

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

June 14, 2023

Agenda Item: 5a

Information

Public Comment Allowed: **Yes**

Topic: North Santiam State Recreation Area Transfer to Marion County

Presented by: Ladd Whitcomb

North Santiam State Recreation Area (SRA) is ~121-acre property 30 miles east of Salem on Highway 22. Marion County gave the original park land to the state in 1937. Private purchases and a gift added to the area in 1952, 1958, and 1965, and the State Highway Division transferred a final piece of land in 1968. Portions of the park have burned at least twice in the last seven years, with the catastrophic 2020 wildfires doing the most damage. Historically, the site was supported by a volunteer host and staff from the Detroit Lake management unit, 23 miles east.

North Santiam SRA is ringed by county parks, with Niagara, Packsaddle, and Minto parks 8-12 miles east, and the popular North Fork and other county parks 16+ miles west. After briefing the Commission in September 2021, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and Marion County entered into a two-year agreement whereby the County assumed responsibility for general maintenance and park operations in anticipation of potential transfer of ownership from the Department to the County.

The arrangement has been successful. Operations are going well; the County would like to assume ownership and use the site as a hub for centralized county park services in addition to serving park visitors. The County has requested a transfer move forward, prior to the agreement's expiration in December 2023.

Department staff will complete due diligence associated with a no-cost transfer of land and expect to bring a proposal to the Commission for action in September.

Prior Action by Commission: Information Item, September 15, 2021

Action Requested: None.

Attachments: Map of North Santiam SRA parcels

Prepared by: Ladd Whitcomb

5.a. North Santiam Transfer to Marion County

Attachment: Map

