

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

June 14, 2023

Agenda Item: 8a Action

Public Comment Allowed: Yes

Topic: Smith Rock State Park Master Plan

Presented by: Jenna Marmon, Planning + Design Lead

Project Description:

- The Draft Smith Rock Master Plan was released on April 7, 2023. Two public meetings were also held on that date—one by Zoom (which was recorded and posted to the OPRD website) and one in-person in Bend.
- Public comments were received through the website portal from April 10 to May 15, 300 comments were received.
- Comments were heavily focused on climbing interests, many were related to implementing a reservation system. Parking, drones, and trail circulation were also focus areas.
- Minor revisions have been made to the plan, mostly corrections of errors and clarification of proposals.
- Staff is requesting Commission concurrence with the plan as a final draft and permission to initiate rule-making process.
- Coordinating with the Department of Land Conservation and Development and Deschutes County to request their review of the Master Plan for compatibility with the comprehensive plan is the next step, followed by adopting the plan into administrative rule.

Prior Action by Commission: None

Action Requested: Request for permission to initiate rule-making

Attachments: Smith Rock Master Plan, Comments Received on Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Prepared by: Jenna Marmon, Planning + Design Lead

Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission
June 14, 2023
Item 8a Attachment A



Comments received on Draft Smith Rock Master Plan
Public Comment Period: April 7th - May 15th 2023



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

charles baer

Date comment received:

April 7, 2023 03:27 PM

Location (if provided): redmond, OR

Public comment:

in my opinion , any one who lives inside of smith rock state park should be given twice the value of their property and a year to vacate . this land should then be turned into parking , restrooms , info booths , and cafe's . all roads near smith rock should become four lane roads with large side walks on both sides . terrebonne needs to step up and turn smith rock state park into the amazing place it will become .



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

John Cartasegna

Date comment received:

April 7, 2023 04:12 PM

Location (if provided): Portland, OR

Public comment:

Please limit access aligned with currently available parking through the establishment and use of a required permit system. This permit system can establish reserved times for park access via both an online portal and a call in system.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Richard Magill

Date comment received:

April 7, 2023 06:37 PM

Location (if provided): BEND, OR

Public comment:

The park is definitely overcrowded to the point that it significantly degrades the user experience. I read the master plan in detail and there are a few things worth commenting on:

- The absolute best proposal I saw was replacing the "fords" with the proposed bridges. This would give visitors the option to disperse along multiple directions.
- Along with that, a new trail in the Marsupials area would fit perfectly with the new bridge near the Student Wall.
- I would consider adding a gate with a strict limit on the number of visitors (like max 800 or whatever), paired with signage and a website so visitors could look up availability.
- Alternatively, perhaps a permit system similar to Eldorado Canyon (Colorado) or popular Cascade Lakes trailhead should be implemented.
- As a climber who has spent a ton of time at the various crags, banning dogs is long overdue. The park is too crowded to justify them and they just cause problems.
- Hooray to the proposed new restrooms!



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Chris Kelly

Date comment received:

April 7, 2023 07:24 PM

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

Would be nice to add a State campground with site hookups for Rvs and maybe add some trails for hiking and biking. Lots of potential at Smith Rocks. Would bring income in and Oregon State needs to add more State Campgrounds in Oregon.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sydney Fair

Date comment received:

April 7, 2023 07:32 PM

Location (if provided): Salem, OR

Public comment:

I was reading through the proposed plan and noted in recreation issues it was mentioned that you might consider implementing a reservation system. I am opposed to this suggestion. My family and I love the outdoors. We love driving over to smith rock to climb for a day or for a weekend. This is the best place to climb outdoors in Oregon. A reservation system would make it difficult for climbers and other users to experience smith rock and would limit the number of times a year we would be able to access it. So much of our state has become a reservation system. Just this past Tuesday, I had trouble gaining a permit for summer backpacking and will now have to wait for a rolling window opportunity in order to obtain a permit. Please don't limit access to this incredible place. Reservations have made it even more difficult for outdoor people to do the things we love.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Remington Evert

Date comment received:

April 7, 2023 08:29 PM

Location (if provided): PORTLAND, OR

Public comment:

Hello,

I believe this master plan is suitable to help address some of the overcrowding issues facing SRSP. The additional facilities such as restrooms, parking, and picnic areas will help spread the load of visitors around the "entrance" areas of the park. The two proposed bridges will be especially helpful in relieving congestion in the central area. Currently all traffic is funneled there due to it being the only bridge over the river. I am in favor of this plan.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kevin Kennedy

Date comment received:

April 7, 2023 08:59 PM

Location (if provided): Joseph , OR

Public comment:

I would like to know a more current or up to date attendance record instead of 33 years ago. How many visited last year or the year before.? If not the plan is flawed.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kevin Byrne

Date comment received:

April 8, 2023 07:12 AM

Location (if provided): Terrebonne, OR

Public comment:

I live 1 mile away from Smith Rock. I like the upgrades EXCEPT for increasing the capacity of visitors. It needs to be limited! The amount of traffic from visitors is destroying the wildlife habitats and making it unlivable in the area because of the traffic. During the summer it is a non-stop flow of cars to and from the park. Require permits for visiting like they do for the other over-crowded trails/parks, not just parking fees. Enforcement needs to exist! I have never seen a car get a ticket for parking illegally! Start charging the idiots for when they need to be rescued off of Misery Ridge!! Why do your answers for everything revolve around more, more, more, more people! LIMIT THE IDIOTS!!!!!!!!!!!!



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ed Weiser

Date comment received:

April 8, 2023 12:44 PM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Excellent draft plan document!

My priorities are:

- Restricting parking to safe, designated areas
- Limiting attendance for safety and environmental impact
- Implementing an advance registration/permitting system to enable the above

Keep up the good work!



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Katy Foster

Date comment received:

April 8, 2023 06:34 PM

Location (if provided): Bend , OR

Public comment:

I would like to oppose a reservation system which I think generally favors planned tourism and makes it difficult for locals to organically enjoy an area but I agree that the current situation needs some work. I would like to propose a larger trail system extending along the rim of the park to open more space for enjoying the park without descending into the bottom of the park. In conjunction with this, moving all parking down the rim about 2 miles would increase walking distance along the rim required to get to the bottom of the park and help to disperse crowding but also highlight that the enjoyment of this area is not concentrated to the bottom of the park but includes views of the park and the flora and fauna that line the rim.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Liz Delfert

Date comment received:

April 9, 2023 06:39 PM

Location (if provided): Redmond , OR

Public comment:

I see that the new path/trail from from the proposed welcome center down to the river is a switchback trail. Will this format make it be more accessible to frequent visitors like myself who are unable to descend and ascend the current steep path down to the river?

Currently, I am only able to use the Rimrock trails. I would absolutely love to be able to walk along the river. Thank you.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

E Draper

Date comment received:

April 9, 2023 10:22 PM

Location (if provided): Terrebonne, OR

Public comment:

Excited to see 2 new proposed bridges, better loop trails and the welcome center this park deserves!

I was disappointed to see the Canyon Trail closed at the south of the park. This trail provides access to a very large and quiet area of the park in a location where it feels natural and far from vehicles and parking areas. I strongly recommend keeping this trail AND showing an additional bridge at the south point... this would be a way to provide safer and more direct access to the climbing areas on the west side, rather than Asterix Pass where there have been multiple injuries and fatalities. A South Point bridge would encourage more climbers to utilize the less crowded areas of the park on the west side and ease congestion in the park.

Many long-time local climbers would like a south parking area and entrance to the park as well. Please consider adding Allen Watts to the advisory committee as he knows the park inside and out and would like to be involved.

