

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

September 23, 2015

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Agenda Item:	7a	Information
Topic:	Beltz Property Master Plan	
Presented by:	Ben Hedstrom, Planning Coordinator and Scott Nebeker, Park Development Administrator	

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### **Background:**

The Beltz property is located at the southern end of the Sand Lake estuary approximately five miles north of Pacific City. Sand Lake estuary is one of Oregon's most pristine estuaries. It was maintained in a mostly natural condition and has the lowest land use conversion rate of any other estuary in Oregon. The property represents a vital mix of dunes, forest, and natural wetlands well-suited for low-key, nature-based recreation.

A park master plan will focus OPRD's restoration and park development priorities in a sustainable manner for short term improvements providing light recreation and access, while guiding preservation of this pristine natural resource for the enjoyment of future generations.

### **Where we are in the planning process:**

Master planning is underway for this property, and the first round of public meetings were held in August 2015. These meetings were heavily attended, with 60-70 people attending the neighborhood meeting on August 1st in Tierra Del Mar, including local press and State Representative David Gromberg (District 10). 30-40 people attended a second public meeting in Pacific City on August 27th. In general, the meetings reflected a very friendly atmosphere with great appreciation shown by the community for OPRD acquiring this property. Consistent with public comment made during the acquisition process, there is a wish from locals for a light footprint approach towards any development. Desired recreation includes hiking and trails, wildlife and bird viewing. There is a strong interest in providing educational opportunities for learning about the natural resources and history of the place, with several people asking how they could get involved.

In addition to holding public meetings, planning staff are utilizing two survey tools to generate comment on park development through the plan website ([www.beltzplan.com](http://www.beltzplan.com)). The first is a traditional survey designed to gather information on preferences for recreation and development in addition to identifying benefits to park visitors. The second is a mapping tool which allows citizens to add comments on a map of the park to identify geographic locations for potential development, restoration, and resource management (see below). This tool was co-developed by staff from Integrated Park Services (IPS) and Information Services sections.

The master planning process for this new Oregon State Park is underway. Your comments will help inform concept alternatives for light recreation use and resource management.

**DIRECTIONS:**

- 1) Click 'PUBLIC PLANNING COMMENTS' pin in pane below,
- 2) Select a location on the map,
- 3) Type comment into 'COMMENTS' box,
- 4) Close box to submit comment,
- 5) Repeat steps to add additional comments.

**PUBLIC PLANNING COMMENTS**

**OPRD MAP LAYERS**

- Existing Trails
- Oregon Coast Trail
- Park Boundary

More Info Available At: [Beltz Plan](#)

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### Next Steps:

IPS staff are currently developing concept alternatives and finalizing assessments (including natural and cultural resources, geographic information system, topographic surveys, visitor experience, trails, etc.) to share with the public in November. A draft master plan is tentatively scheduled to be completed in March 2016. Once the final plan is approved by the OPRD Commission, OPRD staff will be working with the county to determine land use compatibility, prior to design development and permitting throughout 2016. Phase one construction is projected for 2017-18.

