

Bandon State Natural Area/Whale Cove/Grouse Mountain Exchange Open Houses

Aug. 16, 2013, Bandon, Oregon ~ Aug. 19, 2013, Mt Vernon, Oregon

The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission received a staff report at its July meeting on a land trade proposal from Bandon Biota related to Bandon State Natural Area. Bandon Biota is described as a private "conservation land holding entity" owned by Michael Keiser, owner of Bandon Dunes and other local golf courses. Bandon Biota proposes to use part of the land they've requested -- a 280 acre piece of the 878 acre Bandon State Natural Area -- to create a new golf course.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and representatives with Bandon Biota have created a framework for an agreement to exchange a 280 acre portion of 878-acre Bandon State Natural Area in trade for:

- 111 acres of property next to the Natural Area.
- 97 acres on Coquille Spit north of Bandon.
- As much as \$2.95 million in cash, part of which helps match a grant to acquire 10 acres of Whale Cove in Lincoln County, and part would purchase 6,100 acres of the Grouse Mountain property in Grant County for use as a future state park.
- An easement to move a section of the Oregon Coast Trail from a county road to a dedicated path on private land north of Bandon.
- \$300,000 work of gorse control in Coos and Curry counties.

No decision has been made. Two public meetings – one in Bandon, one in Mount Vernon in Grant County – were held in August to listen to citizen concerns before presenting a final report to the Commission for their consideration. The earliest the Commission could make a decision is at the November 2013 meeting in Corvallis. There is no agreement to purchase or trade any land unless the Commission acts to authorize Oregon Parks and Recreation Department staff to draft those agreements.

During the public meetings, members of the audience were asked to cast votes on what appeared to be the most important issues related to the proposed exchange. Each audience was presented with a series of statements based on comments already received by the department through email and letters. The voting did not occur at the Bandon meeting until the very end, after some audience members had already left.

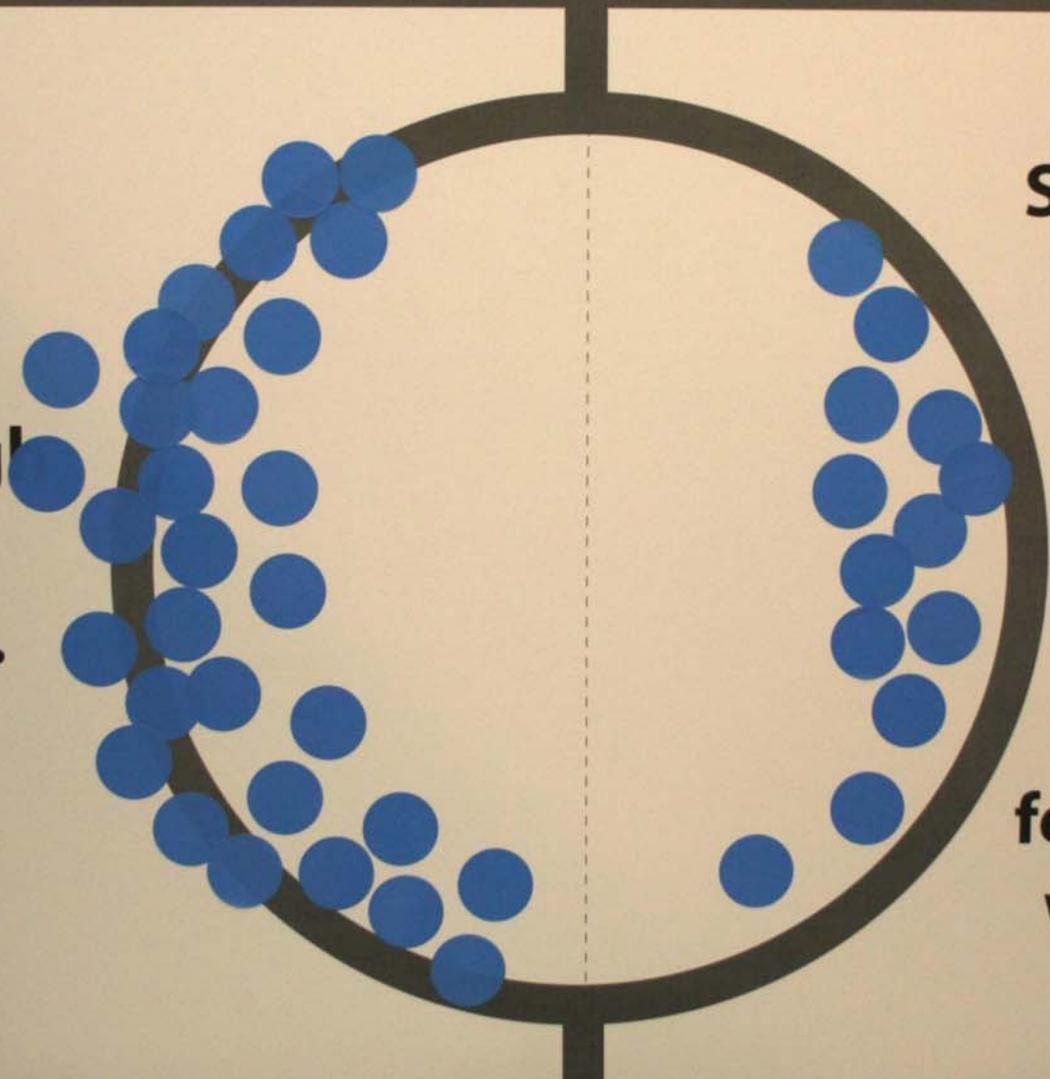
Audience members expressed their views in two ways when they voted: first, they placed an adhesive dot inside a circle closest to the statement that best reflected their own opinion. The closer their dot to the edge of the circle, the more strongly they held the opinion. Second, each member had four dots to use, and could place multiple dots on the same statement if they felt it deserved more attention than other issues.