Thanks to the team for all of your efforts.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Michael Swanson

Date comment received:

April 10, 2023 01:39 PM

Location (if provided): Lebanon, OR

Public comment:

I regularly climb at Smith Rock, please improve the trails as described in the trail improvement section of the master plan, especially the T4 option of adding bridges to spread out crowding and ease access to west side and Marsupial climbing areas. Please reconsider adding a small parking area on Wilcox with a bridge near the Southern Tip. The canyon trail can still be decommissioned.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Shane Ottosen

Date comment received:

April 10, 2023 03:49 PM

Location (if provided): Silverton, OR

Public comment:

I think the DRAFT master plan is generally well thought out and allows better access to the park for everyone. I really like the idea of adding bridges so there isn't the pinch point at the existing bridge. This will also help spread out some of the people. I wouldn't want to see fully reserved parking but would be open to the idea of having one area possibly being reserved for people traveling long distances. I think adding the group camp sites are a great idea. I wouldn't want to see any reduced access to any of the climbing access/areas. Smith Rock is an important climbing area in not only Oregon but the United States and limiting access to any of the existing climbs would be eliminating important parts of history.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Rick Miller

Date comment received:

April 10, 2023 05:46 PM

Location (if provided): Redmond, OR

Public comment:

Hello, I attended the zoom meeting on April 10th - thank you all for your time in covering this.

I was not clear on this but sincerely hope the current parking on the side of road with wooden fencing from the end of the street vertical parking area to the end loop area remains. As a native, and I can speak for others as well, parking here keeps other paved options open for those who are visiting for first time or who are not here with the ability or desire to walk distance or hike.

I understand you want a blend on parking availability - I am on the less end of spectrum as the more we open the more that will come. The reservation piece was well explained and best kept very minimal as explained with weather controlling peak visitation.

I am appreciative that as usual you are following timing and changes to mitigate wildlife disruption. This is a very special place and honestly I have not seen a need for all of the improvements. I'm sure they may be nice but a large part of Smith Rock Parks beauty and enjoyment has been the simplification. Maintenance of trails etc., always good.
Thank you



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jay Orton

Date comment received:

April 11, 2023 10:38 AM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Hey, you guys definitely shouldn't be taking away any RV-parking for a visitor center? You really don't need a huge visitor center for a pile of dirt walls that can be explained fairly easily via sign. Or if you think a visitor center is an absolute must to educate people on trash maybe look to the sky-liner forests stereotypical values on demolition. (Every piece of land eventually is gonna get demolished anyway especially if Oregon has anything to do with it) or buy that old ice cream shop/climbing/shop.

Thanks

Jay



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dana Bartus

Date comment received:

April 11, 2023 12:34 PM

Location (if provided): Terrebonne, OR

Public comment:

Smithrock MasterPlan Comments 2023

Hello All,

It was very nice to meet you last night. I was so relieved when I read over the new plan over the weekend. I thank you for your efforts in producing a Plan that is feasible and possible to implement. I think overall the new MP is good. I do have some concerns to share.

With all the new facilities planned and the water table receding, I would prioritize gaining access to more water before adding too many new structures. I think the wayfinding and interpretive trail is a major component and will be crucial. I think it is important that this happens in a discreet manner, clear and concise. No one really wants to be inundated with signage. It should be designed well and informative.

Prioritize:

1. More restrooms
2. Rimrock Trail connected from NP to Bivy
3. Adding in the new extension to the Canyon Trail to divert traffic and create easier access
4. Northern Point
5. Green Overflow Lot

A&B: North Point & Overflow- This all seems great! I think it will be successful. One major concern is ensuring that people aren't misled down towards the Lower Gorge.

C: Chute Parking- Theoretically this is a good idea to ease Crooked River Drive, and I think it would work well. I am concerned that it will push back nearly to the rim, taking a lot of trees in the process. I wonder if the traffic is meant to go two directions inside this parking area, and am concerned that it would cause a greater cluster in a smaller area. Would it be better to have it as a one way with the parking angled, especially since there are lots of people with large vehicles? I drive a Sprinter style van, and it is impossible to back out if cars are traveling behind me, since I have major blind spots, I can only see what is in my side mirrors and the reverse camera. Back to back head-in parking is treacherous for big vehicles and would be a huge challenge with all the sprinter vans that visit the park. I'm not sure if that is possible without reducing the number of spots.

D: Visitor's Center: I don't think the visitor's center needs to be a huge space, it should be employable by one person. It should prioritize bathrooms, and of course information, should have shaded areas with seating outside for when the visitors center can't be staffed, and access to the bathrooms from the outside when it can't be staffed. From the drawing, this seems to be what the plan has included. I think people would value having picnic available in the parking lot

E: The Bivy: This is a very special place for climbers, it has a long history of having a very communal campground because everyone is dining together. I don't want to see that destroyed in the name of progress. I understand the desire to keep people from walking across the driveway and to stick to the trails, but it's unrealistic. I love the added shelters. There are barely enough picnic tables as it is, so the number of tables should not be reduced. I think leaving space on the islands in the middle to have picnic tables would make the most sense, in addition to the pavilions by the current bathrooms.

Also, I think that the new showers/sinks/bathroom would be used by regular users, especially when there aren't a lot of groups present. To me it's a bit fascist to try and stop it, so why not just embrace it? Yes, it is closer to the group sites, so they are likely to have quicker access. All campers are paying the same rate, this is a public park, it shouldn't be an exclusive group facility, it should be just another facility, and during the busy season, should be accessible to all campers.

Is there going to be a minimum number of how many people in a group are able to reserve the group sites? If you have 11 people, you book in the regular sites, but if you have 12 or more, then it's group sites only?

I have lots of concerns with the reservation system. Matt said very well that this is a weather dependent park, so that will cause complications right there. There will need to be so much oversight of the reservations, that it would require a ranger solely for this purpose. Are there specific

amounts of time that are reserved— ½ hour, 2, 3 hour, 4 hour chunks? Do they pay a larger fee for reserving online? Do they pay more to have more time? Even if it is just the Green Overflow lot that accepts reservations, it still lends to major hiccups. If someone in Portland reserves a space from 9a-4p, but doesn't arrive until 11, what happens to the people that are waiting to park, does that spot just sit empty while turning other people away? I just think it's more of a headache than it is worth, and should leave the first-come first-serve.

It is so important to maintain the historical climbing culture at Smith Rock by maintaining the first-come-first-serve environment at the Bivy. This is a campground that is part of a strong oral tradition, passed through the climbing community for decades. It would be devastating to the culture of climbing at Smith to alter it by implementing an online reservation system for campers. It would rob future generations of the experience of arriving and camping at the park.

Thanks for your time and consideration.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Marcia Volk

Date comment received:

April 12, 2023 07:40 PM

Location (if provided): Terrebonne , OR

Public comment:

I am concerned about decommissioning the Canyon Trail. It's really the only area that is shady to hike in on most hot days. It also is used by less people who opt for seeing the climbers on the River Trail or to go to Monkey Face, etc.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Erin Rainey

Date comment received:

April 13, 2023 12:54 PM

Location (if provided): MCMINNVILLE, OR

Public comment:

I like the idea of the upgraded trail system on the rim from the North Point parking to the newly proposed visitor center. however I am of the opinion that it is unnecessary to remove the head in angle parking both north and south to clear and pave another 20? acres for a new parking lot in the Chute area. Page 52 shows that you would like to eliminate 60+50 (angle in)+60(parallel parking) total of 170 spaces and replace with an off road parking lot for 100 cars. Angle in parking is a fixture in many of our older towns in Oregon, people like it and it works. I believe that it helps slow the speeds down on the county road, because if there are no impediments, people will just rush down to the end of the road. People are coming to the park to enjoy the magnificent outdoors, and it is important that we find a way to accommodate all. Maybe these angle parking spots could have a time limit, say 3 hours, and the hikers, climbers and others that plan a longer stay in the park could be directed to the new North Point parking lots or the "overflow" lots.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

April 16, 2023 12:41 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Pg

41: Horses and bikes are also not allowed on Chute Trail, Rope-de-Dope Trail, and Mesa Verde Trails, and are restricted on the up/down portions of Homestead Trail.

