

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Beltz property acquisition Q&A public meetings

Pacific City, June 16, 2014, 77 attending

Tierra del Mar, June 21, 2014, 25 attending

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### **OPRD staff:**

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### **Summary:**

There is strong overall support for the acquisition of the Beltz property by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Most people in the area want to see the land protected in a natural state. A few people are concerned taking land out of the private market reduces economic benefits to the county, and that the state park system shouldn't acquire land when it has a maintenance backlog on other properties. There are also concerns related to water use and vehicles driving on the beach to reach the property.

### **Pacific City, June 16, 2014, audience comments:**

Waiting to hear the word "stewardship" in association with state park acquisition.

Don't flood TDM by mismanaging dike.

No camping.

Consider multi-use trails and other mixed rec.

Camping a scary idea. [Note: if community wants it during master plan, we can address it then, too].

Don't need it if others are providing it.

This is pristine land ... dike was put in 1930s. Make sure adjustments to dike don't harm TDM. Check "TDM Tales" from city library.

Can we do conservation easement as part of the deed?

Another vote for pristine.

State shouldn't be buying more land; this should be left for private purchases so the property can be economically productive.

State shouldn't buy land when it has a maintenance backlog.

OPRD could make direct payments to county for law enforcement or roads, for example.

Create economic activity in community by getting word out about trails, and provide more trails. Parks bring economic activity.

Like kind of recreation provided and Clay Myers (interp and trails). Don't develop Beltz ... low impact.

Appraisers have a hard time valuing speculative uses of this kind of property.

Work with phone provider to install a cell tower on or near the property.

This kind of development attracts more use, that leads to more overnight stays, leading to lodging tax revenue.

Resident moved here due to natural beauty like this. Don't abuse it.

Where is money coming from to pay for it? [Lottery] Would we enter into a bidding war? [No].

On dike, maintain access to it, and usability of it for recreation.

Support minimal trails. Important to seize opportunity.

Only support buying it if it will be kept pristine.

Would OPRD work with county to address increased use of road (improve safety, etc.)?

Don't want to lose opportunity.

5<sup>th</sup> generation dairy use; harvest grasses there. Consider continuing grass ag with lease on east and west side.

State park lands tend to grow, not shrink.

Tourism one of the few growth areas left to Tillamook.

What recourse does the community have to prevent OPRD from creating uses on the property that it finds unacceptable?

Land has been farmed and grazed for 100 years. "Pristine" really means "we don't want it to change." Which means continuing some existing ag uses, so do that.

Fresh water marsh is in county comp plan as Goal 17 wetland.

Area is fragile. When Whalen Island became park, crabs disappeared, then heron. No camping on west side; if absolutely needed, do on east side.

Support idea for state park purchase: no opposition noted.

Round of applause for adjourning meeting on time.

**Tierra del Mar, June 21, 2014, audience comments:**

Need more specifics on operation plans. Especially concerned with beach and dune fires (area is dry and with high load and very dry).

Watch for overnight use on the beach.

Foot traffic only on property trails. Horse waste on beach is already a problem.

**Driving on beach:** close from access south of TDM north to mouth. **Should be considered same time as park is established** because there will be people who want to access park before parking is developed.

If we go to rulemaking on beach driving, hold one of the meetings in TDM.

Concerned we are buying property and increasing costs without associated revenue; spreads existing parks thinner. Costs to clean and upkeep parks should be better funded.

Still important to grow modestly to satisfy future needs.

What does it cost to maintain Clay Myers? Respond to Janice Eisele by email.

Bike riding is increasing, and restrooms near Sand Lake Road would be used by riders.

Water supply is limited. What happens if water is over allocated? See Smith Rock as model for waterless, composting toilet.

Have to warn hikers about loose soils, especially in estuary.

What will become of structures on the property?

Standing water in TDM area, perhaps caused by dike obstructing water flow? Consider opening portions of dike to increase outflow, and rely on plastic boardwalk for wetland trails to allow a natural experience without harming plants and soils.

TDM wetlands: three creeks flowed through TDM, tide gate installed to allow water out. Building in area, and malfunctioning gate, confine hundreds of acres of drainage into the freshwater wetland. Draining wetland by repairing tide gate will reduce size of freshwater wetland. Consider restoring partial flow to keep max water level from flooding property, but avoid draining wetland. Need hydrology study.

What if there are plover and murrelet?

Will Ecotrust put deed restrictions on OPRD?

When OPRD starts budgeting for property, will community be involved? Note to Pete Marvin: meet with community (organize through Jim Spring) when forming 15-17 operations plan and budget.