

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

November 20, 2013

Agenda Item: 11

Information

Topic: Reports

Agenda Item: 11a
Topic: 2013 Fire Season-Impacts on OPRD Properties
Prepared by: Craig Leech

The 2013 fire season was the largest on record to impact Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) protected properties since 1951. Over 100,000 acres burned and over \$121 million were spent this fire season. This undoubtedly had a direct and indirect impact on OPRD operations. Fire season started late in the northwest part of the state due to late spring rains. However, southwest and eastern Oregon did not receive significant spring rains so they had an early start to their fire season with a 209-acre fire near Azalea, OR the first week of May. Fire season was declared in southeast Oregon on 5/10/13. Fire protection on OPRD properties is provided primarily by ODF and by local fire departments and districts where applicable.

Fires occurring on OPRD Managed Property (owned or leased)

Date of Initiation	State Park *	Acres	Cause	Responded
4/23/13	Gold Beach	<1	Human	Local fire dept.
5/11/13	Fort Stevens	<1	Human	Local fire dept.
7/2/13	Lake Owyhee	46,500	Unknown	BLM/USFS
7/2/13	Bullards Beach	<1	Human	CFPA/ODF
7/4/13	Smith Rock	<1	Human	ODF
7/6/13	Pilot Rock	<1	Human	Bend Fire Dept.
7/16/13	La Pine	<1	Human	ODF/USFS
8/5/13	Farewell Bend	<1	Power Pole	Local fire Dept.
8/12/13	Valley of the Rogue	<1	Human	ODF/local fire department
8/20/13	Government Island	40	Human	Portland Fire Bureau
10/18/13	La Pine	1.5	Human	USFS/ODF

* Fire Description:

Gold Beach - out of control beach fire.

Fort Stevens - small brush fire started from a lit cigarette on ant mound.

Lake Owyhee State Park - 46,500-acre fire burned near OPRD shop/residence, damaging water & network system. Closed campground and Gordon Gulch day use for 3 days.

Bullards Beach State Park - illegal campfire near north entrance road, Curry Co. Fire Protection Association and ODF responded.

Smith Rock State Park - two small fires off of parking lot started by fireworks. Redmond Fire, ODF, OSP & Deschutes Fire Dept. responded

Pilot Butte SSV - small brush fire started by fireworks. Park evacuated. Bend Fire Department responded.

La Pine State Park - Human caused fire near campground. ODF, USFS responded

Farewell Bend State Park - electrical fire from power pole near trash compactor. Grass and sage brush fire suppressed by staff. Huntington Fire Department responded and moped-up.
Valley of the Rogue State Park - Small grass fire near sewer lagoon pond started by motorist flat tire. ODF, local fire department responded.

Government Island - human caused, 40-acre fire in grass/blackberry/cottonwoods burned. Campers and day users were evacuated. Multnomah Co. River Patrol, Port of Portland Fire and Rescue, Portland Fire Bureau, Gresham Fire Department, Clark Co. River Patrol, Vancouver Fire and US Coast Guard were on scene.

La Pine State Park - 1.5 acre fire within Park near boundary. Hunter warming fire started a pitch-pine stump. USFS responded, ODF lined fire perimeter and allowed it burn out.

Fires not on OPRD property but directly impacted operations (leased or owned):

Deschutes River SRA (6/2/13): Park was evacuated due to close proximity of wildfire 3 miles up river. Caused by hiker; several miles (4000 ac.) of riverfront burned (down river winds). BLM and Sherman Co. responded.

Wolf Creek Inn (7/25/13): 50,000 acre Douglas Fire Complex burns within ½ mile of Inn and is issued a possible evacuation notice. Evacuation never occurred. Smoke impacts Inn for the next 30 days.

The Cove Palisades (8/23/13): lightning storm starts fire near the park. Park Manager responded to help guide fire crews to fire location. A 15-hour ban was imposed on campfires.