Asterisk

vs Astrix Pass on Welcome Center map



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Andrew Hawley

Date comment received:

April 16, 2023 05:28 PM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

I was wondering if there has ever been any conversations around adding some anchor / skills stations near some of the more heavily trafficked climbing zones? An example would be an anchor station with bolts, hangers and rings at eye level on the side of Rope da Dope or near the morning glory wall. Something similar to some of the popular climbing areas out east, such as Muir Valley in the Red River Gorge, KY.

This would be a great way to add an educational component(s) to all the recreational climbing that is done in the park. Thank you.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kim McCarrel

Date comment received:

April 17, 2023 02:11 PM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

I am submitting this comment on behalf of Oregon Equestrian Trails, a nonprofit dedicated to building and maintaining trails and advocating for equestrian access to public land.

We applaud State Parks' efforts to address the parking and overuse issues at Smith Rock while preserving the park's natural resources and enhancing the visitor experience.

We acknowledge that some trails within the park may not be appropriate for horse use, and we request that you include Oregon Equestrian Trails representatives in any decision-making efforts with respect to horse use on the trails. You can reach us at centraloregon@oregonequestriantrails.org.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kim McCarrel

Date comment received:

April 17, 2023 02:14 PM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

I am submitting this comment on behalf of the East Cascades Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Oregon.

We applaud State Parks' efforts to address the parking and overuse issues at Smith Rock while preserving the park's natural resources and enhancing the visitor experience.

We acknowledge that some trails within the park may not be appropriate for horse use, and we request that you include Back Country Horsemen representatives in any decision-making efforts with respect to horse use on the trails. You can reach us at eastcascades@bcho.org.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Andrew Gurry

Date comment received:

April 17, 2023 07:17 PM

Location (if provided): Independence, OR

Public comment:

Bus people with a shuttle or trolley from a designated overflow parking. Charge for VIP parking within walking distance from the park entrance.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Michael Asay

Date comment received:

April 18, 2023 09:50 AM

Location (if provided): Portland, OR

Public comment:

I strongly oppose the proposal to ban drones from Smith Rock State Park (page 41 of the draft master plan). Flying drones is a maturing hobby where most participants follow the rules and use common sense to respectfully recreate amongst the variety of users. Personally, flying drones has re-invigorated my interest in visiting places both near and far in Oregon, and has given me a new appreciation for the state's beauty when experiencing it from a different perspective.

The master plan states that drones have "increased potential for conflict." This argument holds no substance because you could use it interchangeably with anything; to wit: we should ban rock climbing because there is increased conflict with the hikers. Or, we should should ban hikers because there is increased conflict with the rock-climbers. Better yet: we should ban photography because one time a person fell off the edge of a cliff and died while taking a photograph. Inherently, everything is in conflict with each other.

A second argument in the master plan states that "noise pollution produced by drones and aircraft negatively impacts wildlife and the quality of experience for

other park visitors." Yes, drones do make noise, but rapidly-advancing technology is already lessening the amount of noise drones do make. I also take care to launch and land my drone away from people to lessen the impact on them. But, do you know what else makes noise? Dogs barking. People talking, Rock climbers cheering. Most drone activity happens out of ear-shot of the human visitors. The park already bans drones for most of the year to give wildlife a chance--the impact is minimal to both visitors and residents of the park.

What are some other benefits of allowing drones at Smith Rock State Park? The aerial footage published online is used already to show how beautiful and special Smith Rock is; take away that free marketing, will the people still come? This footage can be used for educational purposes to increase better awareness of the parks unique existence and how we can work together to keep it special.

I am planning to visit Smith Rock this year, but I will only do so during the window that drones are permitted to fly. If you ban drones, you are essentially banning me and my desire to visit. Do not infringe on the rights of the majority because of some perceived bad behavior from the minority.

Banning drones from Smith Rock invokes a false dilemma that there are only two options: allow them or ban them. This is a logical fallacy. There are already strong restrictions in place, but I'm sure that most drone operators would be open to applying for a permit to fly at Smith Rock if that meant keeping this practice alive. Like other popular places in Oregon, permitting access would reduce the total number of drone activity and make owners fly more responsibly because they know any bad behavior can potentially be tracked back to them. Do not punish a group of people based on the perceived sins of the few.

Please consider removing this ban from consideration. The benefits far outweigh any potential risks.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

April 18, 2023 05:29 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Protect wildlife and visitors experience. Limit the number of people that visit each day! Limit new trails and climbing routes.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kerry Loehr

Date comment received:

April 19, 2023 07:51 AM

Location (if provided): Hood River, OR

Public comment:

I don't love the updated Smith Rock SP master plan, at all. Visitors have gone from 300k to over 1 million and they are only adding 68 net day use parking spots? That simply doesn't make sense. The extra bridges may help but abandoning the idea of adding parking at the southern end of the park which would disperse people even more and provide better access to the west side of the park is a mistake. Again, poor proposals imo, a lot of work and money for minimal improvements that don't solve the real world problems (lack of parking and dispersing visitors/better access points.)



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Janice Adair

Date comment received:

April 19, 2023 01:11 PM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Master Plan for Smith Rock State Park. As a Bend resident, we hike in the park regularly and have seen the explosive growth over the last 10 or so years.

It seems past time to ban dogs from the trail system. I am not proposing that dogs be banned from the grassy areas by the visitor center/bathrooms where people picnic but the trails are often crowded, the dogs are often big, and too often, their owners do not manage the dogs well.

With the more crowded trails, the new signage being considered should include Trail Etiquette (all state park trails should). Having people going down understand they yield to uphill hikers and we all yield to hikers coming up behind us would make the experience that much better. It may keep people on the trail too instead of them thinking they can just bust off the trail to get around some one.

We support the idea of SOME reservable parking. Being a local, we need to retain the ability to pop out to the park for a quick hike as the mood strikes us. To that end, the idea of longer vs. shorter term parking may have merit. It takes about an hour and a half to hike the Misery Ridge loop so short term should not be shorter than 2 hours.

Information on other trails, besides Misery Ridge, would be very useful. If they can be connected so you can do loop hikes, all the better.

Smith Rock really is a state treasure and we certainly don't want to love it to death like we're doing to Bend. Your challenge is to balance that with ensuring those of us who do love it (and I would argue live by it) continue to have access to it.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Maddee Rubenson

Date comment received:

April 20, 2023 04:02 PM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

I am concerned about the proposed parking reservation system. It has been my experience in other reservation systems (like Three Sisters, Hemlock Butte Cabin, Enchantments, etc) that people will make a reservation to have it as an option and then not use it. In a park that already has very restricted parking, this seems like it could be a huge issue. I would hope that if this plan is initiated penalties if a reservation is not used is considered and thought into how to ensure there aren't many open but "reserved" spots left in the park.

