

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

April 4, 2012

Agenda Item: 8a

Information

Topic: Beaver Creek–Ona Beach Comprehensive Planning Process

Presented by: Mark Davison

Background: The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is taking the first steps toward developing a plan for Beaver Creek State Natural Area (SNA) and Ona Beach State Park located south of Newport in Lincoln County. Beaver Creek SNA was recently opened with initial improvements as Park of the Year for 2010. Ona Beach State Park was established many years ago. Additional lands have recently been acquired, mostly adjacent to ONA Beach State Park, substantially expanding the total acreage of the park complex and narrowing the gap between the two parks.

A plan is needed to fully address future recreational use and resource management in both parks. In the planning process OPRD will take a comprehensive look at current information on natural, cultural and scenic resource conditions and management opportunities related to both parks, outdoor recreation trends in the region, areas within the parks that are suitable for recreational use, measures needed to avoid significant impacts on local public services and neighboring land uses, and related ideas and concerns identified through public input.

The department began the planning process last year, with a focus on studies of the natural, cultural and scenic resource conditions. These studies help us determine which areas within the parks are best suited for future resource management activities and/or recreational uses. We are now ready to discuss, in our public involvement forums, the preliminary findings of the resource assessments and what these findings tell us about the opportunities and constraints related to future use and management of the parks.

Issue Scoping meetings with a stakeholder committee, park neighbors, and the general public that were scheduled for March 13-14 in Newport had to be cancelled due to winter storm conditions, and are being rescheduled. Input gathered at these meetings will be used in formulating park values, goals, strategies and actions that address conservation and restoration of the landscape and access for recreation. Further meetings are proposed for July and October. At July meetings draft planning concepts will be presented for public review and comments. Staff will then prepare a draft plan for public comments at meetings tentatively scheduled for October, with the goal of asking for Commission approval of the completed comprehensive park plan at the January 2013 Commission meeting.

Action Requested: Information only

Prior Action by Commission: None.

Prepared by: Ron Campbell, Mark Davison

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

April 4, 2012

Agenda Item: 8b

Information

Topic: Cottonwood Canyon State Park

Prepared by: MG Devereux

Cottonwood Canyon State Park continues to be on track for opening to the public in September 2013. OPRD Staff are working to complete work in several areas to ensure that the project remains on track.

Prior Action by Commission

On July 20, 2011 the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission approved the Comprehensive Park Plan for Cottonwood Canyon State Park. Upon approval, OPRD staff began to work with Sherman and Gilliam Counties to secure Conditional Land Use Approval for park development.

Land Use Planning Approval

The Comprehensive Park Plan and application for Conditional Use was reviewed by the Sherman County Planning Commission on February 27, 2012. OPRD staff responded to concerns regarding coordination with emergency service providers. Many of the concerns had been discussed with local law enforcement, fire response, and emergency managers in the county prior to the public meeting. However, the Planning Commission asked OPRD to provide more formal evidence of agreement on emergency service coordination. The hearing for the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) was continued to April 9th, in order to give OPRD time address these issues. It is hoped that the application will be approved with some reasonable conditions at the April 9th meeting. The Gilliam County Planning Commission is expected to ask for similar documentation at the public meeting scheduled for March 22, 2012. It is anticipated that concerns raised can be resolved with documented agreement relating to the plan of action for emergency response prior to park opening.

Oregon Solutions Project

The initial project kick off meeting was held on March 20, 2012. The project team represents a diverse set of interests from the region surrounding Cottonwood Canyon. This team will be working on ways to transform the welcome center concept into a regional education and experience center. The goal is to find a way to leverage ideas, and resources to making the development of the center shortly after park opening. Interested parties include the Oregon State Parks Trust, Local and Regional Tourism interests, Bureau of Land Management, The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, and local education providers.

Natural Resource Planning and Activities

OPRD staff has recently completed a riparian restoration plan for the former agricultural field near the Murtha homestead site. This plan will be implemented over the next two years and will bolster the ongoing weed eradication efforts conducted by OPRD and Gilliam County. Planting in this area will also provide screening for park development from the Wild and Scenic John Day River.

Natural Resource staff has also been working with Western Rivers Conservancy on several projects. One is an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grant application for restoration work near Esau Canyon and other areas upstream and downstream of Cottonwood Bridge. The other is continuation of tree planting efforts along Hay Creek. Nearly 2700 trees and shrubs were planted along Hay Creek in February and March.

