

2003-2007 OREGON STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE
OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

JANUARY 2003

CHAPTER FIVE
IDENTIFICATION OF STATEWIDE
OUTDOOR RECREATION ISSUES



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Prepared by the
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

CHAPTER FIVE

IDENTIFICATION OF STATEWIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION ISSUES

Public involvement plays a central and recurring role throughout the Oregon SCORP planning process. OPRD conducted 11 regional public workshops across the state during 2001 to discuss the major issues that affect the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities in Oregon.

THE PUBLIC WORKSHOP PROCESS

During October through December 2001, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department staff completed a series of 11 regional "recreational issues" workshops across the state. Each workshop included an afternoon session open to all public recreation providers and an evening session open to the general public.

The widest possible range of "public" was invited to participate in the process. For the afternoon sessions, an invitation letter was sent to all public-sector recreation providers in the state requesting participation in their respective regional recreational issues workshops. For the general public workshops (evening sessions), ads were placed for each workshop in local and regional newspapers. In addition, press releases were sent out to media outlets prior to each workshop. In keeping with the plan's regional approach and to maximize input and participation, 11 sites were selected from around the state for the issues workshops. Table 5.1 shows these workshop locations.

Table 5.1 SCORP Regional Issue Workshop Locations

Region 1: Lincoln City	Region 7: Bend*
Region 2: Beaverton	Region 8: Klamath Falls*
Region 3: Eugene	Region 9: Lakeview
Region 4: Port Orford	Region 10: Baker City
Region 5: Grants Pass	Region 11: Ontario & Burns*
Region 6: Pendleton	

*Follow-up meetings were held due to low initial workshop turnout.

Both afternoon and evening workshops included a brief description of the SCORP planning region, workshop process, and how the regional issues information was to be used in the plan. Next, participants listened to a 20 minute presentation on the statewide planning effort.

Recreational issues were defined as any high-impact issue related to providing recreational opportunities in the region. Issues could be related to outdoor recreation areas, programs, or projects. Recreational issues were divided into two categories: 1) LWCF issues directly related to LWCF funding, and 2) General issues including all other non-LWCF fund related issues. Top regional LWCF issues generated during the afternoon workshops would later be given priority in the Open Project Selection (OPSP) criteria used to evaluate LWCF grant proposals.

The objectives of the afternoon public provider workshops were to:

1. Provide attendees with a basic understanding of the SCORP planning process.
2. Identify the top 3 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) recreation issues in the region.
3. Collect comments regarding the general (non-LWCF) issues participants felt were of most importance in the region.

During each afternoon session, participants were given an opportunity to state their comments

about those LWCF issues that they felt were most important. Each comment was recorded on a flipchart, and similar comments were combined.

Next, a voting process was used to identify the top 3 LWCF issues for the region. Finally, a similar process was used to collect comments about general (non-LWCF) issues of importance.

The objective of the evening public workshops was to:

1. Provide attendees with a basic understanding of the SCORP planning process.
2. Collect comments regarding the LWCF and general issues participants felt were of most importance in the region.

Representatives from 70 public-sector provider organizations (including representatives from federal, state, county and municipal agencies; Park and Recreation Districts; Ports; and Native American Tribes) and many citizen and interest groups participated in the process. A total of 260 individual issue comments were gathered during the workshops.

Next, all comments gathered at the regional public recreation provider and general public workshops were posted on the SCORP planning website for a comment period from January 21 to March 1, 2002. The site was developed to allow for electronic submittal of comments. A letter was sent to each workshop participant requesting that they review the website comments list to ensure that their comment(s) had been recorded properly. In addition, a letter was sent to recreation user groups across the state requesting additional comments through the website. One hundred and two additional issue comments were gathered through this website.

Note: A listing of these 362 issue comments, arranged by SCORP planning region, is included in Appendix H.

LIST OF TOP REGIONAL LWCF ISSUES

As previously mentioned, participants at each of the 11 public-sector recreation provider workshops were given an opportunity to vote for the top 3 LWCF issues in their respective regions.

The following list includes those top LWCF issues identified through this voting process.