Thank you for putting in the work to put this plan together! The multiple bridges is an excellent idea and I look forward to seeing some of this work come to fruition.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Matt Whitehead

Date comment received:

April 21, 2023 10:11 AM

Location (if provided): Portland, OR

Public comment:

I'm excited about improvements at Smith Rock. Addition bridges to allow more loops for hiking and trail running would be a great improvement along with new trails to expand opportunities. Parking improvements/expansions and accessibility are important also.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Paul Viellenave

Date comment received:

April 21, 2023 04:26 PM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Ban all drones and other aircraft year round



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kristin Wolter

Date comment received:

April 22, 2023 06:26 AM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Regarding the future of SRSP.

I fully support the need to limit use of the park by requiring reservations that allow use of the park by equestrians, mountain biking, rock climbing and dogs.

I understand that having dogs on the trail system can cause widening of the trail system, but so does having kids...Dogs are a part of many peoples lives and considered family for many travelers. Navigating a trail around a family with kids is no different than navigating a trail around a family with dogs, most of the time. If needed trail access by those with dogs could be restricted to certain trail systems, leaving the already widened trails open.

Kristin Wolter, Bend



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kellie

Date comment received:

April 22, 2023 07:17 AM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

With usage and parking a concern, why not implement a permit reservation system for peak days such as weekends and holidays? Preserving this beautiful area should be a priority, not accommodating more traffic.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

William Abbott

Date comment received:

April 22, 2023 07:50 AM

Location (if provided): Lebanon, OR

Public comment:

Regarding the use of drones. The state parks needs to seriously consider that drones have more uses than being annoying. They are useful by professionals like myself and amateur and promote the park and it's beauty. 99% of drone operators are licensed, and responsible and follow federal guidelines. Those who don't should be turned into proper authorities and prosecuted appropriately.

The state needs to consider that the airspace does NOT belong to the state, and can not be regulated by the state. The airspace from up to and including 400' above ground is regulated by the FAA, and full authority has been granted to them by the US Congress in regulating the airspace above all property.

2018 Notice from FAA about congress giving them sole jurisdiction over the airspace: <https://www.faa.gov/newsroom/faq-statement-federal-vs-local-drone-authority>

Local laws have been preempted by case law that the Federal FAA Law is over them: <https://www.hklaw.com/en/insights/publications/2017/09/local-drone-law-struck-down-by-federal-preemption>

FAA Fact

sheet: https://www.faa.gov/sites/faq.gov/files/uas/resources/policy_library/UAS_Fact_Sheet_Final.pdf

Please keep this in mind.. Or if you must restrict drone use to those of us who have gone the further step in drones to not just fly recreationally, but to obtain the much more challenging and costly part 107 certification (which is a federally issued license carried by the operator) Part 107 pilots are

treated very similarly to manned aircraft, and must continue their education. understand airspace and flight characteristics and know the rules and laws above those of recreational. Even recreational pilots are required training

Oregon Parks should consider this in all parks that they say "no drones allowed"



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jessica Thurman

Date comment received:

April 22, 2023 08:28 AM

Location (if provided): Redmond, OR

Public comment:

Please no permits for Smith Rock.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Gina Evans

Date comment received:

April 22, 2023 09:24 AM

Location (if provided): Terrebonne, UT

Public comment:

Please do not add a campground as per previous comments.

Please limit the amount of visitors, do not increase the amount of visitor capacity! Protect the land and the surrounding areas.

As a native that lives a half mile from smith rock, something needs to be done to limit the traffic to the residents in the area.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Matt Christensen

Date comment received:

April 22, 2023 10:00 AM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Hi,

My name is Matt Christensen and I have lived in Bend for 19 years and have been going to Smith ever since I arrived in the area. I am an avid climber, hiker and wildlife viewer and continue to enjoy all these activities at the park.

Things that I see as a good idea include:

- Updated bathroom facilities
- Banning dogs from the park. Trail widening, aiding in the spread of noxious weeds (cheat grass), digging holes, poop, wildlife disturbances, aggressive animals...
- Working with local Forest Service Fire Management crews to implement a controlled burn program for the park.

Things that i'm opposed to:

- More parking. It states in the report that when the lots are full the park is over capacity, so why increase parking capacity?
- Additional bridges and specific trail "improvements". The lack of bridges is something that helps maintain peaceful areas in the park for both visitors and wildlife. If we make every trail smooth and remove all obstacles are we adding value to the park or rather turning it into a quick use easily digestible commodity? I feel that people are more apt to show respect when they have had to work a little for the experience. If things are made easier then more and more people will come and the crowding situation becomes more evident. If you build it they will come...
- Permit system. Please no.

Thanks for all you guys do!

Matt



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

barb rumer

Date comment received:

April 22, 2023 10:50 AM

Location (if provided): bend, OR

Public comment:

I have been coming to Smith Rock since the mid 70's, it is a gem for Central Oregon and the State. I have seen the high stewardship of current and past park managements.

I agree with the proposed new parking plan to alliviate parking problems.

I have some other suggestions for the master plan.

1) Go forward with Dark Sky Park application and all amendments to the park that this might entail. Even before that, rework lighting in the park so it is Dark Sky compliant as to the new 2023 regs. Have Friends of Smith Rock work with the neighbors to help them to become Dark Sky compliant in their lighting.

2) Have in the master plan several native pollinator gardens with appropriate education signage. Ranger talks can continue education with talks on why native pollinator plants and assisting the populations of native pollinators is important.

3) If grass is used at all, use eco grass (less water, more pollinator friendly) The current sod near the yurt can also be replaced by eco lawn -

I would hope most state parks have in their master plans for water conservation, pollinator friendly plans, dark sky plans

Our parks are being loved to death, but it is an opportunity as always to educate for a world that can be better.

Barbara Rumer

1592 nw remarkable dr

Bend, OR 97703



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Ellen Walberg

Date comment received:

April 22, 2023 02:48 PM

Location (if provided): Redmond, OR

Public comment:

We have several friends that are handicapped that come to visit us. I know a new ADA trail along the upper rim is in the plans, but how about a wheelchair accessible shuttle that would get folks to/from the river. From there the trail along the river is quite handicapped accessible as it is very flat and wide.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Miranda Daviduk

Date comment received:

April 24, 2023 09:11 AM

Location (if provided): Corvallis, OR

Public comment:

I strongly oppose any initiatives to add a online reservation and permitting system to Smith Rock State Park. While I understand the need to address the park's capacity and business, adding a permit system is not the answer. Our public lands around the state have already become overburdened by online reservation permit systems including but not limited to the recently added Cascade Wilderness Permit. Online reservations takes away the autonomy to enjoy our beautiful state because it limits use and access. Furthermore, I find these practices of requiring permits and reservations to be discriminatory to our low-income Oregonians. Having to pay for permits, and also needing internet access, is exclusionary to those who do not have the means to access the internet regularly. I think having reservations for GROUP special events is okay, but I strongly oppose needing an online reservation and permit for an average, everyday user of the park. Smith Rock is my favorite state park and I've visited many times and hope to continue to do so in the future. Thank you for your consideration.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Steve Macsurak

Date comment received:

April 24, 2023 02:44 PM

Location (if provided): Redmond, OR

Public comment:

PLEASE, do not add parking. Our beautiful park already sees more than enough visitors. Your master plan looks great, but please don't do anything that will increase visitation, especially during peak periods.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Link Olson

Date comment received:

April 25, 2023 05:59 PM

Location (if provided): Redmond, OR

Public comment:

I grew up in Madras and first visited Smith Rock State Park around 1974 with my parents; I've been returning ever since. I'm a professional biologist and scientist now and enjoy birding and herping there, and while I've never been an avid rock climber, I've put some time in on some of the more popular routes. I've visited the park year round and have delighted in some of its hidden gems, such as the remarkably intact native bunchgrass along the Summit Trail. Smith Rock is truly one of Central Oregon's crown jewels!