Mt Vernon Meeting // Aug. 19, 2013

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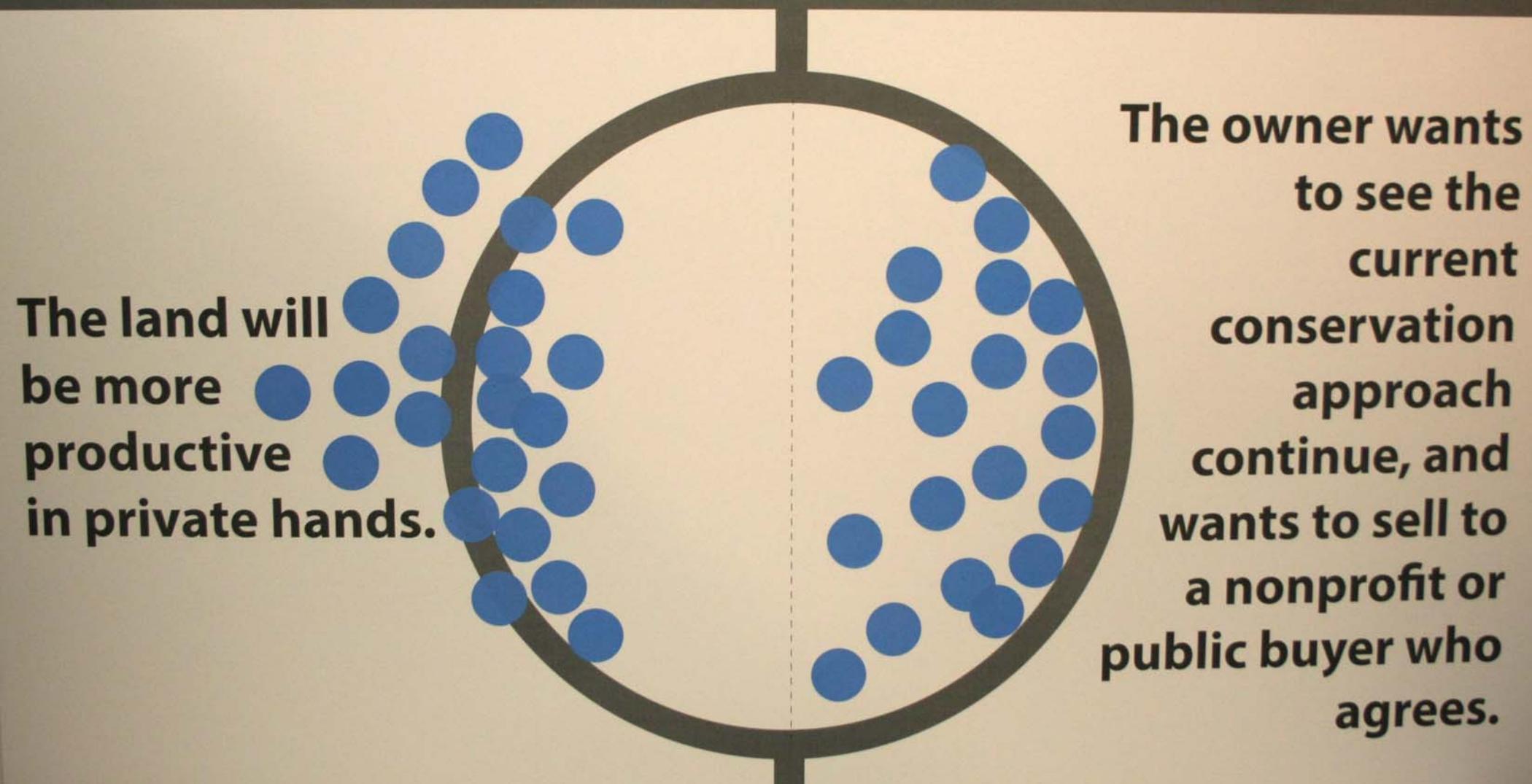
Are all public lands the same?

There's enough public land in Grant County.