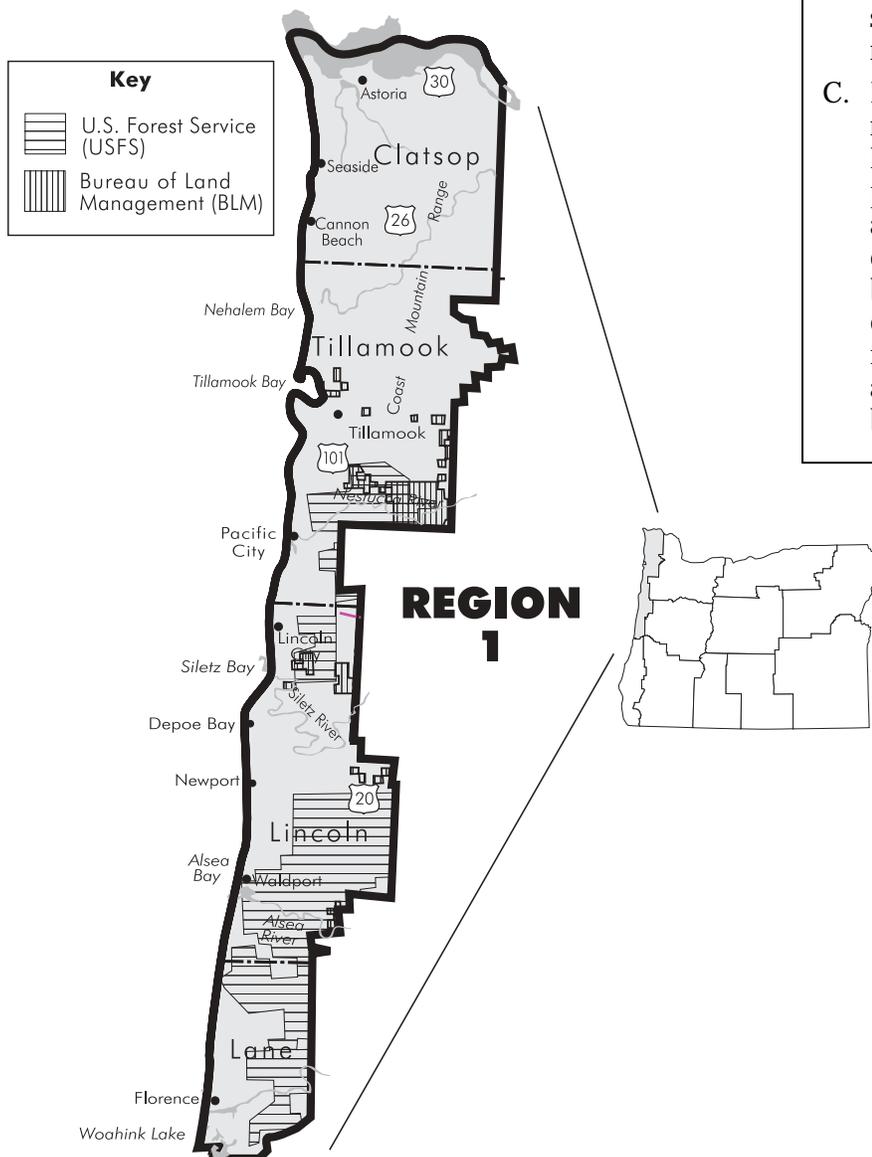
TOP LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND ISSUES

SCORP PLANNING REGION 1

(Includes Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln and Coastal-Lane Counties)

- A. Funding priority for additional camping facilities. Need to enlarge existing campgrounds or provide new facilities to offset loss of private facilities that are either converting to time-share management or going out of business. There is also a lack of semi-primitive motorized (car and tent) camping opportunities.
- B. Funding priority for new river access facilities and rehabilitation of existing river access facilities. There is a lack of developed river access facilities for angling, swimming, kayaking, canoeing and sunbathing. In addition, there is a need for rehabilitation of existing river access facilities.
- C. Funding priority for additional non-motorized recreational trails. Need for additional recreational trails in close proximity to populated areas. This includes acquisition of land or easements for trails and trail connections. There is also a need for off-highway bicycle trails. At present, there is an increasing demand for hiking, biking, and equestrian trails in the coast range and along the coast. There is also a need for longer trails for multiple-night backpacking trips.

Figure 5.1. SCORP Planning Region 1



SCORP PLANNING REGION 2

(Includes Columbia, Washington, Multnomah, Hood River, Yamhill, Clackamas, Polk and Marion Counties)

- A. Funding priority for land acquisition to keep pace with population growth and rising land costs. Land acquisition of open space in high-growth areas to satisfy current needs and banking for future needs. Identify and purchase key parcels before being acquired by developers or land values rise to the point of being unaffordable. Land acquisition should include natural areas, land for recreation development and open space.
- B. Funding priority for major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities. The current recreational infrastructure (utilities, roads, trails and buildings) is aging and in need of major rehabilitation. Statewide standards are needed to determine design life and budget needs associated with facility maintenance. Deferred maintenance results in the need for major rehabilitation. State should consider reducing the grant applicant match (currently 50%) for rehabilitation projects to provide an incentive for recreation providers to catch up on current rehabilitation backlog.
- C. Funding priority for non-motorized recreational trail connectivity. Specific examples of trail types include hiking, biking and equestrian trails (multiple-use trails). Funding priority should be given to projects linking local, regional, and federal trail systems. The objective is to connect communities, existing park and natural areas, and outlying federal trails into an inter-jurisdictional trail system. Good examples of interconnecting trail opportunities are found in the Columbia Gorge Chinook Trail Plan and in the extension of the Springwater Corridor Trail from Boring to Estacada.

