that have been used by locals for decades, requiring illegally crossing the railroad and/or parking on highway shoulders. With recent near-miss incidents and increased railroad traffic the situation is extremely difficult for park staff to manage with potentially fatal consequences. New at grade railroad crossings are no longer legal to construct in the United States and above grade or underground crossings are extremely expensive due to the cost of shutting down the railroad during construction. Meeting CRGNSA Management Plan visual standards can be extremely difficult near the highways and river. Additionally, there must be enough land available on either side of the railroad to create a universally accessible crossing.

### Opportunities

OPRD has identified additional or underutilized areas in this plan that currently have safe access to the river (Rooster Rock, Wyeth, Viento, and West Mayer) and prioritizing these projects can create new opportunities for visitors to access the water throughout the Gorge, for a variety of recreation activities. Coordinating complementary recreation activities at dedicated locations in parks or at certain parks can help choreograph a quality recreational experience.



The railroad and I-84 restrict public access to the Columbia River in many areas of the Gorge

Given the importance of river access to visitors, and the desire for additional safe railroad crossings, OPRD will complete a feasibility study to understand which of the areas identified by the public are potentially constructible given feasibility factors including available area for a crossing, natural resource protection, a geotechnical site assessment, recreation quality, and scenic area limitations among other possible factors. The information will be shared with the public as the study is completed.

## Safety

### Challenges

Some parking areas in the Gorge are subject to break-ins and theft of valuables, as they are located within close vicinity to the highway and are not monitored consistently. Reduced funding makes it difficult for park staff to monitor parking lots frequently. As a result, visitors feel unsafe parking their vehicles while using state parks in the Gorge.

### Opportunities

The U.S. Forest Service and State Parks have partnered with Multnomah County Sheriff's department to create a volunteer citizen patrol group that monitors parking lots in the western Gorge. This program should be increased and replicated throughout the Gorge. Additionally, this plan has identified the opportunity to create a volunteer 'trail docent' position that will place people at trailheads throughout the Gorge to provide information, interpretive history, and directions, as well as 'eyes on the ground' to deter and report theft at state parks.

## Trails

### Challenges

Existing trails (hiking, walking, running, equestrian, and bicycle) in the Gorge are crowded in peak seasons, especially in the 'walls and falls' area along the HCRH. This affects visitor experience while impacting trails and natural resources adjacent to trails when people pass each other. Limited maintenance funding for trails and shared responsibilities by multiple agencies across land boundaries complicates efforts to plan and repair existing trails. As well, the extreme weather conditions in the Gorge can impact the condition of trails, with washouts a frequent occurrence or natural erosion from a lack of periodic maintenance.

Limiting trail use by maintaining a restricted number of parking spaces has not been an entirely effective solution to controlling the number of visitors as people park vehicles illegally on the shoulders of roadways, creating parking congestion. This strategy needs to be considered with others to improve the overall visitor experience throughout the Gorge.

### Opportunities

Opening additional trails can help alleviate the strain on existing trail options. Connecting existing trails to underutilized or additional parking areas and promoting lesser-known trails can help disperse use, as opposed to concentrating visitors at popular trailheads. Modifying single 'out & back' trails into loop trails can decrease impacts on trails, natural resources, and visitor occurrences. Communication with the U.S. Forest Service, Land Conservancy, ODOT and other agencies should be continued to preserve coordinated efforts in planning and maintaining trails.

Outreach and education about the effects of visitors on natural resources and volunteer work parties should continue to be encouraged, as volunteer groups do significant trail work each season.

Clear and frequent communication between ODOT, OPRD, USFS, and the CRGNSA during the planning and development of the HCRH State Trail has resulted in an exemplary, multi-modal trail system. The development process has been considerate to user experience, long-term maintenance, historical features, natural areas, material and scenic qualities. Similar efforts should be employed in future regional planning efforts throughout the Gorge, as well as other trail construction projects with multiple land owners.

## Universal Access

### Challenges

Most state park properties were developed prior to ADA guidelines and are therefore not accessible to every park visitor. While parks that have accessible facilities are identified on the OPRD website and brochures, there remain many inaccessible facilities in state parks in Gorge, due to steep topography, aging facilities, and limited funding to make upgrades.



Boat Ramp at Rooster Rock

### Opportunities

One of the goals of the planning process was to improve universal accessibility in Gorge parks. While there are limitations to achieving this goal (for example, in areas with steep trails), a number of projects were identified as having the potential to increase access for people with disabilities. Staff should prioritize projects that improve or create additional opportunities for all visitors to experience the natural and historic features unique to the Columbia River Gorge. Additionally, the CRGNSA is uniquely positioned to market existing and future universal access opportunities due to its proximity to some of the largest urban areas in the state in partnership.

