

SMITH ROCK STATE PARK Master Plan



Yellen

MASTER PLAN FOR SMITH ROCK STATE PARK

This complete master plan document is one of six loose leaf notebooks prepared by the Oregon State Parks Staff in 1990 for distribution as follows:

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As new pages of information are developed by any of the above sources, extra copies should immediately be made available to all of the above. The Master Planning Unit Supervisor will periodically review and coordinate the updating of the planning documents.

Additional master plan background data is available in the files at the Salem Parks Headquarters.

A condensed version of this master plan is available from:

Master Planning Unit Supervisor
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PURPOSE OF THE MASTER PLAN

In accordance with the Oregon Revised Statutes, park master plans are prepared to guide the development and use of each state park. Each plan includes "an assessment of resources and a determination of the capacity for public use and enjoyment of each park."

ORS 390.180

Master plans are developed to provide information and guidance to managers and staff involved in the decision-making process, as well as to the general public. The plans are a tool to be used in day-to-day management and long-range planning. They are useful references for information on all aspects of park resources and agency coordination.

The process of developing park master plans is continually evolving and improving as pressures increase to provide more and better recreation facilities and yet preserve our natural heritage.

The master plans allow these two occasionally conflicting needs to be addressed rationally and clearly. The completed plans provide for the development of the most appropriate recreation facilities while protecting those natural and cultural features which are the basis for the State Park System.

THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

Public Announcement

This action initiates the master planning process. Appropriate state and local media, various agencies and groups are notified that master plans are being prepared for particular state parks.

Site Research and Analysis/Mapping

Information is gathered about the natural and cultural features found in and around the park. Public agencies and private experts are contacted as are local governments, special-interest groups and concerned citizens.

Existing features such as topography, buildings, and boundaries are mapped on park base maps.

Inventory Maps and Composite

The information gathered during the research phase is mapped on a series of transparent overlays. Mapped information includes geology and geologic hazards, soil types, land forms, water features, vegetation, wildlife habitat, scenic resources, and relevant historic and cultural data. These overlays are placed on top of one another and a composite map is formed. This map shows which areas of the park are suitable for development and which areas need protection.

Land Use Plan

The information from the composite map is used to formulate the Land Use Plan.

Each parcel of park land is assessed, based on the quality of natural, cultural and recreational resources, and the natural resource systems' ability to tolerate developmental impacts. Each parcel is assigned an appropriate land use designation.

The land use plan is the basis for future park development and management. See Land Use Plan section for more detailed information on this aspect of planning.

Land Use Issues

Issues relating to impacts from recreational use, management needs or local concerns are collected from surveys, from public comment and from staff interviews. Development proposals are presented to address conflicts or problems which come out of the discussion of land use issues.

Recreation Needs Analysis

While the land use plan is being prepared, a determination is made about the recreation capacity of the park and the recreation needs of the park visitors. A park visitor survey is often conducted and the park staff is interviewed to help determine the recreation needs of the park. Local government agencies are contacted for information on recreational needs and uses. Recreation needs are then combined with solutions to land use issues to determine the development proposal for the park.

Preliminary Plan

The Land Use Plan and the information gathered from the Recreation Needs Analysis and Issues are used together as the basis for the preliminary development plans. These plans outline park development for the next 20 years.

Public Input and Plan Review/Review and Analysis

After the preliminary plans are prepared, they are presented to the general public, government agencies, and various organizations. Comments are received and analyzed, and incorporated into the plan if appropriate. Two public meetings were held for the Smith Rock Master Plan, one in Portland, March 6, 1990 and one in Redmond on March 7, 1990.

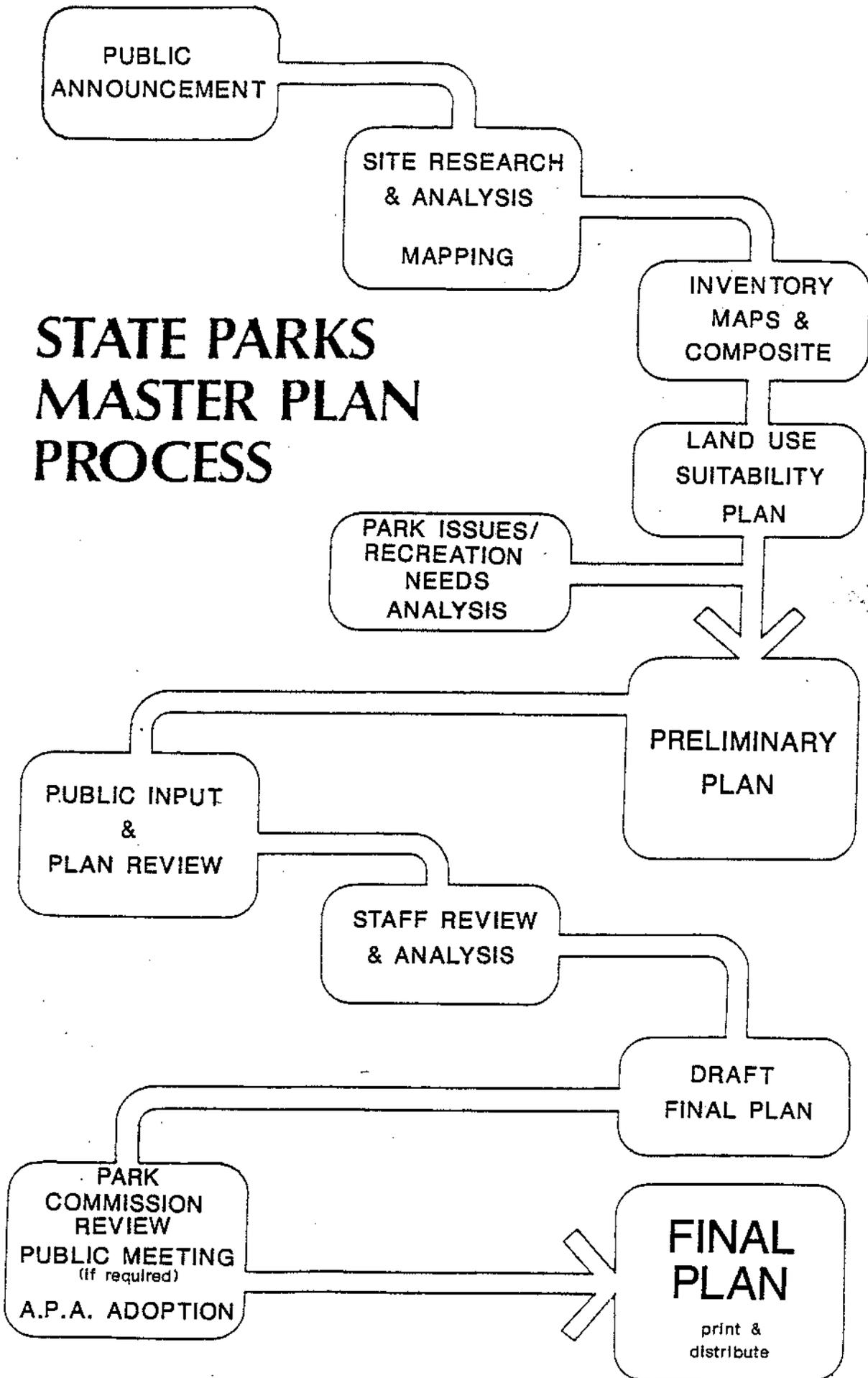
Draft Final Plan

The draft final master plan is prepared for administrative and commission approval.

APA Adoption

The draft plan is presented to the Parks Commission and then adopted by Administrative Rule under the Administration Procedures Act. If an additional public meeting is requested, it is held at this time.

STATE PARKS MASTER PLAN PROCESS



NOTEBOOK AND PLAN SUMMARY DOCUMENTS

There are two major parts to each master plan. One is the summary document prepared for the general public and the other is the detailed management notebook prepared primarily for park staff use.

Plan Summary Document

The summary document describes briefly the existing conditions, the proposed land use plan and the general development plan for each park. This document is sent to all affected public agencies and interested citizens.

The Notebook

The notebook includes the same information that is found in the summary plus additional information on the natural and cultural resources of the parks, detailed development proposals and costs, park management goals and objectives, resource management techniques and detailed planning data.

The notebook provides the detailed background information necessary for park management. It is a tool for the park manager, the planning staff and the park administration to use in future park planning and day-to-day management.

Notebook Information and Organization

Most notebooks contain information on more than one park. When this is the case, the general information which pertains to all parks is presented first in the Background section. The specific information for each park is presented under that park's heading. General planning data for all parks is placed together after the specific park information. Appendix data for all parks follows this.

Additional Information

In addition to the detailed information presented in the notebook, there are also lists of references and people to contact if further information on a particular topic is needed.

The office staff who prepared the notebooks are a good source of information. These landscape architects, planners, natural resource and forest management specialists can be contacted at any time for further clarification and information on planning, development and management issues.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AND THE DATA BASE PROGRAM