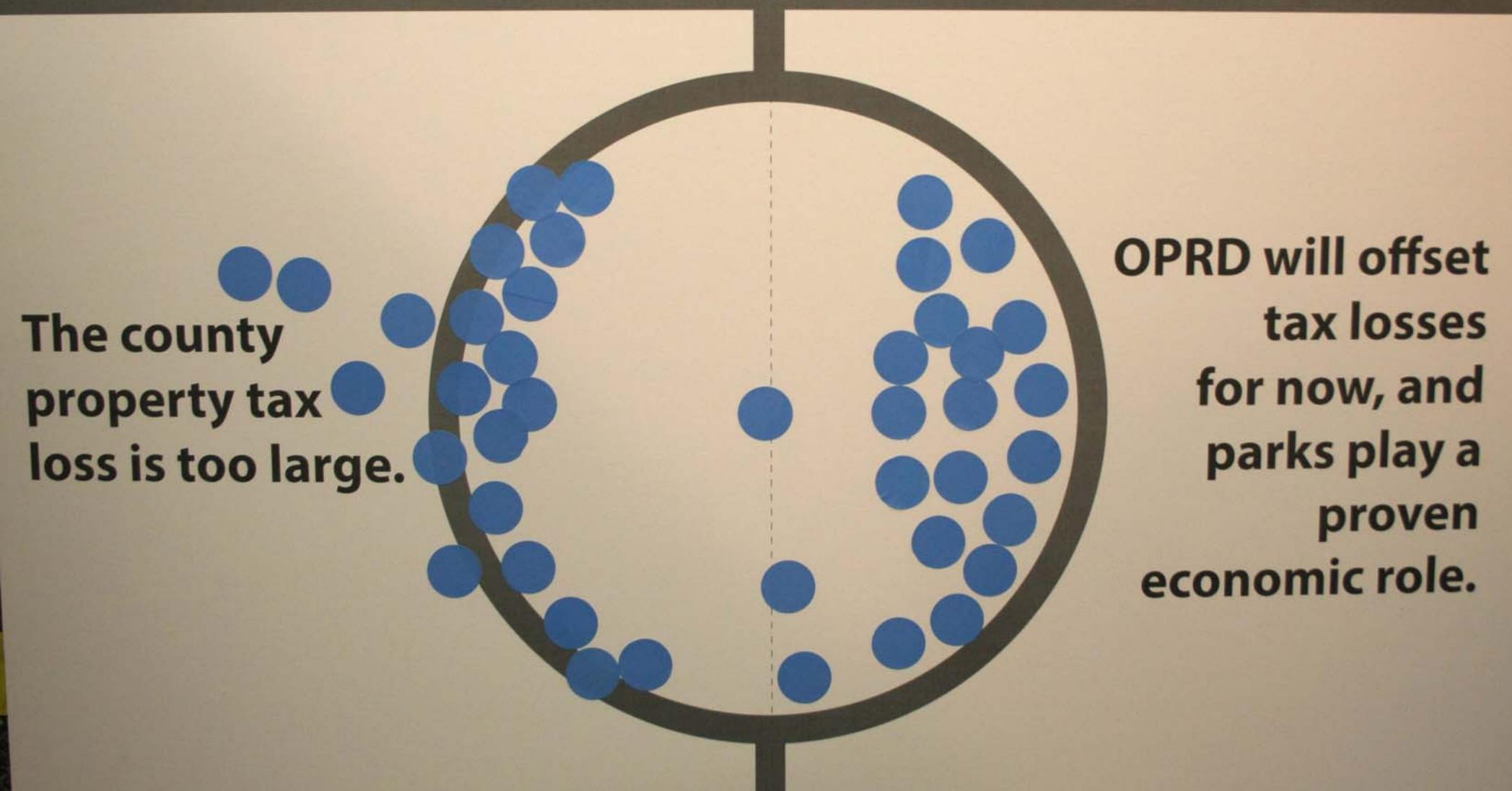
State parks serve local and regional public recreation needs in a different way compared with federal forests or wildlife refuges.

Productivity



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Taxes



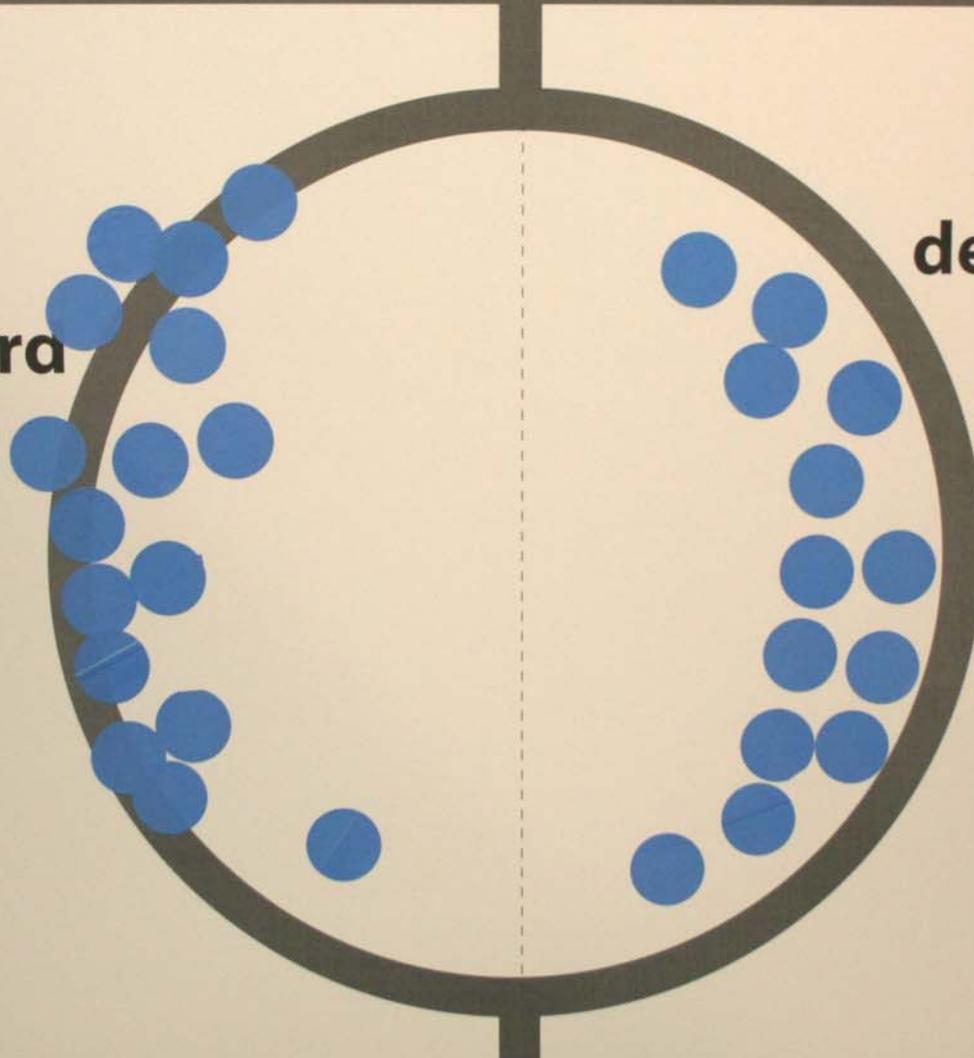
The county property tax loss is too large.