## Wayfinding

### Challenges

Despite the fact that the Gorge is a linear valley, navigating it in a car or as a pedestrian can be unexpectedly confusing, given the frequency of one way road on-ramps and exits, dead-end roads, and lack of railroad or highway crossings. Adding to the complexity is a lack of cohesive Gorge-wide signage and maps leaving visitors with no prior knowledge unable to find their way.

### Opportunities

ODOT led a recent effort to produce the *HCRH State Trail Wayfinding Signage Plan (2013)*. This plan includes input from multiple agencies including OPRD, and creates a unified vision for signage along Highway 30. Similar multi-agency efforts should be made to create consistent signage for roadways, the Gorge Trail 400, and other trails throughout the Gorge. Maps at popular stops for people who may not have planned their trip ahead of time should include directions to recreation facilities based on activities and skill levels, as well as suggested alternative locations for peak seasons.

Several organizations, including Travel Oregon, Friends of the Gorge, and other recreation advocacy groups, have produced online resources to help visitors navigate the Gorge. These resources should continue to be developed to include interpretive and cultural information, while utilizing contemporary navigation features for people who arrive without having planned their trip in advance.

## Oregon State Parks: Parkwide Needs

The following general needs were identified in visitor surveys, public meetings, and the comprehensive planning process. These needs were compared to the *1994 OPRD Columbia Gorge Management Unit Master Plan* to determine if unrealized projects from that plan were still necessary and relevant. Descriptions of individual park needs are presented in this chapter and general strategies for meeting these needs and challenges across all state parks in the Gorge can be found in the following chapter, *Values, Goals, and Strategies*. Specific implementation of these strategies for each park can be found in *Chapter 8: Visitor Experience Plans and Recommendations*. See Figure 6.1 for a chart outlining this information.

### Day Use Facility Needs

- Additional Bicycling Amenities
- Additional Landscaping for Aesthetics and Screening
- Additional Meeting Spaces
- Additional Mountain Biking Trails
- Additional Off-Leash Dog Areas
- Additional Parking
- Additional Restrooms
- Additional Trail Connections
- Additional Trail Options
- Additional Windsport Launches
- Improved Boat Ramps and Launches
- Improved Lighting in Overnight Areas
- Improved Mooring Facilities
- Improved Roadways
- Improved Safety
- Improved Wayfinding
- Increased Picnic Areas
- Increased Short Loop Trails
- Increased Universal Access Facilities
- New State Park Properties

### Overnight Facility Needs

- Increased Bicycle Camping Facilities
- Increased Camping Facilities Away from Road and Railroad Noise
- Increased Opportunities for Walk-In and Naturalized Overnight Facilities
- Increased Overnight Facilities

### Activities Needs

- Historical Resource Protection and Education Programs
- Increased Access to Wetland and Natural Areas
- Increased Cultural and Historical Interpretive Programs
- Increased Natural Resource Identification Programs
- Increased Outdoor Education Programs
- Increased Recreation Training Programs
- Increased River Access
- Increased Volunteer Opportunities

### Natural Resource Needs

- Additional Native Restoration
- Improved Habitat Quality
- Improved Water Quality
- Increased Fire Safety
- Increased Native Plantings in Landscaped Recreation Areas
- Removal of Invasive Species
- Viewpoint Restoration

## Individual State Park Needs and Challenges

State park properties are listed in geographical order from west to east.

### **W1** Lewis and Clark State Recreation Site

*Lewis and Clark State Recreation Site was the subject of a 2011 Comprehensive Plan and park needs identified in that plan have been updated to reflect construction projects and changes to recreation in the park since the plan's completion.*



View of the Sandy River from the beach at Lewis and Clark

1. The park and adjacent ODOT lands have areas of disturbed vegetation due to road maintenance, past construction staging, and illegal parking.
2. There is a need for additional parking.
3. The capacity for parking spaces at the park is limited based on the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Management Plan (NSAMP) recreation intensity class.
4. **Illegal parking on the shoulders of the roadways is difficult to enforce.** This is a strain on parking enforcement, park neighbors, and park staff on warm days when visitors crowd the river. It potentially creates a hazard for emergency crews.
5. Trails should feature more loop options highlighting interpretive features as opposed to current 'out and back' trails.
6. Pedestrian access could be improved due to a lack of designated crossings and trails on Jordan Road. This is a safety issue and impacts natural resources.
7. **Access to the river is currently undefined, resulting in damage to riparian areas, conflicts with traffic and confusion about where visitors should go.**
8. There is a lack of orientation signage on the interchange and along Jordan Road, resulting in confusion for new visitors.
9. **Traffic along the interchange and Jordan Road is often travelling at unsafe speeds given the high level of pedestrian traffic in the area.**
10. Some riparian areas and disturbed natural areas need to be maintained for ecological and aesthetic purposes.