Action Requested: Information only

Prepared by: MG Devereux

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

April 4, 2012

Agenda Item:	8c	Information
Topic:	Acquisition Initiatives	
Presented by:	Jim Morgan	

Background: The process of land acquisition by Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation (OPRD) is guided by Land Acquisition and Exchange Policy #PSP.010 that allows the department to acquire the best representative landscapes and most significant cultural sites in Oregon and ensure the general public's access to and enjoyment of these sites. The policy prioritizes acquisitions that (1) protect areas of outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational significance, (2) consolidate components of the park system to increase efficiencies, (3) provide buffer from potential incompatible adjacent land uses, and (4) provide access to state park lands. The policy also recognizes the benefits of the department collaborating with other governments, agencies, non-profit organizations and private entities when it is mutually beneficial to attain shared goals.

There are three areas where recent heightened interest in collaboration with partners (a) align with the strategies developed by the Commission, (b) have considerable local support, and (c) potentially add considerable leverage in helping to consolidate the state park system: Sand Lake, Salmonberry Corridor, and Wallowa Lake East Moraine. Provided in Attachment A are brief project descriptions that may inform the Commission of potential benefits in allocating resources toward fulfilling the realization of these projects.

Prior Action by Commission: In its January 2011 meeting, the Commission approved entering into a collaborative partnership with Wallowa County board of Commissioners, Wallowa Resources and Wallowa Land Trust to protect the East Moraine.

Action Requested: None

Prepared by: Jim Morgan

Acquisition Initiatives: Sand Lake

Located on the Oregon's north coast between Cape Lookout and Pacific City, Sand Lake is a relatively small estuary of about 1,250 acres of open water, tidal flat, emergent marsh, and forested wetlands. Four small creeks that form within the 17-square mile watershed contribute little to the hydrology of the estuary which is dominated by ebb and flow of the tides entering through the spit that separates the basin from the ocean. This marine-dominated estuary is one of Oregon's least developed estuaries with some of the most extensive dunal system on the north coast.

The majority of the land in and adjacent to Sand Lake is owned by Oregon Division of State Lands, OPRD, U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), private landowners. A dominant feature within the estuary is Whalen Island, formed by stabilized dunes and tidal marsh, which is connected by a causeway and bridge to the mainland. This island is primarily owned and managed by OPRD as a Clay Meyers State Natural Area, with a small campground at the southern entrance operated by Tillamook County. Adjacent to Sand Lake is the small natural area known as Bradley Bog owned by TNC that contains the furthest north distribution of California pitcher plants (*Darlingtonia californica*). Two U.S. Forest Service Research Natural Areas are located within the basin that provide habitat types representative of the coastal region. At the south end of Sand Lake is the 357-acre private land known as 'Beltz Farm'. This complex of beaches, dunes, tidal and freshwater marshes is considered one of the best remaining unprotected coastal remnants.