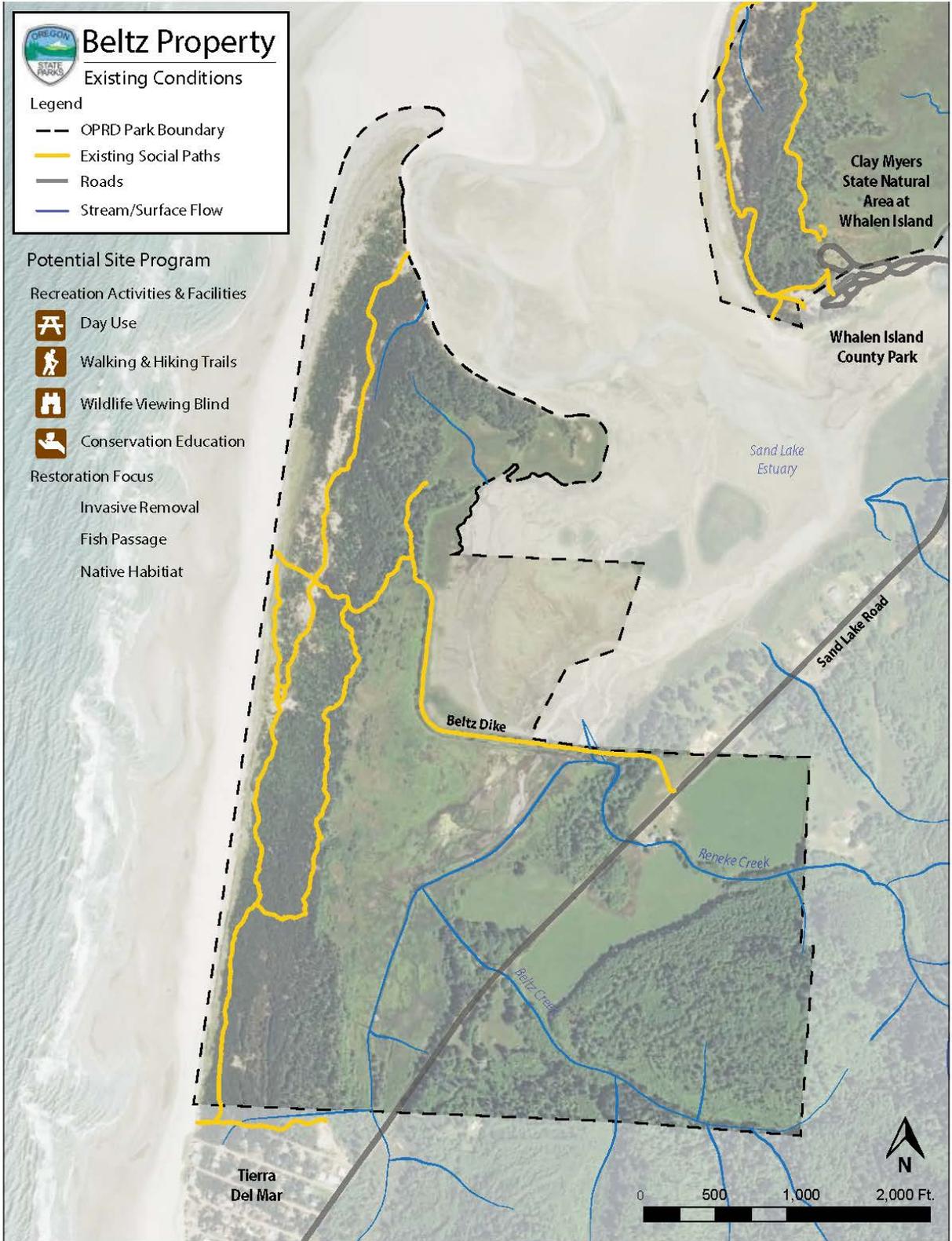
### Prior Action by Commission:

- Beltz Property Master Plan Update (Information) April 15, 2015
- Sand Lake Initiative - Beltz Farm Acquisition (Action) June 25, 2014
- Sand Lake Initiative - Beltz Farm (Informational) April 9, 2014
- Acquisition Initiatives: Sand Lake (Informational) April 4, 2012
- 2007 - 2013 Acquisition Plan approved Nov. 9, 2006
- Acquisition Priorities Report (Informational), Sept. 2005

**Action Requested:** None

**Attachments:** Beltz Existing Conditions and Preliminary Site Program

**Prepared by:** Ben Hedstrom



## Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

September 23, 2015

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Agenda Item: 7b Information

Topic: Smith Rock Visitation Management

Presented by: Ben Hedstrom, Planning Coordinator and  
Scott Nebeker, Park Development Administrator

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### **Background**

Smith Rock State Park has seen significant growth in visitation over the past five years. 2014 data indicates a 43% increase in camping and 32% increase in day use visitation since 2010, with a projected 20% increase in park visitation for 2015. Threats to public safety and natural resources, along with over-taxed park facilities and a thinly stretched staff, signify a need for immediate and planned future action.

Recently, neighbors of the park formally expressed concerns over pedestrian safety on NE Crooked River Drive due to overflow parking that forces visitors to walk on the road between parked and moving vehicles. Deschutes County has cited a 1998 resolution to create a no parking zone on both sides of NE Crooked River Drive and would like to see compliance with this resolution as soon as possible. The County installed 'no parking' signage on August 26, 2015. This leaves no alternative parking for the already over-filled parking facilities.

### **Immediate Solution**

Staff from the Engineering and Integrated Park Services sections are currently developing a design to accommodate 80-100 cars in a temporary overflow parking lot located in the field in front of the Rex House District Office (see image below for proposed location). The goals of this design are to facilitate a low-cost solution to immediate parking needs, while protecting natural resources. The location of this lot allows flexibility for future, permanent solutions as determined by a master planning process. Staff are currently defining the funding plan to complete the project in the 2015-17 biennium.

### **Long Term Approach**

OPRD staff will initiate an update to the existing Smith Rock State Park Master Plan (1991) in 12 to 18 months to consider long term needs. The master plan will examine carrying capacity and determine sustainable visitation levels to ensure the resources at the park are not impaired. The update will review recreation activities, impacts of special uses and group activities, resource conservation needs, facility needs, and entrance options with circulation improvements. The update will then make recommendations for future improvements to address the long term usage patterns identified and develop an implementation/funding plan. The Smith Rock State Park Master Plan Update will be presented to the Commission for review and approval upon completion.

**Prior Action by Commission:** None

**Action Requested:** None

**Attachment:** Smith Rock State Park map featuring proposed temporary overflow parking location

**Prepared by:** Scott Brown, Julia Cogger, Ben Hedstrom, and Chris Parkins