11. The existing day use site at the park is not providing the quality of visitor experience that would be expected at a "gateway" to the Gorge, Sandy River and the Historic Columbia River Highway (HCRH).
12. The new freeway bridge bike-pedestrian crossing will bring more visitors to the park and will connect cyclists to Jordan Road and the HCRH.

*Additional Needs & Challenges Identified during the current planning process:*

13. There is a need to connect the park to the proposed 40-Mile Loop Trail and Sandy River Delta; formalize and continue management partnerships at Sandy River Delta with USFS.
14. Overcrowding on hot days creates a strain on park staff with cleanup of facilities and garbage collection.

### **W2** Dabney State Recreation Area

1. The park does not currently have any universally accessible facilities; however the park contains a comparably level grade along the riverbank. This makes it potentially one of the most accessible beaches in the management unit.
2. **Illegal parking on the shoulders of the HCRH is a strain on law enforcement, neighbors, and park staff on warm days when visitors crowd the river.** This potentially creates a hazard for emergency crews.
3. **The disc golf course is designed in a manner that disturbs riparian areas and natural resources as users impact these areas when retrieving stray discs.**



Rooster Rock's historic beach as seen from Crown Point (c.1920)

### W3 Portland Women's Forum State Scenic Viewpoint

1. The parking lot is often full during peak seasons, and support facilities are necessary to improve visitor experience.
2. It is the first viewpoint on the HCRH traveling eastbound from Portland.
3. An existing road connects Portland Women's Forum to Rooster Rock and potentially Crown Point.
4. Bicyclists utilize the viewpoint as a park and ride.
5. Historical attributes of viewpoint and pastoral qualities of adjacent agricultural field should remain.
6. Vegetation needs to be managed to restore the viewpoint and allow drivers to see the park, as visitors sometimes miss the entrance and turnaround in neighbor's driveways.

### W4 Crown Point State Scenic Corridor

No needs are identified at this time.

### W5 Guy Talbot State Park

1. The carriage house at lower Talbot is in need of restoration and could potentially be repurposed as an event space or interpretive exhibit based on historical Latourell town.
2. The trail system connecting lower Latourell Falls to upper falls is in need of major safety improvements, viewshed enhancements, and bridge replacements.

### W6 George W. Joseph State Natural Area

No needs are identified at this time.

### W7 Rooster Rock State Park

1. Park visitation rates fluctuate dramatically: weekend use in peak season is very high but weekday use and shoulder season use are low.
2. Paved areas are expansive; however, all parking spaces are needed on peak weekends and especially in locations near all reserveable picnic areas.
3. The main beach is no longer functional as a swimming area. We do not know what its future holds. The swimming beach on the east end of the park is designated as a clothing optional beach limiting use for most visitors, and affecting the park's image to families.



Angel's Rest Trailhead

4. The boat ramp is not always functional in its current state due to silting in the channel and is extremely expensive to fix or regularly dredge. It is on the Oregon State Marine Board's 6 year plan to repair. There is a need for increased understanding of sedimentation patterns.
5. The riverfront area of the park is very narrow along the extent of the parking area and does not provide a pleasant walking experience or universally accessible water access.
6. There is not a "heart," or centralized area, to the park. The entry experience is one of entering a parking lot next to a river and not a state park.
7. There is a need for improved universally accessible picnic areas and a accessible beach access and/or river experience.
8. Visitor surveys show the park does not draw young families, shoulder season hikers, school groups, or visitors from the views and falls loop on the HCRH.
9. Visitor surveys reflect a desire for children friendly play areas, dog off-leash areas, more docks, more picnic shelter facilities, and more restroom facilities.
10. Bank fishers and rock-climbers park illegally on the shoulder of I-84, to access Rooster Rock and the channel more directly and avoid a day use fee.

### W8 Shepperd's Dell State Natural Area

1. Trail restoration is necessary to upgrade aging masonry, stairs and rails at the viewpoint.

### W9 Bridal Veil Falls State Scenic Viewpoint

1. Increasing parking would help alleviate current overcrowding at the park, however additional parking is limited based on NSAMP recreation intensity class.
2. The current viewpoint loops are an opportunity to create a short, universally accessible loop with surface work and mild grading.
3. The current waterfall viewing area is in need of repair and can be re-envisioned within the context of the landscape.
4. The park is an ideal location along the HCRH to provide safe support facilities for bicyclists.
5. The historic Bridal Veil logging town site is adjacent to the park and could potentially provide a universal access route to the falls if developed in partnership with the UPRR.