I read the Master Plan in its entirety and commend OPRD for its thoroughness, balanced perspective, and attention to detail. I was pleasantly surprised by the candid assessment of the park's fragility and the cumulative impact of visitation over the decades. Central Oregon's high desert ecosystem is a decidedly fragile one indeed, and Smith Rock is certainly no exception. As with too much of the region's remaining wild areas, much of what little topsoil was ever there to begin with has been lost to wind and water erosion as a result of land-use practices the ecosystem did not coevolve to withstand. The commensurate loss of the soil biotic crust and associated herbaceous ground cover that for millennia held the topsoil in place and helped retain surface water for uptake by plants has facilitated the proliferation of invasive annuals such as cheatgrass and the increase in western juniper (which, while native, was present at much lower densities prior to Euroamerican settlement). I was pleased to see these subjects addressed in the report.

We're still learning the extent to which all of this has impacted our native flora and fauna, but one thing is clear: there are undeniable limits to how much human visitation an area like Smith Rock can take before reaching a tipping point, and I worry we're precariously close to one already. The rock will remain, but its thin skin is wearing ever thinner. While I applaud the plans for restoring degraded areas of the park and better policing activities within its boundaries, and while I agree that the existing situation is untenable, I'm nonetheless concerned about plans for expanding capacity. The well-documented phenomenon of induced demand (a concept as old as the park itself), wherein adding infrastructure doesn't just accommodate existing demand but encourages more, will almost certainly render any expansion of facilities at Smith Rock a temporary fix. If you build a new parking lot, they will come---and they will inspire others to come, too. Twenty years may sound like a long time on paper, but in reality it's a remarkably short-term perspective. At some point, visitation will have to be capped, and that doesn't seem to be acknowledged in the Master Plan. (The Visitor Capacity and Parking section sidesteps the issue entirely.) If visitation has more than tripled in the past 30 years to over a million visitors annually, what will the next 30 look like? I plan to still be around, but I sure hope there aren't three million (or more!) people loving Smith Rock to death by then.

Please, we need limits. We may not want to admit or accept it, but we surely do, and we can't simply kick this can down the road for another 20 years.

Sincerely,

Link Olson



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Marlin Kontje

Date comment received:

April 28, 2023 09:52 AM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Be brave enough to see the difference between “improvement” and “expansion”.

As a user who participates in all of the most common uses of the park (hiking, sightseeing, photography, wildlife viewing, and rock climbing) I have explored the park thoroughly and through many lenses.

I have experienced the top concerns (lack of parking, lack of camping, and congestion) first hand and yet it has not impacted my desire to spend time at Smith. We come to the park for the beauty and bounty of the natural world here, not for the user interface.

The master plan document states that “Smith Rock has extremely limited capacity to support both natural ecosystems and increasing recreational activities.” And yet simultaneously outlines plans for increasing the human presence and access.

Do not increase the paved areas or build a visitors center. These additions to the park will only increase the accessibility and attraction for the user subset which has a large impact but low participation.

Additionally there is no variety of "green building technique" that will cause these additions to have anything other than a negative impact on the various ecosystems. More is more no matter how much green paint is applied.

Increase ranger presence. Rangers are the stewards of the park. They have the intricate knowledge of the area that visitors crave! I would love to be able to ask rangers about the raptors, cougars, flora, and history but I rarely see them. We need more stewards out in the park, not sales people hocking trinkets in a souvenir shop.

No reservations. The Oregon State Parks reservations system only serves to create more problems, not solve them. People without reservations will show up anyway, people with reservations sometimes won't come at all. Why create a more frustrating, more expensive, and more maintenance intensive way to turn people away from a full park? Like with the State Park campgrounds around Oregon the implementation of this system will only serve to embitter those who use the park regularly and are truly engaged and only benefit those who find the fee to be “worthwhile insurance” whether they show up or not.

Again. Be brave enough to see the difference between improvement and expansion and be willing to

look far enough ahead and with a broad enough view to maintain the natural world at Smith Rock and not the human presence within it.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Elliott Reed

Date comment received:

April 28, 2023 02:16 PM

Location (if provided): BEND, OR

Public comment:

Thank you for taking the public's comments.

-Regarding a reservation system, in general I support spontaneous visitation over a reservation system. If a reservation was implemented, please define more in depth what this would look like in the master plan.

-Consider banning dogs (at least from the main area).

-I support banning drones except for official use.

-Consider more trails on top of the rim for hikers for more options.

-I support more staff in the field for education and preventative SAR opportunities. Consider hiring Climbing Rangers to patrol, educate, keep climbing routes safe and provide initial response in the event of a SAR call in technical terrain.

-Continue efforts to protect and educate the public regarding natural and cultural resources.

-Continue to restore the ecosystem by removing invasive plants and fund more restoration projects.

Thank you!



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Matt Christensen

Date comment received:

April 30, 2023 09:03 AM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Good morning!

I made a couple comments on the master plan recently but I forgot to address camping. I live in Bend but and decided to camp at Smith for a few days for the 2023 Spring Thing and I really enjoyed the existing camping options at the park. I really like the feel of the walk-in tent camping and feel that this is how camping should remain in the park. Walk-in, no reservations and tent camping only. I feel that this type of situation produces a minimal amount of negative impacts when compared to allowing in RVs and vehicles with generators. The beauty of the park is experienced both visually and audibly and I feel that RVs and generators should not be allowed in the campground to help limit noise pollution.

Thanks,

Matt



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

joseph Meehan

Date comment received:

May 1, 2023 09:24 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear planning committee,

As a climber, I'd like to thank Smith Rock State Park for its longstanding and positive partnership with the rock climbing community. Smith Rock is an incredible and historic climbing resource. Climbers are lucky to have access to the natural resources there. Thank you for protecting them while balancing that protection with quality recreation opportunities.

Specific to the draft plan, I want to thank the park planning committee for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and extend my support for the intention to create a Climbing Management Guide for the park and add a Climbing Ranger to park staff.

That being said, I have two points of clarification that I would appreciate park officials considering in the final plan:

- The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.
- Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the planning process.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Franky Jose

Date comment received:

May 1, 2023 09:26 AM

Location (if provided): seattle, WA

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Please consider allowing for some fixed gear to be in place so that climbers would have safe lower offs, etc.

I love smith rock it is a fantastic outdoor recreation and hope we can work together so that future climbers will be able to have that same feeling i get when i walk into the park.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Jeff gorris

Date comment received:

May 1, 2023 09:27 AM

Location (if provided): terribonne, OR

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

No reservation system for climbing!

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 2, 2023 09:46 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Given the largest percent of users as hikers, the general pace of movement is relatively slow. Bikers move at a much faster, and, frequently, incompatible pace. Also given the huge number of miles of bike trail available outside the park, I would like to suggest that bikes be excluded from the one square mile of Smith Rock. If that is not possible I'd like to suggest that bikes be ridden in a single direction, specifically counterclockwise: up Burma Road, down Summit Trail, and back along the river trail. The steep Burma Trail grade that's so fun to scream down, is not so much fun to ride up. The switchbacks on Summit Trail keep speed under control. Riding upstream on the River Trail also slows bike traffic.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Bill Kowalik

Date comment received:

May 2, 2023 10:37 AM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Please give consideration to the potential of Smith Rock State Park to become certified as a "Dark Sky Park." The International Dark-Sky Association provides certification for parks around the world which have starry night skies, measure the sky darkness, have outdoor night-sky friendly lighting and help to educate about the benefits to people and the wild ecosystem of dark skies and reduced light pollution.<https://www.darksky.org/our-work/conservation/idsp/parks/>

Certified parks allow people to be present after dark, which generally means that camping is allowed. The bivy arrangement for camping at SRSP ought to satisfy that requirement. Another option would be to consider periodic "star parties" at which local astronomers/volunteers help interpret features of the night sky.