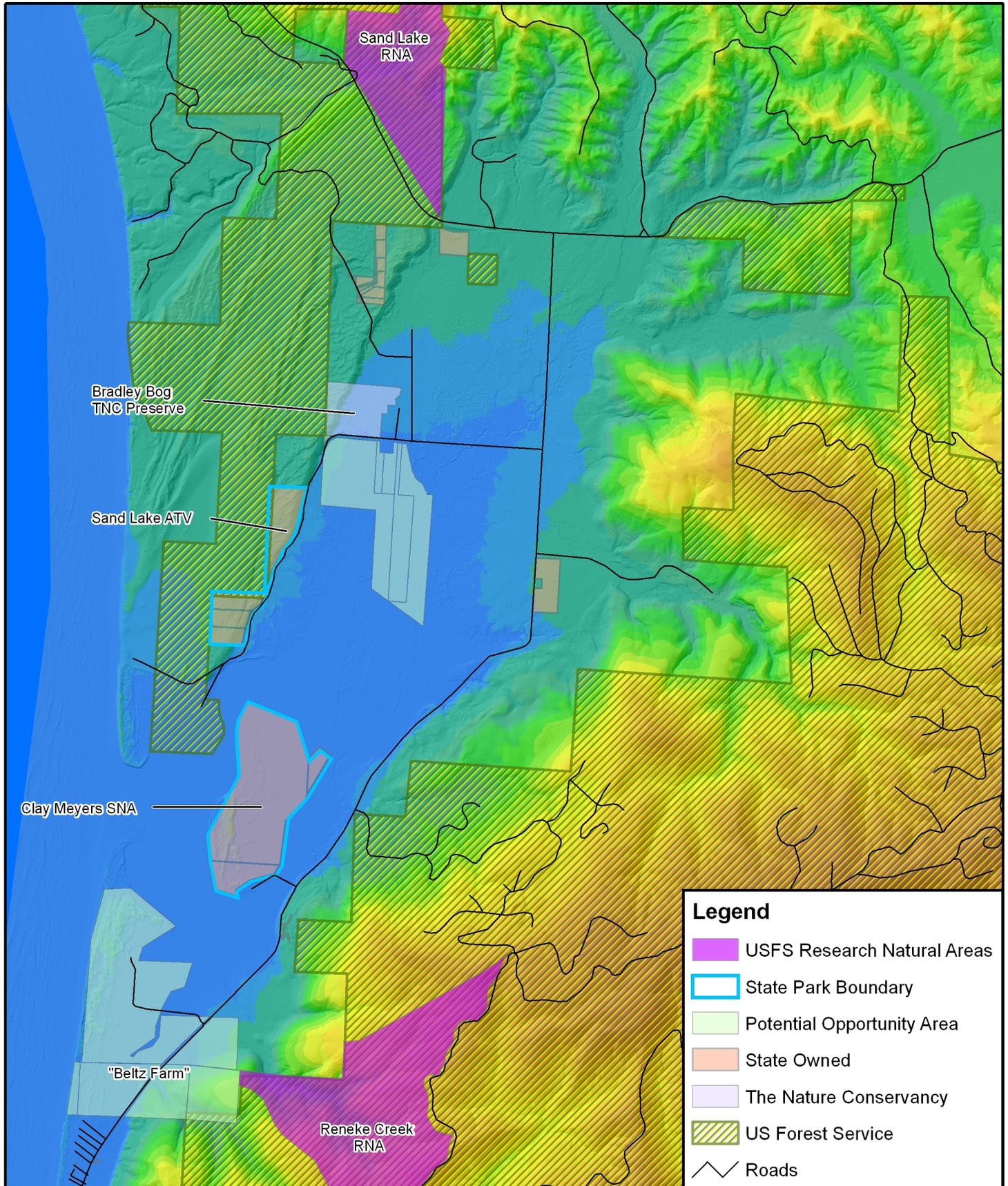
There are artificial dikes on adjacent private lands in the north and southern ends of the estuary that were historically constructed to develop wetlands for agricultural uses. The remainder of Sand Lake has had relatively little significant disturbance by development. Significant restoration opportunities lie within the two 'opportunity areas' currently privately-owned. Removal of the artificial levees in these two ownerships would restore natural hydrology and wetland functions to most of the remaining diked portion Sand Lake.

While Sand Lake does not support a significant fishery, it is widely revered for accessibility to significant shellfish production. Sand Lake is unique in Oregon given its dominance by marine forces, shifting channel locations, and seasonal freshwater influences. Acquisition and protection of key land parcels in Sand Lake offers an opportunity to protect a relatively unaltered estuary type from development that would restrict its natural dynamic functions.

The Beltz Farm was identified in OPRD's 2006 Acquisition Priorities Report as the top priority for acquisition.

SAND LAKE ESTUARY
PUBLIC OR CONSERVATION LAND OWNERSHIP
AND POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY AREAS

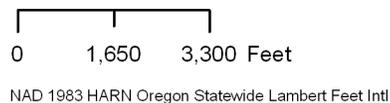
Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept.
725 Summer St. NE, Suite C
Salem OR, 97301



Legend

- USFS Research Natural Areas
- State Park Boundary
- Potential Opportunity Area
- State Owned
- The Nature Conservancy
- US Forest Service
- Roads

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.



NMOB-2482 3/12/2012
E:3/13/2012
P:never

Acquisition Initiatives: Salmonberry Canyon Corridor Initiative

Opportunity:

Historic storms and flooding in 2007 devastated portions of the rail linkage across the Oregon Coast Range through the Salmonberry Canyon in the Tillamook State Forest. While coastal portions of the railroad remain viable today, the forest portion-including major tunnels and trestles along the Salmonberry River in Tillamook County-has been isolated due to overwhelming damage. Out of these storms is emerging an idea to build The Salmonberry Corridor. The Salmonberry Corridor is a regional route through rural communities, working landscapes, and forested valleys that has statewide significance, and may be part of a larger trail network that has national significance. Evaluating the potential of this connection between the coastal communities of Tillamook County and Washington County will be a large endeavor.