OPRD will offset tax losses for now, and parks play a proven economic role.

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Responsible owner

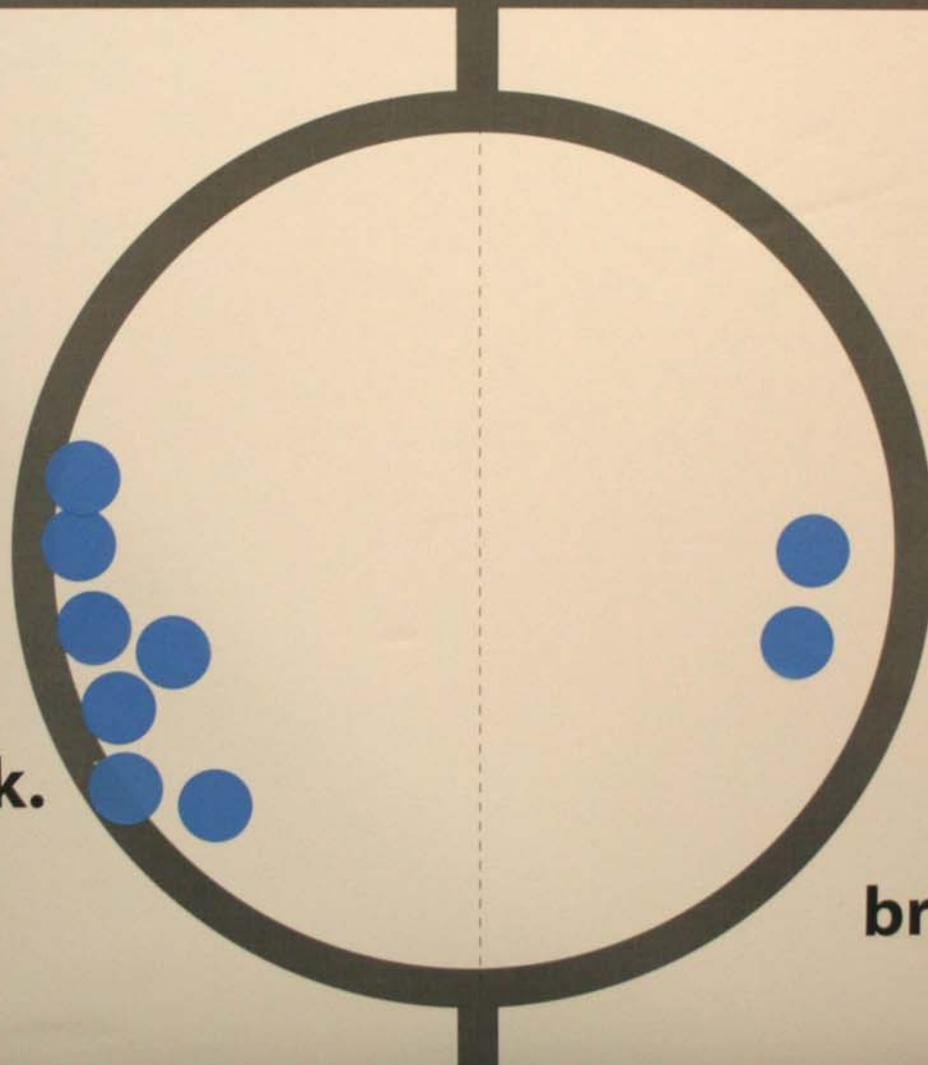
**OPRD can't afford
to maintain
large pieces of
property
correctly.**



**State Parks has
dedicated funding
and revenue
from park
visitors, ag
leases, grants
and timber
management to
restore native
plants.**

What is a state park?

There's nothing special about Grouse Mt, so it doesn't qualify to be a state park.