A check of the sky glow map of central Oregon suggests that the current night skies at SRSP are dark enough to qualify, at about 21.4 magnitudes per arc second squared, which is darker than the minimum cutoff of 21.2. The proximity of SRSP to nighttime skyglow from Redmond and to a lesser extent from Terrebonne affect its night skies.

Currently we have one certified dark sky park in Oregon, at Prineville Reservoir State Park. About 8 other parks and communities across Oregon are currently working for dark sky certification.

More at www.darkskyoregon.org



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 2, 2023 02:29 PM

Location (if provided): TERREBONNE, OR

Public comment:

Three additional restrooms on the 2.5 mile River Trail seems excessive. Please consider a restroom along the Summit Trail/Monkey Face/Misery Ridge. Can Master Plan include info along with the increased parking spaces that collaboration with ODT & Deschutes County have worked together with OPRD to address the increase in traffic on Smith Rock Way and Hwy 97 due to huge spike in visitors to State Park?



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

carl blomquist

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:42 AM

Location (if provided): Sisters, OR

Public comment:

Following review of the SRSPMP draft, I would appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts looking forward...

Although I understand that Oregon Parks and Recreation exists to serve public opinion concerns first and foremost, I believe the future of all public lands must be guided with a wise and responsible hand on the till with a vision of a brighter future. Good stewardship requires steering a course that will leave an enduring legacy for all who follow.

The Master Plan must have a vision for a legacy far beyond the careers of the contributors and the appeasement of short term public interest concerns. This means to set a course with eyes on the horizon for a destination we will shall never see.

More parking, more bridges, more trails, more bathrooms are all developments that address immediate public concerns. To follow this path we dedicate ourselves to an ever increasing human impact and with it the degradation of park natural resources. More noise, more pollution, more traffic and with it a disrespect for park staff and the environment they try to protect.

Since the last significant fire in Smith Rock Park I have seen little success to reforest the burned areas. I believe that a legacy of good stewardship begins with the preservation of a diverse ecology. To implement the reforestation of native trees in fire resistant groves with a vision of nurturing a mature old growth habitat is a powerful statement for all to bear witness. Using solar powered pumps, trickle fed water from the Crooked River could irrigate each grove until they are self sustaining. Even future parking areas could be shaded to offset the heat sink of pavement and the vehicles, and in turn, the carbon footprint while enhancing the view from above. Dozens of potential groves could be named throughout the park and public participation be encouraged to create a sense of stewardship and pride for many generations to come.

It is my belief that providing such a vision for the future in the Smith Rock State Park Master Plan elevates us all beyond the 20 year cyclical intent and propels us towards a course far beyond our present horizon.

Lead us towards a more hopeful destination.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I appreciate the opportunity to respond.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

sean begley

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:43 AM

Location (if provided): Sherwood, OR

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I appreciate that Smith Rock management values climbing at Smith Rock State Park. Smith Rock provides unique and wonderful climbing opportunities and I'm glad that climbers can have a voice in helping to share the future of Smith Rock's visitor management plan. I would encourage planners to ensure that the Plan is precise enough to avoid ambiguity in what activities are, and are not, affected by a reservation system to avoid unintended activities being swept up in the overall system. Additionally please recognize that climbing, more so than many other outdoor activities, relies upon access to difficult terrain, often over rugged trails that are not maintained, or maintainable, to the same standards that other, more popular trails should be. And this is ok. Climbers who are accessing Smith Rock expect rugged terrain and I'd hate for climbing to become unavailable because the trail requirements are too strict.

Thanks,

Sean



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

James Dempsey

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:44 AM

Location (if provided): Long Island City, NY

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Alex Hackett

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:46 AM

Location (if provided): Nampa, ID

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Dear Smith Rock State Park Officials,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the climbing community to express our gratitude and support for the park's recognition of climbing as an important form of recreation. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to participate in the planning process and be a part of the management decisions that affect the park.

In particular, we would like to express our support for the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger. The climbing community understands the importance of managing our impact on the park's resources and ensuring the safety of all park visitors. The creation of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential hiring of a Climbing Ranger will undoubtedly contribute to these goals and enhance the overall experience for all visitors.

We would also like to thank park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach. We understand the importance of preserving the park's natural resources and wildlife, and we appreciate the measures taken to protect nesting raptors during the climbing season.

As the park continues to develop its Master Management Plan, we urge park officials to clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate. We also encourage park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system. The climbing community understands the importance of balancing access to the park with the need to manage visitor impacts, and we are committed to being a part of the conversation around the future of the park.

We also recognize that climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail

classification standards in the Master Management Plan. We ask that park officials recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards. The climbing community is committed to maintaining these trails to the best of our ability, but we also understand that some level of flexibility may be necessary to ensure access to climbing areas.

In closing, we want to thank Smith Rock State Park officials for their commitment to managing the park's resources and ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all visitors. We look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that climbing remains an important and sustainable form of recreation in the park.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Steven Goldstein

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:48 AM

Location (if provided): Watervliet, NY

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

katherine zipman

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:49 AM

Location (if provided): portland, OR

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

When moving forward to do whats best for the park and all who enjoy it please consider the climbers. Climbing is a weather dependent sport that often goes off the beaten path. I hope moving forward to preserving the parks beauty and biodiversity we will be able to come up with solutions that allow everyone the freedom to enjoy the park.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

jennifer laferriere

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:51 AM

Location (if provided): leesburg, VA

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

nathan lee

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:52 AM

Location (if provided): austin, TX

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Smith Rock is one of the most beautiful parks I have ever been to. I first visited in 2018 and was stunned by the majesty of the park. It is also the first place I learned multi-pitch climbing and search and rescue skills. The climbers I have met there have become some of my friends for life. I hope if there is any concern about the level of climbing in the park can be voiced to the community so we can make sure we as climbers are totally in line with the ranger's vision for the park! Thanks for making climbing at Smith possible.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

erica lynes

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:53 AM

Location (if provided): denver, CO

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process. The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

gabi barros

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:54 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation at Smith Rock State Park! As a member of the climbing community, I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

In regards to the development of the Master Management Plan, please consider:

- Clarifying which activities a potential reservation system would regulate.
- Requiring park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.
- Allowing climbing access trails some flexibility within the universal design principles and trail classification standards because they are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the standards.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration toward the development of the Master Management Plan.

Respectfully,
Gabi Barros



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

matt connery

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:54 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process. The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system. Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

mike vlass

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:55 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I believe that correct management and the inclusion of a Climbing ranger into the Master management plan for Smith rocks is a wise step in the right direction to help keep this fantastic resource protected for future generations to enjoy .

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

abby matousek

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:57 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Smith Rock has been a beloved climbing destination for me personally and my community at large. I support all efforts to increase access, safety, and longevity of this special place. As part of this effort I hope that the Master Management Plan clarifies what activities a potential reservation system would regulate. As part of the process, the Plan should require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:57 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

To the Smith Rock State Park managers,

As climbing has grown increasingly popular over the last decade, I greatly appreciate your efforts to recognize the importance of climbing to Smith Rock SP, the park's importance to the climbing community, and the importance of managing the impacts of the large number of climbers drawn to this world-famous destination.

