



## **Introduction**

During the 2003-2007 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) process, recreation providers across the state expressed a strong desire for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to update existing Oregon Statewide Trails Plans (the 1995 Oregon State Off-Highway Vehicle [OHV] Study and the 1995 Oregon Recreation Trails Plan). OPRD embarking on a 2-year statewide trails planning effort. The effort involves separate (but concurrent) motorized, non-motorized, and water trails planning components. It was determined that to represent needs from across the state part of the data should be collected through a statewide survey.

More specifically, a survey is need to provide support information for the following planning objectives set by OPRD:

- To establish priorities for expenditures from the Oregon ATV Grant Program, Federal Recreational Trails Program and other applicable funding sources administered by OPRD and to provide guidance for other public and private funding administrators who allocate resources to trails and trail related projects;
- To develop strategic guidance for state, federal, local, private and non-profit organizations with responsibilities related to the provision of recreational trail opportunities in Oregon;
- To develop a designated structure for a water trails network in Oregon;
- To recommend actions that enhance motorized, non-motorized and water trail opportunities to all public and private trail resource providers in Oregon; and
- To provide a common understanding of Oregon's trail-related issues, needs, and opportunities to facilitate coordination among providers.

## **Methods**

The University of Oregon's Survey Research Laboratory (OSRL) will telephone a random sample of Oregon telephone numbers to result in 800 completed interviews of motorized (n=300) and non-motorized (n=300) recreational trail users and non-motorized boaters (n=200). This random digit dial (RDD) design will be supplemented through calling selected members of lists such as the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Permit Database and the Department of Motor Vehicle's Snowmobile Registration Database. A pretest will be used to determine the proportion of list-assisted vrs. RDD sample members within the resource constraints of the project. The margin of error for telephone survey results will be in a range from +/- 7% to 10%.

For the purposes of the trail user survey, recreational trails are designated on-land recreation pathways that are used by either motorized or non-motorized trail users. Non-motorized recreation trails do not include city streets and sidewalks and bike lanes on street bikeways incorporated into the design of city streets and rural highways. Motorized trails include designated off-road trails, but not Forest Service dirt roads. Water trails are marked routes along rivers, streams, lakes or the ocean with public access. These trails are designed

for small watercraft such as canoes, sea and whitewater kayaks, rafts, rowboats, tubes and other drift boats. Water trails include a safe place for the public to put in, parking, rest rooms, a safe place to take out, and in some cases day-use sites and overnight campsites.

## **Questionnaires**

Separate questionnaires will be developed for each of the three user groups (motorized and non-motorized recreational trail users and non-motorized boaters) to address specific issues to each user group. The motorized and non-motorized trail user questionnaires will include a common set of core questions for comparison between user groups such as:

- Frequency of participation,
- Barriers to participation,
- Satisfaction with trail-related services,
- Satisfaction with information services,
- Information sources used in trip planning,
- Identification of grant funding priorities, and
- Trail user demographics.

In addition, a number of questions specific to each trail user type will be added to each survey questionnaire.

Since most non-motorized boaters will not have used or know about water trails, a two-part questionnaire design will be used. The water trails questionnaire will start out with general non-motorized boater questions such as frequency of participation, preferred waterway type, barriers to participation and so on. Next, the questionnaire will describe the Oregon water trail concept and ask respondents to answer a series of questions designed to assist managers in developing additional designated paddling routes in Oregon.

## **Survey Products**

A final survey report will include chapters on each of the three distinct participation types. Each of these chapters will include a discussion of survey results and make recommendations about how to meet planning objectives. The report will include a discussion on the survey methodology, response rates, non-response bias, statistical reliability of data and limitations. It will also discuss survey problems encountered and recommend solutions for those problems. Finally, suggestions will be made on how to improve the overall process for future use.

## **Project Timeline**

The project will be initiated in October 2003 and end in March 2004.