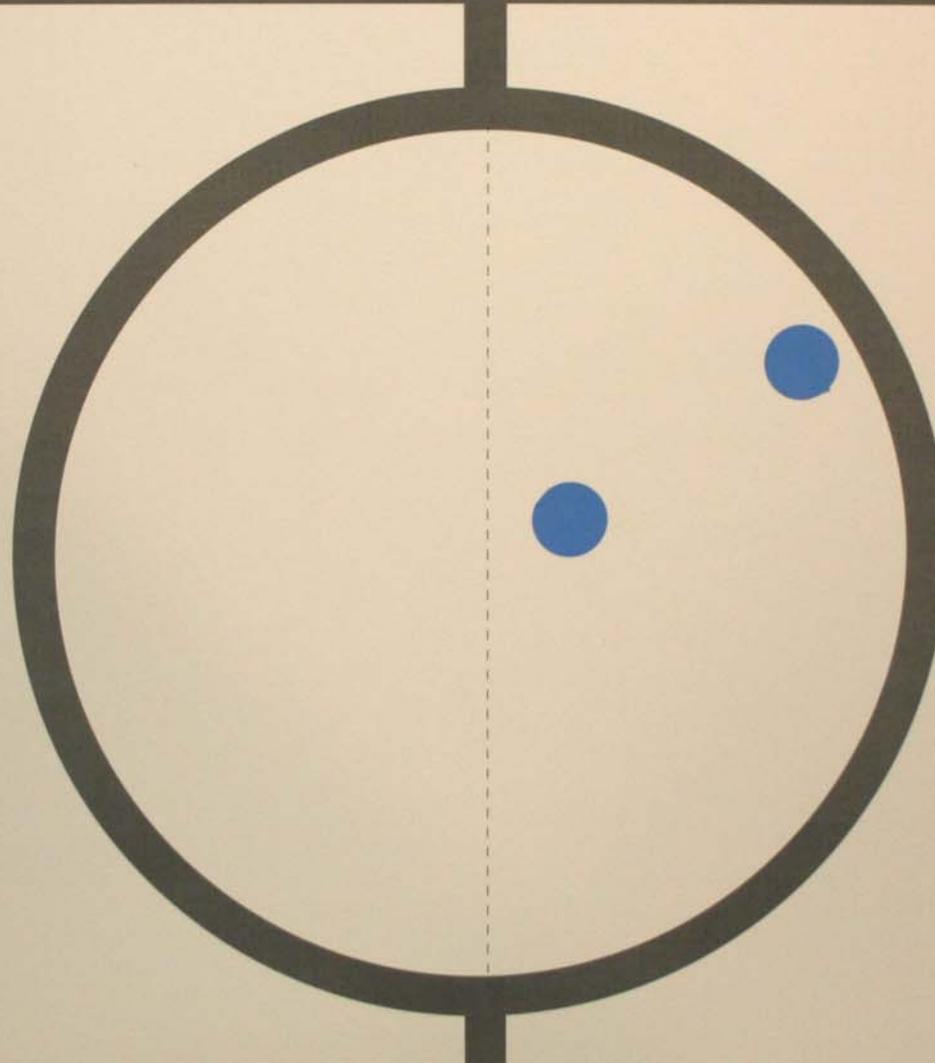


We pursue high-quality land with strong recreation value that presents the character of a region to a broader audience.

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Does the state park system change?

The state park system doesn't need to change.



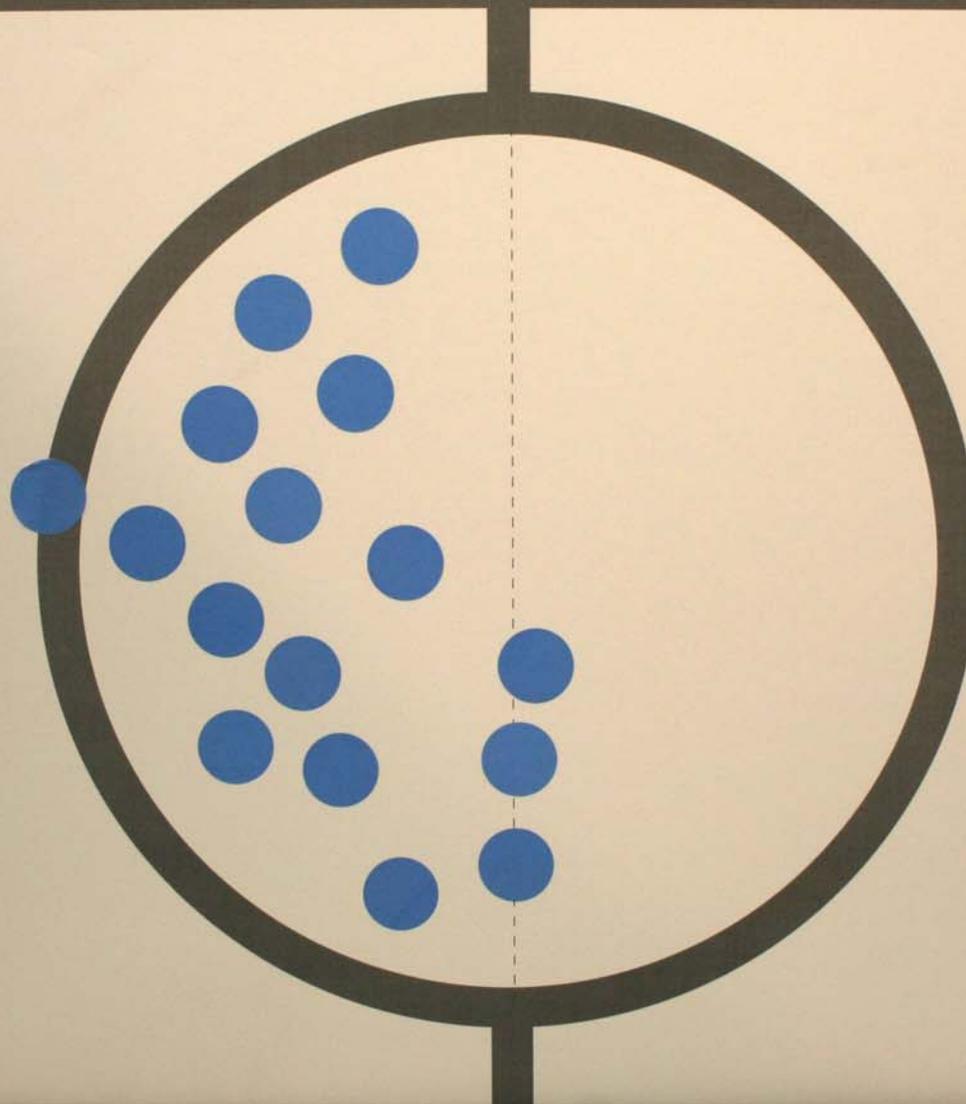
Shifts and investment in the state park system are the best ways to serve the next generation.