Though the large-scale fires in the southern coast range and Rogue Valley, Douglas Fire Complex and Big Windy Complex fires, did not directly occur on OPRD property, these had greater impact on reduction of park use, as witnessed in the increase in cancellations during the period of intense smoke.

Agenda Item: 11b

Topic: Illinois River Forks Partnership Update

Prepared by: Curtis Smith

Background: On January 29, 2013 the OPRD Commission accepted staff recommendation to work with the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO) to create a partnership for park operation. This was a result of the IVCDO effort to reverse the Nov 2011 commission decision to not pursue a new lease agreement for the 80 acres of BLM inholding.

IVCDO Partnership - monthly meetings, between staff and IVCDO, we have resulted in an approved 1-year Adopt a Park Agreement outlining scope and tasks. Since IVCDO must organize and manage their volunteers significant effort has been made to set up a system to OPRD standards. OPRD staff has spent more time operating the park than intended while IVCDO has been organizing. This is understandable given the time and training needed to set up this one-of-a-kind partnership. Credit to IVCDO for their patience and willingness to properly form this partnership especially given their desire to simply do work in the park.

BLM - A draft agreement was created by BLM and circulated for comment to OPRD. Numerous edits were requested and BLM made several and provided satisfactory explanation for those that need to remain unchanged. The final section that needed clarification and BLM botanist review related to vegetation disturbing activities. That review was underway when sequestration began. Now that that is over, staff expectation is that a final BLM agreement will be ready for signatures by December, 2013.

CXT – The vault toilet building that was purchased last biennium is awaiting delivery and installation. BLM has already approved the location, and final approval is expected from Josephine County Building Dept and DEQ by Oct 31, 2013. Installation is scheduled for Nov 6, 2013. The existing unused block restroom will be converted for storage, used by host/volunteers and staff.

Host Site & Water– A final design is in place to construct near the existing block restroom building. Water to supply the host site will come from the river and treated as needed for host use. The reason for this location and water source is it's the lowest cost option. OPRD has an existing irrigation water right, so staff has applied for a 5-year Limited Use License from Water Resource Dept to allow for host water and approval anticipated by Nov 2013.

Goal for 2014: OPRD to install host site, and upgrade pump and add treatment to use river water. IVCDO to fill winter maintenance needs and fulfill commitment to provide the majority of maintenance, and any programming they wish to complete (events, guided walks/talks/ Jr Ranger, special project) with OPRD approval. Establish as day use only park with locked nightly gates by private security firm during summer. Extend adopt a park or create new agreement to cover remaining 4 years of this trial partnership period.

Prior Action by Commission: Reversed decision on BLM lease, allow for trial partnership

Agenda Item: 11 c

Topic: Salmonberry Trail

Prepared by: MG Devereux

Background

In 2007 historic winter storms severely damaged the Salmonberry Rail Corridor that runs between Banks and Tillamook. The rail line, owned by the Port of Tillamook Bay Corporation (PTBC), was forced to cease operation due to an estimated \$54 million dollars in damage. The rail corridor has remained largely unused since 2007, except for the Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad (OCSR), a scenic tour train running on the west end of the line. In early 2012, a coalition of potential stakeholders came together to explore the potential for re-use of the corridor as a recreational trail. The coalition includes: Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF); Cycle Oregon, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD); OCSR; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW); and the PTBC. With support from OPRD, ODF, and Cycle Oregon a high level feasibility analysis of a rails and trails project along the Salmonberry rail line was completed in late 2012. Based on that feasibility study and financial support from Cycle Oregon a more detailed comprehensive planning effort, led by OPRD and ODF, has been undertaken to outline a plan for potential trail development. The purpose of OPRD involvement is to assist other partners in the development of a recreational connection between the Willamette Valley and the Oregon Coast.

Initial Planning Meetings

The planning process is being led from the Integrated Park Services division by Rocky Houston. The unique nature of the 86 mile rail corridor will pose some interesting challenges. The planning cycle expected to last about 18 months, kicked off with a round of public meetings in Tillamook and Banks, in September 2013. These meetings were well attended. The communities near the trail have consistently expressed interest in the idea of a trail connection, but have concerns about costs, maintaining access for traditional uses such as fishing and hunting, and types of recreation allowed on the trail.