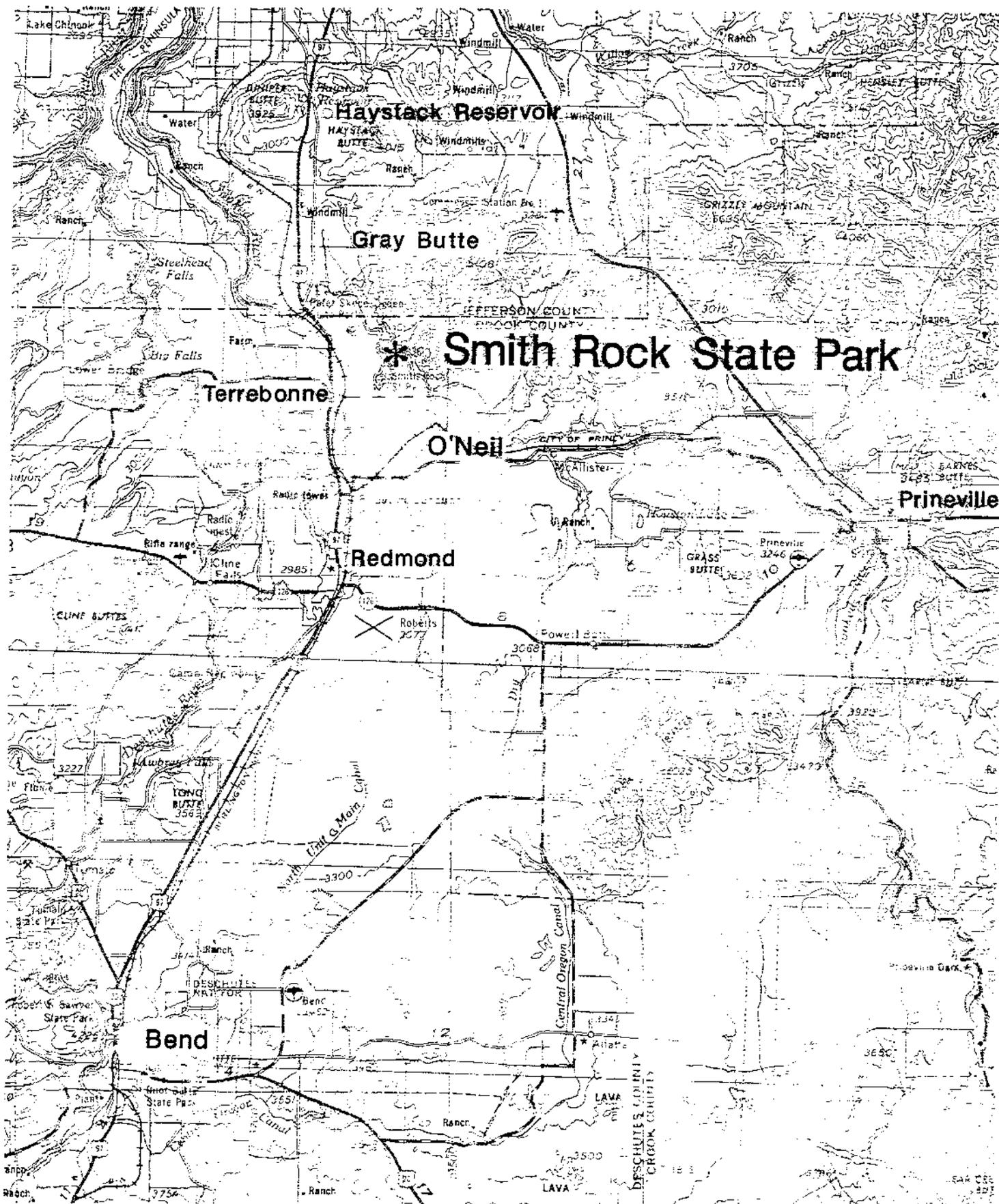
Throughout this plan, reference is made to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and to their program of resource protection.

The Nature Conservancy is a private, national, nonprofit corporation committed to preserving the diversity of the natural world by protecting and preserving the lands and waters which support the best examples of all the elements occurring in nature. To help reach that goal, The Nature Conservancy implemented state Heritage Programs throughout the country to identify and inventory ecologically significant areas, and organize and maintain the gathered information into a data base. Ecologically significant areas are those sites with rare, threatened, or endangered elements, which include plant communities, plant or animal species, aquatic ecosystems and geologic features.

The Oregon Natural Heritage Data Base (ONHDB) is operated by the Nature Conservancy in cooperation with the Division of State Lands through the Oregon Natural Heritage Advisory Council. A primary goal of the program is the implementation of the Oregon Natural Heritage Plan, a document adopted by the State of Oregon in 1981. This plan outlines "natural heritage resources" to be protected in all parts of Oregon. These include ecosystem types or "cells" as well as threatened or endangered species.

Some state parks have excellent examples of these cells and/or threatened species. In many cases sites within the parks are among the finest of their kind to be found in the state, and are specifically mentioned in the Oregon Natural Heritage Plan. In those cases where a "cell" is identified on State Park land, it can be maintained and protected in its natural condition. In many cases a good quality ecosystem representation is found in a park but it is not large enough to qualify as a "cell." It can be maintained and protected in its natural condition to the extent possible. Individual rare, threatened or endangered species will also be given as much protection as is possible.

NOTE: The Oregon Natural Heritage Data Base is now called The Oregon Natural Heritage Program.



Smith Rock State Park Location Map



N



SCALE IN MILES

The Deschutes County area around Smith Rock is rich in natural and cultural attractions. The environment and history of the area have had a direct effect on Smith Rock, and provide excellent background material for interpreting and understanding the resources within the park.

Topography

The Deschutes County boundary on the west is the crest of the Cascades, and the eastern side of the county is flat. Half of Smith Rock State Park is situated on the flat land and half on the abrupt edge of the foothills of the Ochoco Mountains. The cliffs in the northeastern part of the park form the southern flank of Gray Butte. The southern part of the county gently rises to the summit of Newberry Crater.

From the park the following panorama is nearly always visible (listed from south to north): Mt. Bachelor, Three Sisters, Black Butte, Mt. Washington, Three Fingered Jack, Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Hood and Gray Butte. On days with excellent visibility Mt. Thielsen and Mt. Rainer can be seen. Elevations in the park range from 2,620' to 3,540'.

Climate

Climate and microclimate are major factors influencing the environment. The climate in Central Oregon is largely responsible human use patterns and has contributed to the development of Central Oregon as one of the foremost year-round recreational areas in Oregon.

General climatic patterns in Deschutes County consist of warm, sunny summers with very little summer rain, and cold, sunny winters with most precipitation occurring as snow. The average precipitation for the county ranges from 10" to 50" per year.

At Smith Rock most of the precipitation falls as rain. With an average yearly precipitation of 10", it is among the driest areas east of the Oregon Cascades. Most of the rain, occurs from November through January, with some thundershowers in May and June. Only about 1.7" of the area's annual precipitation falls as snow, which is the equivalent of 17" of snow.

Daily temperature variations can be extreme in the summer months. High temperatures over 100 degrees are common, and frost sometimes occurs at night. The average maximum temperature in July is 80-85°F. In January the average maximum temperature is 35-40°F and the minimum, about 20°F. The western edge of the county experiences lower summer temperatures because of the high elevation.

Winds in Central Oregon are generally light, but are influenced locally by topography, especially river canyons or mountains. Depending on exposure, winds at Smith Rock can be quite strong. Primary winds are south/southwest, and secondary winds are north/northwest.

Geology

Central Oregon, and Smith Rock in particular, provides a showcase of "recent" volcanic activities. It is noted in Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries' Bulletin 89 that:

Deschutes County could perhaps be called the land of a thousand volcanoes. It is likely that Deschutes County contains a greater abundance and variety of volcanic landforms than any other area of similar size in the United States ...

Some of the oldest rocks in Deschutes County, located along its north and east boundaries, date from Tertiary times. The oldest rock in the park is Smith Rock Tuff (10-18 million years old), represented in the form of towering, multi-colored cliffs on the north side of the Crooked River. The volcanoes, cinder buttes and lava flows, most apparent in the contemporary landscape of Deschutes County, were formed during the Holocene and Pleistocene Epochs (present time -1.7 millions years ago), when volcanic activity was very intense. A Pleistocene intracanyon lava flow (1.2 million years old) forms a basalt tableland covering much of the east side of the county and part of Smith Rock.

Few metallic minerals occur in the county; however, there are numerous deposits of industrial minerals, including pumice, scoria, diatomite and clay.

Soils

Soils in the Deschutes County area strongly reflect the influence of volcanic activity. The soils are generally derived either from the breakdown of volcanic rock, ash, pumice or other volcanic materials, which have been enriched by organic matter.

Water Resources

Water is one of the most critical environmental factors in Central and Eastern Oregon because the supply is so limited.

The Deschutes and Crooked Rivers join at Cove Palisades State Park to form Lake Billy Chinook. These, along with the Metolius River, are the major water features in the region.

Vegetation

Vegetation in Central Oregon is characterized by three main zones: the western juniper zone, the ponderosa pine zone, and the lodgepole pine zone. The most important factors in determining vegetation types are moisture and temperature.

Western juniper plant communities represent vegetation typical of the drier areas of Central Oregon where rainfall averages between 5 to 10 inches annually with an average low temperature of about 32° and an average high temperature of 71°F.

The ponderosa pine zone intergrades with the western juniper zone and is found in areas of greater moisture and cooler temperatures, specifically, in the higher elevations on the west side of Deschutes County. Much of the moisture of the ponderosa pine zone falls in the winter as snow. Daily summer temperatures generally fluctuate widely with hot days and cold nights. In many areas frost can occur any night of the year.

The distribution of the lodgepole pine zone is determined by temperature, elevation and soil type. The climate of the lodgepole pine zone is characterized by low summer rainfall, wide daily temperature fluctuations and a relatively short growing season with annual precipitation ranging from 15 to 25 inches. Elevations for the lodgepole pine zone lie between 4000 to 5000 feet. One of the most important factors determining the occurrence of lodgepole pine instead of ponderosa pine appears to be the tolerance of lodgepole pine seedlings to frost and poorly drained soils.

Smith Rock, with its dry climate, falls within the Juniper Zone. The park supports a variety of vegetation: juniper savannah, sagebrush-steppe and a riparian zone with marshes and scattered ponderosa pines.

Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife habitat and vegetation are closely linked. Plant communities within the previously described vegetative zones provide the framework for determining wildlife habitat types. There are also unique or specialized habitats created by unusual environmental circumstances within each general plant community.

Riparian and water-associated habitats promote the greatest diversity in wildlife species and are most important to protect and maintain. Smith Rock has important riparian habitat, cliff habitat for nesting birds of prey, as well as other habitats of varying quality and less importance.

Wildlife

Wildlife is usually classified as big game, furbearers, upland game birds, waterfowl, fish and nongame wildlife.

The most common big game animal in Central Oregon is the mule deer. Other big game species found in Central Oregon but not at Smith Rock include elk and pronghorn antelope.

Aquatic furbearing animals (mink, muskrat and beaver) are common. Other furbearing species such as fox, raccoon or skunk are also common. Smith Rock is above average in the concentration of furbearers.

The abundant upland game birds in the park include Valley or California quail and morning doves.

The county-wide waterfowl population is varied. The most common species are mallard ducks and Canada geese. The county is also the winter home for a sizable population of coots.

Nongame wildlife species include many small mammals, birds and reptiles. The least chipmunk is the most common wild animal along with the golden mantled ground squirrel and Belding ground squirrel. The coyote, however, is a furbearer found throughout the county in relatively high numbers.

The osprey is moderately abundant in riparian areas and represents a species of importance due to its rarity in other regions. The great blue heron is also common along watercourses. The golden eagle, prairie falcon, red-tailed hawk, and other interesting bird species nest at Smith Rock.

The most common reptiles are western fence and sagebrush lizards (Sceloporus spp.). Frogs and some toad species are abundant in riparian areas.

