



Draft Master Plan for Cottonwood Canyon State park Newsletter - February 2011

The draft master plan is almost ready for review.

Oregon's state park system is nearing the beginning of its second century. As the decades have swept past, state parks have retained the core values of the mission statement; conserving land we value most and a place where people can connect with our spectacular natural home. New parks are a gift to the next generation. The planning effort for Cottonwood Canyon attempts to outline the vision for Oregon's largest new state park in a generation. This plan represents a shared vision among

Western Rivers, the BLM, OPRD, and the citizens of Oregon, especially those living in Sherman and Gilliam County who have attended all of the public meetings for the park and are continuing to support this effort as we move to the next stage of drafting the park plan with a view to opening in 2013.

We are cooperating with the Western Rivers Conservancy and the federal Bureau of Land Management is working with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to create a seamless boundary for Cottonwood Canyon State Park that covers land belonging to the three parties. Completing the plan - it's values, goals, strategies and actions - has been a shared effort with members of the local community, the regional public, community partners (including a neighbor group, local chamber of commerce, equestrian groups, and the Lower John Day Working Group to name a few), assisting agencies and recreation and resource advocates.

The department began planning for the park this winter, with issue scoping meetings in April 2010. From those meetings values and goals were developed that call for restoration of the landscape, while at the same time providing access for recreation and a variety of intimate camping experiences. Public meetings held in August 2010 reviewed, refined, and added to these value and goals. In January of this year, a further series of public meetings led to the development of strategies, actions and concepts for the park. The culmination of this work is the creation of a draft plan that summarizes and describes the values, goals, strategies and actions for Cottonwood Canyon State Park.

The draft master plan is nearly completed, and will be ready for public review on or about April 18, 2011. A second round of advisory committee and public meetings will be held at the times and location below to introduce the draft plan. Anyone can review the draft plan at the OPRD website or at the locations listed in this newsletter.

Meetings scheduled to discuss the draft plan

Monday April 25th 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Sherman County Public Library, Program Room, Moro Advisory Committee Public Meeting
Tuesday April 26th 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Veterans Memorial Hall, Condon Public Meeting
Thursday April 28th 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Tryon Creek, Portland Public Meeting

What Will Happen At These Meetings?

We will not adopt or approve the master plan at these meetings. The purpose of the meetings is to provide an overview of the draft master plan to help interested parties conduct an informed review of the plan during the written comment period that will extend until late May, and to hear any comments that meeting participants want to make at the meetings. Members of the public may attend the afternoon advisory committee meeting, however, only comments from the advisory committee will be taken at this meeting. The evening meetings are the general public's opportunity to comment.



What Will Happen After These Meetings?

Interested parties may submit written comments on the draft plan up until May 27, 2011. In late July, staff will present the draft plan to the State Parks Commission, together with any recommended changes from the public meetings and comment period, and hear their comments. If the plan is approved by the State Parks Commission, OPRD begins a more formal process that will lead to the eventual adoption of the master plan through local County Land Use and in State rule.

Where Can I Review The Draft Plan?

On or about April 18, 2011, the draft plan will be available for review at the following locations:

OPRD web site	http://cottonwoodcanyon.wordpress.com
Local libraries	Sherman County Public Library, Program Room, Moro Gilliam County Public Library, 310 S Main St Condon, OR 97823
OPRD offices – Salem Bend	OPRD headquarters office in Salem (see address below), or 1645 N.E. Forbes Road, Suite 112, Bend, OR 97701.

If you need your own copy of the draft plan, you may request a copy by contacting OPRD. See the contact information below.

Questions or Comments?

Please direct questions or comments to Mark Davison, Master Planning Coordinator:

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Meeting notices and project updates will be available at: <http://cottonwoodcanyon.wordpress.com>

The services, programs and activities of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If accommodations are needed, please call the number listed above at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.