

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

February 23, 2023

Agenda Item:	3a	Information
Public Comment Allowed:	No	
Topic:	Office of Outdoor Recreation Update (Information)	
Presented by:	Cailin O'Brien-Feeney, Director – Office of Outdoor Recreation	

Background: The purpose of this brief is to provide an update on implementation of the recommendations in the Governor’s Task Force on the Outdoors: 2020 Framework for Action report. The overall purpose of that group was to “recommend policies, legislation and initiatives to support economic development in both rural and urban areas, balance improved outdoor recreation access with resource protection, and increase outdoor recreation participation especially among youth and traditionally underserved communities”. In short, the report was and remains a sort of roadmap for statewide outdoor recreation priorities – it also serves to inform the Office of Outdoor Recreation annual workplan.

The following section is organized around the original five strategies developed by the Task Force and approved by this Commission. Only the recommendations where action has been taken or anticipated for 2023 are included. Importantly, each of the top recommendations across the five categories has been completed or is in progress. Additional work or resources may be needed to advance the other recommendations, including an assessment of their relative priority which will be guided by the Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council. Status updates include work both by the Office of Outdoor Recreation as well as partner agencies, the Oregon State Legislature and other stakeholders. Further detail on the actions and outputs of the work summarized here is available.

- Center efforts on diversity, equity and inclusion
 - Advance accessibility and universal design principles
 - This OPRD led effort (with a project advisory group) is anticipated to deliver a final report before the end of the biennium.
 - Build capacity to increase engagement in recreation planning
 - HB 2992 (2021) aimed to reduce systemic barriers to participation by increasing the per diem compensation for members of state boards and commissions, as well as required compensation for volunteer members subject to an income threshold. OPRD has since also made per diem compensation for volunteers in other planning efforts such as revision of our Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
 - Set targets for inclusion of people of diverse backgrounds and abilities on agency committees

which will include the cost and feasibility of including this functionality as well.

- Expand Youth Corps vocational and career training
 - SB 762 (2021) included \$10 million investment in an Oregon Wildfire Workforce Corps Program. The core purpose of the program is wildfire risk reduction as well as to engage young adults in workforce training. While not specifically focused on parks, there may be crossover benefit in terms of supporting fire-adapted communities and protecting infrastructure.
- Advance ‘Equal pay for Equal Play’ legislation for recreation events
 - Developing a legislative concept is on the 2023 Office of Outdoor Recreation workplan, and will necessitate convening race promoters, athletes, and relevant permitting agencies among others.
- Empower local and statewide action
 - Conduct a statewide outdoor recreation inventory and gap analysis
 - This work is ongoing, both through our SCORP revision and as part of a grant from the Geospatial Enterprise Office to OPRD.
 - Publish a partnership guide for recreation groups and agencies
 - Ready, Set, Plan!?! Introductory Guide to Trails Planning and Development – Oregon Trails Coalition, 2021.
 - Develop and promote outreach materials targeting the outdoor industry
 - Business Oregon continues to include outdoor gear and apparel as a target industry
 - Affirm the connection between health, wellness and the outdoors
 - We plan to update the Health Benefits of Outdoor Recreation in Oregon study as part of our SCORP in partnership with Oregon State University researchers.
 - Promote a culture of responsible recreation
 - “Take Care Out There” communications toolkit, developed by Travel Oregon and partners. Initially focused on promoting a culture of responsible recreation statewide, we also tailored messages to the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfires.
 - Align outdoor recreation university and career programs
 - Oregon State University’s Center for the Outdoor Recreation Economy is leading the way through research, technical skills training and leadership development programs.

Prior Action by Commission: Adoption of Governor’s Task Force on the Outdoors final report and recommendations – Agenda item 1d, April 15, 2020.

Action Requested: N/A

Attachments: N/A

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