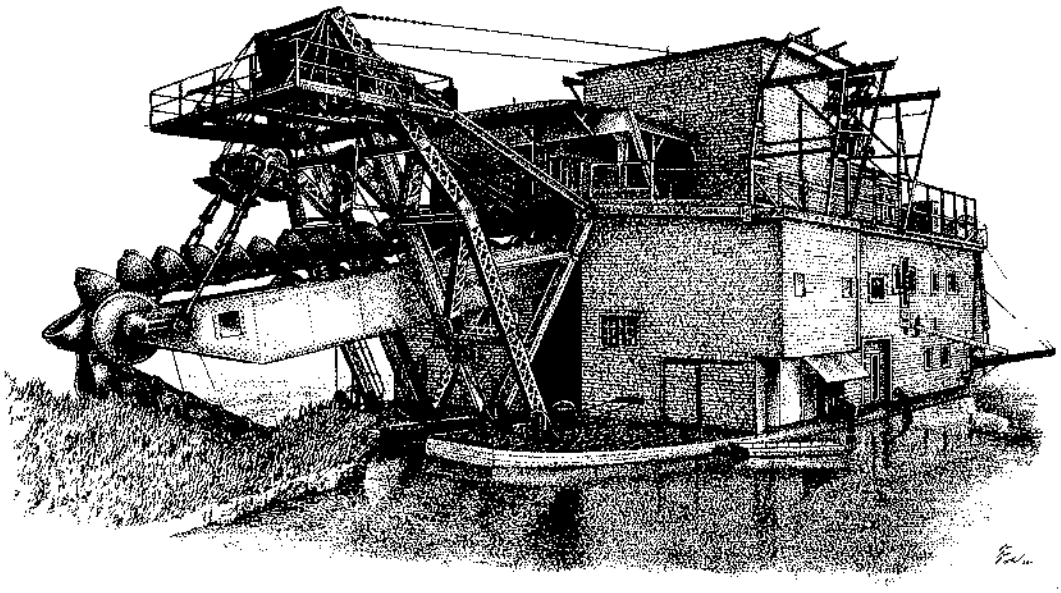
OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SUMPTER VALLEY DREDGE STATE PARK



MASTER PLAN

■1994■

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PURPOSE OF THE MASTER PLAN

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) prepares master plans for its park ownerships as mandated in ORS 390.180. The purpose of the plan is to determine the carrying capacity of the lands and to guide appropriate long range OPRD recreational use, development and expansion, and the enhancement and management of resources. The plans are also intended as a source of information for other agencies, local jurisdictions and for the general public about OPRD resources, facilities and future plans.

The master plan satisfies the department's obligation, under OAR 736 Division 70 (State Agency Coordination Rule), to coordinate our planning efforts with affected agencies.

The completed master plan provides a detailed and comprehensive understanding of:

* Recreation demand and opportunities.
* Resource values and sensitivities.
* Development constraints.
* Interpretive opportunities.
* Appropriate recommendations for expansion of facilities and lands.
* Appropriate recommendation for resource management and enhancement.

PLANNING PROCESS

The department has developed a master planning process which offers opportunities for review and discussion of the plan throughout the process. Issues and strategy are discussed at many stages of plan development by field and program managers, department administrators, staff, advocacy groups, other agencies and jurisdictions, members of the public and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission. An outline of the process follows.

1. Introductory meetings are held with the pubic, the local steering committee and field staff. The steering committee included representatives from federal and state agencies, and local government and advocacy groups. This initiates the master plan process. Ideas comments and concerns are gathered as a beginning point for problem solving and for potential management proposals. Appropriate state and local agencies, and groups are notified that a master plan is going to be prepared. A steering committee for this master plan is formed.

2. Master planning staff inventory and evaluate OPRD lands for natural, cultural, scenic and recreation resources. Public agencies and private experts are contacted as are local governments, special interest groups and concerned citizens. Staff research is shared with appropriate agencies, jurisdictions and groups for accuracy.

3. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission and steering committee review staff progress to date.

4. Preliminary development scenarios are made based on the resource inventories and recreation needs and opportunities.

5. A steering committee meeting is held to review a summary of resource information and review proposed development concepts. Comments are received on the development concept.

6. A draft of the master plan is prepared for review by the public, steering committee, and the commission.

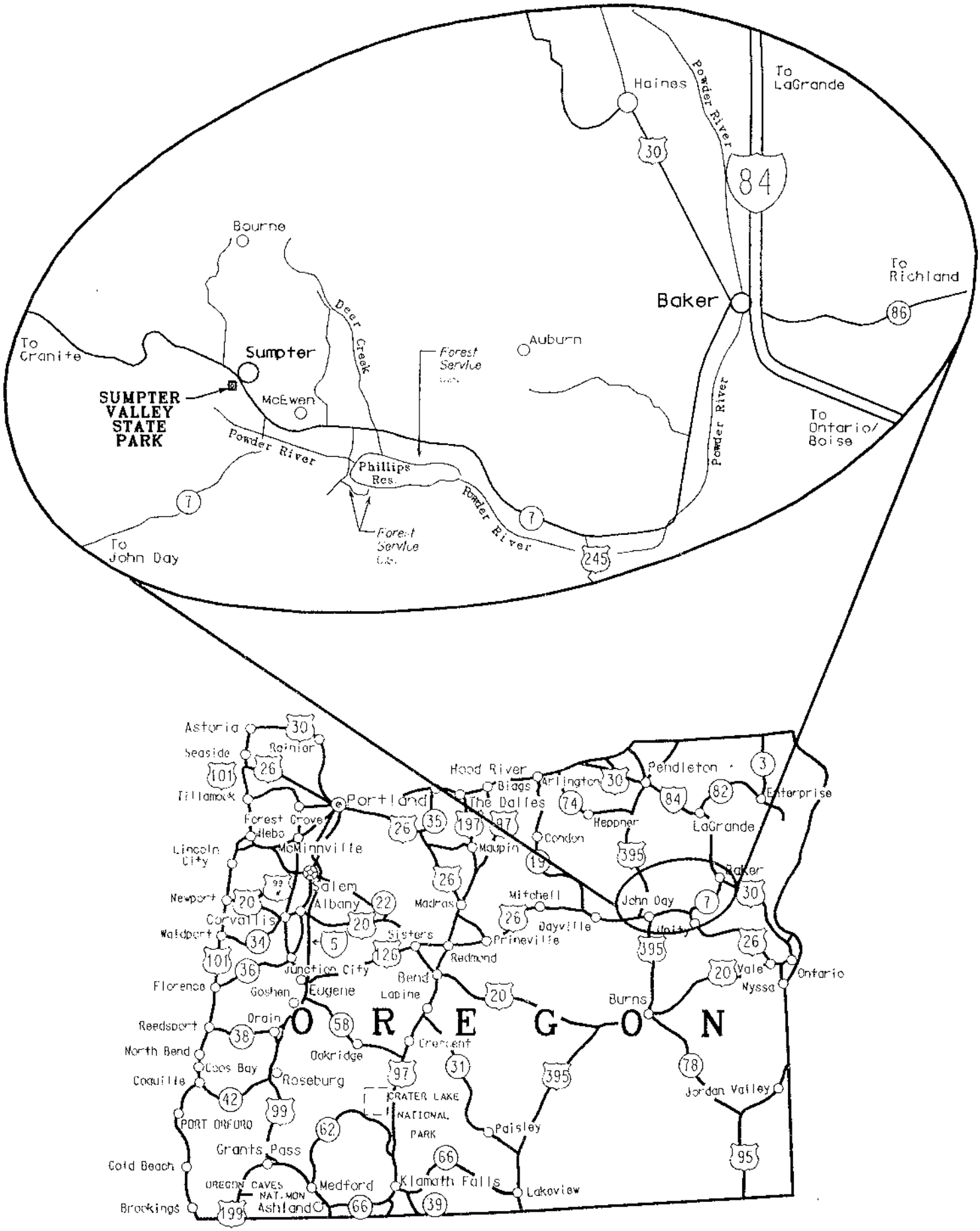
7. Comments are incorporated and the draft is modified as necessary.

8. A final draft is produced for review and approval by the Director of OPRD. Copies of the final draft are reviewed by OPRD and the Oregon Parks and

Recreation Commission. Opportunities for public comment are included in the Commission review process.

9. The plan proceeds through the administrative rule process and eventually becomes adopted as a rule. Opportunities for public participation are included in this process.

10. The plan is proposed to local jurisdictions for inclusion in local comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances, according to the State Agency Coordination process outlined in ORS 197.180 and OAR Chapter 660, Division 30 and Division 31.



