



A CHANCE TO COMMENT

NOTICE OF STATE RULEMAKING HEARING LEADING TO THE ADOPTION OF THE COTTONWOOD CANYON STATE PARK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) will hold a public hearing leading to the eventual adoption of the Cottonwood Canyon State Park Comprehensive Plan. This new state park is located along the John Day River in Sherman and Gilliam Counties. Public input on the draft plan for the park was gathered from an advisory committee, neighboring land owners and the general public during meetings and written comment periods held between April and May, 2011. The Oregon State Parks Commission approved the content of the draft plan at their meeting on July 20, 2011. The most current draft of the plan document includes changes that were made based on verbal and written comments received to date.

The rulemaking hearing that will lead to the eventual adoption of the plan is scheduled as follows:

TIME: January 24, 2012
6:00 PM

PLACE: Condon Memorial Hall
128 S. Main St., Condon OR 97823

PURPOSE OF THE HEARING: The hearing is being held to accept public testimony on the content of the draft plan for the park. The plan is proposed for adoption as a state rule under Oregon Administrative Rule 736-018-0045. There will be no action to adopt the plan at the hearing. A 30-day written comment period will follow the hearing, during which any additional written comments will be accepted on the content of the draft plan.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: ORS 390.124 authorizes the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission to adopt rules to carry out the duties, functions and powers imposed by law upon the Commission and Department (OPRD). ORS 390.180 requires the OPRD director to adopt administrative rules that establish a plan for each state park. Accordingly, state park plans are adopted as state rules under OAR 736-018-0045.

PROPOSED RULE LANGUAGE: The proposed rule language under which the plan for the park will eventually be adopted is attached to this notice. Persons wishing to review the draft plan may do so at the locations listed on the reverse side of this notice.

NEED FOR THE RULE: A plan for the park is needed to provide direction to OPRD on the development of park facilities and management of the park resources within the state park boundaries. Current information on resource conditions and recreation needs has been used as a basis for formulating the plan. The purpose of the proposed amendment to OAR 736-018-0045 is to adopt the plan through the administrative rule process.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE RULE: Adoption of the plan for the park through the administrative rule process is not expected to result in additional costs to the public, OPRD, other agencies, businesses, or others. Neither the plan nor the administrative rule amendment will impose additional fees, record keeping, permitting requirements, or other government processes. The plan may be used as a basis for seeking funding for planned park development projects. However, neither the plan nor the rule amendment will provide the funding for planned projects. Therefore, no positive or negative fiscal or economic impacts are expected to result from this action.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: An advisory committee has assisted OPRD in developing the draft plan for the park. Committee members were chosen to represent a broad spectrum of interests related to the park resources, outdoor recreation needs and opportunities, and the local community. The committee member affiliations include recreation user groups, environmental advocacy groups, affiliated Tribes, affected state and federal agencies and local governments, neighboring land owners and the local Chamber of Commerce. A complete roster of the committee members and their affiliations is included at the front of the draft plan document.

WHERE TO REVIEW THE DRAFT PLAN:

OPRD web site: http://egov.oregon.gov/OPRD/PLANS/planning_cottonwood.shtml

OPRD Offices: OPRD Headquarters in Salem (see address below)

OPRD North Central District Office
The Cove Palisades State Park
7300 Jordan Road, Culver, OR 97734

If you need your own copy of the plan, you may request a printed or CD copy by contacting OPRD. See the contact information below.

HOW TO COMMENT: You may provide verbal testimony at the scheduled hearing and/or submit written comments by February 23, 2012, to:

Mark Davison
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer Street N.E. Suite C
Salem, Oregon 97301-1271
mark.davison@state.or.us

LAND USE COMPATIBILITY: Concurrent with the state rulemaking hearing process, OPRD is consulting with Sherman and Gilliam Counties planning officials to assure that the content of the park plan is compatible with both counties' comprehensive land use plans. OPRD will be required to obtain all necessary land use permits, as well as pertinent state and federal permits, prior to development of planned park projects.

NEXT STEPS: Comments received by February 23, 2012, will be compiled and presented to the OPRD Director for consideration in the Director's decision on the adoption of the park plan as a state rule. Notice of the date of adoption of the park plan will be announced in the Oregon Bulletin by the Secretary of State office. Printing of the final plan document will occur once the plan is adopted as a state administrative rule.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Mark Davison, 503-986-0744 or mark.davison@state.or.us