The gathering interest and support to re-link communities along the rail corridor-from Banks to Tillamook – is converging on the no-longer functioning portions of rail line to a trail, and by adding a trail adjacent to the viable sections of rail. This unique 80-mile corridor, steeped in history, natural beauty and adventure, can connect urban and rural Oregon-the Portland area and the Coast-while tapping into a wide network of existing recreation trails and parks, educational opportunities and heritage. This project, once brought to fruition, will likely create strong economic opportunities for Northwest Oregon.

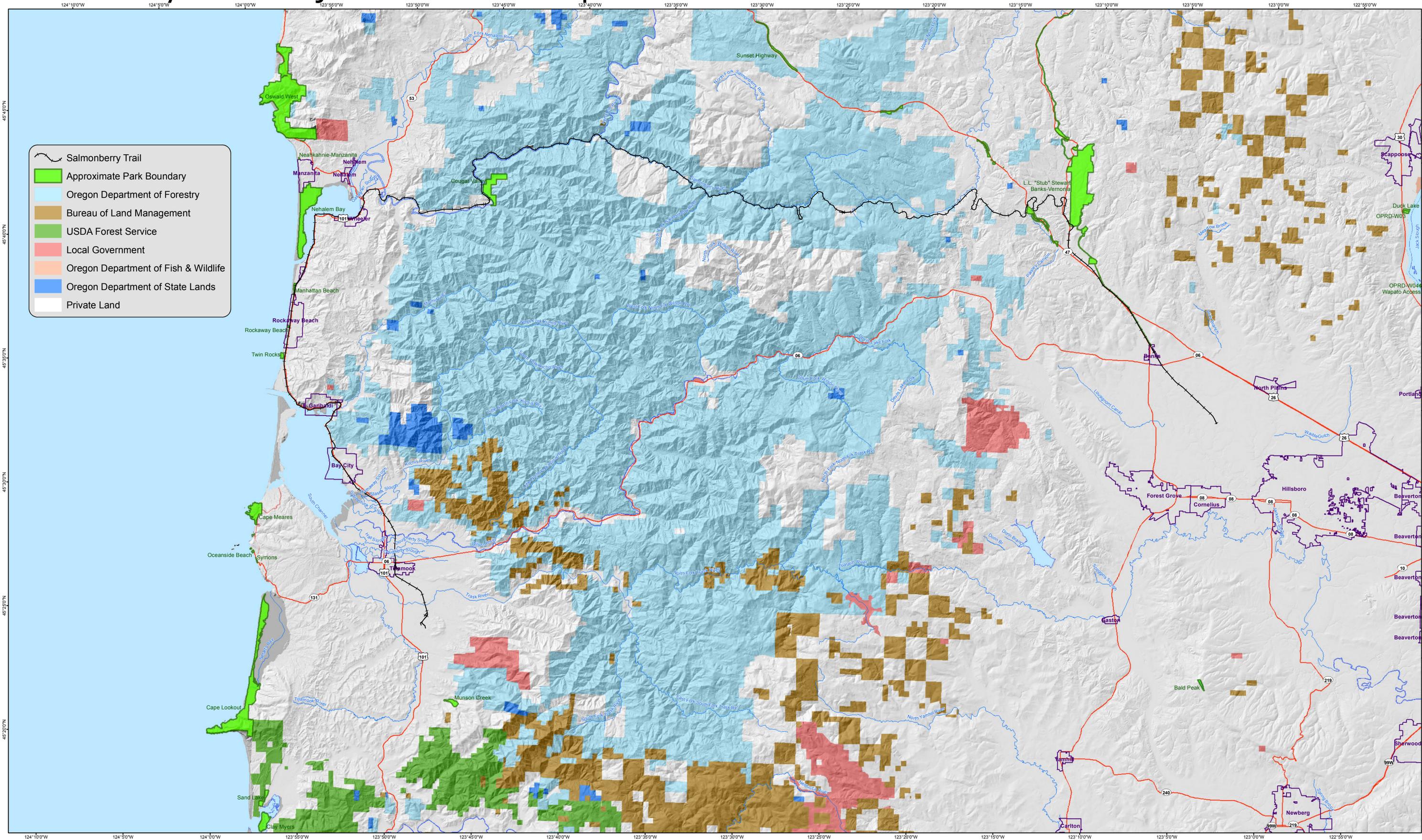
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) have been asked by State Senator Betsy Johnson and Representatives of Tillamook County to develop a framework that can be used to evaluate the potential of the Salmonberry Corridor. Other partners include Port of Tillamook Bay, Economic Development Tillamook, Portland State University, Gov. Kitzhaber's Office, Oregon Department of Transportation, and Cycle Oregon.