SUMPTER VALLEY VICINITY MAP

NO SCALE

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AND THE DATA BASE PROGRAM

In 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 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 database. 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 OPRD lands 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 OPRD land, it may be maintained and protected in a natural condition. In many cases a good quality ecosystem representation is found in a park but is not large enough to qualify as a "cell". It may 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 possible.

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

THE SUMPTER VALLEY SETTING

GENERAL

Sumpter Valley is located in the Elkhorn Range which is part of the Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon. The valley is surrounded by steep forested hills and mountains of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Pine and larch trees are the dominate species in the area. These forests are relatively young as much of the area was previously logged.

At the east end of the valley is Phillips Lake, a reservoir created by Mason Dam. The USFS has a full hookup campground on the north shore of the reservoir (Union Creek Campground) which is well used in the summer by people with a variety of recreational needs, including fishing, swimming, boating, hiking and picnicking. More-primitive camps are located on the south shore.

The existing Sumpter Valley Railroad depot is located east of the OPRD property. The railroad is run by a non-profit organization dedicated to rebuilding the narrow gauge track and restoring the historic engines. The train, nicknamed the Stump Dodger, originally ran through the length of the valley to Baker City and over the mountains to John Day. It hauled timber, passengers and machinery critical to the mining operations.

The valley floor is generally level and covered by dredge tailings left from decades of dredging for gold. The tailings have created an unusual landscape of historic interest, as well as a complex wetland area that is excellent wildlife habitat. The last gold dredge to work the valley is still in existence and is located just south of the Town of Sumpter on the OPRD property that this master plan describes.

Before the operation of the dredge the valley floor was covered with flat meadows that the first settlers to the area used for ranching.

The presettlement population in the area consisted of several different tribes, including primarily the Umatilla and Nez Perce, that lived in what is now northeastern Oregon.

At the west end of the valley is the historic Town of Sumpter which was once a thriving community supported by mining. Although much smaller today, Sumpter still draws large crowds throughout the year for annual events.

Evidence of the many different kinds of mining operations and equipment are still visible on USFS land around the valley. Some of these remnants include stone walls and earthen dams built by chinese miners, and a variety of historic heavy mining equipment and buildings.

Sumpter Valley and the surrounding region contain a diversity of historical and cultural features pertaining to the areas early prosperous days. At this time casual travellers on Highway 7 gain only glimpses of the rich history of the area as they drive through do to a lack of interpretive facilities. However, the US Forest Service has a brochure which guides travelers to many of the historic and cultural features found along the Elkhorn Drive National Scenic Byway, which aligns with Highway 7 through the valley to Sumpter, and then off highway up to Granite and Anthony Lakes. U.S. Forest Service has plans for the development of interpretive stops along the Scenic Byway. Additional stops could be included which focus on the placer mining theme.

CLIMATE

Visitors to Sumpter Valley can enjoy approximately 100 cloud free days a year. The frost free period can range from a short 50 days up to 140 days. The pleasant summer weather is punctuated with occasional violent cloudbursts. The average annual precipitation is 16-30" inches most of which comes in the winter as snow.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Sumpter Valley lies in the Elkhorn Range of the Blue Mountain Region. The Blue Mountains and the Klamath Mountains have the oldest rock in Oregon. The Blue Mountains formed in the late Cenozoic Era (within the last 25 million years) as a result of uplifting, folding and faulting. The valley was formed by a syncline, a downward folding of the earth.

The bottom of Sumpter Valley has a recent (1-2 million years old) unconsolidated deposit of stream bed materials and reworked glacial till. This alluvium consists of coarse gravel and boulders of quartz diorite (granite) and metamorphosed volcanic rocks. Just below the Town of Sumpter is a deposit of pediment gavels and boulders of basalt and andesite above an ancient pluvial (rain-fed) lake.

The surrounding rock is very old (Permian-Triassic Period, 205-290 million years ago). It is metamorphosed sedimentary rock. Upstream is another type of rock from the same time period, serpentine.

Upstream from Sumpter Valley is an area with younger (Cretaceous Period, 66-138 million years ago) intrusive granitic rock which came up through the older Permian-Triassic rock. Major deposits of gold and silver occur in the quarts veins around the edges of Cretaceous intrusions.

SOILS

The majority of the valley floor is covered with moraine-like dredge tailings. These dredge tailings were deposited behind the dredge as it worked its way through the meadows that once covered the valley floor. As the dredge worked the valley all of the soil was washed downstream. The dredge tailings can be up to 20 feet high.

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) mapped the soils in the valley as Typic Xerorthents, Cobbly (168C). This un-named series is composed of unconsolidated sand, pebbles, rocks and cobbles deposited as dredge tailings.

WATER RESOURCES

At the west edge of the OPRD land Cracker Creek and McCully Creek flow in a braided manner along a small flood plain (1000-2000 feet wide). Cracker Creek is a 1st order stream and McCully Creek is a 2nd order stream. The two streams flow through the site until they join Powder River approximately one half mile downstream from the site. Powder River is a larger stream with a broader flood plain (approximately 4,000 feet wide) that eventually flows to Phillips Lake approximately 8 miles downstream. The braided condition of the channels onsite has been exacerbated by man-induced alteration, and more recently, intense beaver activity.

The water table of the subject site appears to be flat and generally at the surface between the dredge tailings, at approximately the same ground level as the two streams; Cracker and McCully. The source of water appears to be annual precipitation run-off (16-30 inches annually) expressed down adjacent peak and gulch systems (1st and 2nd order tributaries), many of which originate from springs at high elevations in the surrounding Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

VEGETATION

The original land types and native plant communities have been altered several times in the last 100 years by prospecting, placer mining, logging, town building,

fires, dredging, and reworking many of the tailings for gold and other industrial purposes.

There are three major plant communities within the park and surrounding areas. The three types are palustrine emergent wetlands, riparian (scrub-shrub wetland) and upland (vegetated and non-vegetated). Second growth, mixed conifer forested mountains are located to the north, west and east of the park, and can be seen from the park.

There is an opportunity for extensive riparian restoration within the OPRD property.

WILDLIFE

ODFW and USFW report that the wildlife value in the dredge tailings in most of the valley is of extremely good quality for nesting birds and fur-bearers and is used by elk and deer for winter forage. The Sumpter Valley area has the richest concentration of fur bearers in northeastern Oregon.

Bird watchers come to the area because of the high numbers and great diversity of bird species that spend their summers in the tailings area. Birdwatchers come from great distances to see them. The many species that nest in the valley and the abundance of mammals contribute to the attraction of this area. The main season for wildlife watching is April through August.

The department of Fish and Wildlife biologists recognize the valley as having excellent potential for wildlife viewing, if trails were built to provide access. The best habitat is in the wider portions of the valley where animals are less disturbed by human activities.

Sumpter Valley Wildlife Management Area and the Mowich Loop are among the 123 sites listed in the Oregon Wildlife Viewing Guide. Waterfowl nesting time is in April and July. Ring-necked ducks, bitterns, bobolinks and Virginia rails are present at this time. Many Canada geese nest in the area. The land between Hudspeth Lane and the reservoir is closed from late April to June to protect the nesting birds. During other parts of the year anglers use this area.

The diversity and abundance of mammals is outstanding in Sumpter Valley. Deer, beaver, river otter, mink, raccoon, muskrat and occasionally, pronghorn antelope can be seen in this area.

Duck hunting is allowed but the area is now closed to trapping. The management goal in the tailings is to allow the beaver to build dams, thereby raising the water level and improving habitat for fish, non-game species, and plants.

A spring rainbow trout run from Phillips Lake provides a good fishery. They spawn in the channels interspersed between the tailings on the valley floor. Fish habitat is moderate to good, but poor in the summer as water temperature rises with low flows. ODFW, in an effort to raise water levels about fifteen years ago, built dams across side channels which had current.

Rainbow trout were stocked in Cracker Creek and the ponds during the mid to late 1970's. Currently coho salmon are stocked in the reservoir. It is unknown whether they go upstream to spawn or not.

CULTURAL BACKGROUND

The presettlement history of the area included habitation and use by several larger tribal associations that used north-eastern Oregon. Much of this area is now included in the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallow-Whitman National Forests. According to Cultural Resource Overview of the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallow-Whitman National Forests, 1978, the different tribal associations had large overlapping ranges in this area and may not have had the distinct political or social grouping that the first settlers used to describe them.

These cultures seemed stable until the introduction of horses and the beginning of settlement of the area. According to USFS sources much work has been done but much more is needed to learn about the life of the Native Americans in this area. There are great opportunities for interpretation of cultural themes in the region.