As someone who also has a deep love for birds, and raptors in particular, I applaud your successful efforts at managing the raptor population and climbers' impact on it at SRSP. One of the greatest thrills of my life has been to see the raptors, whether from a trail, or rarely and outside nesting season, soaring near the cliffs in places like Smith Rock SP and the Shawangunks in New York. To preserve that special experience requires careful management, and I am grateful to you for it.

I also want to strongly support adding a Climbing Ranger to the park. In places where there have been dedicated climbing rangers (I think of the Shawangunks, Mt. Rainier) this position has built trust, knowledge, and a sense of community with climbers.

I am concerned by some lack of clarity around reservations and trail standards. Not all trails are equal, and while I applaud efforts to be inclusive, access to climbing is unique. People who want to climb are already prepared for rugged terrain, and while I think some trails to access climbing could be more accessible for entry-level climbers of all stripes, access to more advanced areas should probably be classified differently than trails for all abilities. For instance, beginning climbers are unlikely to access the Monkey Face, and the trails to that legendary destination should be maintained, even if it cannot meet universal trail standards.

Finally, climbers request more clarity about what

activities are subject to reservation requirements, and we want to be part of the process for developing that reservation system. It is clear that we won't all be able to descend on Smith Rock anytime--there are too many climbers now for that--but we want to be involved.

Thank you again for all you have done to steward this special place. I have climbed now for 27 years, and Smith Rock remains among my most memorable destinations.

Dr. Marcus D. Collins



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:58 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:58 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I am writing on behalf of the climbing community to express our gratitude for your recognition of climbing as an important form of recreation within the park. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the planning process and support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

Furthermore, we would like to extend our thanks to park officials for acknowledging the success of the current raptor management approach. It is crucial to maintain the balance between preserving wildlife habitat and allowing for recreational activities in the park.

Regarding the Master Management Plan, we encourage clarity on which activities a potential reservation system would regulate. We also recommend that park officials integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system to ensure that it reflects the needs of all stakeholders.

Lastly, we understand that climbing access trails may not meet universal design principles and trail classification standards outlined in the Master Management Plan. We ask that park officials recognize the necessity for flexibility within these standards and allow climbing access trails some leeway to accommodate the rugged terrain and unique needs of climbers.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to preserving the natural beauty of Smith Rock State Park while ensuring that visitors can enjoy a diverse range of recreational activities.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 09:59 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:00 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thanks for taking the time to listen to the concerns of the climbing community and organizations that are interested in preserving access to this amazing resource on public lands I am in agreement with the Access Fund on the questions raised and hope a equitable solution can be made.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:01 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Dear Smith Rock State Park Officials,

I would like to express my gratitude for recognizing climbing as a valuable form of recreation and for including us in the planning process for the park's management plan over the next two decades.

I am excited about the development of a Climbing Management Guide and are eager to offer our support. I also appreciate the consideration of a Climbing Ranger position, which we believe would benefit both the park and the climbing community.

I commend your acknowledgement of the current raptor management approach's success and urge you to continue prioritizing the protection of these important species while balancing the needs of climbers.

As the Master Management Plan is developed, I would kindly request clarification regarding the potential reservation system. Specifically, we would like to know which activities will be regulated and ask that you integrate public participation in the planning and implementation of any such system.

Lastly, I understand that climbing access trails may not always conform to the universal design principles and trail classification standards outlined in the Master Management Plan. Due to the inherent rugged nature of these trails, we ask that you consider allowing some flexibility within the standards to maintain access to climbing areas.

Thank you for your attention to these matters, and we look forward to contributing to the development of a sustainable and inclusive management plan for Smith Rock State Park.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:01 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

We love to visit Deschutes county and Smith Rock is a main draw for us as climbers. As one of the oldest sport climbing locations in the country (and world!) it's always high on our list to visit.

Thank you for allowing public comment on land management in the park! Please consider allowing flexible access to all current climbing routes in the park as they are a critical part of climbing history in the US. Smith Rock is a location that all climbers want to visit!

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:27 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:28 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:30 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:31 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hi-

I would like to support the climbing community as a vital part of what makes Smith Rock State Park so special. Please continue to support the community that brings joy to so many climbers and visitors alike. I know that all projects are hard to pencil at this time, but this is an opportunity to plan for the future and that future should include/support the growth of climbing. Additionally, please allow for climbing trails to not meet all standards of trail development.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:32 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I support a Climbing Management Guide and a Climbing Ranger. However, the Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Additionally, Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:32 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I Live near Smith Rock State Park and I am wondering how the reservation system would affect locals. Many of our trails in the Three Sisters wilderness now have reservations which makes it increasingly harder for locals to access them as we don't necessarily plan out far in advance to access our home trails. I am at Smith Rock all the time, sometimes multiple times a week climbing and I just want some clarification on what you might be trying to bring the reservation system to. I've definitely noticed the uptick in visitors in the last 5-10 years and I'm glad you are trying to keep the park in good form.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:34 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I want to thank Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the planning process. I support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

I think the Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system. Climbing access trails are often rugged and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards. I've enjoyed my time climbing and camping at Smith Rock and I look forward to my next trip there.

Thanks,

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:34 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I am writing to express my appreciation for the recent steps that Smith Rock State Park has taken to recognize the importance of climbing as a form of recreation. As a member of the climbing community, I want to thank you and other park officials for providing us with the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

We fully support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger. We believe that these initiatives will help to ensure the safety of climbers and protect the natural resources of the park. We also want to thank you for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

Regarding the Master Management Plan, we believe that it should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate. Additionally, it should require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system. We hope that the park will make efforts to involve the climbing community in these discussions.

We understand that climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan. We would like to request that park officials recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Thank you once again for your efforts to ensure that climbing is recognized as an important form of recreation in Smith Rock State Park. We look forward to continuing to work with you to protect the park's natural resources while providing access for climbers.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:35 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

First, I'd like to thank you for developing a comprehensive plan to allow future generations to enjoy the wonder of Smith Rock. I am thankful that climbing was recognized as an important form of recreation at Smith Rock, and appreciate the opportunity to participate in the planning process. As a climber, runner, hiker, new parent, and Bend local, I appreciate all the different ways our community recreates at Smith Rock.

I have a few comments for consideration with the new plan.

- The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.
- The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.
- The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.
- Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best, Devon

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:36 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:36 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

My girlfriend grew up in Oregon, her and I take trips up there often. I have been an active rock climber in the community for almost 10 years now, and I dream of going to this park on my next trip out there, and participating in the amazing climbing scene.

I always try to climb in the local parks when I visit a place. I just got back from California where I climbed in Joshua Tree. This community is amazing for the state and the parks, they take good care of their environment, and few appreciate the nature and give as much care to it as Rock Climbers do. It would be of everyone's benefit to accommodate these wonderful people as much as you can as time passes, as the community only grows bigger every day.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:37 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Keep this open for climbing

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:37 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:38 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I and the climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger. These dedicated resources are crucial to community building and understanding. The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach. The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system. Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:39 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Please allow for climbing to continue in this state park
and allow voices of local climbing
stewards to dictate and inform such policy.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:40 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:41 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; please recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

I support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:41 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Additionally, climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

I support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

Thank you again,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:42 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I am concerned to see that the draft plan appears to ignore the majority of the climbing access trails, aside from access to the monument (which is a much needed improvement!) Even just adding signage could drastically cut down on the number of faint, unofficial trails to less-used cliffs.

I also think that nearby BLM lands will see massively increased usage if more people are drawn to the park and/or permit systems start to deny access to climbers. Though I know this is beyond the scope of the plan, it should really get more consideration.

