



OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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Planning for the future of Cottonwood Canyon continues at public meetings

A planning process aimed at determining how the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) will manage Cottonwood Canyon State Park on the John Day River straddling Gilliam and Sherman Counties, will continue with public meetings on August 16 in Moro, August 17 in Condon, and on August 23 in Portland.

The Monday **August 16 Moro** public meeting will be in the Sherman Jr./Sr. High School Public Library, 65912 High School Loop, Moro, Sherman County, from 6-8 p.m. Public comments will be taken at this meeting. Please send written comments to Mark Davison at the address listed above.

There will be an Advisory Committee meeting from 2-4 p.m. preceding the August 16 public meeting and it will be open to the public. However, during the Advisory Committee meeting, comments will be accepted only from members of the committee, which is comprised of mayors, representatives of Gilliam and Sherman County, associated public agencies, Tribal representations, and friends and neighbors of Cottonwood Canyon State Park.

The Tuesday **August 17 Condon** public meeting in the Gilliam County Courthouse Conference Room, 221 S. Oregon Street, Condon, Gilliam County, is also from 6-8 p.m. Public comments are also taken at this meeting.

The Monday **August 23 Portland** public meeting in the Visitor Center at Tryon Creek State Park, 11321 S.W. Terwilliger Blvd., Portland, is also from 6-8 p.m. Public comments are also taken at this meeting.

At these meetings Oregon State Parks will focus on our findings to date and we will discuss potential conservation, preservation and recreation strategies for the future park. Based on input from the public we will begin crafting a vision for the future of the park that will ensure we protect the property's natural, cultural, historical and scenic values while offering public access for interpretive, educational and trail uses. If you cannot make the meetings, please send in written comments or visit our website at: <http://cottonwoodcanyon.wordpress.com>.

The department will follow up with other meetings in late fall 2010 and spring 2011 that will lead to the production of a draft plan for the park. Through public input, state park staff will eventually present a plan to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission for managing the property.

The services, programs and activities of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If accommodations are needed, please call the number listed above at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.