

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

September 14, 2022

Agenda Item: 5c

Action

Public Comment Allowed: Yes

Topic: Request approval for transfer of assets from Joseph Stewart to Jackson County

Presented by: J.R. Collier, Deputy Director- Operations

Joseph Stewart State Recreation Area is a 910-acre property on the shore of Lost Creek Lake, a reservoir built and maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The dam was built in 1977 for fishery enhancement and flood control, and the Corps owns the lakeside property. The park is leased to OPRD and offers a marina, short trails, picnicking, and a 200-site campground. The most recent 25-year lease was signed by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Director Mike Carrier in 2001 and expires in 2025.

In the face of increasing visitor attendance, and as part of a long-term strategy to allocate state park staff without spreading them so thin it compromises service, the management team has been looking for partnership opportunities with sister agencies. The park is about an hour away from Valley of the Rogue State Park, OPRD's main center of operations in the region, and the agency signed a management agreement with Jackson County to have them operate Joseph Stewart in 2021. The county has extensive experience offering quality camping and lake-oriented recreation.

Given the county's successful 2021 season at Joseph Stewart and the looming expiration of the federal lease in 2025, OPRD staff agreed to pursue an early end to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lease with the state, clearing the way for the county step in and negotiate terms with the Corps as the new lessee. OPRD Director Lisa Sumption, using authority delegated by the commission to handle lease agreements of this kind, directed senior field managers to begin the termination process and assist the county as needed and that work has occurred since the informational briefing to the OPRD Commission in November of 2021.

Jackson County, with cooperation from OPRD, has been negotiating with the USACE and that process is nearing conclusion. In our current agreement with Jackson County, OPRD offered to transfer agency assets to the county once they finalize their agreement with the USACE and pending approval of the OPRD Commission. We are seeking that approval now so that once Jackson County and USACE finalize their agreement, we can officially transfer assets over. These assets include park buildings and infrastructure owned by OPRD that are integral to the park property itself. OPRD staff removed other assets such as tools, equipment and vehicles when we vacated the property in early 2021. Our current agreement with Jackson County expires December 31st, 2022 but has provisions for extensions if they have not finalized a new

lease with the USACE. OPRD Real Estate staff have already began working on an amendment for our current IGA with Jackson County in the event it is needed.

Prior Action by Commission: None

Action Requested: Approval to transfer assets

Attachments: None

Prepared by: J.R. Collier