Vision:

The Salmonberry Corridor encompasses the full range of typical park experiences relating to heritage, natural, recreation and scenic resources. It also does something that is not typical for linear parks; the emphasis on the corridor will reach out to encompass the rural communities and agrarian areas that surround the major natural, cultural or scenic resources in the area. In doing so, it enables these communities to benefit most from their own surrounding resources. This type of linear park will encourage the community to lead in managing the corridor with its state partners; the hope is that a local organization made up of people from the region - including citizens from the towns, business owners, farmers, as well as state officials - forms to oversee the Salmonberry Corridor initiative both through planning and operation. If this can occur, the corridor will not only protect the physical resources and landscape character of the region, but will serve to also promote traditional ways of life, local festivals, locally made products, and strengthen community identity. In short, the establishment of the Salmonberry Corridor offers great potential to revitalize an area through a grass roots movement that can increase pride in the region and ensure the wealth generated from these efforts is returned back to the local community.

Salmonberry Trail - Major Public Ownership

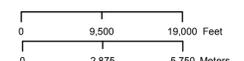
Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept.
725 Summer St. NE, Suite C
Salem OR, 97301



- Salmonberry Trail
- Approximate Park Boundary
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Bureau of Land Management
- USDA Forest Service
- Local Government
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Oregon Department of State Lands
- Private Land

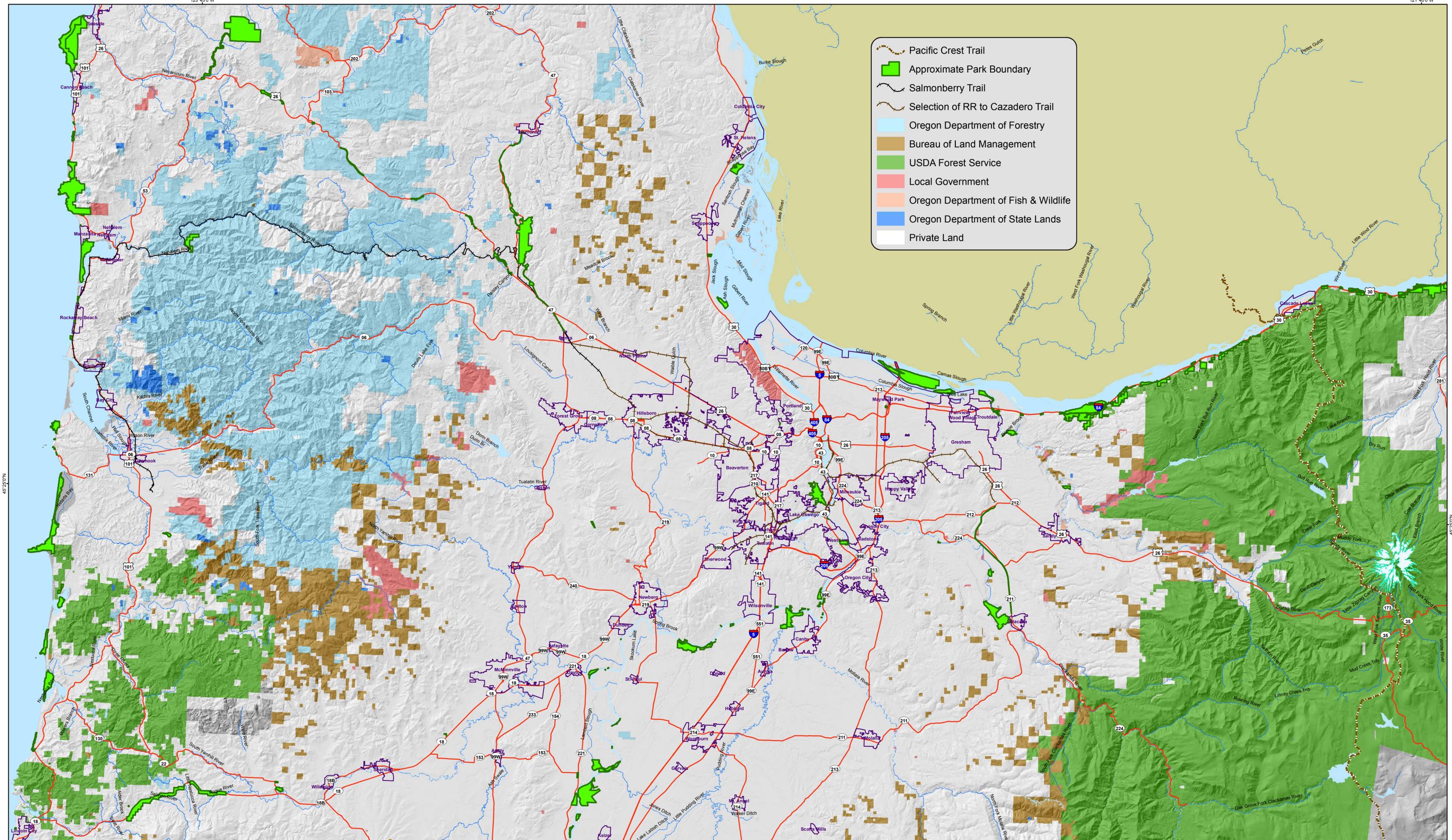
This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for, legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

