

Notice of U.S. Department of Interior Act Section 6(f) Proposed Conversion and Replacement, I-5 Willamette River Detour Bridge Project, Lane County, Oregon

Willamalane Park and Recreation District (WPRD), in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), is proposing to remove a 1.72-acre portion of land within Alton Baker Park in Springfield from federal Section 6(f) protection. The land was needed for construction of the I-5 Willamette River Detour Bridge Project (Project) which was built in 2003-2004. This proposal is analyzed in an environmental assessment, in accordance with federal regulation 36 CFR 59.3.

During 2003-2004, ODOT decommissioned the interstate bridge over the Willamette River in response to an urgent need to build a detour structure to allow interstate and local traffic to continue to cross the river. The 1.72 acres of parkland was needed for staging and storage of construction materials, and use of portions of an existing multi-use path which was used to haul materials to and from the construction site. The parkland is located in Eastgate Woodlands within the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park and was used for construction staging activities. All of Alton Baker Park is federally-protected by Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act which requires that parkland impacted over 180 days be permanently replaced. Willamalane Park and Recreation District (WPRD) proposes to permanently exclude the 1.72 acres from protection and replace this conversion-of-use impact with an estimated 30-acre replacement park property (owned by ODOT in the West Eugene Wetlands area).

WPRD and ODOT invite the public to comment on an environmental assessment required by the National Park Service to analyze and disclose the adverse and beneficial impacts of the conversion and replacement property proposal.

Please submit comments (accepted until March 5, 2010) to Susan Vickers (ODOT) at 503-986-3519 (Salem) or email at susan.vickers@odot.state.or.us. Additional project information can also be found at the current Willamette River Bridge replacement project website:

www.willamettebridge.org

Comments or questions may be directed Rick Little, ODOT PIO, 541-505-2069 or email at: Richard.little@odot.state.or.us.