Before the discovery of gold in the valley the fertile valley floor was used for ranching by early settlers. Almost all of this meadow land was turned over and washed by the gold dredging activities. However, along the outer edges of the valley a few small ranches remain.

The Sumpter Valley and surrounding area is also rich in historic mining sites which can demonstrate the unique role this area played as people came looking for their fortunes.

Hard rock mining has also played an important historical part in exploitation of the valley. The hills surrounding the valley have numerous mines. Many open portals can be seen as you drive on the USFS roads.

The majority of the historical sites, on USFS property, in the area are excluded from the freedom of information act and will not be available for interpretation or other public access until they have been catalogued and stabilized by the USFS. The USFS is pursuing completion of this work for high priority interpretive sites.

SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS

The concept for development of the site centers around the interpretation and viewing of the gold dredge, the extension of the narrow gauge railroad and the construction of a depot on OPRD land. This concept includes the development of an improved access road and parking area that can be shared between the dredge and the proposed railroad depot. An area for additional or overflow parking is included. The park facility could be used in conjunction with events in the Town of Sumpter.

All construction associated with the railroad will be completed by the non-profit group, Sumpter Valley Railroad Association, under detailed agreement with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The track is proposed be extended from the south property line north, close to the original track alignment, along the road and along a large loop around the dredge. The depot is proposed near the northeast corner of the property. Interim train use, pending completion of the track loop, may include completion of the track to the first water crossing only, and backing the train to turn it around.

A picnic area, north of the dredge, and short walking trails for interpretation of natural resources and placer mining equipment and techniques are proposed. A vault toilet is proposed in the vicinity of the overflow parking area. The existing office building will be remodeled and used as a managers office, Friends of the Sumpter Valley Dredge office and shop, and small interpretive display area, pending the construction of an interpretive center building.

All of the development proposals will include disabled access routes and treatments as is appropriate to the site and resource protection requirements.

Trails will be placed to route pedestrian traffic safely from the parking areas to the dredge, the depot, the town and to outlying areas of the site. Trails may be used by mountain bikes in summer as approved by the park manager. Trails may be used in winter for cross country skiing. Trails will be placed to avoid conflicts with wildlife throughout the year. Snowmobile passage across OPRD property will

require annual routing and approval by the park manager. Snowmobile access will be routed to avoid conflicts with skiers or wildlife. Summer off road vehicle usage cannot be accommodated on the site due to large numbers of summer pedestrians on the site.

Wildlife and fish habitat restoration or enhancement projects will be pursued in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Park management will continue to work with the Town of Sumpter in coordinating construction and events. A joint effort will be undertaken to find solutions to heavy traffic and parking, drainage and utility connection problems.

Interpretation on site will include the broad theme of the valley, as well as a focus on the dredge and placer mining. The former appearance and usage of the valley, effects on the environment and economy by mining the valley floor, and the resulting habitat and needed restoration measures will be addressed. Prehistoric, historic and cultural themes related to the dredge, the town and the valley will be interpreted on site as well. The history of the railroad will be interpreted at the depot. Partnerships with USFS will be sought to provide the best interpretive experience possible for visitors.

Future sites may be chosen near the existing OPRD property to accommodate park management and operations needs. Sites will be evaluated and selected on a case by case basis as opportunities arise and as budgets allow.

EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

Location: Baker County, 30 miles south of Baker City via Highway 7.

Acreage: Approximately 80 acres

Description: The park is near the north end of the Sumpter Valley near the Town of Sumpter. The majority of the site is covered with dredge tailings. The east part of the site has large flat areas where the tailings have been leveled and some less disturbed ground on the north and east boundary with evergreen trees.

Day-use facilities: The site has a gravel parking lot and one small building.

Day-use attendance: Unknown

Manager location: Currently Sumpter City Hall, soon to be small building on site.

Recreation activities: The main activity on site at this time is stopping to look at the dredge.

Handicap Accessibility: Limited due to gravel parking lot and absence of facilities.

Historic features: The gold dredge and surrounding dredged landscape.

OREGON STATE PARKS

EXISTING CONDITIONS

SUMPTER VALLEY DREDGE STATE PARK

BAKER COUNTY

NORTH

DATE
11/15/93

SCALE
1" = 640'

SHEET
2

LAND-USE SUITABILITY

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is mandated by ORS 390.190 to determine the carrying capacity of its lands so that appropriate levels of use and development can be planned and sited to preserve important resources for future generations. This has traditionally been done in the land-use suitability section of OPRD master plans.

This chapter contains descriptions of OPRD Land-use Suitability Classes which include four Resource Sensitivity Classes (RSC) and one Overlay Class. The Overlay Class designates lands which are not currently in OPRD ownership and are recommended for acquisition.

The Land-use Suitability Maps show park boundaries and areas of the five Land-use Suitability Classes; i.e. the four Resource Suitability Classes, and an Acquisition overlay.

LAND-USE SUITABILITY CLASSES

Resource Suitability Classes

The resource suitability evaluation process is based on the concept that different resources can withstand different degrees of recreational use and facility development. The sensitivity of a particular resource compared to the potential degree and type of impacts on that resource is known as determining the carrying capacity of the resource. Those sites which can tolerate appropriately designed facilities are identified, as well as those requiring extraordinary protection.

The resources on which each Recreation Suitability Class (RSC) is based may include wetlands, riparian areas, plant communities, wildlife habitat, sensitive species and, historic and archeological sites. Resource analysis for OPRD lands is performed in the field by OPRD staff, and in consultation with other resource specialists outside of the department. The analysis is done, site by site, to determine as accurately as possible, resource sensitivity, quality, location and acreage. Each resource has been evaluated to determine its tolerance of human activity and appropriate setback or buffer distances.

The Resource Suitability Classes represent four levels of resource sensitivity and/or quality and roughly correlate to four levels ranging from `very limited development' to `intensive development'. Areas with very sensitive, high-quality, unique or irreplaceable resources have the least suitability for recreational use and facility development. Areas with very tolerant, or low-quality resources have the highest suitability for recreational use and facility development. The Resource Suitability Class (RSC) with the most sensitive and restrictive resources is Resource Suitability Class 1 (RSC 1). It is the least tolerant of recreation use. Resource Suitability Class 4 (RSC 4) indicates an area with resources that are very tolerant of a high level of recreational use.

Each RSC has been mapped to reflect the overall sensitivity of that area. However, RSC 1 and RSC 2 may have inclusions, which are too small to map, of resources which are more tolerant of intensive development or use. RSC 3 and RSC 4 may include small areas of more sensitive resources. The smallest RSC unit mapped is approximately one acre.

Overlay Classes

An Acquisition Class designation has been given to those lands with resources which are needed in the OPRD system for recreation or resource protection purposes. The acquisition areas have also been mapped with RSCs when possible. Lands designated with an acquistion overlay would be sought for purchase or trade by OPRD from willing sellers.

LAND-USE DESIGNATION DESCRIPTIONS

The following descriptions focus on natural and cultural resource characteristics.

RSC 1 (Very Limited Development)

Quality and Sensitivity:

- Plant communities, wildlife habitats, geologic features, wetlands or riparian areas that are of high quality or are irreplaceable or unique and which can tolerate very limited recreational use at or near them; or areas of OPRD Sensitive Species (including federal or state threatened or endangered species, species in the Natural Heritage Program Lists 1, 2 or 3).

- Known cultural resources which are regionally, statewide or nationally significant sites, areas, structures, buildings or objects which are highly sensitive to access.

Recreational Use and Facility Development:

The emphasis in RSC 1 is to protect important and very sensitive resources from visitor impacts by allowing only very limited access and facility development or limit access to edges of the resource only.

RSC 2 (Limited Development)

Quality and Sensitivity:

- Plant communities, wildlife habitat or geologic features that are of high-quality and can tolerate limited recreational use at or near them. Also, wetlands or riparian areas with disturbed ecosystems (plants, animals and the physical environment).

- Known cultural resources which are regionally, statewide or nationally significant sites, areas, structures, buildings or objects which are somewhat tolerant of access. Areas with a high probability of having significant archeological resources.

Recreational Use and Facility Development:

The emphasis in RSC 2 is to conserve sensitive, high quality resources by allowing only limited access and facility development.

RSC 3 (Moderate Development)

Quality and Sensitivity:

- Areas which have plant communities or wildlife habitats which are of moderate quality or are common and can tolerate moderate levels of recreational use.

- Known cultural resources which are regionally, statewide or nationally significant sites, areas, structures, buildings or objects which are moderately tolerant of access.

Recreational Use and Facility Development:

The resources in RSC 3 have the ability to accommodate access by moderate numbers of visitors and moderate levels of facility development.

