



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department

725 Summer St. NE, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301-1271

(503) 986-0707

Fax (503) 986-0794

www.oregonstateparks.org



MEMO

DATE: March 13, 2014

TO: Members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Administrator

FROM: Lisa Van Laanen, Director, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Executive Summary of Oregon Parks and Recreation Agreement with the Oregon State Parks Foundation

Background:

During the 2013 regular session, Senate Bill 196 was passed and signed into law. Senate Bill 196 enhances the ability of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to connect with individual, private, and corporate donors through entering into agreements with nonprofit organizations to solicit gifts, grants, and donations improve our state park system. The legislation permits the department to provide promotional items such as park passes, brochures, merchandise, promotional space on our website, office or meeting space for events and activities intended to raise funds for the benefit of the department.

The passage of Senate Bill 196 greatly improves the effectiveness of working with organizations to achieve our mission *to provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future*

generations. Senate Bill 196 requires the department to provide 30 days' notice to the Legislature prior to entering into an agreement with a nonprofit organization.

Executive Summary:

Fulfilling the intent of Senate Bill 196, passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2013, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department intends to enter into an agreement with the Oregon State Parks Foundation. The Foundation is an independent, federally tax exempt, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which exists for the primary purpose of soliciting gifts and funds to support Oregon state parks. The Foundation's mission is to *enrich the experience of Oregon state parks for generations to come*.

The purpose of the agreement is to further the strategic priorities of the Department. The Foundation will accomplish this by adding value to state parks by raising funds to support projects and leveraging volunteers. The agreement complies with Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 736-0025-0015 adopted by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission to provide procedures for agreements with donor organizations. Under the agreement, the Foundation will remain independent from the Department and the Department will retain ultimate authority over Oregon state parks.

Foundation and Department funds will not be comingled and the agreement sets forth procedures to ensure transparency and accountability in the relationship between the Foundation and Department including annual and monthly reporting of financial activities, performance

reviews, and access to records and audits. The Foundation will assume all risk for donations received and invested by the Foundation and the Department will have no liability for losses incurred by the Foundation. The agreement between the Foundation and Department will begin on its effective date through January 31, 2020 unless terminated in accordance with the agreement, renewed or extended.

A copy of the agreement is online at <http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/Pages/nonprofit-agreements.aspx> or can be obtained by contacting Chris Havel with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department at (503) 986-0722 or Chris.Havel@oregon.gov.