### W10 Angel's Rest State Trailhead

1. The parking area for the trailhead is often overcrowded and cars fill the shoulder of the HCRH, impacting natural resources and creating safety issues as pedestrians walk along the road.
2. There is a need for a restroom at the trailhead, given the lack of facilities nearby.
3. Trail maintenance is challenging because of the high visitor impact; continue and formalize OPRD/USFS partnerships.

### W11 Dalton Point State Recreation Site

1. Crime needs to be reduced at this site. Currently, the park has a negative reputation because of vehicle break-ins.
2. Based on its location, the boat ramp could potentially be very popular, especially in the context of continued silting issues at Rooster Rock; however crime and the fact that it is only currently accessed from west-bound I-84 limit this opportunity.
3. The riverfront could potentially provide excellent swimming and bank fishing experiences; however crime and the fact that it is only currently accessed from west-bound I-84 limit this opportunity.

**W12** Benson State Recreation Area

1. There is a need for continued study by partners to understand how Benson contributes to the overall ecological health and visitor experience of the general area which includes Multnomah Falls, Benson Lake, and Hartman Pond.

**W13** Ainsworth State Park

1. Increasing day use parking at the Gorge 400 trailhead will provide additional opportunities to access the USFS network in the Gorge.
2. The day use area is outdated and needs some overall updates are needed to improve the aesthetics and layout of the area for increased visitor experience.
3. The current walk-in campsite is filled in summer months and needs to be increased in size, while retaining its natural character.
4. The park is one of the only overnight parks directly adjacent to the HCRH and there is an opportunity to create additional day use support facilities to bicyclists as well as an overnight hiker/biker community campsite.
5. Visitor surveys reflect a desire for facility improvements providing universal access and safety.

**W14** McLoughlin State Natural Area (undeveloped)

No needs are identified at this time.

**W15** John B. Yeon State Scenic Corridor

1. Lower Tanner Creek has been identified as a high priority for restoration by the USFS, and OPRD will consider riparian restoration proposals from partner agencies on its properties in the area.
2. The parking area for the John B. Yeon trailhead (owned by USFS) is small and often overcrowded. Cars fill the shoulder of the HCRH, impacting natural resources and creating safety issues as pedestrians walk along the road.
3. There is a need for a restroom at the trailhead, given the lack of facilities nearby.



Boat Access to the Lagoon at Wyeth

**W16** Toothrock State Trailhead/Bonneville State Scenic Corridor (undeveloped)

1. A restroom is needed at Toothrock Trailhead, given the lack of nearby facilities.
2. Toothrock Trailhead has a high rate of vehicle break-ins.
3. The nearby Eagle Creek trailhead parking lot is typically full; however overflow parking does not seem to impact this trailhead.

**W17** Sheridan State Scenic Corridor (undeveloped)

No needs are identified at this time.

**W18** HCRHST: Bridge of the Gods State Trailhead

No needs are identified at this time.

**E1** Lang Forest State Scenic Corridor (undeveloped)

No needs are identified at this time.

**E2** Wyeth State Recreation Area (undeveloped)

1. With existing safe access across the railroad and highway, there are opportunities to develop river based recreation experiences.

2. The HCRHST is planned to pass by the park, allowing the park to provide support facilities for the trail, i.e. a hiker/biker campsite, restroom, trailhead, and other facilities.
3. There is an existing vehicle/pedestrian overpass across railroad and an underpass across 1-84 to the Columbia River.
4. Wyeth is adjacent to Wyeth Fishing Site, an in-lieu fishing area and partnerships with Tribal groups need to be addressed for any proposed use at Wyeth State Recreation Area.
5. The park is adjacent to Wyeth Campground (operated by USFS) that provides car parking, restrooms, and informal hiker/biker overflow camping, as well as trail access to the USFS trail network. It is closed in the winter.
6. Currently there is a partnership plan (OPRD, ODOT, and USFS) to develop a trailhead for the HCRHST in a property adjacent to Wyeth Campground.
7. There is a plan for the USFS to provide mountain bike and equestrian trails at nearby Wyeth Bench that will potentially connect to Cascade Locks.
8. Currently the property is not officially open as a state park, even though OPRD owns the property.
9. The current parking area should be maintained, but is in need of aesthetic improvements and ecological restoration.
10. The lagoon currently hosts waterfowl hunting. Off-channel aquatic and riparian restoration can benefit fish passage.