RSC 4 (Intensive Development)

Quality and Sensitivity:

- Areas of plant communities or wildlife habitat which are of moderate or low quality or are very common and can tolerate intensive levels of recreational use.
- Areas lacking in known cultural resources of regional, statewide or nationally significant cultural resources.

Recreational Use and Facility Development:

The resources in RSC 4 have the ability to accommodate large numbers of visitors and facility development.

Acquisition

Lands which OPRD needs to acquire to support OPRD's role in supplying recreational access or to protect resources for public enjoyment and interpretation. This may include additions to existing parks or the creation of new parks. Acquisition lands have been given RSC class designations where it was possible to do field work.

LAND USE SUITABILITY PERCENTAGES

RSC 1	Very limited Development	1%
RSC 2	Limited Development	61%
RSC 3	Moderate Development	6%
RSC 4	Intensive Development	32%
ACQUISITION	110 acres as shown on map sheet 8	

ACQUISITION PROPOSAL

The proposed acquisition of additional property is shown on the following map..

The proposed acquisition areas are shown for the following reasons. The land to the south of the park is proposed for future day-use facility expansion and display of mining techniques and equipment. The land to the east of the park is proposed for additional railroad and event parking. The land to the west is proposed because the proposed railroad alignment goes outside of the park onto BLM property. The property to the north of the park is shown because of the historically significant original dredge buildings and some additional width and buffer for the pedestrian connection to the Town of Sumpter.

LAND USE SUITABILITY ISSUES

Expansion of narrow gauge railroad

The proposal to extend the excursion train onto OPRD land and develop a track loop may produce impacts which will need to be mitigated. Jurisdictional wetlands will need to be crossed if the track loop is developed. If possible during the planning of the railroad turnaround every effort should be made to minimize conflicts with jurisdictional wetlands and the disturbance of the site hydrology.

Fill and removal permits from the Army Corp of Engineers and the Division of State Lands will be necessary and a mitigation plan must be approved by these agencies. There are opportunities for mitigation and enhancement on site. See the map #2 for jurisdictional wetlands.

Routing of the track loop where it disturbs wetland areas will also affect fur-bearers and fish habitat. ODFW will consult with DSL.

Possible future park expansion to the south.

Possible future park day-use expansion to the south, which will depend on land acquisition, may produce impacts on wetlands, fish and furbearers which may require mitigation. Because of the convoluted nature of the man-made waterways and wetlands it will be difficult to design an access road south through the park that will avoid all wetland areas. The appropriate coordination, permits and mitigation will need to be pursued.

OREGON STATE PARKS

LAND USE SUITABILITY

SUMPTER VALLEY DREDGE STATE PARK

BAKER COUNTY

NORTH

DATE
11/15/93

SCALE
1" = 320'

SHEET
3

OREGON STATE PARKS

ACQUISITION

SUMPTER VALLEY DREDGE STATE PARK

BAKER COUNTY

NORTH

DATE
11/15/93

SCALE
1" = 640'

SHEET
4

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY AND NEEDS

Sumpter Valley and the surrounding region contain a rich selection of recreational opportunities.

Sumpter Valley recreation opportunities are based on the natural resources of the surrounding mountains and National Forests, and the rich history of the area.

Recreational use of the OPRD property at this time is limited to viewing the dredge and some fishing activity. The site has potential for interpretation of mining, natural resource and railroad themes. Also expanded day-use is possible with trails through the tailings and picnic areas.

Some of the existing recreation opportunities in the area include: Camping at USFS campground at Phillips Lake and two private camps in the Town of Sumpter, driving the Elkhorn Drive National Scenic Byway and other sightseeing by vehicle, skiing, hiking, hunting, snowmobiling, fishing, recreational mining, wildlife watching, participating in festivals and events in the Town of Sumpter.

The following table summarizes the Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) information for this area of the state. Sumpter Valley is in SCORP Region 12, northeastern Oregon. The SCORP makes predictions about future levels of use and inventories the recreation settings used and preferred by users. The recreation settings range for primitive to rural/urban. The entire setting spectrum is primitive, semiprimitive (semiprim), roaded natural (roadnat), roaded modified (roadmod), rural/urban (rurban).

Activities with a predicted growth of over 30% are shown in bold.

ACTIVITY	USE '87	USE 2000	PERCENT INCREASE	SETTING USED	SETTING PRE-FERRED
Hunting, water fowl, upland birds, and small game	218,826	222,651	2%	semiprim roadmod all 36%	semiprim 50%
Bow hunting	56,582	60,512	7%	semiprim 100%	primitive 100%

Big game hunting	455,794	573,046	26%	primitive 31% semiprim 27%	primitive 45% semiprim 30%
Train, bus touring	10,181	11,310	11%	n/a	n/a
Sightseeing	468,908	578,858	23%	roadnat 50%	roadnat 56%
Picnicking	311,289	374,804	20%	roadnat roadmod all 40%	roadnat 56%
Horseback riding	333,940	373,658	12%	semiprim 41%	primitive 50%
Bicycling off road	110,314	140,983	28%	primitive 100%	primitive 100%
Bicycling on road	**615,657**	**1,088,149**	**77%**	**rurban 54%**	**rurban 40%**
Cross country skiing	**69,584**	**104,496**	**50%**	**semiprim roadnat roadmod rurban all 25%**	**semiprim 40% rurban 40%**
Snowmobiling	83,338	93,881	13%	semiprim 40%	primitive semiprim roadnat roadmod all 25%
Motorcycle Off Road	**105,741**	**131354**	**24%**	**roadnat roadmod all 38%**	**roadnat roadmod all 43%**
All Terrain Four Wheel	**126,077**	**172,613**	**37%**	**semiprim roadmod all 33%**	**roadnat roadmod all 33%**
Four Wheel Drive, Off Road	**266,382**	**341,950**	**28%**	**roadmod 41%**	**roadnat 42%**

Camping vehicle with tent	**676,598**	**880,060**	**30%**	**roadmod 34%**	**primitive semiprim roadnat all 26%**
Camping recreational vehicle	**384,851**	**518,814**	**35%**	**roadmod 50%**	**semiprim 42%**
Overnight hiking on trails	25,171	26,259	4%	semiprim 50%	primitive 50%
Dayhiking on trials	**590,616**	**1,123,306**	**90%**	**semiprim 33% roadmod 33%**	**primitive 30% semiprim 37%**
Outdoor photography	**255,912**	**429,501**	**68%**	**roadmod 60%**	**roadnat 60% primitive 40%**
Visits to interpretive centers	40,331	49,140	22%	roadmod 100%	roadmod 100%
Nature,wildlife observation	**332,624**	**576138**	**73%**	**primitive 44%**	**semiprim 45%**
Boating lake non-motorized	**51,211**	**85,331**	**67%**	**semiprim 50%**	**roadnat 40% roadmod 40%**
Boating lake motorized	26,013	26,875	3%	n/a	n/a
Boating river non-motorized	20,538	22,170	8%	primitive 50%	primitive 50%
Boating River motorized	23,837	24,464	3%	n/a	n/a
Waterskiing	25,566	29,278	15%	n/a	n/a

Swimming outdoor beach	69,150	74725	8%	roadnat 50% rurban 50%	roadnat 50% roadmod 50%
Fishing bank	317,194	387,867	22%	roadmod	roadmod
Fishing freshwater boat	**197,721**	**270,710**	**51%**	**semiprim roadnat roadmod**	**semiprim**

The activities which show the highest level of predicted growth are big game hunting 26%, sightseeing 23%, bicycling off-road 28%, bicycling on road 77%, cross country skiing 50%, off road motorcycling 24%, four wheel drive off road 28%, all terrain off road 37%, camping with tent 30%, camping with recreational vehicle 35%, dayhiking on trails 90%, outdoor photography 68%, visits to interpretive centers 22%, nature wildlife observation 73%, boating lake non-motorized, bank fishing 22%, fishing freshwater boat 51%.

Only some of these needs can be accommodated at the Sumpter Valley Dredge State Park because of resource sensitivities and size. The site has potential for sightseeing, picnicking, dayhiking, outdoor photography, visits to interpretive centers, nature/wildlife observation and bank fishing.

The surrounding National Forests have opportunities to provide for many of the other major recreation needs for the area. Some of these activities, like cross country skiing and off-road bicycle use, require more land then is available at the state park for a satisfying experience, and currently occur the surrounding National Forest, especially in the Phillips Lake area. There is an opportunity for USFS and OPRD to work together to link trails up through the valley and beyond.

PLANT COMMUNITIES

GENERAL

Existing land types and plant classification are described in this section using the Oregon Natural Heritage Program classification system for native plant communities.

There are three major types of plant communities within the boundary: palustrine emergent wetlands, riparian (scrub-shrub wetland) and upland (vegetated and non-vegetated). Each of these types and the plant communities present within them are discussed in the following text.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED AND CANDIDATE PLANT SPECIES

Eighteen species with state and federal status, and with known or potential occurrences in the Blue Mountains of the northwest Oregon, were considered for possible presence within the park area. Eleven of these species are either C1 or C2 candidates under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife classification. Thirteen species are candidates for listing by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, two species are state listed as endangered, and one as threatened.

There does not appear to be habitat in the park for any of the 18 species considered, with one possible exception - Phacelia minutissima (least Phacelia), which occurs in riparian areas at mid elevations in mountains. It has been found in the Wallowa Mountains within the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, and is also known from Idaho to Nevada. The possibility of its occurrence in the park or adjacent lands is low, but should be considered. Five species have a low probability of occurrence within the forested area to the west and southwest of the park, and at the base of these slopes, where there are wetlands and riparian areas. These species are: Botrychium ascendens (ascending moonwort), Botrychium crenulatum (crenulate moonwort), Botrychium paradoxum, (twin-spike moonwort), Botrychium pedunculosum (stalked moonwort), and Cypripedium fasciculatum (clustered lady slipper). If any of this area is acquired by the park in the future, field surveys should be conducted for these species. There does not appear to be potential habitat for any candidate or listed plant species in other areas adjacent to the park.

PALUSTRINE EMERGENT WETLANDS

These communities exist in shallow ponds and backwaters of the creeks, where the water is still or very slow moving. Most of the emergent stands cover areas that were too small to be mapped. Consequently only the larger stands were mapped. Three major palustrine emergent wetland species association types were identified they are:

CPF-1	Carex/Juncus CAREX/JUNCUS Sedge-rush marsh
CPF-2	Carex/Juncus/Typha latifolia CAREX-JUNCUS-TYPLAT Sedge-rush-broad leaved cattail marsh
CPF-3	Typha latifolia TYPLAT Broad leaved cattail marsh

Other species often associated with these communities are Phragmites communis (reedgrass), Deschampsia caespitosa (tufted hairgrass), Glyceria (mannagrass), Elocharis (spike rush), Salix (willow), and Scirpus (bulrush).

Quality Assessment

These wetland habitats have become established in severely disturbed terrain which, for the most part, has been stripped of soil. They may not have as great a diversity or vigor comparable to plant communities in non-disturbed, more fertile substrates, but they rank at least moderate in quality for these factors. The community type having the least species diversity is CPF-3, being monotypic except at the periphery. The type with the greatest diversity appeared to be CPF-1, due to the number of associated graminoid species.

PALUSTRINE SCRUB-SHRUB WETLAND (RIPARIAN)

Riparian vegetation exists in narrow bands along the creeks, backwaters, ponds between dredge tailings, seasonally flooded channels and gravel bars. Where steep tailing mounds border the ponds, the riparian area is especially narrow, sometimes consisting of only one or two trees at a particular location. A grass, sedge, and/or forb component is almost always present, and is often more extensive that the shrubs and trees. The riparian plant communities are as follows:

CPS-1 Alnus incana/Salix
ALNINC-SALIX Mountain alder-willow riparian

CPS-2 Salix/Cornus stolonifera
SALIX-CORSTO Willow-red osier dogwood riparian

CPS-3 Populus trichocarpa/Salix
POPTRI-SALIX Black cottonwood-willow riparian

Riparian areas sometimes grade into or are bordered by emergent wetlands, and the two types often have species in common. The following species are associated with riparian shrubs in various locations throughout the park, and often extend farther into the emergent wetlands or farther into the uplands:

Shrubs

Lonicera involucrata
(twinberry)
Symporicarpos albus
(common snowberry)
Rosa woodsii
(Wood's rose)

Forbs

Cirsium vulgare
(bull thistle-weed)
Cirsium arvense
(Canadian thistle-noxious weed)
Dipsacus silvestris
(teasel-weed)
Epilobium
(Willow herb)
Solidago canadensis
(golden rod)
Trifolium
(clover)

Graminoides

Agrostis
(bentgrass)
Carex
(sedge)
Deschampsia caespitosa
(tufted hairgrass)
Glyceria
(mannagrass)
Juncus
(rush)
Luzula
(wood rush)
Poa pratensis
(Kentucky blue grass)
Phleum pratense
(timothy
Phragmites communis
(reedgrass)
Typha latifolia
(broad-leaved cattail)

Quality Assessment

Much of the riparian vegetation is colonizing barren rock tailings at the edges of ponds and creeks. In most of these areas the forb and graminoid components are very sparse, or even absent, and species diversity is correspondingly low. Overall, the riparian communities have the greatest diversity in growth, form and number of species. Of the three identified, CPS-2 appears to have the greatest diversity due to large forb and graminoid component. Vigor of species of all types varies from poor to good, depending on the amount of soil accumulation. The riparian communities as a whole are intermediate in abundance between the emergent wetlands and the upland types. Among themselves, CPS-3 is the least abundant and CPS-2 is the most abundant, being widespread throughout the park. No rare or unique communities were observed. The most common weed is Canadian thistle, followed by bull thistle and teasel. Non-natives are much more widespread and abundant in riparian areas than in emergent wetlands, but much less so than in upland types.

UPLAND PLANT COMMUNITIES

These community types occur on dredge tailings with and without topsoil, where there is no standing or flowing surface water. Some of the lower lying areas may have temporary surface water during spring snowmelt and runoff, or after heavy rains. Riparian species such as cottonwood and willow are found in fairly dense stands in some of the lower lying depressions often adjacent to a high mound of tailings. They are also occasionally present in small clumps on top of the tailing mounds and on flat areas, indicative of a high water table. Ponderosa pine and several other coniferous tree species occur as scattered individuals throughout the tailings in upland sites. Several species of shrubs are also scattered throughout the uplands. Grasses and forbs are the most abundant plants, the majority being non-native species, including a number of noxious weeds. Upland plants communities are:

CUB-1 Pinus ponderosa/Salix/Populus trichocarpa/Purshi tridenta
PINPON/SALIX/POPTRI/PURTRI Ponderosa pine-willow-cottonwood-bitterbrush

CUB-3 Pinus ponderosa/Populus trichocarpa/Purshia tridentata
PINPON/PUTRI/CARGEY Ponderosa pine-bitterbrush-elk sedge

CV-1 Chrysothamnus nauseosus/Sitanion hystrix/Verbascum thapsus

CV-2 Chrysothamnus nauseosus/Purshia tridentata/Sitanion hystrix/Bromus tectorum

CHRNAU/PURTRI/SITHYS/BROTEC gray rabbitbrush-bitterbrush-bottlebrush squirrel-tail-cheatgrass-mullein

CV-3 Chrysothamnus nausesosus/Verbascum thapsis/Bromus tectorum
CHRNAU/VERTHA/BROTEC GRAY RABBITBRUSH-MULLEIN-CHEATGRASS

CVC-1 Purshia tridentata/Salix/Chrysothamnus nauseous
PURTRI/SALIX/CHRNAU bitterbrush-willow-gray rabbitbrush

GF-1 Grasses/Trifol - Introduced species of grasses and clover (Trifolium)

GF-2 Verbascum thapsus
VERTHA mullein

Most of the upland plant communities classified as tree and shrub types also have a significant grass and forb component. The GF-1 type, which is grass-forb dominated, also has a shrub component. Some of the species listed as being associated with riparian communities are also found in upland plant communities. The following species are present in various upland types as moderately abundant to minor components. Coniferous trees, occasional seedlings and saplings: Abies grandis (grand fir), Pseudotsuga menziesii (douglas fir), Pinus contorta (lodgepole pine); shrubs, scattered individual or small clumps: Rosa woodsii (Wood's rose), Symporicarpos albus (common snowberry), Rubus idaeus sparse to moderate ground cover, sometimes in locally dense patches: Lepidium (peppergrass), Dipsacus silvestris (teasle), Agrostis (bentgrass), Agropyron (wheatgrass), Danthonia (oatgrass), Bromus inermis (smooth brome) - plus other brome species, Poa pratensis (Kentucky bluegrass) - plus other bluegrass species, and Equisetum arvense, horsetail. No rare or unique communities were observed. The species present are widespread and locally common in eastern Oregon. Several noxious weed species were also observed.