NAD 1983 HARN Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl



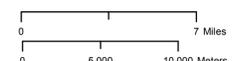
NMOB-3991 2/9/2012
E:2/9/2012
P:2/9/2012
N:\Projects\Planning\Salmonberry Trail\MXDs\PubOwn_Salmonberry Trail.mxd

Salmonberry Trail to Crest of the Cascades



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for, legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

NAD 1983 HARN Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Int



Acquisition Initiatives: East Moraine of Wallowa Lake

Iconic Geography

For decades, the Wallowa Lake State Recreation Area at the head of Wallowa Lake has drawn thousands of visitors from every corner of Oregon and worldwide. In 2007, in conjunction with three Indian tribes, the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department purchased the 62-acre Marr Ranch, now called Iwetemlaykin State Heritage Site, which encompasses much of the terminal moraine at the foot of the lake, near the town of Joseph. A site of controversy for over three decades, this property is strategically located on the terminal moraine of Wallowa Lake, adjacent to Old Chief Joseph's gravesite on Bureau of Indian Affairs and National Park Service land.

East Moraine is the dominant landform which cradles Wallowa Lake and connects the two state parks. This lateral moraine encompasses over 3000 acres of working lands between the two OPRD holdings. Ten landowners use these properties primarily for grazing, with some logging at the south end of the moraine, as well as for hunting, recreation, education, solitude and scenery.

Private Lands, Public Values

Although not yet secured for public access, this landscape is regularly traversed by local residents and visitors, primarily by foot, skis, snowshoes and horseback. Landowners have exhibited a notable level of tolerance for these activities to date, but this status will not last indefinitely.

Construction of more homes and structures is greatly limited by state and county zoning restrictions, but protection of this significant resource is not guaranteed into the future. Recent efforts to change Oregon's land use planning system (Measures 37 & 49) continue to threaten the East Moraine, where new proposals for residential development are expected in 2012 on several properties.