Figure 5.2. SCORP Planning Region 2

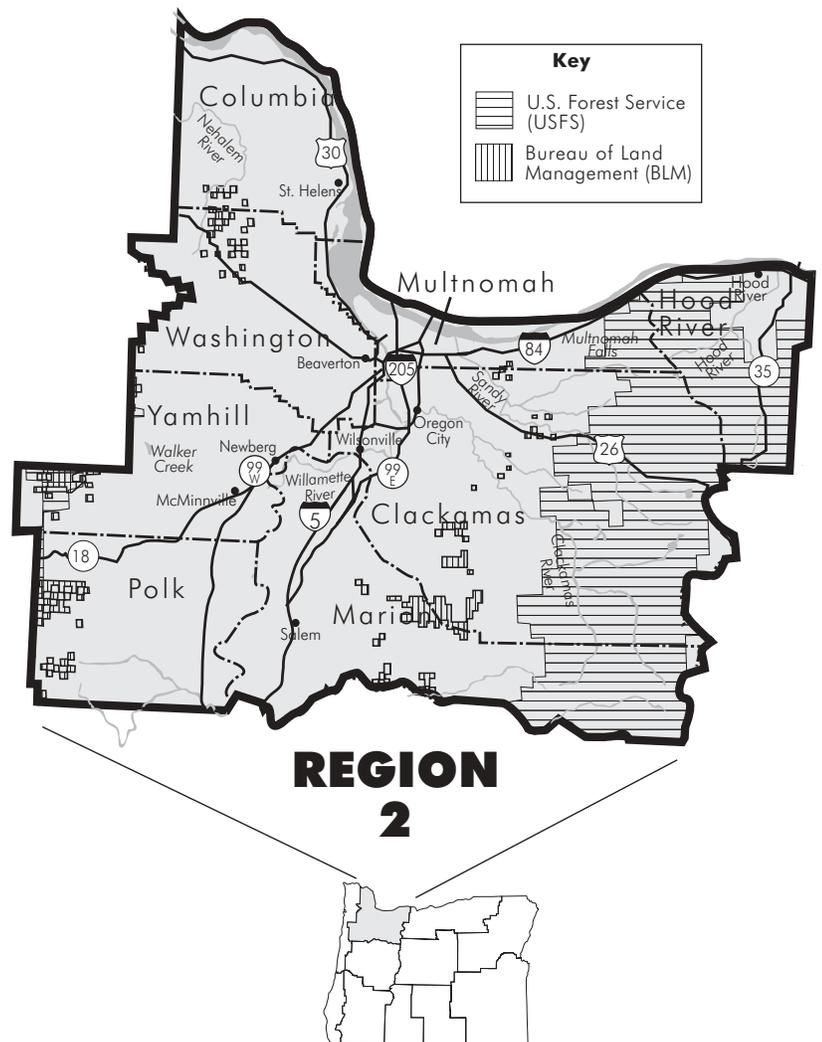
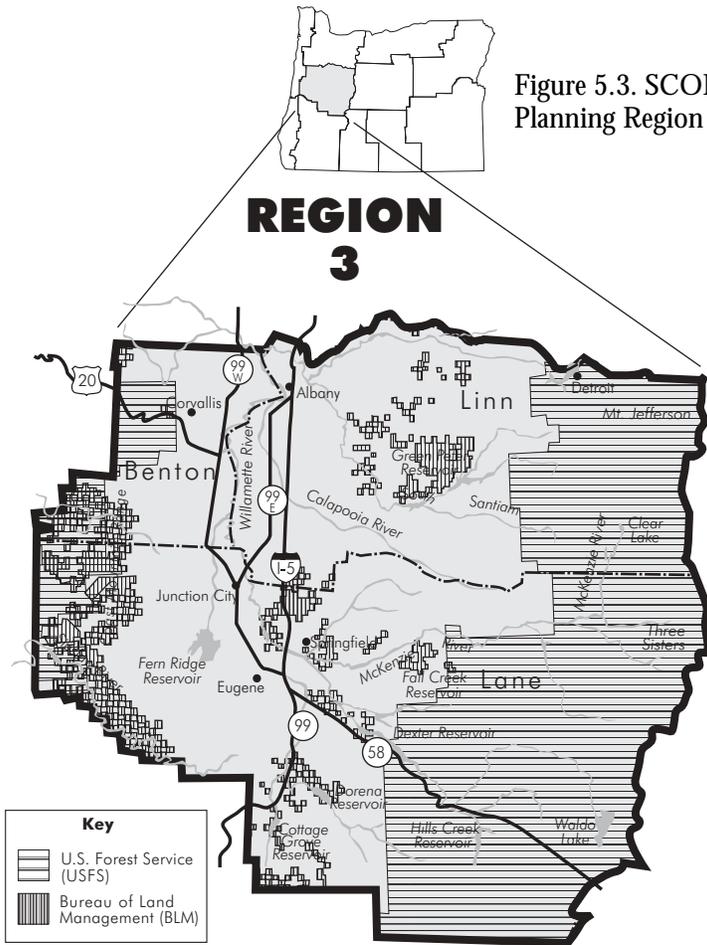


Figure 5.3. SCORP Planning Region 3



SCORP PLANNING REGION 3

(Includes Benton, Linn and non-coastal Lane Counties)

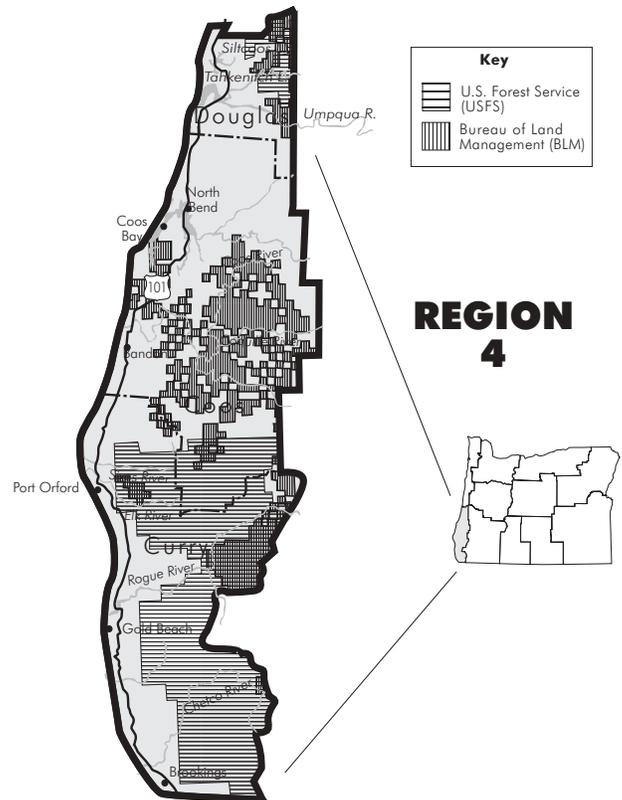
- A. Funding priority for major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities.
Examples of major rehabilitation projects include irrigation systems, play equipment, lighting, picnic shelters, restrooms, retrofitting of facilities for ADA accessibility, and river access facilities.
- B. Funding priority for non-motorized recreational trail connectivity.
Provide more connectivity between parks, schools, and senior centers. Funding priority should be given to projects connecting communities, existing parks, and that better connect parks into the existing transportation network.
- C. Funding priority for river corridor acquisition.
Provide funding priority for projects providing river and water access.

