Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

February 20, 2020

Agenda Item: 3a Information

Topic: 2020 Legislative Session Update

Presented by: Katie Gauthier, Government Relations and Policy Manager

Background:
The 2020 Legislative session is a short session with fewer bills and no opportunity for proactive, agency-sponsored legislation.

Early signs indicate the session focus will include climate change policy, housing and homelessness, wildfire response and water policy. OPRD is impacted by many of these issues; however, we are not the primary agency involved in operating the programs or policies. Throughout the session, staff continue to monitor discussions, respond to legislative questions and evaluate impacts of potential legislation on the agency.

Legislative Concepts with particular interest to OPRD:

- LC 64- Expresses state policy to identify lands acquired by State Board of Forestry that have limited revenue-generation potential or that provide high-value recreational or conservation benefits. Authorizes board to transfer identified lands to other governmental entities or to change management framework applied to lands. Authorizes board to adopt rules.
- LC 83- Wildfire bill which includes a number of items. "Requires State Fire Marshal to establish minimum defensible space requirements. Requires local government to administer and enforce applicable State Fire Marshal defensible space requirements. Allows local government to adopt local defensible space requirements in excess of State Fire Marshal requirements."
- LC113-Dedicates portion of State Capitol State Park to Vietnam War memorial to be funded and constructed by qualified nonprofit corporation recognized and acknowledged by Director of Veterans’ Affairs. Exempts memorial from certain land use laws.

Next Steps:
Staff will continue to monitor legislation and amendments to track potential impact to the department. This “short session” is expected to conclude by March 8 or sooner.

Action Requested: Information only

Prepared by: Katie Gauthier

Attachments: None