The waters of Central Oregon host a large list of fish species. Brook, lake and brown trout have been introduced to the various rivers and streams. Mountain white fish, tui chub and several other species are native to the waters of Deschutes. Additional fish species stocked by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife include rainbow, lake trout, and some kokanee salmon. Fish populations at Smith Rock are not impressive.

Cultural Background

The natural environment is only one aspect of the Central Oregon area. Human presence in, and use of, the area in the past and present is also important to consider.

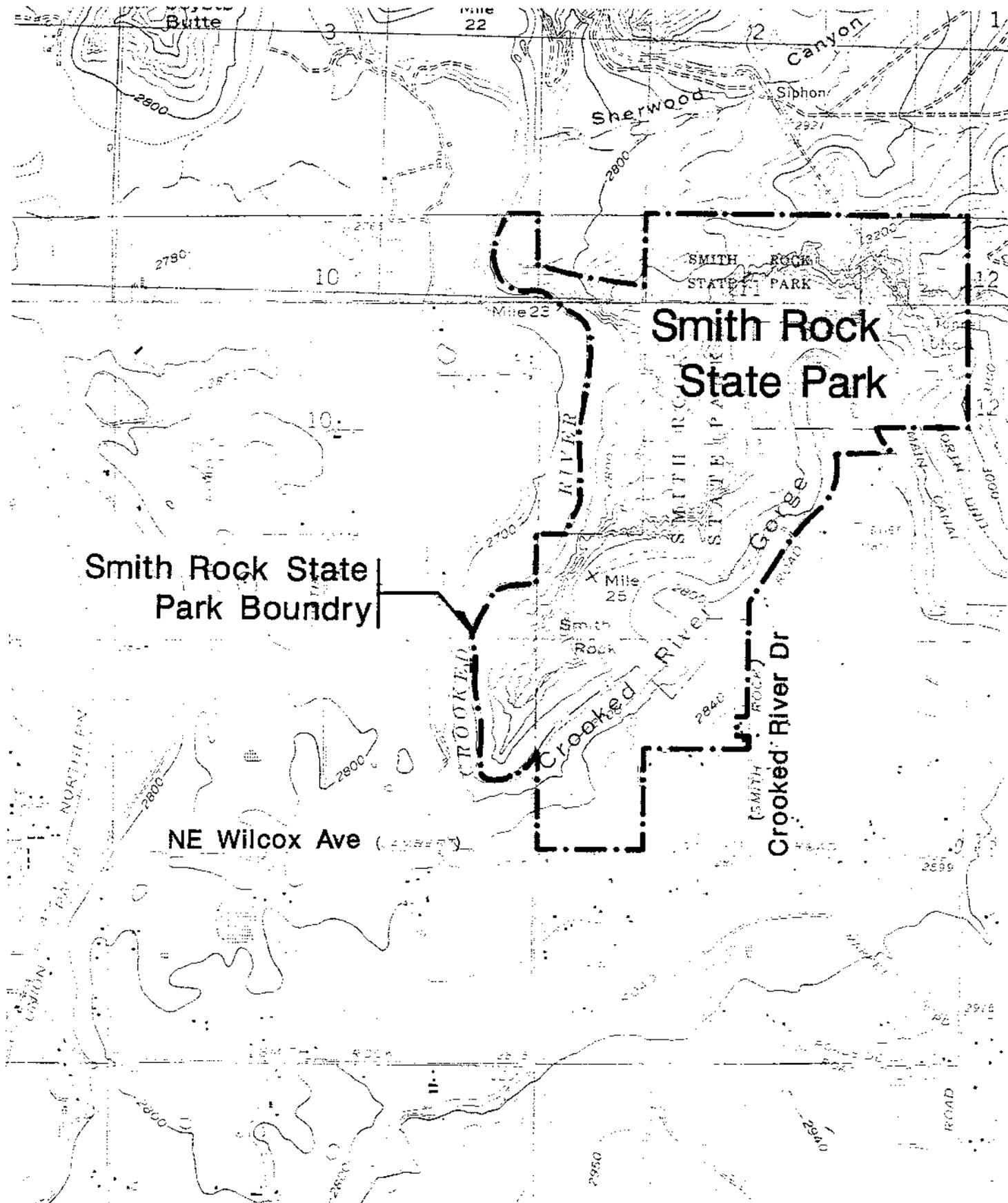
Archeological evidence indicates that human presence in Central Oregon dates back at least 13,000 years. Numerous sites of these earliest inhabitants exist in Central Oregon and are especially common at lake margins and along the main watercourses. The Native Americans in Central Oregon traveled

widely, gathering food, hunting, and trading. They continued their hunter/gatherer lifestyle until the arrival of Caucasians, who radically changed the Central Oregon environment.

The first white man in Central Oregon was probably Peter Skene Ogden who explored the Deschutes area and the high lava plains in the winter of 1825. In 1834, Nathaniel Wyeth explored the upper Deschutes River basin in the Pringle, Dillon and Benam Falls areas. The decade of the 1840s witnessed a large increase in the number of immigrants passing through Central Oregon on their way to the Willamette Valley. The gold rush in the 1850s to the John Day River basin brought permanent settlers into Central Oregon. In 1860 the first bridge across the Deschutes River was built at Sherars Crossing. Transportation connections between the more populous and mid-Willamette Valley and Central Oregon over the Cascade Mountains remained a problem until 1962 when the Santiam Pass was completed and opened for year-round travel.

In 1905 the Central Oregon Irrigation Company began transforming the sagelands of Central Oregon into irrigated fields.

Another decisive event for Central Oregon was the completion in 1911 of J.J. Hill's railroad from The Dalles to its terminus in Bend. This completion of the railroad resulted in a period of economic growth in Central Oregon linked to lumber production. Lumber and ranching were economic mainstays in Central Oregon until the boom in tourism and recreation of the last decade. Central Oregon is today one of the most rapidly growing areas in the state due to its exceptional scenic qualities and recreational opportunities.



Smith Rock State
Park Boundry

NE Wilcox Ave (48887)

Smith Rock
State Park

Crooked River Dr
(SMITH ROCK)