Figure 5.4 SCORP Planning Region 4

SCORP PLANNING REGION 4

(Includes coastal Douglas, Coos and Curry Counties)

- A. Funding priority for major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities.
The coastal climate results in rapid deterioration of outdoor recreation facilities. Specific examples include facility infrastructure (utilities/buildings), historic structures, parking and the need to retrofit facilities for universal access (ADA accessibility).
- B. Funding priority for park improvements on historic properties.
There is a need for park improvements at existing historic sites.
- C. Funding priority for preserving or acquiring coastal access and view sheds.
There is a need to acquire high-value coastal properties for public recreational use. Specific acquisitions include areas identified for public beach access and those necessary to maintain a natural experience for beach users (e.g. undeveloped coastal areas in proximity to beach access points). Key coastal parcels should be identified and purchased before development occurs.



SCORP PLANNING REGION 5

(Includes non-coastal Douglas, Josephine and Jackson Counties)

- A. Funding priority for major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities. Specific examples include utilities, buildings, campground sites (e.g. size and power requirements for RV sites), trails and upgrading facilities to meet current ADA accessibility requirements.
- B. Funding priority for Environmental/Interpretive Centers in parks. Centers should be located near a metropolitan area in the region and provide information for local residents and visitors from outside the region. In addition, a one-stop website should be developed for accessing regional natural resource and outdoor recreation information.
- C. Funding priority for motorized and non-motorized trail connectivity. Specific examples of trail types include walking, hiking, bimodal non-motorized and motorized trails. Funding priority should be given to projects connecting communities (e.g. Ashland to Medford) and communities to outlying recreation areas and trail systems. Potential projects include land acquisition, purchase of recreational easements, trail development and parking space for trail access. In addition, trail brochures and maps should be developed to direct the public towards available trail opportunities in the region.

Figure 5.5. SCORP Planning Region 5

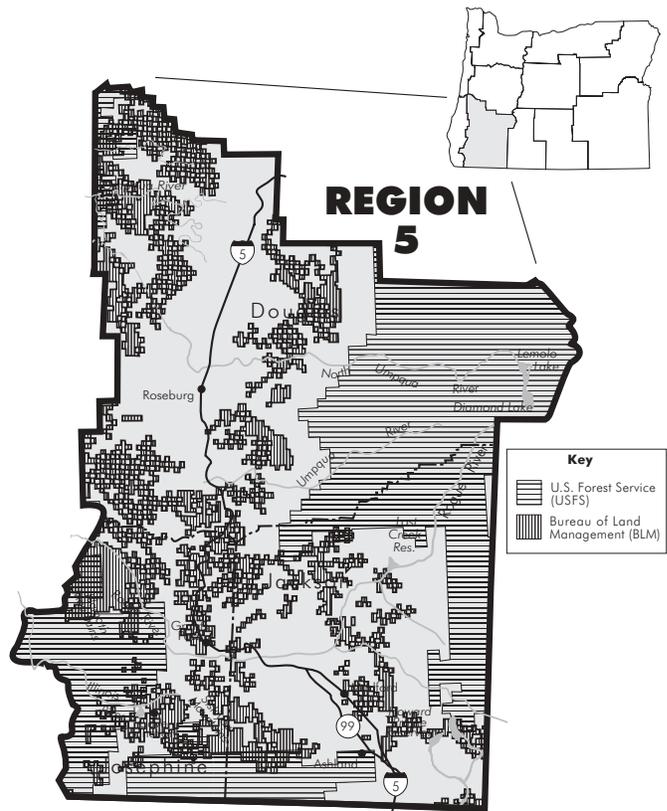
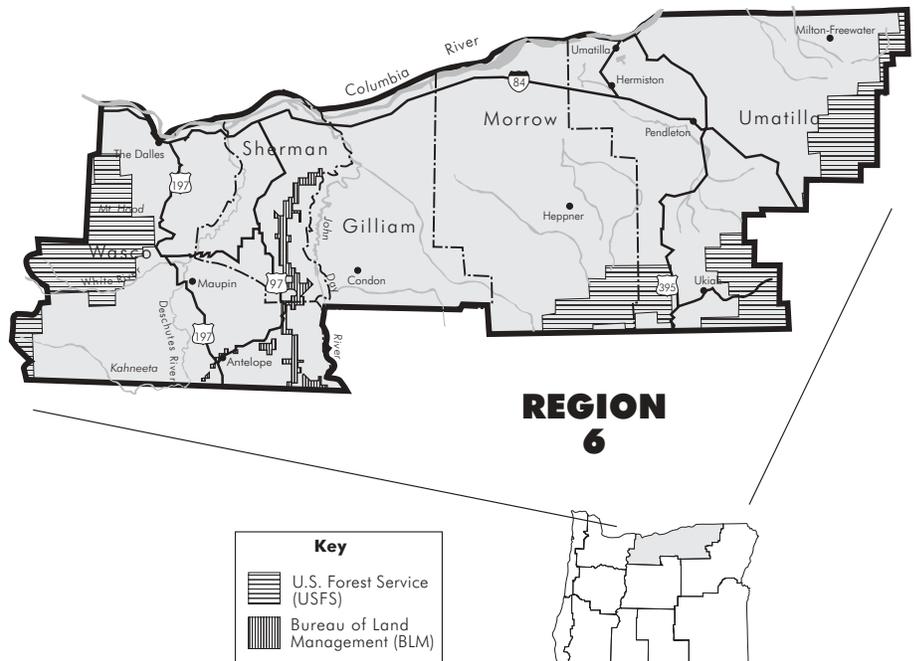