Partnerships & Alliances

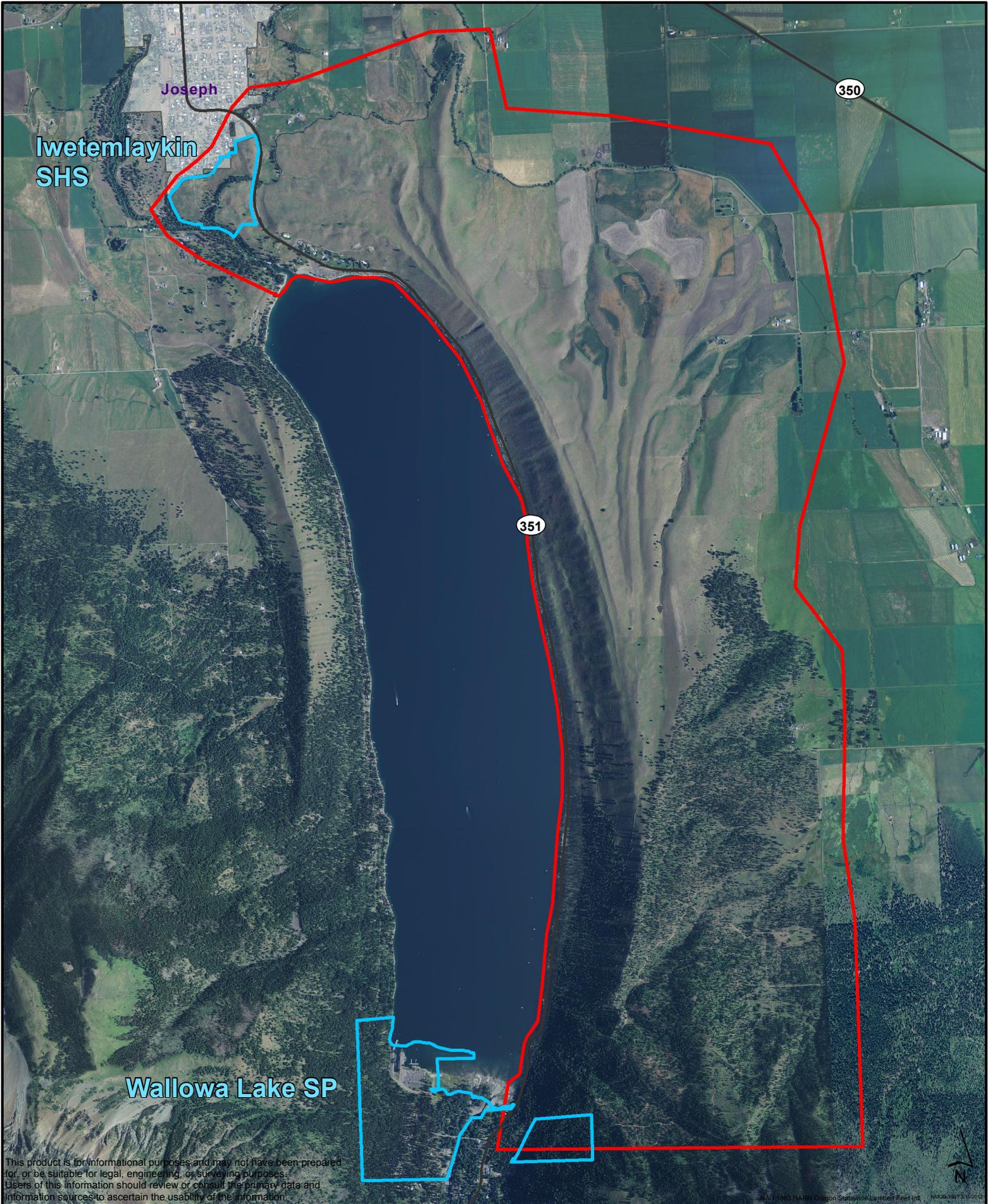
Residents and visitors have long recognized the significance of the Wallowa Lake Moraines. Members of the local community have a tradition of working with landowners in learning more about these landforms and to educate the public about their natural, cultural, historic and economic values, for the benefit of the local community and the people of Oregon. *Securing a Community Legacy* is the overall theme of the Moraines Coalition.

In January 2011, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission committed its support through OPRD to the local community in ongoing efforts to protect open spaces, working lands and public access on the Moraines through an agreement in forming the East Moraine Coalition. It allows the new East Moraine partnership to expand the natural resource assessments of the moraines, and to better understand their social and economic roles in the communities, all within the context of a model for public-private land conservation partnerships.

The Wallowa County Board of Commissioners plays a lead role in this process, and works closely with Wallowa Resources (WR) and the Wallowa Land Trust (WLT). OPRD provided a \$25,000 planning grant to the county to assist in the Coalition's effort. Cycle Oregon, which along with Meyer Memorial Trust supported previous WLT/WR educational efforts on the Moraines, contributed an additional \$15,000 to assist in this effort, and to help cover initial Conservation Easement appraisal costs. Other informal partners and co-sponsors for research and educational endeavors include the Nez Perce Tribe's Department of Fisheries Resources Management, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, and The Nature Conservancy.

East Moraine Study Area

Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept.
725 Summer St. NE, Suite C
Salem OR, 97301



Iwetemlaykin
SHS

Joseph

350

351

Wallowa Lake SP

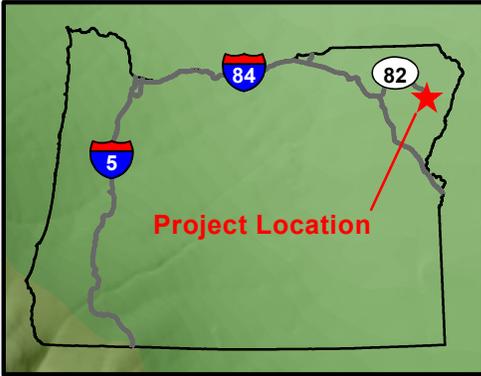
This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for, legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