Smith Rock State Park Vicinity Map



0 1000 2000

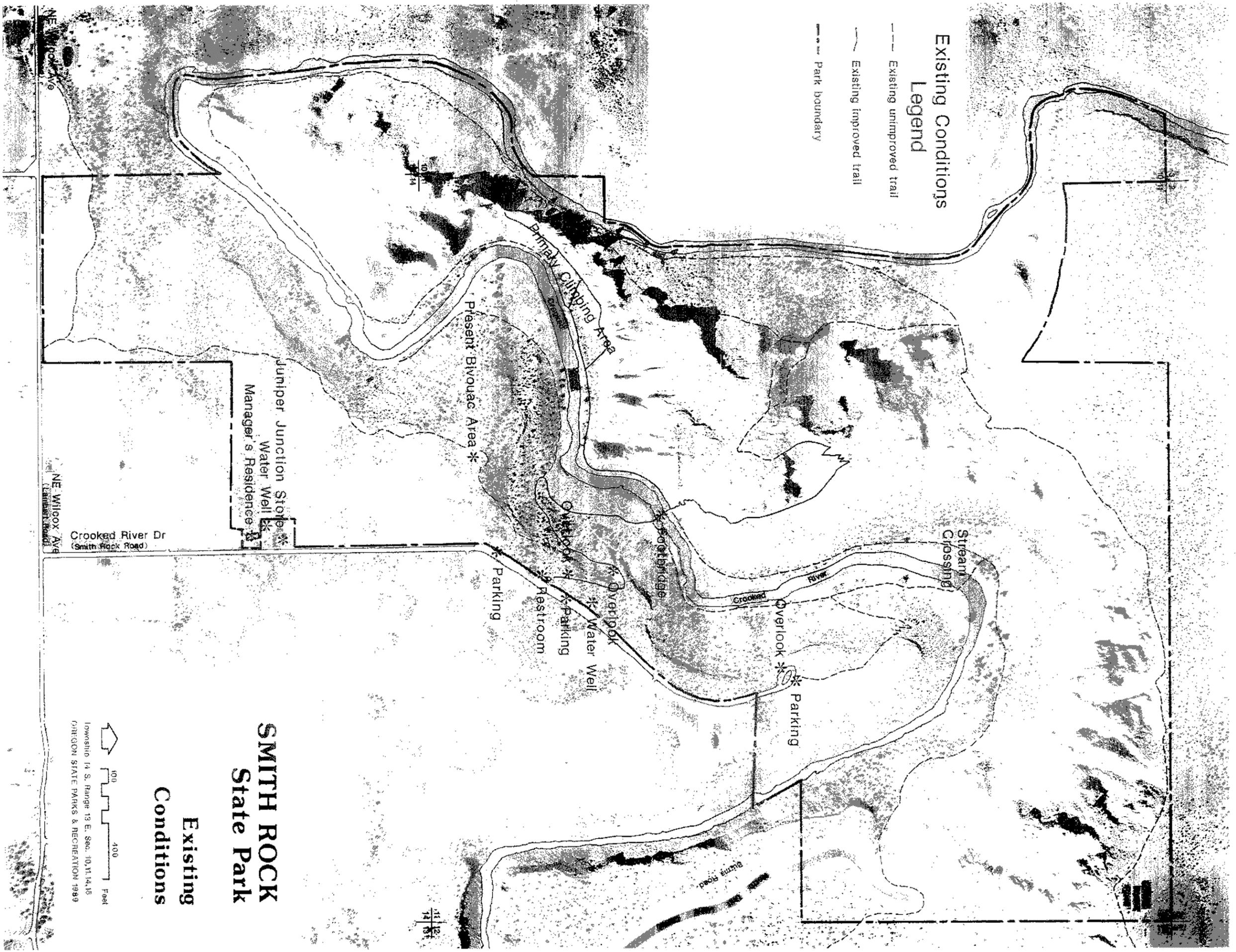
N SCALE IN FEET

EXISTING CONDITIONS

SMITH ROCK STATE PARK

- Location:** Deschutes County. Seven miles northeast of Redmond, Oregon, approximately two miles east of Highway 97.
- Acreage:** 624.11 acres.
- Description:** The park encompasses a canyon segment of the Crooked River that is studded with juniper, ponderosa pine and sagebrush. Tall, vertical rock faces and steep talus slopes form a backdrop to the northern riverbank. Wildlife is abundant in the area, particularly deer, birds and small mammals. Birds of prey hunt in the park and use the convenient ledges for their homes. Geese nest along the river in the spring.
- Day-Use Facilities:** These include 2 parking areas, hiking trails, horse trails, picnic tables, water fountains, a flush toilet building, a small lawn area and an overlook for enjoying the majestic view.
- Day-Use Attendance:** In 1988-89 the yearly attendance was 302,500, while the 5-year annual average prior to that was 212,600. This is a 42% increase.
- Overnight Facilities:** A primitive bivouac area for climbers is available southwest of the day-use area. This area is accessible by foot only. The only facilities are two pit toilets.
- Overnight Attendance:** In 1988-89 the annual attendance was 7,900, while the 5-year annual average prior to that was 3,700. This is a 114% increase.
- Manager's Residence:** A residence for the manager is located on the county road.
- Recreation Activities:** Seven miles of signed, unpaved trails wind through the area following the Crooked River and making switch-backs up the canyon walls to the ridge tops. Trails are used primarily by hikers, but in some areas horseback riding occurs. A bridge below the overlook is located across the river.
- Smith Rock is an internationally renowned rock climbing area. Some of the routes, although much shorter than the major climbs in Yosemite, provide climbing challenges as difficult as any in the United States.
- Occasionally, one will see river runners guiding rafts and rafts through this Crooked River Canyon. Bird-watching is a common activity with numerous species making their nests within this park. Sightseeing and photography are also popular in this relatively undeveloped park.
- Handicap Accessibility:** Currently wheelchair accessibility is limited to the paved and otherwise hardened trails in the day-use area. The trails to the canyon floor are too steep and rugged for full accessibility by wheelchair or for someone with severe physical mobility problems, heart conditions or breathing difficulties. However, these trails could be used by disabled visitors seeking challenging trail experiences.
- The toilet building in the day-use area is not wheelchair accessible, nor is the chemical toilet at the base of the overlook. Overlook areas are not fully accessible.

Existing Conditions
Legend
 - - - Existing unimproved trail
 — Existing improved trail
 - - - Park boundary



**SMITH ROCK
 State Park**
**Existing
 Conditions**

100 400 Feet
 Township 14 S, Range 13 E, Sec. 10, 11, 14, 15
 OREGON STATE PARKS & RECREATION 1989

General Information

The Land Use Suitability Plan identifies both the quality and distribution of the park's resources as well as site opportunities and restrictions for facility development.

There are five designations used in the Suitability Plan. A description of each designation is outlined on the chart which follows this section. This chart explains in general terms the five designations. The chart describes the features, the typical activities, the kinds of development and the management objectives of each designation.

The examples cited in these descriptions are given to illustrate what may typically happen in a particular designation, not to limit what could occur in that class or to define what will happen in any specific park.

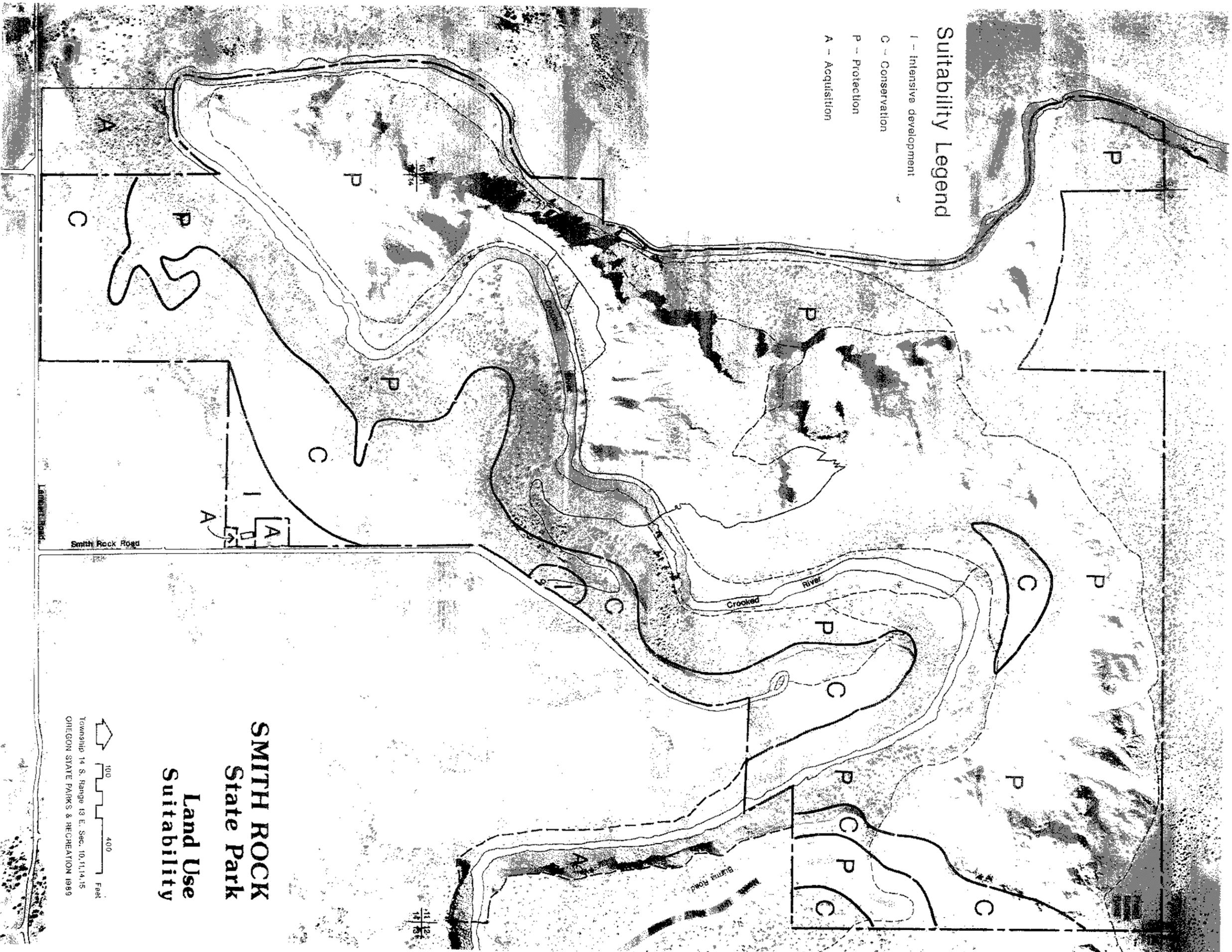
The specific activities, developments and management goals for individual parks and waysides are given in the master plan prepared for each park.

OREGON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS

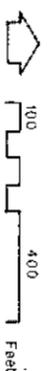
<u>Class and Description</u>	<u>Typical Activities</u>	<u>Typical Development</u>	<u>Typical Management</u>
<p><u>PROTECTION:</u> Land with important or unique park resources such as scenic or geologic features, fish or wildlife habitats, wetlands, special plant communities, rare threatened or endangered species or historic or archeological sites or hazardous conditions for development.</p>	<p>Activities having a low impact on the resource, such as pedestrian use, fishing, swimming, non-motorized boating, wildlife watching and other nature activities.</p>	<p>Trails, signs, rustic bridges, simple interpretive devices, self-contained toilets and limited parking.</p>	<p>Specific management techniques and practices are used to protect and enhance limited development/protection resources. Appropriate management for protection of public health and safety is allowed as well as for prevention of loss of developments or personal property on or adjacent to the park. The use of natural resources is encouraged to achieve these ends.</p>
<p><u>CONSERVATION:</u> Land with park resources of a lesser quality or importance than those of the limited development/protection or which are more common or tolerant of use and development qualify for this designation including scenic, or geologic features, fish or wildlife habitats, wetlands, special plant communities, or historic or archeological sites. Or lands with moderate site constraints for development. This designation is used for buffer zones to limited development/ protection areas, for open space and scenic protection or for soil stabilization or water shed protection, etc.</p>	<p>Activities having moderate impact on the resource, such as bicycling, equestrian use, primitive camping, dispersed picnicking, and any activities allowed in limited development/protection class.</p>	<p>All of the above plus primitive campgrounds, simple equestrian facilities, dispersed picnicking facilities, utilities, small structures, boat ramps and docks, secondary roads and parking lots.</p>	<p>Allows the minimum resource manipulation required to accomplish specific objectives such as insect and disease control, fire prevention and suppression, wildlife habitat improvement and visual resource enhancement.</p>
<p><u>INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT:</u> Land suitable for intensive recreation development.</p>	<p>Activities having potentially high impact on the resource. All appropriate recreation activities are allowed.</p>	<p>All recreation related development and support facilities, which are in keeping with the character of a state park.</p>	<p>Allows appropriate management activities required for the safe and enjoyable use of the area.</p>
<p><u>SURPLUS:</u> Land not suitable for PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT OR DEVELOPMENT classification which may be retained, sold or exchanged.</p>	<p>No recreation activities will be proposed for these areas.</p>	<p>All non-recreation development required to manage these lands that is not disruptive to park resources in areas in other land use classifications.</p>	<p>Allows management of these lands for profit, exchange or sale.</p>

Suitability Legend

- I - Intensive development
- C - Conservation
- P - Protection
- A - Acquisition



SMITH ROCK State Park Land Use Suitability



Township 14 S, Range 18 E, Sec. 10, 11, 14, 15
OREGON STATE PARKS & RECREATION 1999

LAND USE SUITABILITY PLAN

SMITH ROCK STATE PARK

Total park acreage: 624.11

PROTECTION

491 Acres 77%

North Unit Main Canal (access road and buffer along canal): 9 acres
Development in this area is precluded by deed restriction.

Both sides of canyon and rock climbing areas: 482 acres

This area can accommodate only limited development because of several limiting factors including steep rocky slopes, wetlands, 100 year flood zone, undisturbed plant communities nesting habitat for raptors and the need to protect the scenic quality of the canyon.

CONSERVATION

118 Acres 20%

Basalt tableland: 101 acres

Moderate development is allowed in this area because of favorable slopes and soils, and is limited by good wildlife habitat and forest scenery.

Surrounding North Unit Main Canal, near Burma Rd.: $3+12 = 15$ acres

Slopes and soils and some areas of good quality plant community limit this area to moderate development.

Flat land below Little Three Finger Jack: 2 acres

This area has important perching trees for raptors, and has some historical significance which limit it to moderate development.

INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT

13 Acres 2%

Day-use area: 5 acres

This area is already developed and highly impacted by use.

Maintenance yard/Residence: 8 acres

Soils and slopes are favorable to development here and the close proximity to the managers residence and four other private developments make this area less desirable to wildlife. A former homesite in this location has negatively impacted its scenic forest qualities.

SURPLUS

0 Acres 0%

None.