Figure 5.6. SCORP Planning Region 6

SCORP PLANNING REGION 6

(Includes Wasco, Gilliam, Morrow and Umatilla Counties)

- A. Funding priority for major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities. A number of park facilities built in the early 70's are in need of major rehabilitation. Many were funded through the LWCF grants program. Examples include playground equipment (safety concerns), outdoor swimming pools, major infrastructure (including water, sewer and electrical systems) and providing ADA accessibility for boat ramps, trails, old buildings, restrooms, playgrounds and sidewalks.



- B. Funding priority for additional camping and associated support facilities. There is a need for additional RV and tent campsites and alternative camping facilities such as cabins, yurts and support facilities (e.g. restrooms, basic infrastructure such as water and electricity).
- C. Need for additional non-motorized recreational trails and associated support facilities. Specific examples include hiking, equestrian and heritage trails and support facilities such as trailhead parking and amenities.

Figure 5.7. SCORP Planning Region 7

SCORP PLANNING REGION 7

(Includes Jefferson, Wheeler, Crook and Deschutes Counties)

- A. Funding priority for non-motorized recreational trail connectivity. Specific examples of non-motorized trail types include hiking, biking and equestrian trails (multiple-use trails). The objective is to establish trail connectivity within the region, especially between the urban areas and surrounding public lands (urban/forest interface). Specific examples of projects receiving priority include land acquisition for trail right-of-ways, easements, trail construction and facility development such as bridges, parking areas, restrooms and garbage collection. A specific need was mentioned for the purchase of canal lands for trail development (e.g. Central Oregon Irrigation District). Also, there is a need for long-distance bicycle loop riding opportunities in urban, urban/forest interface and rural areas within the region. Finally, there is a need for a Deschutes River pedestrian crossing to link the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) to U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands. There is a similar need for a pedestrian crossing at the southern end of Tumalo State Park in order to continue the existing trail along the river and up Tumalo Creek to Shevlin Park and beyond.
- B. Need to acquire land or conservation easements for the protection of natural areas, open space and water access in and around urbanized areas and developing areas. The need is associated with rapid population growth within the region. In the Bend area, there are diminishing opportunities for acquisition of urban open space and green space of all types due to a rapid build out.
- C. Need for additional camping and day-use areas/facilities and major rehabilitation of existing facilities to include accommodations for group use. Specific examples of camping facilities include tent camping and RV mixed-use facilities. Such facilities would serve family reunions, picnics and the recreational needs of a growing Hispanic population within the region.