Weed species of concern as identified by county, state and/or federal agencies, are as follows:

Cirsium arvense - Canadian thistle - noxious. Widespread in moister sites.
Hypericum perforatum - St. John's Wort - noxious. Widespread.
Linaria dalmatica - Dalmatian toadflax - noxious. Only one cluster seen; indicated on aerial photo.

Linaria vaulgaris - butter-and eggs. Seen within type CB-1 only; indicated on aerial photo.

Cirsium vulgare, bull thistle, is also widespread, but not abundant, in moister areas of most upland types. It is not a species of great concern, since it is a biennial and not excessively aggressive or persistent.

Quality Assessment

Most of the upland community types are colonizing barren rock tailings, except for a few areas where the topsoil has been replaced. Communities growing within these sites have a correspondingly higher species diversity than those on the bare rock substrates. The three types with the greatest diversity in species and growth form are: CUB-1, CUB-2, and CF-1. This is due to the large grass forb component. The rabbit brush types (CV series) are intermediate, and the mullein type (GF-2) is the lowest in diversity. Vigor of species within the types varies from poor to good, depending upon the amount of soil present, and the depth of the water table. As a whole, upland types are the most abundant in the park. No rare or unique communities were observed.

NON-VEGETATED AREAS

These areas occur on dredge tailings which are bare rock and gravel, where no soil has accumulated. Included in this delineation are areas which have very sparse scatterings of various grasses and forbs, up to an estimated ground cover of two percent. Such low cover is not distinguishable on the aerial photo, and it is included with completely bare areas as a range of zero to two percent cover. This type is widespread through the park and adjacent areas. It is designated as:

NV-1 Non-vegetated ground (0-2% cover)

AREAS ADJACENT TO THE PARK

Plant community types within the park extend outside of the boundary to the north and south. To the west and southwest there is a sharp transition from riparian and wetland types to forested slopes of ponderosa pines and mixed conifer species. To the east of the park is the Town of Sumpter which contains cultivated areas of lawns, flower gardens, ornamental shrubs and trees, and mown fields. Numerous large, old ponderosa pine are scattered throughout the town site. The city park is on the edge of town, to the east and southeast of the state park, separated from it

by the highway through Sumpter, a forested strip of ponderosa pine, willow, and cottonwood, and vegetated dredge tailings. The city park and adjacent pasture is the largest continuous mowed grass area in the vicinity. It is bordered by open ponderosa pine forest and contains some very large, old ponderosa pine in its northern edge. The two forest communities are described below.

CUB-4 Pinus ponderosa/Pinus contorta/Purshia tridentata/Calamagrostis rubescens
PINPON/PINCON/PURTRI/CALRUB Ponderosa pine-lodgepole pine/bitterbrush/pinegrass

CUB-5 Pinus ponderosa/Psedutsuga menziesii/Pinus contorta/Larex occidentalis
PINPON/PSEMEN/PINCON/LAROCC Ponderosa pine-Douglas fir-lodgepole pine-western larch.

OREGON STATE PARKS

PLANT COMMUNITIES

SUMPTER VALLEY DREDGE STATE PARK

BAKER COUNTY

NORTH

DATE
11/15/93

SCALE
1" = 320'

SHEET
5

JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS

GENERAL

Jurisdictional wetlands are defined as areas that exhibit wetland hydrology, hydric soils, and hydrophytic vegetation as defined in the Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands (Manual), Federal Interagency Committee for Wetland Delineation, 1987.

Due to the character of the site Subsection 4 of the Manual regarding man-induced wetland was applicable to this site. "A man induced wetland is an area that has developed at least some of the characteristics of naturally occurring wetlands due to either intentional or incidental human activities . . . Although wetland indicators of all three parameters (i.e., vegetation, soils, and hydrology) may be found in some man-induced wetlands, indicators of hydric soils are usually absent. Hydric soils require long periods (hundreds of years) for development of wetness characteristics, and most man induced wetlands have not been in existence for a sufficient period to allow development of hydric soil characteristics.

VEGETATION AND PLANT COMMUNITIES

All dredge tailings on the site consisted of unconsolidated pebbles, cobbles and rocks. These tailings were oriented east and west with aquatic habitats nested between the tailings. These aquatic habitats ranged in depth of water and establishment of vegetation in and along the perimeters. Travelling from south to north the water became deeper and more open with less vegetation. These open water areas were assigned letters from A-G, including E1 & F1 (Map #3).

The aquatic habitat of area A was associated with a bend in Cracker Creek. It had a fringe of shrub species around its irregularly shaped perimeter which consisted of red osier dogwood (Cornus stolonifera-FACW6), Geyer's willow (Salix geyeriana-FACW+), and Lemon willow (Salix lemonii-FACW+). The dominant grasses and grass-likes were reedgrass (Calamagrostis inexpansa var. inexpansa-FACW), rice-cutgrass) Leersia oryzoides-OBL), slender-beak sedge (Carex arthrostachya-FACW), baltic rush (Juncus balticus-FACW), and small-fruited bulrush (Scripus microcarpus-OBL). Emergent forbs included cattail (Typha latifolia-OBL), Watson's willow herb (Epilobium watsonii-FACW-), western water hemlock (Cicuta douglasii-FACW) and western yellowcress (Rorippa curvisiliqua-OBL) and South American water weed (Elodea densa-OBL). The dominant aquatic macrophytes were different-leaved starwort (Callitriche heterophylla-OBL) and South American water weed (Elodea densa-OBL).

Area B represented the same community of plants but had more open water or deepwater habitat.

Area C consisted of a more deeply incised channel that was less than 5 feet wide. The vegetation was mainly willow and red osier dogwood.

Area D was an aquatic dredge channel that was impounded on the north by road fill. It appeared as a large open water slough with small fruited bulrush, reedgrass and willow species along the very edge.

Area E was more swamp like in character with American brooklime (Veronica americana-OBL) dominating the perimeter and filling in much of the aquatic area. In the deeper portions of this area dense tangles of mare's tails (Hippuris vulgaris-OBL), an aquatic species was identified.

Area F had a cattail/willow association around the water body with large aspen forming a canopy over parts of it.

Area G was mostly open water with willow species scattered around the edge and a cattail population along a portion of the west edge.

All of the plants listed in the areas described above are considered wetland indicator species.

THE OTHER OPEN WATER BODY AREAS BETWEEN DREDGE TAILING

Areas 1, 2 & 2a were marshy braided wetlands associated with Cracker Creek. These areas were dominated by shrubs and grasses, including mountain alder (Alnus incana-FACW), red osier dogwood (Cornus stolonifera-FACW), and willow species. The dominant grasses were rice-cutgrass, kentucky bluegrass (Poa pratensis-FAC) and another bluegrass (Poa scabrella-NOL). Wetland forbs included fragrant western golden-rod (Solidago occidentalis-FACW) and curly dock (Rumex crispus-FAC+), and western yarrow (Achillea millefolium-FACU).

Area 1a, 1b and 1c were created by dredge excavation which left depressions at or below the water table. These areas were dominated by wetland grasses and grass likes, including, beaked sedge (Carex rostrata-OBL), sitka sedge, (Carex sitchensis-OBL), Nebraska sedge (Carex nebrascensis-OBL).

Area 6 had a small portion of open water but was predominately filled in shrub swamp. Areas 4 & 6 were shaded by aspen uplands that had become successfully established in the lower dredge tailings. Some of the dominant species in these upland communities include: shiny leaf spirea (Spirea betulifolia-NI),wood rose

(Rosa gymnocarpa-FACU), thimothy (Phleum pratensis), bottlebrush squirrel-tail grass (Sitanion hystrix-FACU-), and forbs such as millet (Verbascum thapsus-NOL), (Achillea millefolium-FACU).

Area #10 had a subsurface flow entering the ponded area from the north side. This could be an extension of McCully Creek which virtually disappears underground just before this ponded area. This body had American tapegrass (Vallisneria americana-OBL) growing out of the surface.

THE AREA OF BRAIDED CHANNELS ALONG CRACKER AND McCULLY CREEKS

Areas 7, 8, & 9 were obviously influenced by busy beaver activity. Perhaps for this reason, these areas showed a high degree of diversity and species richness. Frog and other amphibious species, aquatic invertebrates and many wetland indicator plant species were abundant here. Some of these not already mentioned above are duckweed (Lemna minor-OBL), fibrous stipuled pondweed (Potamogeton fibrilosus-OBL) and creeping spikerush (Elocharis palustris-OBL).

MAN-INDUCED ALTERATION OF STREAM BEDS

The most obvious evidence of this man-induced activity associated with dredging operation and, more recently road fill, were in areas 1, 2a, F1, E1 and along the transect from point 'A' to point 'G'. Vegetation has become re-established in most places associated with man-induced alteration of stream beds. It is not always easy to distinguish recent human alteration with beaver activity.