Bandon Meeting // Aug. 16, 2013

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Is it OK to change coast property from public to private?

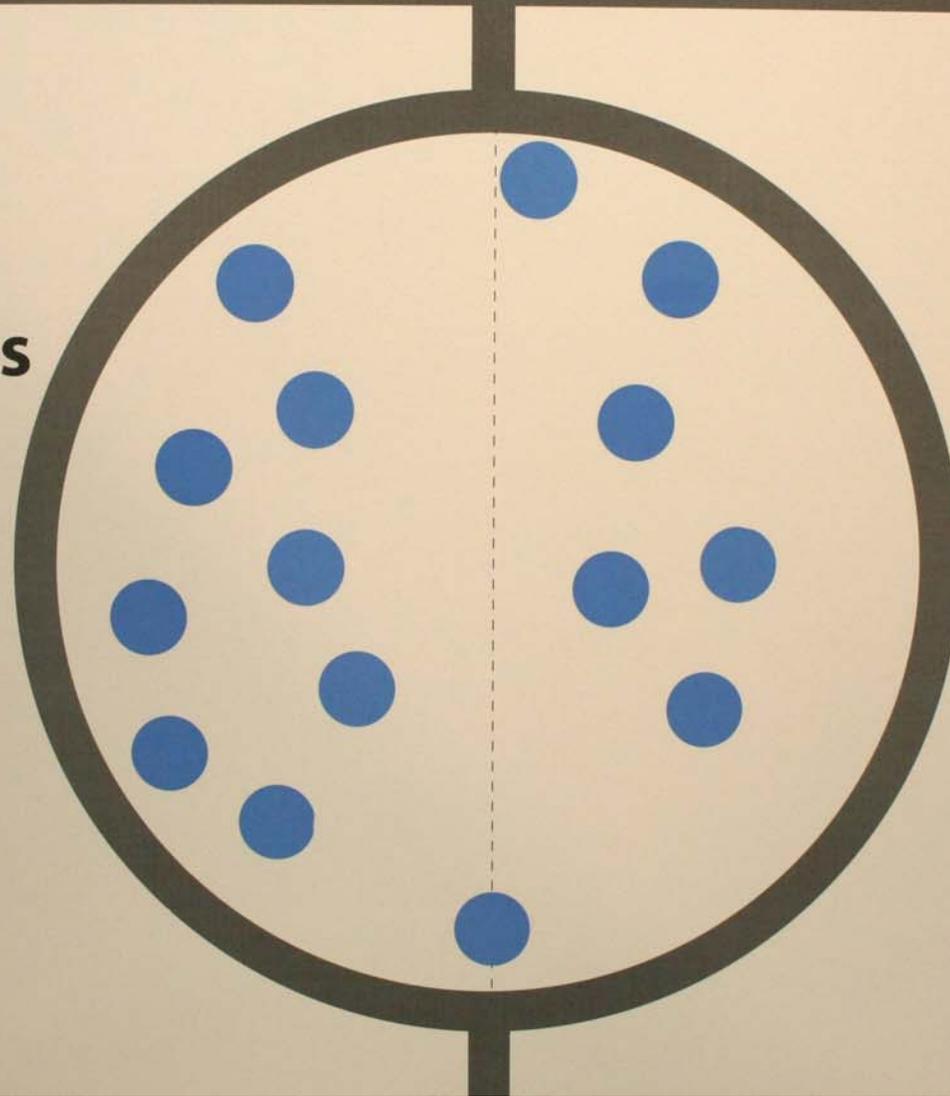
Public coast property should never leave public ownership.



If you can gain more than you lose for the coast system, change is good.

How will resources be affected by an ownership change?

Natural resources will be harmed by transfer to private ownership.