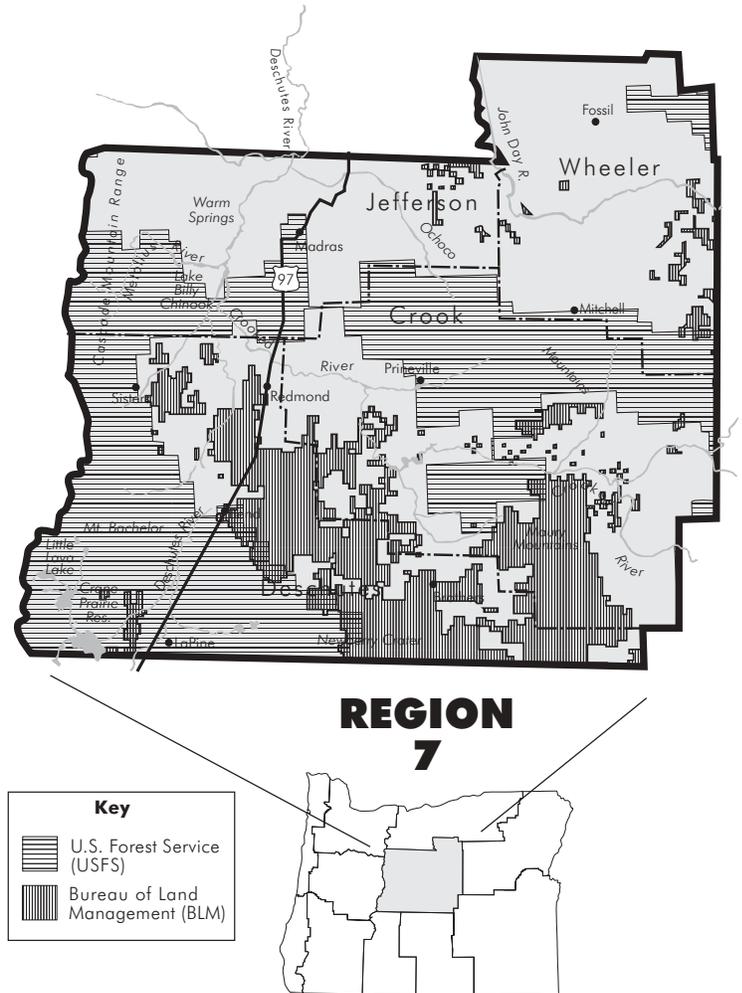
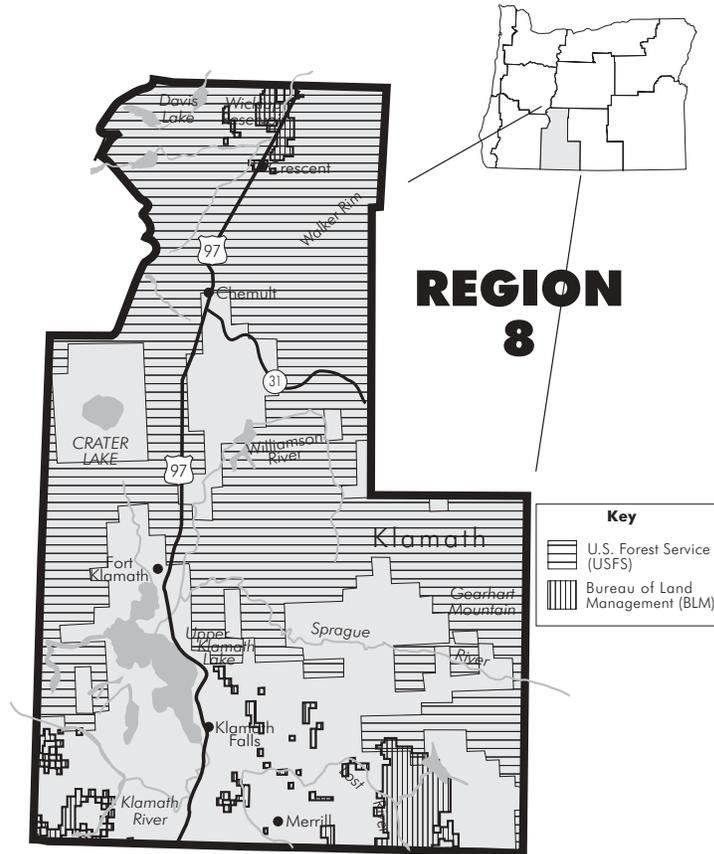


Figure 5.8. SCORP Planning Region 8



SCORP PLANNING REGION 8

(Includes Klamath County)

- A. Need for additional youth recreation facilities in small communities in the region. Small communities are defined as any community with the region other than Klamath Falls. Specific examples include BMX and skate board parks, basketball courts and athletic fields.
- B. Need for additional multi-use trails in small communities and connecting small communities in a regional trail network. Multi-use trails should accommodate walking, jogging, biking and rollerblading activities.
- C. Need to secure current and additional access to public lands and waters. There is a need for land acquisition strategies and pursuit of legal easements within the region to provide adequate land and water-based recreational opportunities and motorized and non-motorized access. Scattered public land parcels often lack public access and are unmanageable from a recreational perspective. Water access includes facility development such as parking, trails, restrooms and boat ramps. Potential strategies include securing legal road and trail easements, land acquisition and land consolidation (exchanges/sales).

SCORP PLANNING REGION 9

(Includes Lake County)

- A. Funding priority for indoor or outdoor swimming pool facilities. Existing pool facilities in the region are reaching the end of their useful life (e.g. Lakeview pool is 50 years old). It is no longer cost effective to maintain aging pool facilities within the region.
- B. Funding priority for restroom facilities at recreational areas along highway corridors. There are insufficient restroom facilities for those traveling to recreation areas in the region. A number of recreation area restrooms are being removed from service (not designed for the high use they are receiving). The lack of restroom facilities is creating a health and safety issue within the region. Restroom facilities should also include RV dump stations where appropriate.
- C. Funding priority for major rehabilitation of existing campground and forest camp facilities. Examples of camping facilities requiring major rehabilitation include forest camp toilets, campground water systems and ADA accessibility.