WETLAND DETERMINATION SUMMARY

Jurisdictional wetland are defined as the "common area" where all three parameters.....wetland hydrology, hydric soil, and hydrophytic vegetation.....are present. The use of this methodology identifies the following jurisdictional wetlands on this subject property:

Transect sites:A-G, including E1 and F1.
Areas 1, 1a, 1b & 1c in the upper-mid northwest portion.
Areas 2, and 2a in the west central portion
Areas 4 and 6 in the middle of the site associated with aspen upland communities.
Areas 7, 8 & 9 in the lower southwestern corner.
Areas 10 & 11 along the lower southern boundary.

Area #3, where the dredge scoop is located lacks hydrophytic vegetation, therefore does not qualify as a jurisdictional wetland. Area #5 is a possible mining exploration pit. It also lacks hydrophytic vegetation and therefore would not fall under fill/removal regulation. The aspen island associated with area #6 is upland as well as all the other areas of dredge tailings outside the wetland boundaries on the site map.

The riparian areas associated with the streams, including the braided alterations made by beaver or altered by human activity qualify as regulated wetlands.

OREGON STATE PARKS

JURISDICTIONAL WETLANDS
SUMPTER VALLEY DREDGE STATE PARK
BAKER COUNTY

NORTH

DATE
11/15/93

SCALE
1" = 320'

SHEET
6

WILDLIFE COMMUNITIES

GENERAL

See the Setting Section in the beginning of this master plan for a overview of the wildlife communities in the Sumpter Valley. The park property does not have the resources or land base to support wildlife communities of the size and quantity found in the larger valley although birds, furbearers, and fish are found on site.

The potential exists for enhancement of fisheries on site. A possible source of funding for improvements may be from the Eastern Oregon Mining Association.

OREGON STATE PARKS

WILDLIFE COMMUNITIES

SUMPTER VALLEY DREDGE STATE PARK

BAKER COUNTY

NORTH

DATE 11/15/93

SCALE 1" = 320'

SHEET 7

OREGON STATE PARKS

CULTURAL RESOURCES

SUMPTER VALLEY DREDGE STATE PARK

BAKER COUNTY

NORTH

DATE
11/15/93

SCALE
1" = 320'

SHEET
8

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Sumpter Valley gold dredge is the center piece of the state park. It is the largest and most significant artifact of its type in the state.

OPRD hired a consultant to look for possible additional placer mining interpretive opportunities in the area. Sites were identified along the Elkhorn Drive National Scenic Byway, from Baker City through the Sumpter Valley, up to Granite and Anthony Lakes.

Twenty six sites were identified. The sites included many different types of mining activities and other things associated with early settlement of the area. Some examples of the different types of sites include several types of tailings produced by different dredges, chinese walls, cabins, settlements, smelter ruins, portals, placer mines and miscellaneous machinery including the dredge.

All of the sites have some association with placer mining. The sites where classified by their major interpretive theme. The major themes included landscape, people and machinery. The landscape themes include dredge tailings and other land feature changes produced by working claims. The people themes concern individual settlers, miners and others. Machine themes are locations where particular pieces of machinery where used or are still present.

There is an opportunity for USFS and OPRD to work together in eventually opening some of these sites to public access and interpretation. USFS will first need to complete its inventory and stabilization process for each site.

OREGON STATE PARKS

CULTURAL RESOURCES

SUMPTER VALLEY DREDGE STATE PARK

BAKER COUNTY

NORTH

DATE
11/15/93

SCALE
1" = 640'

SHEET
9

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

GENERAL

OPRD staff have produced a preferred development concept for the Sumpter Valley Dredge State Park. The concept for development of the site centers around the interpretation and viewing of the gold dredge, the extension of the narrow gauge railroad and the construction of a depot on OPRD land. This concept includes the development of an improved access road and parking area that can be shared between the dredge and the proposed railroad depot. An area for additional or overflow parking is included. The park facility could be used in conjunction with events in the Town of Sumpter.

All construction associated with the railroad will be completed by the non-profit group, Sumpter Valley Railroad Association, under detailed agreement with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The track is proposed be extended from the south property line north, close to the original track alignment along the road and along a large loop around the dredge. The depot is proposed near the northeast corner of the property. Interim train usage, pending completion of the track loop, may include completion of the track to the first water crossing only, and backing the train to turn it around.

A picnic area, north of the dredge, and short walking trails for interpretation of natural resources and placer mining equipment and techniques are proposed. A vault toilet is proposed in the vicinity of the overflow parking area. The existing office building will be remodeled and used as a managers office, Friends of the Sumpter Valley Dredge office and shop, and small interpretive display area, pending the construction of an interpretive center building.

All of the development proposals will include disabled access routes and treatments as is appropriate to the site and resource protection requirements.

Trails will be placed to route pedestrian traffic safely from the parking areas to the dredge, the depot, the town and to outlying areas of the site. Trails may be used by mountain bikes in summer as approved by the park manager. Trails may be used in winter for cross country skiing. Trails will be placed to avoid conflicts with wildlife throughout the year. Snowmobile passage across OPRD property will require annual routing and approval by the park manager. Snowmobile access will be routed to avoid conflicts with skiers or wildlife. Summer off road vehicle usage cannot be accommodated on the site due the large numbers of summer pedestrians on the site.

Wildlife and fish habitat restoration or enhancement projects will be pursued in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Park management will continue to work with the Town of Sumpter in coordinating construction and events. A joint effort will be undertaken to find solutions to heavy traffic and parking, drainage and utility connection problems.

Interpretation on site will include the broad theme of the valley, as well as a focus on the dredge and placer mining. The former appearance and usage of the valley, effects on the environment and economy by mining the valley floor, and the resulting habitat and needed restoration measures will be addressed. Prehistoric, historic and cultural themes related to the dredge, the town and the valley will be interpreted on site as well. The history of the railroad will be interpreted at the depot. Partnerships with USFS will be sought to provide the best interpretive experience possible for visitors.

Future sites may be chosen near the existing OPRD property to accommodate park management and operations needs. Sites will be evaluated and selected on a case by case basis as opportunities arise and as budgets allow
Development of the Sumpter Valley Dredge site will focus on two major attractions and several secondary features. The major attractions are the dredge and the narrow gauge railroad. Other opportunities on site include interpretation of other types of mining and the plant communities and animal life that are making the dredge tailings their home.

The preferred concept which is included in this plan was developed through our public involvement process. OPRD produced four concept sketches of potential site development. All of them included the dredge as the central attraction, a mining interpretive center, other mining equipment displays, a new depot for the railroad, nature trails, and a circular turnaround for the narrow gauge railroad.

Other concerns that were factored into the design included, proper sightlines and safe access from HWY 7, grade of the railroad, winter snow removal of the parking area, providing for expanded event parking, placement of the entry booth, location of trails, and avoidance of disturbance to natural and cultural resources on site.

IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS

Stabilization and restoration of the dredge.

A report was prepared by consultants for OPRD outlining the basic work necessary to stabilize the dredge from further deterioration. Some of these steps have already

been taken. Long term restoration of the dredge to allow guided tours of the interior is planned but will be very expensive and may take a considerable amount of time to secure funding and complete the work.

Parking areas and roads.

This work includes construction of the parking areas and roads as shown on the preferred alternative. This would include the picnic and day-use areas north of the dredge. Gates to control access to the park and the overflow areas would be installed and vault toilet as well as a fee machine or booth.

The picnic area is anticipated to be an irrigated lawn area with tables near the dredge. The proposed picnic area is shown to the north of the dredge. If land could be acquire an additional picnic and dayuse area could be developed to the west.

Expansion of railroad and construction of the railroad depot.

Expansion of the narrow gauge railroad from the south onto the state park and construction of the turnaround is planned by the non-profit group that runs the railroad. The group is also planning to build a railroad station which will include an interpretive area and restrooms at the location shown on the plan. A proposed design for the railroad station is attached at the end of this section.

Construction of a mining interpretive center.

A placer mining interpretive center is proposed at the location shown on the plan. The center is proposed to house mining and other interpretive displays. The center would also have office space for OPRD staff and restrooms for park visitors. A proposed design of the building was not prepared for this plan.

Relocation of the Monigan.