**E3** Lindsey Creek State Scenic Corridor (undeveloped)

No needs are identified at this time.

**E4** Starvation Creek State Park

1. Improvements to the trailhead are necessary to support the HCRHST, including directional signage, bike parking, and seating.
2. The current parking lot can be refigured for safer, more fluid traffic flow, and potentially additional parking spaces.
3. The park sign should be relocated to be visible from I-84.

**E5** Viento State Park

1. The day use area can be organized more effectively to increase uses, universal access amenities, and visitor experience.

2. The roadway providing day use river access creates user conflict with visitors traveling through the campsite and needs to be rerouted.
3. The HCRHST is planned to pass through the park, also connecting Viento to Starvation Creek, the Gorge 400 Trail, and the USFS trail network. This is an opportunity to enhance the current trailhead to support bicyclists and hikers, as well as establish a dedicated hiker/biker campsite.
4. Screening and reconfiguration of the current maintenance area, parking, and road near the walk-in sites is necessary with development of the HCRHST.
5. The park, while directly situated between a train line and Highway 30 can be extremely noisy.
6. Viento is a great place for kiteboarding compared to other state park properties in the Gorge and this use should be encouraged, however recreation amenities should not degrade natural resources.
7. Existing roads in the park could provide new family trail opportunities to highlighting Viento Bluffs through partnerships with BPA.
8. There are opportunities to expand universal access facilities, including a universal access loop trail with interpretive features highlighting the old railroad line.

**E6** Mitchell Point: Wygant State Natural Area/Vinzenz Lausman State Natural Area / Seneca Fouts Natural Area (including Post Canyon)

1. Alterations to the Mitchell Point viewpoint area will be necessary when the HCRHST is developed including additional trail capacity, where appropriate, additional parking. There is a need for access from both directions of I-84.
2. A collaborative group made up of private landowners, recreation stakeholders (hikers, mt bikes, equestrians), Hood River Co., OPRD and USFS developed a proposal for a trail system in the area. The purpose of the proposal is to serve as a starting point for a formal planning process. Projects should be jointly planned by OPRD and USFS and focus on developing or refining high quality trails and encouraging less density.

3. A river access feasibility study will review the potential for recreation at the Baumann Property (not owned by OPRD).

**E7** Hatfield West State Trailhead/HCRH State Trail

1. This location has been identified as needing a HCRHST Information Station in accordance with ODOT's 2013 *HCRHST Wayfinding Plan*.

**E8** Koberg Beach State Recreation Site  
No needs are identified at this time.

**E9** Hatfield East State Trailhead/HCRHST

1. This location has been identified as needing a HCRHST Information Station in accordance with ODOT's 2013 *HCRHST Wayfinding Plan*.

**E10** Memaloose State Park

1. There is a need to provide additional camping spaces with full hookups.
2. Aging red maples and white poplars populate the campsite.

The tree species is non-native and aggressively seeds across the campsite resulting in additional vegetative management.

3. There is an established history of river access at the park; however this requires crossing the railroad which creates an unsafe situation. There is limited space for a required above grade crossing to safely establish river access at the park.

**E11** Rowena Crest State Viewpoint

1. There is no restroom close to the trailhead or viewpoint.
2. The old quarry property below Rowena Crest has potential as a support facility to the HCRHST. Restoration efforts should be continued there.

**E12** West Mayer State Park

1. The boat ramp is in need of repair.
2. The park is overcrowded on warm sunny days, with people seeking access to the river for swimming, boating and bank fishing.



Wildflowers in bloom next to the boat ramp at West Mayer

3. The western portion of the park is currently inaccessible to vehicles and is subject to some vagrant behavior in off seasons.
4. Given the proximity to the HCRH and existing utilities the park has an opportunity to provide amenities to trail users, including a hiker/biker campsite.
5. There are opportunities to develop short, universal access trails and a universal access fishing pier in the pond.

#### E13 East Mayer State Park

1. The Squally Point area is popular with local residents however there is no legal access to the area without crossing the Union Pacific railroad tracks. There has been interest expressed by the public and various stakeholders for improved recreational access to the area.
2. Windsports are popular with visitors; however off-trail use, anchors, and gravel used to cover rocks are potentially impacting endangered natural resources. Best management practices need to be assessed and implemented in coordination with user groups.
3. OPRD property includes areas of State Natural Area Reserves designated by the Oregon Natural Heritage Program (2010 Oregon Natural Areas Plan). Squally Point Dunes represent the only remaining Columbia River Gorge sand dunes on the mainland. This dune ecosystem characterized The Dalles area before the construction of dams on the lower Columbia River.