ACQUISITION RECOMMENDATIONS

57 Acres

South Roadside Viewpoint: 17 acres to provide public access to roadside views

East Canyon Climbing Area: Approximately 40 acres to provide public access to popular climbing areas currently under private ownership.

Land Use Issues

Bivouac Area Use:

The existing bivouac does not provide adequate toilet and shower facilities and provides no water. The location of the area is near the existing dayuse and dayuse parking serves the bivouac area. This creates conflicts with dayuse visitors and local use of the county road. There is no security for climber's gear left in the bivouac area.

There is a need for a new bivouac area located away from day-use areas and the county road which provides adequate facilities, but is limited to dispersed camping.

Overused dayuse area and on-street parking:

The existing dayuse area is being degraded by overuse. It serves as the only access to good viewing of the cliffs. The toilet building and overlook are not handicap accessible. On-street parking causes congestion for local traffic.

There is a need to expand rim top dayuse trails to the south where good views of the climbing area are possible. A portion of on-street parking could be eliminated and replaced with off-street parking located closer to the new overlook areas. An additional toilet building which is fully accessible would be needed to serve the new dayuse/overlook area.

The existing dayuse area needs to be rehabilitated and upgraded.

Trails:

Currently trail use is a mix of hikers, climbers and horseback riders. Heavy use has resulted in erosion and some user conflicts. Trail use is expected to increase drastically in the future. There is also a lack of sanitary facilities for trail users.

There is a need for rehabilitation, upgrading and stabilization of existing heavily used trails, as well as a need for expanded trails both along the rim top and for various user groups. Separate loop trail routing and special trail construction for horses would lessen user conflicts and environmental damage.

Separate trail connections from the new bivouac area to the climbing area would also lessen user conflicts.

Expansion of the rim trail and connection to the valley floor would provide a loop route of interest to dayuse hikers and the addition of a second bridge would be needed to complete a loop.

Unauthorized or "outlaw" trails should be discouraged through planting, earth work and signage to control erosion and damage to vegetation.

Sanitary facilities are needed at the bridge, at the climbing area and eventually at the far side of the park.

Fencing and Rock Walls:

Existing and proposed rim walks will require improved safety features to control access to the edge. Existing fencing in some places is unsightly and hazardous and needs replacing. New areas will need attractive, harmonious fencing and/or rock walls.

Unnecessary fencing within the park should be eliminated for aesthetic and safety reasons.

Necessary boundary fencing should be kept up or constructed where inappropriate private use of park lands by people or livestock becomes a problem.

Interpretation and Visitor Information:

There is no adequate informational signage at the park regarding use areas, rules and messages. There is inadequate directional signage and no interpretive signs or structures.

There is a need for informational signage at the dayuse parking areas and at the bridge. New developments would require similar signage. Directional signs are needed on the county road and along trails at major intersections. A special sign providing climbers with climb closures, courtesy guidelines, safety tips and accommodations is also needed at the new bivouac area and at the base of the climbing area.

Interpretive signs about wildlife, vegetation, geology and climbing are needed at crucial vantage points on the rim and in the valley floor.

All signs need to be useable by the full range of the disabled and by Japanese, Germans, French and Spanish-speaking people.

The Climbing Area:

In order to avoid conflicts between the climbers and spectators, areas at the base of the main climbing routes will be designated as staging areas for climbing.

Maintenance Needs:

Need to eventually acquire ownership of well, tennis courts and other inholdings in order to provide better access to maintenance facilities and allow expansion of maintenance building.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND NEEDS

Current Use

The statistics presented in this section came from the 1988 Parks Visitor Survey, which was done in July and August, the off-season for rock climbing. Day-use visitors were surveyed in 39 parks and campers in 29. See appendix for detailed survey results.

Smith Rock visitors come from larger cities and travel further than visitors to most other state parks. Smith Rock was the visitor's trip destination more often than in other state parks. Overnight visitors to Smith Rock drove an average of 53 miles further from their last overnight stop than the statewide average for campers in other state parks.

The yearly day-use attendance in 1988-89 was 302,500 and overnight attendance was 7,900.

CLIMBING: Within the past four years Smith Rock has become a nationally renowned rock climbing area, dramatically increasing its use beyond anyone's expectations. Smith Rock is considered to have the most difficult free climb in the world, (as of 1988), and it has the largest number of hard free climbs in the United States. Climbers come from Japan, France, Germany, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and other countries.

Most climbers avoid the extreme temperatures of the summer and winter. The periods of greatest climbing activity at Smith Rock are September - October and March - May.

Most of the climbing in the park occurs between Asterisk Pass and the Monkey Face/Red Wall area and upstream on the basalt rimrock. The Dihedrals area is probably the most popular. The most popular climbs usually have climbers waiting for their turn during prime climbing seasons.

TRAILS: There are seven miles of trails in every stage of development, requiring various levels of skill. A trail rehabilitation program is underway but, will take several years to complete.

There is a trail leading from the existing day-use area by the toilet building to an overlook down the canyon-side to a footbridge at the bottom of the canyon. A 5-mile loop trail parallels the river for three miles and proceeds uphill along the northern boundary of the park for another two miles before descending into the canyon again. The hike takes 3-5 hours, and the elevation gain is 970'. There are two smaller loops within the five-mile loop, but they are undeveloped, steeper and require more advanced skills.

There is another loop that drops from the day-use area into the canyon, goes upstream and out of the canyon via an old wagon road. It returns to the day-use area via the county road.

Currently, horses are allowed to share a portion of the trails with hikers. A few horseback riders occasionally unload their horse trailers at the northern parking loop. They ride down the old wagon road, ford the stream, ride up to Burma Road and into the federal land to the north. Most horseback riders live nearby.

The advent of mountain bikes has allowed bike access to the trails in the park. Currently, the mountain bikers are using the trails and damaging them, especially the newly developed trails. The ratio of mountain bikers to hikers is about 1:10.

The Park Visitor Survey showed that, at Smith Rock, 62% of the day-use visitors participated in hiking or horseback riding, compared to 46% statewide (a 16 point difference). Seventy-five percent of Smith Rock campers used trails, compared to 77% statewide. The importance of trail use, compared to 14 other activities, was ranked second by Smith Rock day-use visitors and fifth by visitors throughout the State Park system. Smith Rock campers ranked trail use third, while in the state overall it was ranked sixth.

NATURE ACTIVITIES AND INTERPRETATION: In 1988, participation in wildlife viewing at Smith Rock was about 12 percentage points higher than the statewide average among state park visitors. Smith Rock day-use visitors rated it as the second most important activity among 15 activities listed, and campers rated it as tied for fourth place. Statewide, the survey seems to indicate that it was rated among the top four parks by day-users and among the top three parks by campers. Taking photographs at Smith Rock is important to amateurs and professionals. Park visitors also watch climbers, view the scenery, picnic, go fishing and, occasionally, run the rapids in kayaks.

College geology classes are known to take field trips to the park from distant locations. Although there is no data about participation in other nature activities or geology, Smith Rock has good potential for this type of recreation.

The only interpretive material available is a brief brochure and limited trail and bivouac area directional signs.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS: There is an opportunity for primitive camping at the climbers' bivouac. Although other visitors sometimes use the bivouac, its purpose is to serve the needs of the rock climbers.

Opportunities

Smith Rock's unusual solitude and scenery, cathedral-like landforms, viewpoints, natural vegetation and nesting birds of prey offer opportunities for increased hiking, photography, climbing, nature activities and picnicking. The bulk of the recreational opportunities at Smith Rock are in the fall and spring, unlike most other parks in the system which have most visitors in the summer.

CLIMBING: Nearly all of the Smith Rock faces are currently being climbed. New routes are periodically developed by climbers due to new technology or techniques. Climbers have been reported to be using the canyon wall outside of park boundaries near Burma Road.

TRAILS: There is a potential to draw large numbers of hikers, to use existing trails; and there are areas where new trails may be developed.

Hiking groups, the State Recreation Trails Coordinator and the BLM are developing a plan to construct a trail from Smith Rock State Park, north to Gray Butte and on to the campground at Haystack Reservoir. This 10-mile long trail would pass through land managed by U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Smith Rock day-use area would become the trailhead for the proposed Gray Butte trail.

There is a potential for expansion of the day-use area along the tableland to correspond with trail and viewpoint expansion.

Mountain bike popularity at Smith Rock is likely to increase, but it is not compatible with conservation of natural resources and or with hiking and climbing below the canyon rim.

NATURE ACTIVITIES AND INTERPRETATION: There is tremendous potential for watching falcons, eagles, hawks, turkey vultures and beavers that live in the park, many other animals that can occasionally be seen there. With the right management and development wildlife watching at Smith Rock has the potential for statewide significance. With a little advance planning, wildlife viewing will be compatible with wildlife conservation, even if visitor numbers increase greatly.

There are many dramatic subjects to interpret at Smith Rock as described in the interpretation section below. The site lends itself to the development of good access for interpretation.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS: There is space for construction of a campground for tent and RV camping on the tableland, however such a campground would increase the number of hikers in the canyon, the hours/day of human-caused noise, and it would be likely to reduce the land base that supports the prey of the eagles and falcons that nest in the park. The accompanying increase in human visitation would be likely to diminish the abundance and diversity of wildlife and the quality of the natural vegetation. Also, increased numbers of visitors to the campground could adversely affect the quality of life in the adjoining neighborhood.

There is some possibility that trout fishing and kayaking may become more popular in the future, if water quality and flow increases. Site constraints and conflicts with hikers prohibit equestrian use in some portions of the park. There is need to route horses into less heavily used areas of the park and to build trails which can take horse use and not degrade the wet soils.

Needs

The 1988 State Park Visitor Survey seems to indicate that, compared to visitors in other state parks, Smith Rock campers see a much greater need to improve showers, nature/historic programs and camp sites. Smith Rock day-use visitors see a greater need to improve nature/historic programs, park security and park signs/information than visitors in other state parks. Of the 39 parks surveyed, day-use visitors in only 4 parks appeared to exceed Smith Rock visitors in the desire for "nature/historic programs". In only two parks the campers' desire for improvements appeared to exceed those in Smith Rock. See appendix for details.

In 1988-89 day-use attendance in at Smith Rock increased 42% over the average for the previous 5-year period. The increase in overnight attendance was 114%. According to the 1989 Pacific Northwest Regional Recreation Study, a 8.9% annual increase in demand for hiking, walking and climbing in Oregon is expected.

Currently there is inadequate parking and sanitary facilities as attested to in county hearings on proposed adjacent development and in public meetings with park users. Also heavily traveled areas are losing vegetation and eroding. Trails and gathering areas are in need of rehabilitation. Some trails need improvement to allow access for servicing sanitary facilities and for rescue operations.

