

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

September 16, 2020

Agenda Item: 3a Information
Topic: Office of Outdoor Recreation
Presented by: Chris Havel

The position heading the Office of Outdoor Recreation is identified for layoff by the end of December due to a critical drop in revenue associated with the pandemic. The position was originally scheduled for layoff by early July along with 46 other positions, but received a temporary reprieve thanks to financial help from the Oregon State Marine Board and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as a way to bridge the statutory functions of the 1-person unit and preserve this biennium's momentum to address issues of mutual interest.

As with the other agency functions affected by layoffs across the headquarters operations, OPRD supports the work of the office. With help from the private nonprofit Oregon Outdoors Coalition, a group has convened to review the Office's priorities and conditions which will lead to successful cooperation as we collectively pursue the priorities identified in the Governor's Task Force on the Outdoors final report.

While the group will continue to meet and discuss options, it is likely the changes could relate to formalizing support for the office among its partners, and more precisely defining its role and authorities. It is possible this review will result in suggestions for refinements to the enabling statute, and these ideas would be shared with a willing legislator rather than travel through the commission and Governor's office.

Prior Action by Commission: Adoption of the Governor's Task Force on the Outdoors report Agenda Item 1a, April 2020.

Action Requested: None.

Attachments: None.

Prepared by: Chris Havel