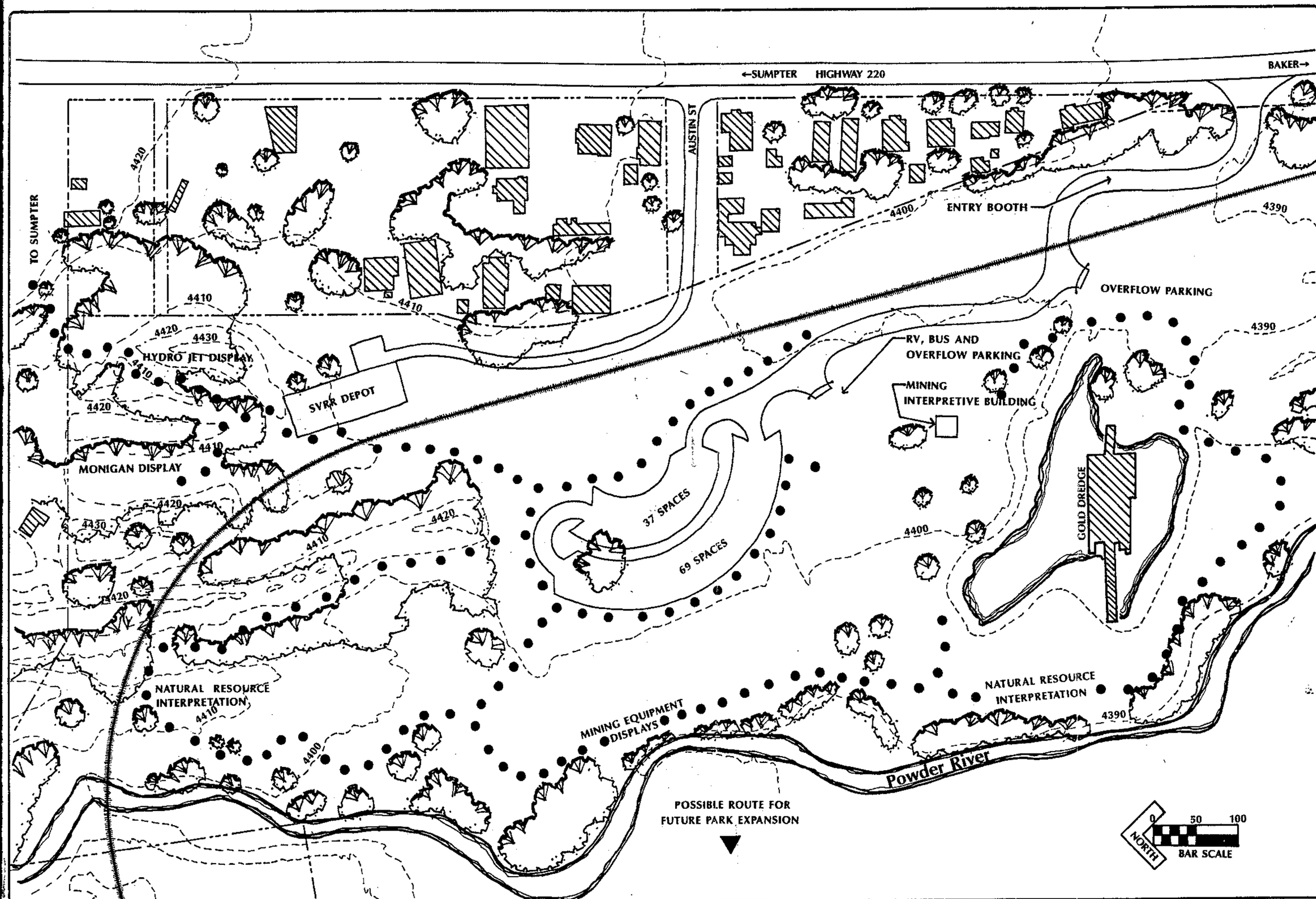
The Monigan is another type of dredge that was used in the valley. It is privately owned and is on property east of the park. It may be possible to acquire and install it on the park property at the location shown on the preferred alterative. The proposed Monigan site has dredge tailing that are similar to those produced by it.

Development of other outdoor displays and interpretation projects.

Many types of smaller placer mining equipment are available for placement along interpretive trails. One concept is to build "rooms" out of bermed dredge tailing material 3 to 4 feet tall in a "U" shape, the display piece would be placed in the center with trail routed by the open end. As the visitor walks along the trail they would move from "room" to "room" seeing each piece separate from the rest. This scenario will also provide for more concealment of the items in the overall landscape.

Natural resource interpretation opportunities can be taken advantage of along the same trails. Themes concerning the natural reclamation of the tailings and the diversity of plant communities and wildlife that uses the area can be interpreted.

More detailed interpretive recommendations for the gold dredge and property can be found in, Sumpter Valley Gold Dredge Stabilization-Restoration and Interpretive Recommendations, By Hathaway & Associates and Beck & Baird / Boise, 1992.



SUMPTER VALLEY STATE PARK
PREFERRED CONCEPT

OREGON STATE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MJ STENBERG

MJS

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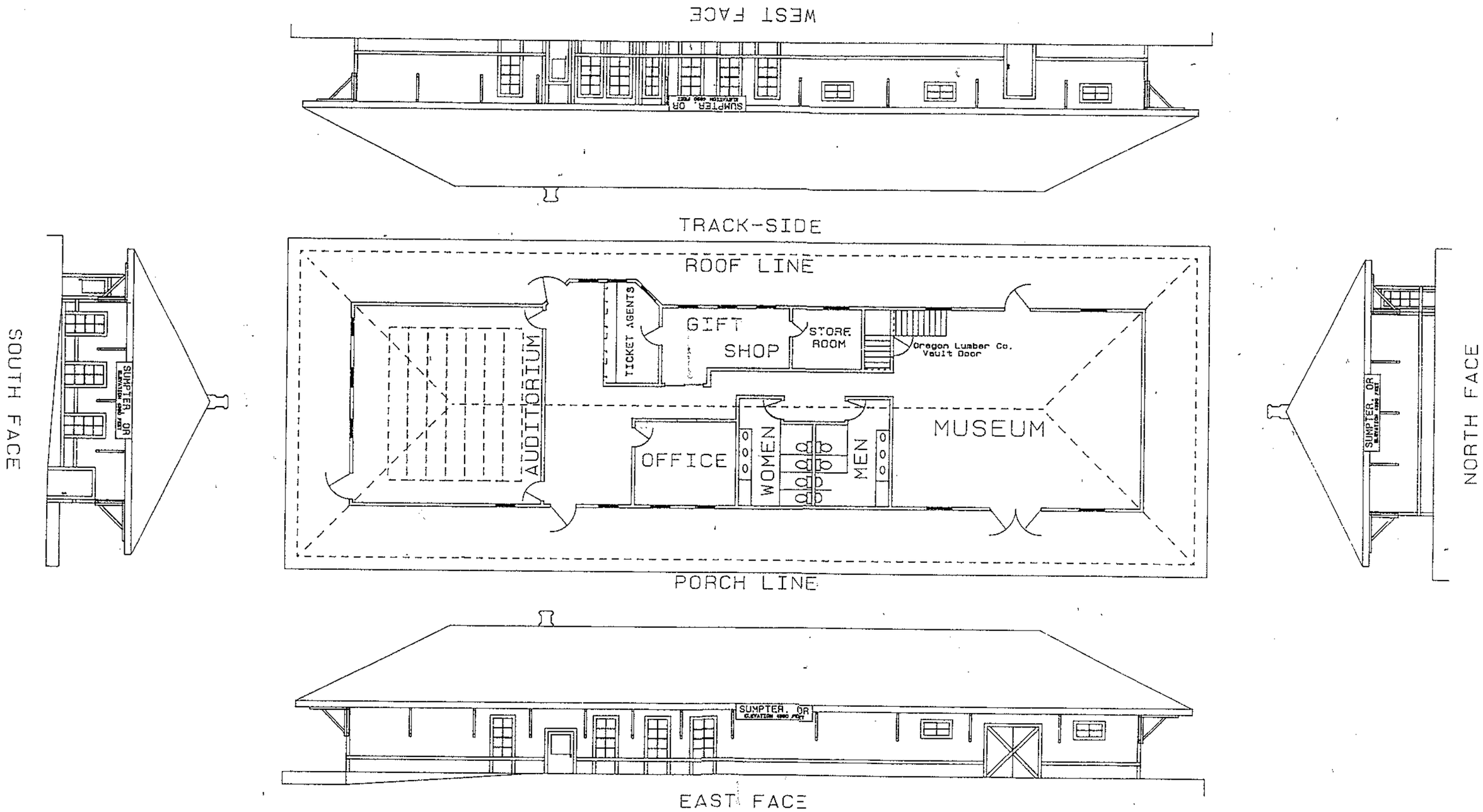
SVRR SUMPTER DEPOT PLANS