There will certainly be an increased demand for viewing scenery, picnicking, watching climbers and other activities as Smith Rock becomes more well known and the population of Central Oregon grows. The 1988 SCORP Demand Survey estimated that the demand for climbing and mountaineering will increase 81% by the year 2000 in the north central region of the state.

Wildlife watching is a very popular activity that is expected to increase in popularity in the future. The 1988 SCORP projects a 89% increase in overall statewide demand for nature study/food gathering by the year 2000.

There is a need for interpretive material and signs covering wildlife, geology, vegetation, history and climbing.

Overnight visitors polled during the climbers' off-season at Smith Rock clearly prefer primitive camp facilities. Open areas with facilities nearby were preferred by 40%, compared to 7% of state park campers statewide. Tent sites with no hook-up were preferred by 42% of Smith Rock campers, compared to 26% statewide. There is a need for this type of facility in an area which will not conflict with dayuse visitors, or with the neighbors.

Disabled Recreationist Needs: A number of new facilities will be constructed to provide access for visitors with all types of disabilities. The new dayuse toilet building, overlook areas, dayuse parking and picnicking and bivouac area utility building all need to accommodate the disabled.

Objectives

1. Provide separation between dayuse and bivouac area. Provide parking and showers/toilets for bivouac area.
2. Expand dayuse and rim top overlooks. Provide toilet building for new dayuse area.
3. Improve and expand trail system to accommodate hikers, climbers and horseback riders. Provide sanitary facilities to accompany trails.
4. Provide road side viewpoint.
5. Expand north parking lot.
6. Construct maintenance yard and shop in area of manager's residence with direct access from county road.
7. Construct informational and interpretive signage at dayuse area overlooks and at existing bridge.
8. Maximize protection of significant wildlife and vegetation in the siting and construction of all park development projects.

Design Guidelines

1. Preserve natural appearance of park by using appropriate native species for planting, restoration and stabilization. Keep irrigated lawn areas to a minimum.
2. All buildings should be done with colors which harmonize with colors of the site, whether masonry or wood. Buildings will be sited to minimize visibility from crucial viewpoints. All buildings will be constructed to allow 100% access by those with mobility, sight, hearing and mental impairments.
3. Access from parking lots to buildings on the tableland to rim top trails will be 100% barrier free. Access cannot reasonably comply with 100% barrier free access, but could be used as challenging trails for the disabled.
4. Stabilize soils and/or hardscape heavily used dayuse picnic areas. Concentrate tables in stabilized area.
5. Bivouac area should have no designated campsites.
6. Select pavement which will harmonize with colors of the site whenever possible.
7. Create a clear hierarchy of trail use by distinctive use of materials and structures, heavily used hiking trails should be hard-surfaced with packed gravel fines. Wood or stone retaining walls and stairs may be used. Secondary hiking trails should have natural dirt surfacing and adequate drainage structures to prevent erosion. Horse trails should have stabilizing sub-grade with softer surfacing material which is easily distinguished from surrounding soils or trail edges may be marked with logs, rocks or other natural material.

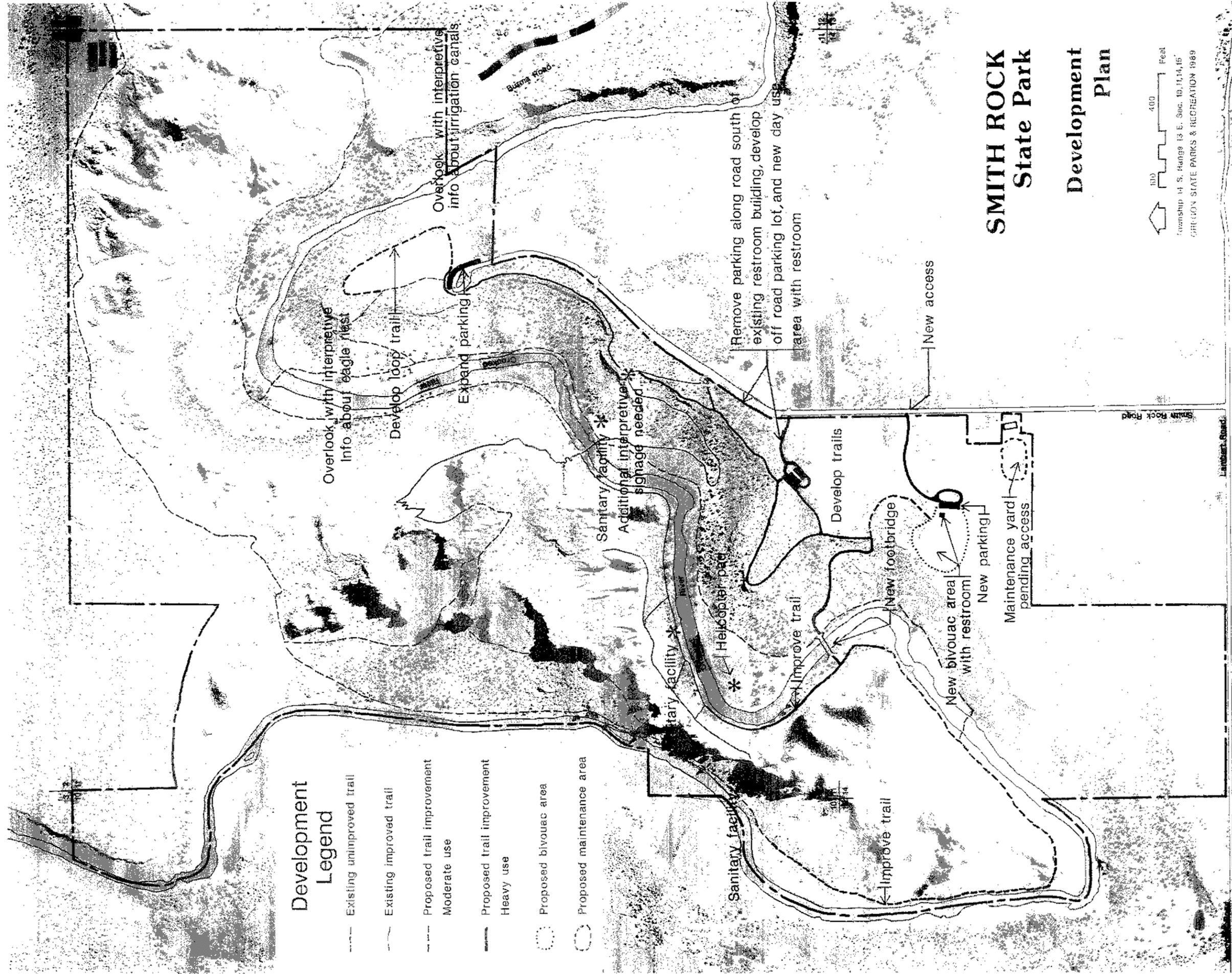
All trails should be routed to avoid wet soils as much as possible. Trail crossings of wet soils and approaches to the riparian area should be kept to a minimum.

Trails through protection areas should be carefully sited to minimize damage to the environment.

8. New rock walls should match rock used in existing rock walls. Fences on the rim top or in heavily used areas should be post and rail with black vinyl covered mesh.
9. All signs should be sited for easy approach, but should not block views. Signs should be usable by the disabled, including those with sight, hearing, mental and mobility impairments. Signs should be constructed of durable, vandal-resistant materials and be done in colors which harmonize with the surroundings.
10. Locate the maintenance shop and yard directly behind the residence and provide access directly from the county road.
11. The helicopter landing site will not be paved or hardened surfaced. No major trees will be cut to accommodate a larger landing area. Brush will be kept down within a 150 foot diameter area to be used for landing.
12. Devise a method to keep track of changes in the park's wildlife (numbers, types, nesting sites) so that management and development decisions remain consistent with goals to protect significant wildlife and vegetation. Volunteers might be recruited from the local Audubon chapter to conduct a breeding-bird survey from time to time. By this method, population declines can be determined.

Impacts of Proposed Park Development

1. Removing parking from county road should lessen congestion and loitering.
2. Expansion of the dayuse area and the addition of off-street parking will eliminate some vegetation, but should not affect the trees. The primary impact will be visual, as viewed from the county road toward the proposed parking lot. The use of natural colored pavements could lessen the impact. Wildlife use of the proposed dayuse expansion area should not be changed as this area was previously used as the bivouac area. Siting the building in the trees and using natural colors will help to lessen the visual impact.
3. Trail improvements should lessen environmental damage caused by foot traffic and by horses, create safer hiking experiences. Expanded trails along the rim may result in fewer sightings of deer in that area. The use of natural materials and harmonious colors should keep the visual impact of trails to a minimum.
4. Construction and use of the new bivouac area will have a moderate impact on the vegetation in the area. Most trees will not be affected. Human activity in the area will lessen wildlife use somewhat. The visual impact of pavement and the shower building will be lessened by careful placement in the trees and by using harmonious colors.
5. Sanitation facilities in the canyon floor will provide healthier and more attractive recreational use areas. Toilet buildings will have a low visual impact due to careful siting among trees and the use of harmonious colors.
6. Expanded facilities and increased awareness of recreational opportunities at Smith Rock will result in moderate increases in park use. This will result in some increased traffic on the county roads. Existing roads are in good condition and are adequately signed for moderate increases in traffic. The proposed county road viewpoint has good site distances for turning and should create only a minor impact on county road traffic.
7. Development proposals should not change the demand for local services.



Development Legend

- - - Existing unimproved trail
- - - Existing improved trail
- - - Proposed trail improvement Moderate use
- - - Proposed trail improvement Heavy use
- Proposed bivouac area
- Proposed maintenance area

SMITH ROCK State Park
Development Plan

100 400 Feet
Township 14 S., Range 13 E., Sec. 10, 11, 14, 15
OREGON STATE PARKS & RECREATION 1989

Overlook with interpretive info about eagle nest

Develop loop trail

Expand parking

Overlook with interpretive info about irrigation canals

Sanitary facility *
Additional interpretive signage needed

Sanitary facility *
Helicopter pad

Sanitary facility *

Remove parking along road south of existing restroom building, develop off road parking lot, and new day use area with restroom

Develop trails

Improve trail

Improve trail

New footbridge

New access

New bivouac area with restroom

New parking

Maintenance yard pending access

Smith Rock Road

Lambert Road

Construct roadside viewpoint

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

RELOCATION OF BIVOUAC AREA

Cost: (1990) \$150,000

Annual Maintenance Cost: \$ 15,000

Priority: High

Existing Conditions: Existing bivouac area is creating conflicts with day use area, toilet building and parking. Climbers feel theft of their gear is a threat if they park on the county road. Neighbors dislike congestion and loitering in the dayuse area.