Figure 5.9. SCORP Planning Region 9

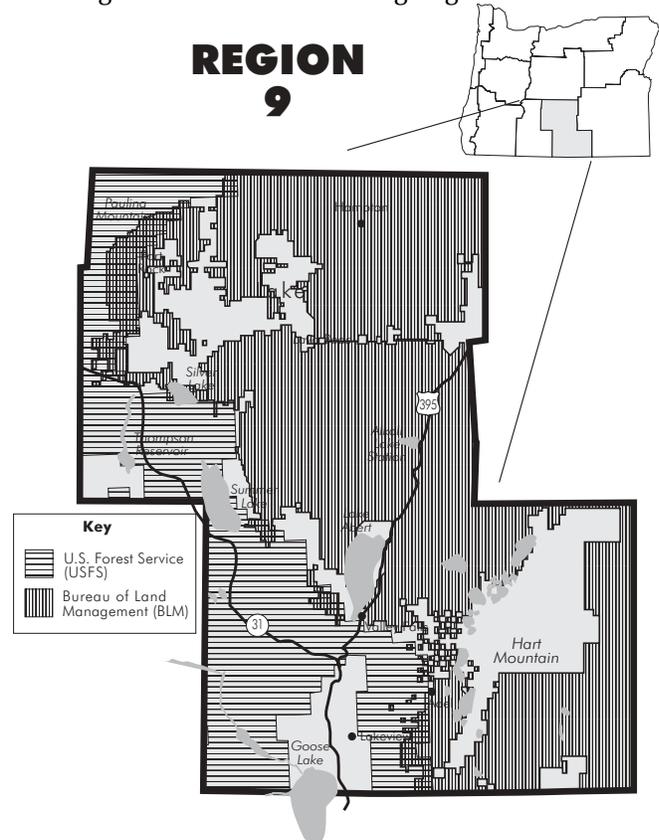
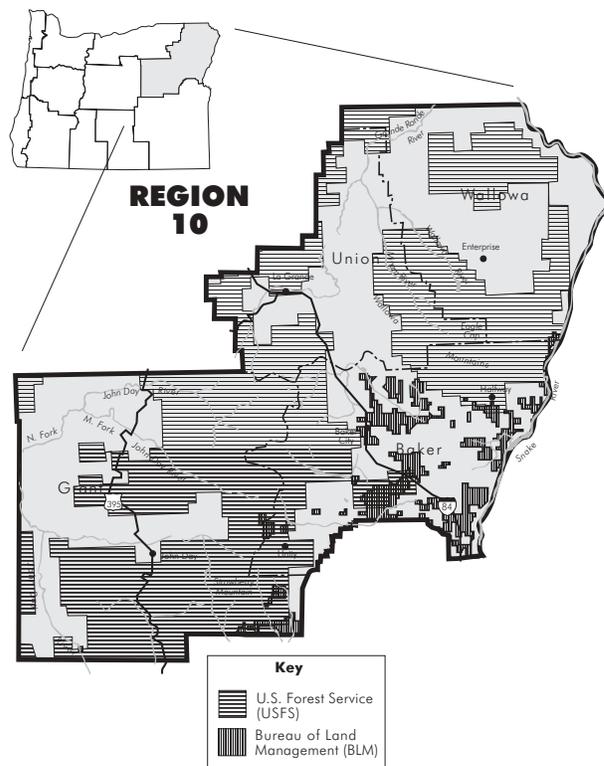


Figure 5.10. SCORP Planning Region 10



SCORP PLANNING REGION 10

(Includes Grant, Baker, Union and Wallowa Counties)

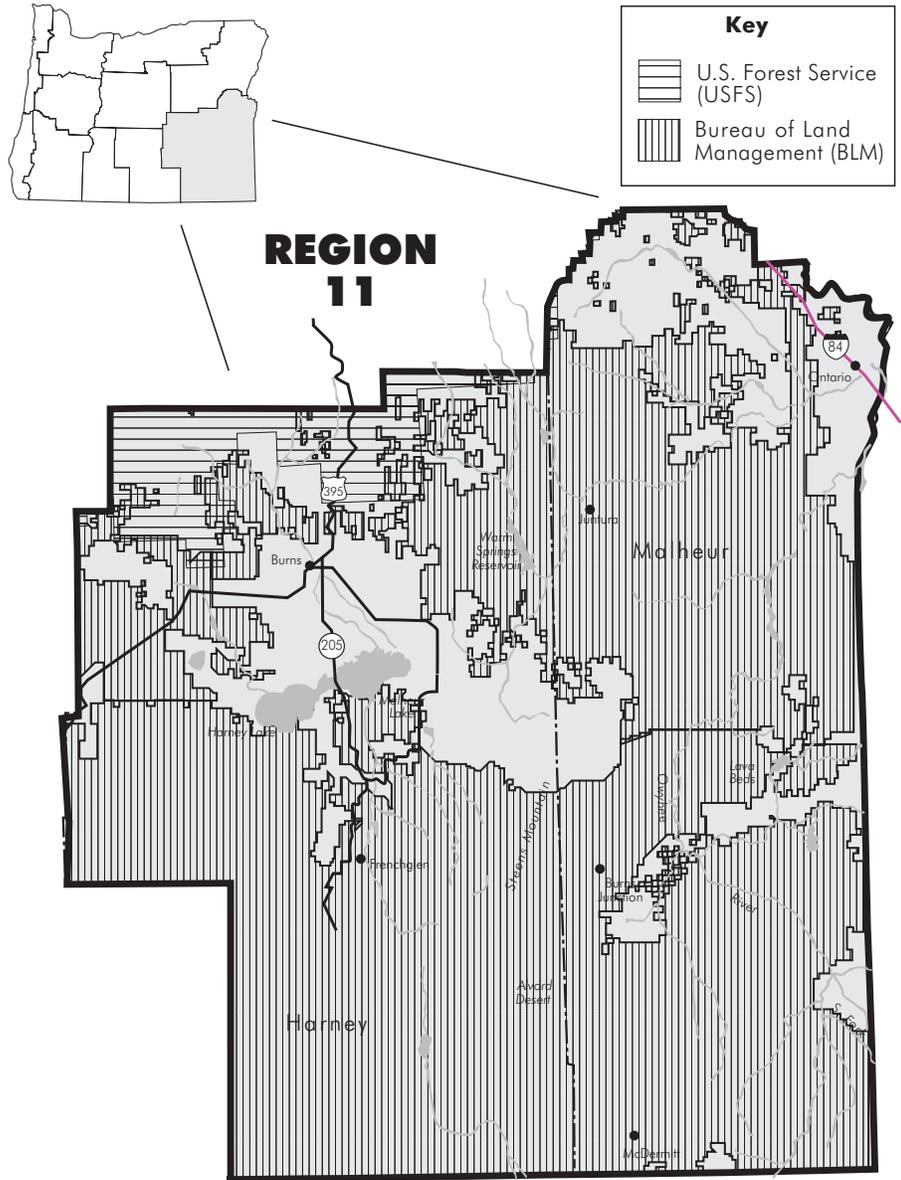
- A. Funding priority to provide recreational access to public lands. Historical access to BLM lands through private roads is being lost. Priority should be given for land acquisition for trail development (motorized & non-motorized) and purchase of easements for access to public lands through private property.
- B. Funding priority for major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities. Examples of facilities requiring major rehabilitation include paving, existing public pools, tennis courts, playgrounds, youth camps, OHV areas, watchable wildlife facilities, aging recreation facilities and ADA accessibility.
- C. Funding priority for winter recreation facilities. Examples of winter recreation facilities include snow parks, snowmobile parking and trails, shelters and winter RV camping spaces.