One significant note has been concern from hunting interests. Some members of Oregon Hunters Association have been led to believe that hunting was being prohibited in a large buffer around the trail. OPRD staff and other members of the Coalition have been working to dispel that rumor. It has always been assumed that in more rugged and remote sections of the trail, hunting and fishing access would be an integral part of trail design. Director Wood and State Forester Decker have sent a joint letter to interested stakeholders affirming that assumption.

The length and changing character of the trail from the valley to the coast require a large number of user or interest group contacts, centered on specific issues relevant to specific groups. The planning team is working on including additional stakeholder groups to the planning and outreach efforts. The Coalition has helped suggest categories and potential contact names for this effort.

Next Steps

The planning process is only being accomplished because of the support of Cycle Oregon. OPRD and ODF are at the maximum in terms of resources available to assist this effort. The Coalition is considering other ways that the effort can continue to move forward. This may include a future legislative concept to develop fundraising and organizational potential. In the meantime, the planning process is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2014.

Previous Action:

Information provided March 2012 on long term property acquisition potential

Information provided January 2013 Directors Update

Information provided April 2013 on completion of feasibility work

Agenda Item: 11d

Topic: Rulemaking Status

Prepared by: Vanessa DeMoe

Rulemaking Activity Log

OAR & Division	Subject Matter	Commission Approval	Rulemaking Process Opened	Hearing Dates	Public Comment Expiration Date	Target Date for Commission Adoption
736-040	John Day Scenic Waterway	5/8/2013	Not filed yet	N/A	03/31/14	04/16/14
736-015	Fee Increase	5/8/2013	7/15/2013	8/20 through 8/23/13	8/30/13	Adopted
736-002	Agreements with non-profit organizations	5/8/2013	6/13/13	7/30/13	8/2/2013	Adopted
736-053	Heritage Commission - grants and statewide celebrations	5/8/2013	5/15/2013	6/19/13	6/21/13	Adopted

Agenda Item: 11e

Topic: Oregon State Parks Foundation Agreement

Prepared by: John Potter

The 2013 Legislature enacted Oregon law, chapter 299, section 2, authorizing the Director to enter into agreements with private, nonprofit organizations to solicit and donate gifts, grants and donations for the benefit of the Department. The Commission subsequently approved Oregon Administrative Rule 736-002-0015, at its last meeting, to further clarify the policy regarding donor agreements, including necessary provisions and notifications. The Oregon State Parks Foundation, an independent, federally tax exempt, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization has submitted a proposal to enter into such an agreement. Staff is currently negotiating an agreement with the Foundation which will be submitted to the Legislative Assembly for review, per statute and rule, prior to execution by the Director. A primary intent of any such agreement is to maintain transparency and prior approval regarding the sharing of resources. For example, the agreement will identify certain Department resources that when conveyed to and used by the Foundation can leverage and increase donation amounts from third parties. Such resources may include items like printed brochures, meeting space, overnight accommodation waivers, day-use parking passes, links on websites, information exchange, cross-promotion assistance, recognition agreements, assistance with grant writing, display of signs, and use of photo archives. Monitoring the use of these resources is a key element to making the agreement successful and maintaining the public trust. The Foundation must remain separate and apart from the Department in order to fulfill its obligations as an independent operating entity under section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS Code and the Nonprofit Act of the State of Oregon. The written agreement, together with the bylaws of the Foundation and independent governance by its Board of Trustees, ensure a proper separation. The Department would retain, in turn, ultimate authority over everything that happens to or regarding state parks. Funds provided by the Foundation would enhance but would not supplant public support or governance. Foundation and Department funds would not be commingled, and the agreement would be intended to ensure transparency and public trust around how we account for Department resources and Foundation donations.