Proposal: Build a new access road, parking, shower/toilet building and utilities for bivouac area at new location removed from the county road. Provide drinking water tap at building.

Development Guidelines: Building and parking should be hidden in the trees, especially from view from higher ground. Colors of building should blend with surroundings.

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS & EXPANSIONS

Cost: 1990 \$100,000

Annual Maintenance Cost: \$ 10,000

Priority: High

Existing Conditions: Overused existing trails, and necessary new trails and footbridge.

Proposal: Improve riverside trail to west side of rocks. Construct new trails from expanded day-use area and new bivouac area along cliff-edge and down to peninsula. Construct new footbridge to access climbing area.

Improve trail connections to proposed Gray Butte Trail.

Improve and expand overlook trails in all locations to accommodate handicap access from parking area.

Provide wood and vinyl coated mesh fences along cliff edge as needed.

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

TOILET BLDGS FOR HIKING TRAIL

Cost: 1990 \$ 25,000 each

Annual Maintenance Cost: \$ 2,500

Priority: High priority for toilet buildings to be located at bridge and at climbing area, low priority for the building to be located on far side of rocks.

Existing Conditions: Flood plain conditions and/or steep slopes and poor access for construction.

Proposal: 3 Wooden vault toilets

Development Guidelines: Site in tree cover and provide access for maintenance via improved riverside trail. Colors should blend with surroundings.

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

MAINTENANCE SHOP & YARD PROJECTS

Cost: 1990 \$ 50,000

Annual Maintenance Cost: \$ 5,000

Priority: High

Existing Conditions: None

Proposal: This project includes a metal-clad post building with office space and toilet, fenced yard and gravel access road and paving.

Development Guidelines: Yard should be sited near residence and out of sight from the rest of the park. Access should be through the residence area.

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTSEXPANDED DAY-USE

Cost: 1990 \$ 85,000

Annual Maintenance Cost: \$ 8,500

Priority: Medium

Existing Conditions: Existing parking is on county road, near toilet building.

Proposal: Eliminate parking from county road south of existing toilet building. Construct new access road and parking lot in vicinity of existing bivouac area. Construct type 4 toilet building.

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTSINTERPRETIVE STRUCTURES/SIGNS

Cost: 1990 \$ 50,000

Annual Maintenance Cost: \$ 5,000

Priority: Medium

Existing Conditions: 3 site locations for major displays, day-use, overlook, existing bridge and north overlook.

Proposal: Sign groupings with text and illustrations covering a range of interpretive themes.

Development Guidelines: Structures are to be open-sided and unroofed with good access from trail, but placed to be visually unobtrusive. "Natural" materials harmonious with the setting should be used.

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTSEXPAND NORTH OVERLOOK PARKING

Cost: 1990 \$ 20,000

Annual Maintenance Cost: \$ 2,000

Priority: Low

Existing Conditions:

Proposal: Double size of existing parking.

Development Guidelines: Add parallel parking spaces along existing loop.

REHABILITATION PROJECTS HANDICAP ACCESS TO EXISTING TOILET BLDG.

Cost: \$ 35,000

Annual Maintenance Cost: \$ 3,500

Priority: High

Existing Conditions: Existing toilet building is not handicap accessible.

Proposal: Provide access for hearing, sight, mental and mobility impaired disabled.

Development Guidelines: Use federal standards.

COSTS & PHASING SUMMARY

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Capitol Improvement Project</u>	<u>Costs</u>
High	Relocation of bivouac camp	\$150,000
High	Trail improvements and expansion	\$100,000
High & Low	3 Toilet buildings for hiking trails	each \$25,000
High	Maintenance shop & yard	\$ 50,000
Medium	Expanded Day-use	\$ 85,000
Medium	Interpretive structures/ signs	\$ 50,000
Low	Expand north overlook parking	\$ 20,000
<u>Priority</u>	<u>Rehabilitation Projects</u>	<u>Costs</u>
High	Provide handicap accessibility to existing toilet building	\$ 35,000
<u>Priority</u>	<u>Staffing Projects</u>	<u>Costs</u>
High	Park Manager A	
Medium	Seasonal Manager	

Maintenance and Operation

Smith Rock is operated as a satellite park from The Cove Palisades District Park.

Maintenance facilities:

Maintenance facilities include a converted Day Use Booth which is used to store hand tools, signs, small power equipment and other small objects necessary for daily maintenance. It is located within the maintenance yard, approximately one-half acre in size, at the south end of the park.

Large mowers and heavy equipment must be borrowed on an as needed basis from the District Headquarters as there are no secure storage facilities in the park.

Staff

There is one permanent Ranger and one full time park aide assigned to the park during the summer months. This staff is also responsible for the maintenance and repair of Peter Skene Ogden Wayside, Warm Springs Boat Launch Area and Mecca Flat Day Use Area.

During the winter, the Ranger is assigned to the Cove State Park making trips to Smith Rock, Ogden Wayside and Warm Springs on a twice weekly basis.

As of the start of the 1989-1991 Biennium we will have a Manager A that will reside in the park. This additional position will allow for better rule enforcement.

Management Goals

The key management goals are to protect and maintain the natural and scenic qualities of the park, improve the recreation quality of the park, maintain conditions favorable to public health and safety, establish good public relations, and achieve the most efficient management.

Interagency Coordination

- Fire district: Redmond Rural Fire District.
- Rescue service: Deschutes County Sheriffs Department, Redmond Fire District, Air Life, Deschutes County Search and Rescue.
- Police: Oregon State Police, Deschutes County Sheriff.
- Deschutes Co.
Planning Office: Community Development Department
Bend, OR
- Others: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
61374 Parrell Road
Bend, OR 97702
- Bureau of Land Management
185 E. 4th
Prineville, OR 97754

Park Management Issues and Guidelines

1) Administrative Rules for Climbers

Objective: To provide clear direction to climbers about the appropriate use of the resources at Smith Rock.

Existing Conditions: The increasing popularity of Smith Rock has resulted in use by many whose climbing methods cause visual, aesthetic and physical problems on the rock walls. Climbers have left slings, bolts, ropes and other equipment on the rock walls. The white chalk which the climbers use is also quite evident on the walls. Some climbers have also begun using hand and power drills to help in placing bolts on the walls.

Proposal: Work with the climbers to determine the best way to control the use of chalk, slings, and other kinds of climbing gear which contribute to visual degradation of the rocks.

Possibly adopt administrative rules to deal with the aesthetic, visual and physical resource degradation issues.

Hire a "climbing ranger" to work with the climbers using the park. (See Additional Maintenance Staff below)

2) Emergency Operation Procedures

Objective: To augment the standard park emergency operations procedures in order to meet the special needs at Smith Rock.

Existing Conditions: The topography at Smith Rock prevents easy access by emergency vehicles and makes it difficult to get rescue equipment to injured climbers and hikers. There is vehicular access from the day-use area to the foot bridge, and there are flat areas near the river where helicopters could land.

Proposal: Work with the local emergency service providers and rescue operations people to identify and improve access to the climbing areas of the park. Provide and maintain one or two landing areas for helicopters. Locate landing area(s) away from falcon and eagle nesting areas as recommended in the wildlife inventory section.

3) Use of Park by Professional Guides and Trainers

Objective: To monitor the use of the park by professional guides and climbing instructors who use the park for personal income-generating operations.

Existing Conditions: A number of groups such as Outward Bound and other private groups use Smith Rock as a training facility for their instructors and also offer instruction for a fee to the general public. At present, this kind of use seems to be low. Permits are not required and use is not monitored.

Proposal: Keep records of this use, and if necessary, implement a permit process or restrict professional use to keep it from interfering with the use of the area by the general public. Ensure compliance with natural resource management guidelines.

4) User Fees

Objective: To offset the costs of running the park.

Existing Conditions: The only fees charged in the park are for the bivouac area. These fees are minimal and do not cover the costs of running the campground. Climbers have indicated that they are willing to pay additional fees for the use of the park.

Proposal: Determine if it is feasible to increase the bivouac fees to cover some of the administrative cost of running the park.

5) Additional Maintenance Staff

Objective: To provide enough staff to handle the increasingly heavy use at the park.

Existing Conditions: At present, there is only one ranger assigned to Smith Rock who is there only about 60% of the time. This person must deal with all the maintenance and visitor problems which occur there. The heavy use of the park necessitates the addition of more staff.

Proposal: Upgrade the existing ranger position to a park manager. A position with enforcement authority, add another park ranger position, and add a seasonal ranger if the use warrants it.

Require the park ranger position to be a climber with communication skills who can deal and talk to the climbers using the park.

6) Additional Property Acquisition

Objective: To enhance and protect the present park boundaries and resources by acquiring additional property adjacent to the park.

Existing Conditions: Some areas have been identified as being important for the parks to acquire in order to prevent any deterioration to the park's resources and to include additional areas with outstanding recreational value.

Proposal: As these properties become available, they should be acquired if funds are available.

7) Coexistence of Rock Climbers and Nesting Raptors (Birds of Prey.)

Objective: To allow rock climbing, except in certain areas during the breeding season.

Existing Conditions: Golden eagle and prairie falcon pairs nest in the park. The nests are often close enough to climbing routes that nesting success is likely to be compromised by nearby climbing activities. Some routes pass directly through golden eagle nests.

On occasion permission has been given for special activities, such as, military or rescue training, Iron Man Competition, movie making, and low flights of aircraft in the vicinity of the cliffs.

Proposal: Close "The Sands of Time: on The Monument permanently because it passes through an eagle nest. Turn down requests for special activities that violate these seasonal closures. The only situations when aircraft would be allowed to come close to the nests would be during actual rescues or for

approved scientific research. Annually identify the nests being used by the eagles and falcons and publicize the seasonal closures listed below:

Eagle Courtship Closure: Between approximately February 15 and March 1. Areas that are visible from ALL known eagle nests and within 550 feet will be closed until the eagles choose a nest site.

Eagle Incubation Closure: March 1 to about April 30. All visible climbing and scrambling routes within 550 feet from the chosen nest will be closed.

Eagle Rearing Closure: About April 30 to July 25 (or four days after the eaglets have left the nest.) All areas visible from the nest will be closed for a distance of 1,100 feet on each side of the nest.

Falcon Courtship Closure: February 1, to about March 31. All climbing routes will be closed within 400 feet of ALL nests used by falcons in the past.