East Moraine at Wallowa Lake

Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept.
725 Summer St. NE, Suite C
Salem OR, 97301



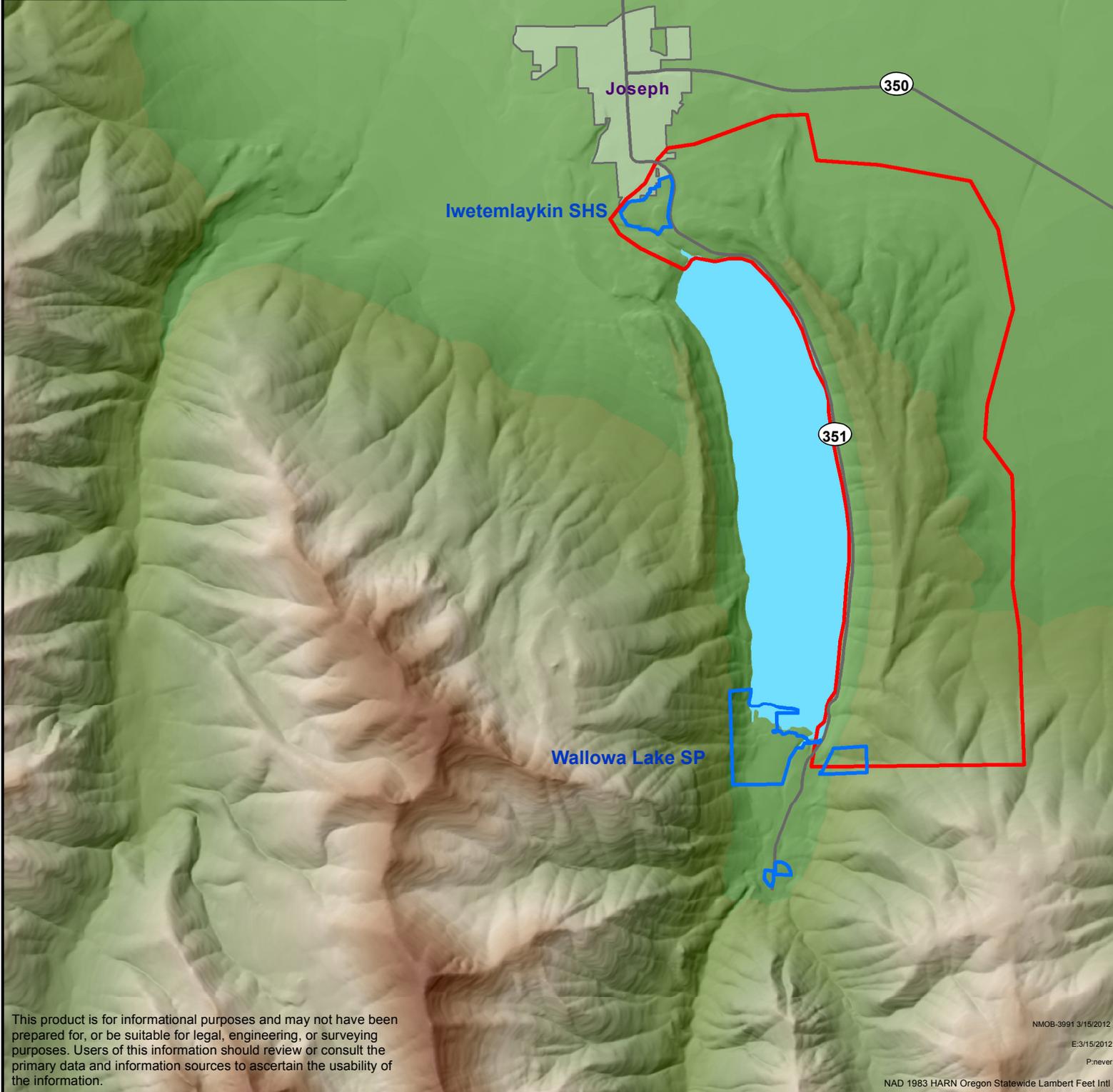
Nature
HISTORY
Discovery



0 0.5 1 Miles

Approx Park Boundary

East Moraine Study Area



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

NMOB-3991 3/15/2012

E:3/15/2012

P:never

NAD 1983 HARN Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl