



SCORP Planning and the LWCF

As you know, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) Policy and Planning Section is well along the way towards completion of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for the State of Oregon. Successful completion of the plan (by December 31, 2002), will allow Oregon to remain qualified for the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program through the end of 2007. This is of increasing importance as the LWCF program continues to grow. After a 4-year funding drought (1996 - 1999), Oregon stateside LWCF funding has risen from \$.5 million in Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2000, to \$2.1 million in FY 2002. These grant dollars are available to eligible state agencies, cities, counties, Park & Recreation Districts, Port Districts and Native American Tribes (60% of the fund to local government agencies and 40% to eligible state agencies) for land acquisition, facility development and major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities. A major objective of the SCORP plan is to provide direction for the allocation of limited LWCF funds and other OPRD administered grant programs such as the Local Government and Recreation Trails Grant Programs.

SCORP Progress Report

There is considerable progress to report since our last newsletter. Major planning accomplishments include:

- the statewide outdoor recreational resource/facility inventory,
- data collection associated with the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Survey,
- a series of regional recreational issues workshops, and
- a method for measuring the need for major rehabilitation of existing outdoor recreation facilities across the state.

The Statewide Outdoor Recreational Resource/Facility Inventory

The accuracy of the statewide inventory is essential to the 2003-2007 SCORP needs assessment process. As a result, considerable time and expense was allocated towards maximizing the inventory response for recreation providers across the state. We are pleased to report that approximately 90% of all public-sector recreation providers and independent school districts in the state of Oregon completed and returned an inventory questionnaire. The publication entitled, "*The 2001 Oregon Statewide Outdoor Recreational Resource/Facilities Inventory Bulletin*" was completed and sent out to all recreation providers across the state in October 2001. Additional copies of the bulletin are also available from OPRD. Special queries of the inventory database are also available upon request.

Important Note: Since completion of the Inventory Bulletin, some data corrections and additions have been made to the inventory database. A revised version of the the Inventory Bulletin will be available on the SCORP Planning Website at http://www.prd.state.or/scorp_inventory.php in June 2002. Please reference this revised version after it becomes available.
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The Oregon Outdoor Recreation Survey

Oregon State University (OSU) has successfully completed a year-long survey designed to identify outdoor recreation participation in the state of Oregon. A random-digit dialing process was used to identify a sample of approximately 4,400 Oregonians and 800 tourists (from Washington, Idaho, and California) who participated in outdoor recreation activities in the state of Oregon. A follow-up mailback survey was sent to each person agreeing to participate in the survey. According to Principal Investigator Dr. Rebecca Johnson, "the survey will provide statistically reliable information on recreational participation for each of the eleven SCORP planning regions and statewide. The next steps involve data analysis and completion of the final report." Look for preliminary results from the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Survey on the SCORP Planning Website in June of 2002.

Regional and Statewide Needs Assessment

Using a methodology developed for the 1994 Florida SCORP plan and data from the Oregon recreational inventory and survey, OSU will conduct a recreational needs assessment to identify the relative need for

additional recreational facilities across the state. The following table illustrates how the results will be presented in the final SCORP document.

Sample Statewide Needs Assessment Table

Rank	Activity	Region	Relative Need
1	Bicycle Riding	2	759.9
2	Hiking	6	678.2
3	Tent Camping	1	672.5
4	Bicycle Riding	10	568.1
5	Tent Camping	2	554.4
6	Hiking	5	437.7

The methodology is designed to calculate a *relative need index score* for an established list of recreational activities. The hypothetical sample table shows the need for additional bicycle riding facilities in SCORP Planning Region 2 has been identified as the top statewide facility need. Similar tables will be generated for each of the 11 SCORP Planning Regions. In addition, census data will be used to create similar set of 5-year projection tables to estimate facility needs based on estimated population growth.

Regional Recreation Issues Workshops

During the months of October thru December of 2001, OPRD staff conducted a series of regional recreation 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. Approximately 130 people attended a workshop, including representatives from 70 public-sector recreation provider organizations. During the afternoon sessions, a voting process was used to identify the top 3 LWCF issues (related to land acquisition, facility development and major rehabilitation) in each of the 11 planning regions. Top statewide LWCF issues include:

- the need for major rehabilitation of existing recreation facilities (top issue in 9 regions),
- the need for additional multi-use recreation trails and trail connectivity (top issue in 8 regions), and
- the need for land acquisition to keep pace with population growth and maintain access to public lands (top issue in 5 regions).

A complete listing of issues can be found on the SCORP Planning Website at http://www.prd.state.or/scorp_issues.php .

Measuring the Need for Major Rehabilitation

Now that the need for major rehabilitation has been identified as a key statewide issue, our challenge is to properly address the issue in the 2003-2007 SCORP plan. Towards this end, OPRD and the Oregon Recreation and Parks Association (ORPA) have developed a method for collecting major rehabilitation data from non-Federal public-sector recreation providers across the state of Oregon. This data collection process is designed to:

- develop a basic understanding of the relative health of the recreational infrastructure in the state,
- identify the specific types of facilities in need of major rehabilitation, and
- identify the specific reasons why the facilities are in need of major rehabilitation.