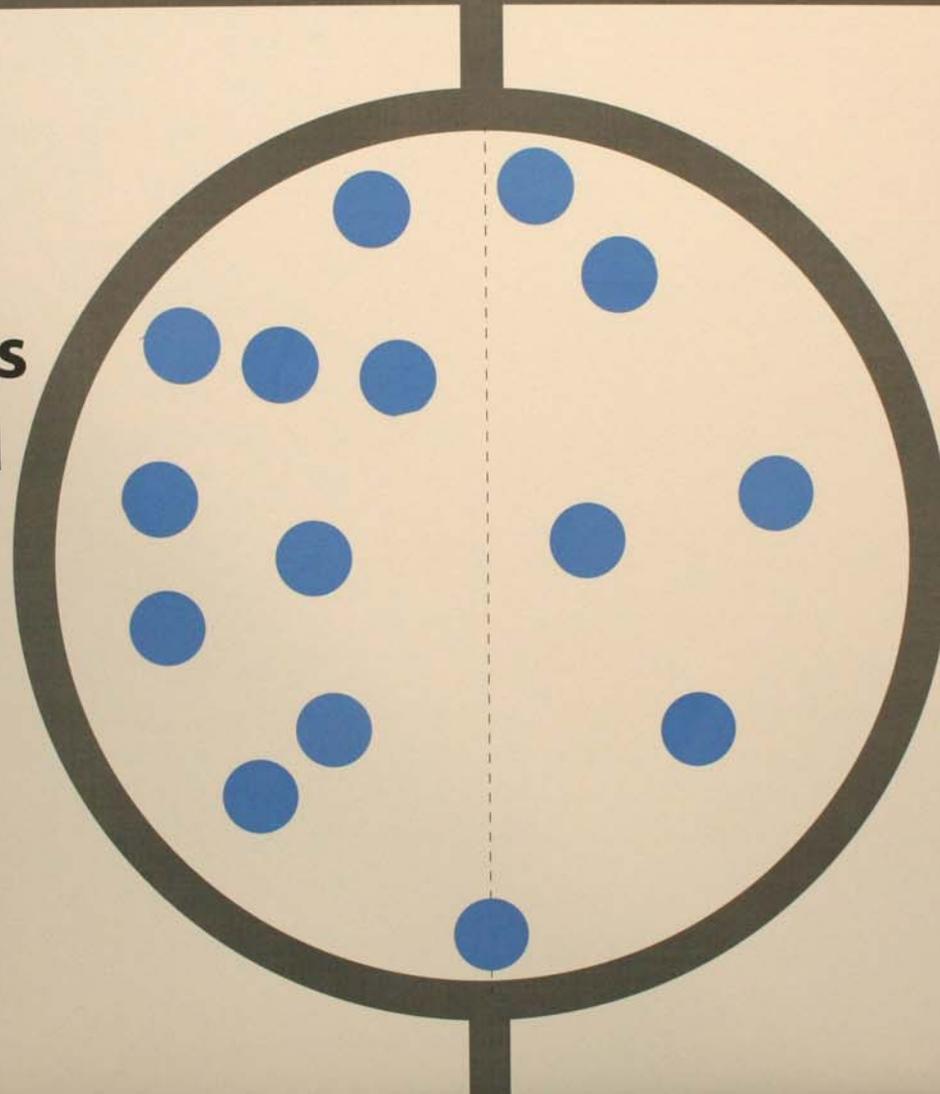


Conservation easements and keeping key areas public can ensure long-term protection.

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How will recreation access to the dunes and shore change?

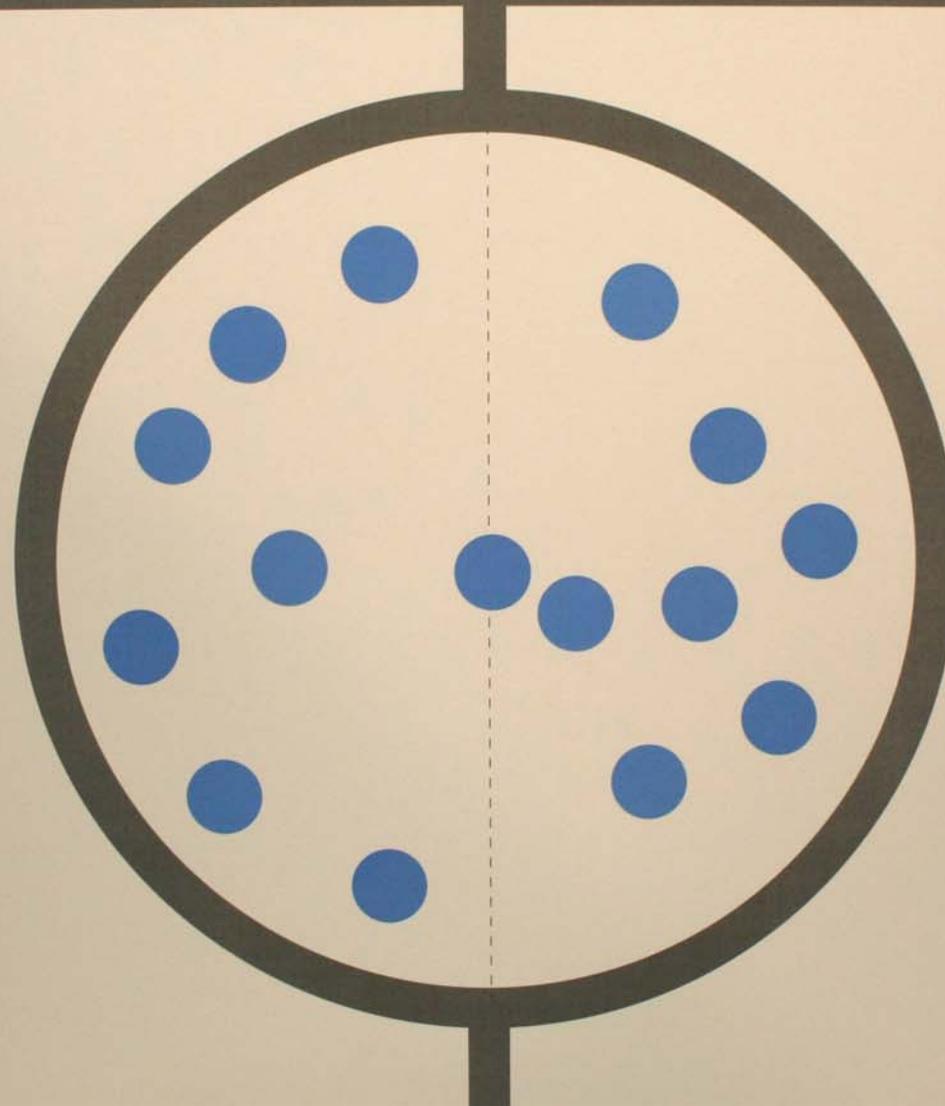
Recreation access to the dunes and shore will suffer under private ownership.