Falcon Incubation Closure: About April 1 to May 22. All visible climbing and scrambling routes within 400 feet of the chosen nest will be closed.

Falcon Rearing Closure: About May 22 to about June, that is, from hatching of the last egg to four days after flight from the nest. All areas visible from the nest, will be closed within 640 feet on each side of the nest.

NOTE: The Natural Resource Planner should periodically review these guidelines to determine whether there is a need to adjust them.

8) Use of Bicycles and Horses in the Park

Objective: To provide clear direction to visitors about the appropriate use of bicycles and horses in the Park.

Existing Conditions: There is recent evidence of use of the foot trails by mountain bikes. These bikes can cause greatly increased erosion, especially in the areas of light and easily erodible soils as found at Smith Rock. There is occasional equestrian use in the park, on and off the trails. The predicted increase in pedestrian use of the park, combined with horse use, may result in unacceptable erosion and traffic problems in the future.

Proposal: Prohibit bikes except on the paved roads, parking lots. Allow horses only within the confines of certain trails (those upstream from the existing footbridge and the designated trail on the table land), and strictly forbid ANY off-trail use except for posted areas in the parking lot and except for seasonal events which have obtained a miscellaneous use permit. Horses are not allowed on the footbridge or boardwalks. Signs should be installed to direct horseback riders. For the next few years the District may allow horses to use trails on the southeast side of the river. In the future, if 1) horses are causing too much trail and environmental damage, 2) riders fail to keep their horses on designated trails, trail stabilization and fencing work will be needed. If it is determined that trail use by horses and pedestrians has become incompatible, then the District may limit or prohibit the presence of horses in the park down river from the "Ford".

9) Trail Deterioration and Overuse

Objective: To eliminate unnecessary foot trails and reduce soil erosion in the park, especially in the canyon and on trails leading into the canyon.

Existing conditions: Heavy public use in recent years has led to creation of many side trails. Since the soils in Smith Rock are easily erodible, this has caused scarring and erosion of the landscape. Valuable riparian vegetation in the flood plain has also been damaged by unnecessary foot trails in that area. There are serious erosion problems below several climbing areas.

Proposal: Main trails and their destinations should be clearly marked so that there is no need for people to create new trails to reach their destinations. Fences should be installed where needed and small signs erected to keep people on the trails. Unneeded trails should be eliminated and revegetated with native plants. (The Soil Conservation Service in Prineville - Ron Davis, 447-4214 - will help with advice on revegetation.)

Halt the slow creeping of soil and scree at spots on the west side below Mesa Verde Wall by such measures as terracing or the building of platforms. A secondary priority would be to shore up the erosion at Revelations on the east side of Christian Brothers and Cocaine Gully in the Morning Glory area. See Development Section for references to new trail construction.

10) Impacts of Increasing Use of Park Facilities and Resources

Objective: To determine the amount of public recreation use of the park and the measurable impact of that use on the park's resources and to minimize the impacts.

Existing Conditions: Over the last few years there has been a noticeable increase in the public use of Smith Rock State Park and a consequent deterioration of the natural resources. Some valuable resources such as the eagle nests do not appear to be impacted yet, but could be in the future.

Proposal: Monitor environmental impacts on wildlife, vegetation, soils and visual resources from various uses. Avoid impacts through timely maintenance and intervention to stabilize and protect the vegetation and soils. If warranted, institute restrictions in timing or location of equestrian use, presence of dogs, access by humans. Feral dogs and cats should be removed from the park on a regular basis.

The planting of a few ponderosa pines in key locations in the canyon is encouraged to ensure the presence of perch trees for future generations of eagles. The saplings should be protected from beavers and porcupines by a barrier such as wire mesh.

11) Park Boundaries

Objective: To eliminate trespass onto park property.

Existing Conditions: Unfenced and unposted areas of the park adjacent to private property are being used by private property owners for their own uses. Occasional cattle cross the river and graze on the western edge of the park.

Proposal: Survey, post, and fence is necessary, all park boundaries, especially in areas of current trespass. Post 'No Hunting' signs if needed. Monitor the effects of cattle trespass. If damage becomes a problem, take steps to correct cattle trespass.

12) Irrigation Within the Park

Objective: To maintain most of the landscape in a native condition by restricting the irrigated areas to small lawns in the day-use and bivouac camping areas and existing wetland habitat areas.

Existing Conditions: The high desert area around Smith Rock is naturally arid. Native plants have adapted to these conditions and are best suited for the area. However, these plants are often quite sparse and a good deal of bare soil is present. In heavily used areas, it is necessary to provide some grass lawns to protect the soils and prevent unnecessary erosion. It is also necessary to provide some irrigation to establish trees and shrubs to provide shade for the comfort of the park visitors. It is desirable to preserve the wildlife and wetland vegetation associated with the existing irrigated wetlands on the tableland.

In the past, numerous juniper trees in the new bivouac area were killed by excessive irrigation due to poorly maintained irrigation ditches and culverts.

Proposal: Provide the minimum amount of irrigation necessary to accomplish the goals identified above. Routinely monitor and repair ditches and culverts so the wetland habitats receive plenty of water and that other areas are not accidentally watered.

13) Friends of Smith Rock

Objective: To create a group to perform volunteer projects and raise money for additional work to be done in the park.

Existing Conditions: Friends groups, established in other parks, have been very helpful in raising money and performing volunteer projects in their respective parks.

Proposal: Determine if a Friends group would be beneficial in accomplishing the development and management goals for Smith Rock State Park.

14) Use of Volunteers for Park Projects

Objective: To use volunteers to accomplish additional work in the park.

Existing Conditions: Increasingly heavy use of the park has contributed to the deterioration of the trails and other facilities in the park. Over the years, climbing clubs have volunteered many hours in making improvements to the trails in the park, but these groups cannot keep up with the amount of trail work needed in the park. Many climbing groups have expressed interest in working on projects in the park to improve the facilities and the trails.

Proposal: Determine which park projects are appropriate for volunteers to work on. Designate a staff person to coordinate and supervise their efforts. Use trained park people to supervise and do the needed trail work. Use knowledgeable volunteers for natural history interpretation and development of brochures.

15) Congestion of Smith Rock Road

Objective: To relieve congestion on the county road to improve access for local residents.

Existing Conditions: The county road along the existing parking area for the day-use and bivouac areas has no lines or signage to control where parking will occur.

Proposal: Some of the parking will be moved to the interior of the park, but for the remaining parking the park staff should work with the county road master to determine how best to organize signs and barriers to control access and parking. Interpretive Themes

1. Rock Climbing. Rock climbers use a two-person climber protection system consisting of ropes and other equipment to safeguard travel up and down the cliff walls. There are various techniques and styles of climbing.
2. Birds of Prey. Birds of prey and their courtship, nesting and feeding behaviors; their life history; and their awesome feats of flight are interesting topics. Each species has its own season for courtship, fledgling its young and migration.
3. Predation. In this age of urban living, few people have seen acts of predation in nature; sharp-eyed visitors will have that opportunity at Smith Rock. This is a chance to point out the positive aspects of the natural drama of predation.
4. Food Chain. The interdependency of life in the canyon is illustrated by the great horned owl which feeds on the prairie falcon, which feeds on the mourning dove, which feeds on the seeds of the plants in the park.
5. Habitats. The habitat concept is another example of interdependency. The habitats of the park could be listed with examples of animals which depend on them, for example, the beaver eats the willow bark that grows in the riparian zone. Willows are present due good management practices. Canada geese and white-throated swifts have habitats in the park.
6. Good Management. The park is a good demonstration site for the story of how good management techniques and visitor cooperation can reverse the effects of off-trail hiking and past grazing damage in the riparian zone. Visitors can help by staying on the trails. Landowners in Central and Eastern Oregon are starting to restore and protect riparian zones and watersheds because they now realize how important it is.
7. The Impacts of Disturbance. The changes in the types of plants that grow in an area can be an indication of past disturbance. Hikers have the rare opportunity to see a native bluebunch wheatgrass community on the remote upper part of the Misery Ridge Trail. The trampled, lower slopes have cheat grass, tumble mustard and spiny hopsage, instead. The scarcity of giant wildrye on the river terrace indicates the effects of past grazing and trampling.

Since the 1970s, efforts have been made to control trampling, and the riparian vegetation has been regaining its health.

8. Eagles, Falcons and Rock Climbers. Climbers and birds of prey can both use the same habitat, if the needs of the nesting birds are respected.

9. Geology. The high rocks on the north side of the river are of the Smith Rock Tuff Formation (formerly thought to be the John Day Formation.) The tall, vertical faces attest to resistance of the high silica content of this volcanic rock. The basalt on the south side was an intercanion flow just like the one that formed the "Island" at The Cove Palisades State Park 25 miles downstream.

Interpretive Methods

Some of the printed interpretive materials should be multi-lingual, especially regarding closed climbing areas and efforts to keep hikers on the trails.

1. Information kiosk(s) can house the large signs described below and serve as a bulletin board for upcoming native walks or talks. News about the eagle and falcon nestlings can be posted. Brochures can be available at the kiosks.
2. Large interpretive displays and signs can be placed at the overlook in the day-use area and near the south end of the footbridge. These should have accurate line drawings of the golden eagle and prairie falcon, as well as silhouettes showing the difference between eagles and turkey vultures in flight.

Signs can explain how the Parks Division ensures the nesting success of the golden eagles and the prairie falcons. It should be noted that adult birds are easily flushed off the nest, which puts the eggs and newly hatched birds in immediate danger of death from hypothermia.

Topics should include biology, resource management and geology.

3. Smaller signs can point out areas of concern or interest, such as the wetlands on the plateau, stumps of willows cut by beaver or area closures.
4. Brochures:
 - a. Checklist of the plants and animals of Smith Rock (a long list).
 - b. Wildlife Checkoff with about 15 illustrations of birds of prey, ground squirrels, lizards, rock climbers, etc. In the style of checkoff for Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges.
 - c. Natural resource protection through park rules and management techniques. Riparian vegetation, erosion, eagles and falcons. Request the visitor's help to achieve these goals.
 - d. Rock climbing techniques, the belay system, equipment, chalk, translated into terms the casual visitor can understand.
5. Wildlife watching walks using expert volunteers. For day-use visitors. One or two spotting scopes should be available. Perhaps the local community college or community schools could provide these services.

There is a need for more extensive signing in English, French, German, Spanish and Japanese. These signs should detail the trail system, the difficulty of the different climbs, park rules and regulations, local climbing ethics and geologic formations, flora and fauna that will be found in the park.