Figure 5.11. SCORP Planning Region 11

SCORP PLANNING REGION 11

(Includes Harney and Malheur Counties)

- A. Funding priority for additional outdoor swimming pools and major rehabilitation of existing pools within the region.
- B. Need for development/continued development of urban non-motorized, multi-use trails within the region (e.g. a trail connecting Burns and Hines). Specific examples of trail development projects would include land acquisition, trail development, trail surfacing, parking and interpretive signing.
- C. Funding priority for major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities. Examples of facilities requiring major rehabilitation include campgrounds, upgrading RV site hookups, restrooms, picnic tables, fire rings, water-based facilities, tennis courts, ball fields and ADA accessibility.



DETERMINING TOP STATEWIDE ISSUES

The initial set of Top Statewide LWCF Issues were identified by examining the number of times a particular funding related issue was determined as a top regional issue. Top Statewide LWCF Issues are those most frequently voted as a top regional issue

The following table includes a listing of those issues voted as a "Top 3 Regional LWCF Issue" in multiple SCORP planning regions.

Table 5.2. Number of Regions Voting For A "Top 3 Regional LWCF Issue"

Need For Major Rehabilitation of Existing Outdoor Recreation Facilities	9 Regions
Need For Recreational Trails/Connectivity	8 Regions
Need For Land Acquisition	5 Regions
Need For Additional Camping Facilities	3 Regions
Need For Outdoor Swimming Pools	2 Regions

 Identified as a Top Statewide Issue

Using this method, the three highlighted issues included in Table 5.2 were identified as Top Statewide LWCF Issues.

Next, OPRD staff further refined and summarized all remaining LWCF and general issue comments into a set of 23 issue categories. A brief summary was prepared for each of the issue categories, including a description of the issue category and the number of issue comments collected during the comment collection process in each issue category. The number of issue comments collected in a given category provided a measure of the relative importance of the issue category to workshop and internet participants. Finally, a copy of this issue summary was sent to each member of the SCORP Advisory Committee.

During the April 2, 2002 SCORP Advisory Committee Meeting, a voting process was used to determine two additional statewide LWCF issues and three statewide general issues. Results of this voting process are shown in the following two tables.

Table 5.3. SCORP Advisory Committee Voting "Other LWCF Issue" Categories

Issue Category	# of Comments From Issue Collection	# of Advisory Committee Votes
Need for Ball Fields	41	9
Need for Camping Facilities	18	5
Need for Additional OHV Facilities	17	5
Need for Water-Based Recreational Facilities	17	12
Need for Winter Recreation Facilities	13	1
Emerging Recreational Resources/Facilities	11	0
Need for Swimming Pool Facilities	8	0
Need for Shooting Facilities	5	0
Need for ADA Accessibility of Resources/Facilities	4	1
Need for Day-Use Facilities	4	1
Need for Primitive-Setting Resources/Facilities	2	5

 Identified by SCORP Advisory Committee as a top Statewide Issue

Table 5.4. SCORP Advisory Committee Voting "General Issue" Categories

Issue Category	# of Comments From Issue Collection	# of Advisory Committee Votes
Recreational Planning/Technical Assistance	41	10
Tourism/Economic Development	30	7
LWCF Grant Process	24	2
Recreation Funding/User Fees	22	10
Resource Protection/Environmental Education	21	12
Law Enforcement/Safety	20	1
Facility Maintenance	14	5
Interagency Coordination/Cooperation	10	0
Loss of Access to Recreation Lands	8	8
Land Use Regulations	6	0
Recreational Programming	2	1
Historic Preservation	1	1

 Identified by SCORP Advisory Committee as a top Statewide Issue

The final set of Top Statewide Outdoor Recreation Issues for the 2000-2005 SCORP plan are as follows:

- Statewide Issue A: Need For Major Rehabilitation of Existing Outdoor Recreation Facilities
- Statewide Issue B: Need For Recreational Trails/Trails Connectivity
- Statewide Issue C: Need For Land Acquisition
- Statewide Issue D: Need For Ball Fields
- Statewide Issue E: Need For Water-Based Recreation Resources and Facilities
- Statewide Issue F: Need For Recreational Planning and Technical Assistance
- Statewide Issue G: Need For Recreational Funding/User Fees
- Statewide Issue H: Need for Resource Protection/Environmental Education