Recreation easements or rerouted trails can preserve recreation opportunities.

How will land development affect neighboring parks?

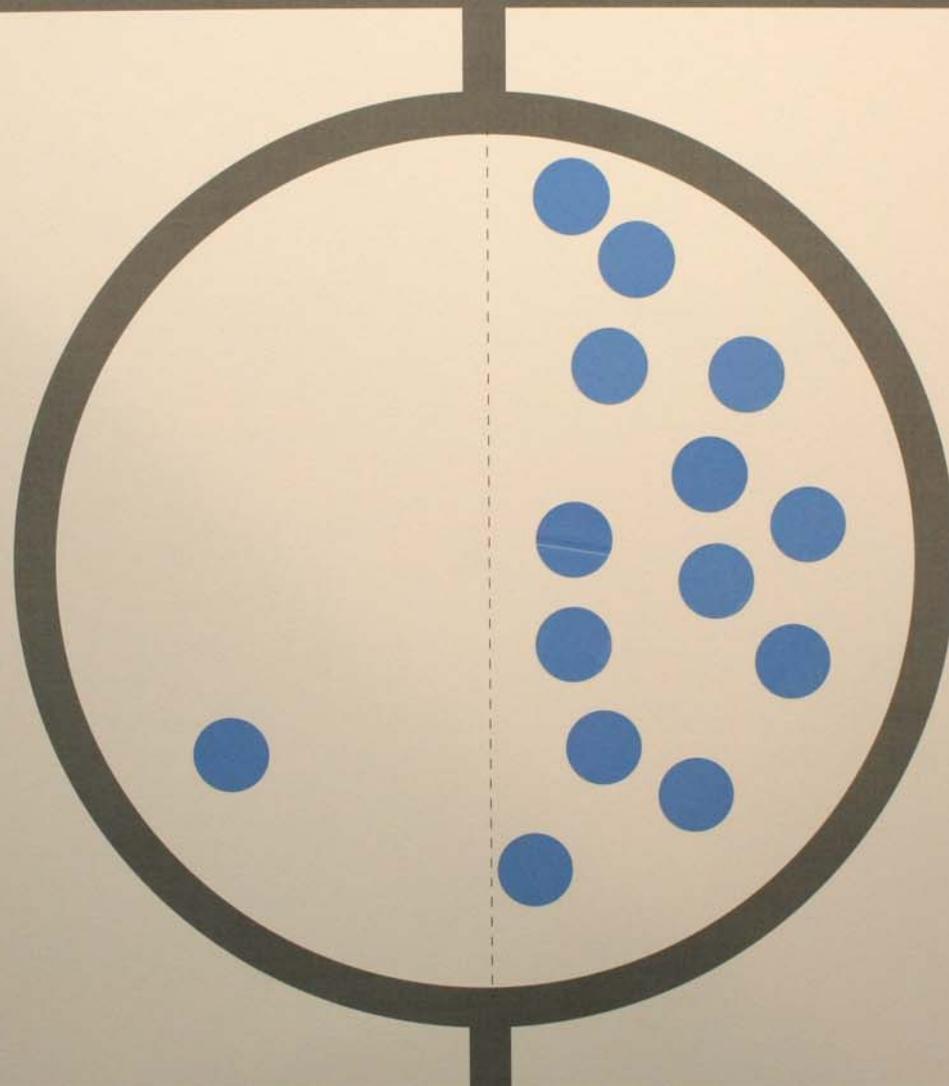
Encouraging private development immediately adjacent to a park is bad.



Dispersed, walking-only private recreation is OK next to public recreation.

Does the state park system change?

The state park system doesn't need to change.



Shifts and investment in the state park system are the best ways to serve the next generation.