Overall the current draft really does nothing to address overcrowding of climbing areas and I think planners should expect far more traffic on the backside of smith rock and at the marsupials and beyond in the coming years if parking is expanded.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:43 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I have been a climber for over 40 years & I appreciate that the management is aware of the historical importance of climbing at Smith Rock, as well as protecting the future of climbing.

Smith Rock is one of the most famous climbing areas in the United States, especially in the western part, along with Yosemite & Joshua Tree.

Additionally, I understand the management concern of overcrowding.

However, as our population ever increases, this is inevitable, not only in our nation's parks, but in every aspect of life.

In my 40+ years of climbing (not very much now as I approach 80), I have noticed that rock climbers, as a whole, are among the most appreciative & considerate of those who visit parks & monuments.

That is not to denigrate those who come for different purposes....it is merely my observation.

Climbing access trails are, by necessity, rugged. Those who climb are prepared to hike these trails.

I would hope that the management would officially recognize this & allow these trails to exist & be maintained by climbers.

While many parks have initiated reservation systems, this should be a last resort.

One of the
benefits of our parks is the freedom to visit & see it's beauties.

It is, in many ways, the ideal of
freedom.

The more it's regulated, the
less this is true.

I'm just one person, not famous, but I have met &
talked with some of the renowned climbers of the past...men like Royal
Robbins.

Their spirit lives in these
mountains & rocks, & I'm sure they would write similar messages, if
they were here!

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:43 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I remember the first time I learned about Smith Rock. My friends and I packed up our climbing gear, rented a house for the week, and flew from Baltimore, Maryland for some of the best climbing we'd experienced. It's truly one of the most gorgeous settings and I was so excited to head back a second time a few years later, but this time with my dog. We all had another amazing trip there.

I truly hope that the new Climbing Management Guide will support future climbing adventures at Smith Rock. It's an iconic location and something I regularly share with climbers I meet who haven't been. I hope that the Master Management Plan supports climbing and also allows for some flexibility with climbing trails.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:44 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hello, as a climber I feel passionate about the climbing management at Smith Rock.

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:45 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Speaking as novice climber who has traveled thousands of miles to experience the thrill of rock climbing at Smith Rock, I felt the need to express my concerns over how climbing will be managed in the coming years.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to be heard and thankful that the Smith Rock State Park is recognizing climbing as an important part of the recreation plan for the future.

For perspective, I am a 56 year old father of two that spends time visiting National and State Parks as much as I can.

I personally join the climbing community in support of the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

This will be especially valuable if all shareholders are included in such development.

I am also in favor of a reservation system, with the following caveat.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Additionally, climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some

flexibility within the standards.

Thank you for your efforts to protect the natural beauty
of Smith Rock and balancing the recreational needs of climbers like myself.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:46 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:47 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for recognizing the importance of climbing as a form of recreation with Smith Rock. This plan looks to be an excellent foundation for the future stewardship of this place. Accessibility is evidently a value guiding the creation of this plan.

The development of a climbing management guide and a Climbing Ranger would be excellent additions to the Park infrastructure implemented in a way that supports current user groups.

The trail improvement projects also seem like welcome additions the park - as climbers we would simply note that climbing-access specific trails (used to get to an area only accessed for purposes of rock climbing) are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan. Within this, it would be prudent to allow climbing access trails some flexibility within those standards. Trails could even be designated as climbing access only.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed the evident time and energy to creating a bright a future for this park.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:49 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Compose Your Message

Planning and
Design Lead Jenna Marmon

Take Action

Take five minutes today to submit your input on the Smith Rock plan using our easy letter-writing tool. Comments are due May 15th. Use

the provided talking points to guide your advocacy.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:50 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hello,

First I'd like to recognize the great work and collaboration between the Smith Rock Management and the climbing community. From my perspective this has been a very healthy and productive relationship. We have the opportunity to a model for other land managers and climbing communities around the country to follow.

Like many outdoor recreation areas popularity has increased. A thoughtful land management plan is necessary for user groups to be protected and for the land to be appropriately preserved.

As such I am in support of

- the potential for a climbing ranger
- the development of a climbing management guide
- continuation of the raptor protect process and planning

Additionally I'd like to see

- clarification of the potential reservation system and the activities under its regulation
- integration of public and user group participation in the development of the climbing guide and reservation system
- consideration that climbing trails are necessary and often rugged to the point where typical trail standards may not always be met

I appreciate your time and effort in this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:53 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I am a big fan of Smith Rock. As a Washington resident I consider Smith Rock one of my local crags, a place to climb and adventure that is in my own backyard.

I appreciate and love the availability of climbing in the park and appreciate that climbing is recognized as an important activity in the Master Management plan. Some of the proposed climbing regulations in the Master Management Plan are appreciated including planning for climbing access in the future, potential assignment of a climbing ranger, and continued protection of falcon nesting.

However, some parts of the plan leave myself and other climbers with questions. Reservation systems have surged in popularity at parks post COVID but not all are implemented well. If such a system were to be implemented how would it accommodate climbers needs, particularly those who may be traveling and have limited time or may not know their exact eta to the park or whose income is limited? Additionally while I support protecting flora through trail management climbing does require access trails that are sometimes no traditional and may lead to trails being formed that do not meet a universal design system. How will trail access for climbing be managed in a way that does not limit access.

Thank you for your time and offering the climbing community an opportunity for comment.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:54 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:55 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

ear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

As a longtime Smith Rock climber I'm thankful for the access climbers like me have had to this wonderful resource. I'm curious though - will the Master Management Plan clarify which activities a reservation system would regulate? It would be nice for the public to have a voice on this.

Also, climbing access trails tend to be a lot rougher than typical park trails. This should be okay under the new plan.

Thank you!

~Chris Weidner

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:56 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

As a longtime Smith Rock climber I'm thankful for the access climbers like me have had to this wonderful resource. I'm curious though - will the Master Management Plan clarify which activities a reservation system would regulate? It would be nice for the public to have a voice on this.

Also, climbing access trails tend to be a lot rougher than typical park trails. This should be okay under the new plan.

Thank you!

~Chris Weidner

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:57 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Smith Rocks' fame was bolstered immensely by rock climbing and rock climbers. I urge you to understand that and support rock climbing at Smith Rocks.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:58 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:58 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Access to smith Rocks holds a very valuable place for many of us as it boasts the beginning of americas sport climbing. We are thankful for the conservancy efforts that have been made and desire to keep access to Smith Rocks for climbers wide open as it creates a very special experience for many of us.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 10:59 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

My name is Leon, my family of 4 visit Smith Rock from the Portland area 6-10 times per year mostly for the climbing.

We very much admire the work that Oregon State Parks does across the state to manage these locations.

Other states do not perform this task nearly as well.

Reading through the proposed Master Management Plan, I would like to suggest some further clarification on on which activities a potential reservation system would regulate.

In my opinion, this option should only be used as a last resort as reservation systems tend to negatively impact the experience of certain areas (such as community, and socializing with other climbers/hikers).

Often times when climbing, some people don't have a partner to belay them.

When there are many climbers around, it is much easier to speak with people and partner up to have a safe climbing experience.

I could see a potential issue with less people in the park that could lead to unsafe climbing practices.

Along with this, the climbing community in general does a very good job of managing itself as far as safety

is concerned.

Climbing

access trails are often rugged with poor access out of necessity.

These would not meet the universal design principles or trail classification standards as proposed.

This should be recognized in the Master Plan and be allowed some flexibility within the standards.

As an example, there are many multi-pitch routes where the safest way down is to walk down a small/steep trail from the summit and link up with a main trail.

Repelling back down is far more dangerous and should never be done if there is an alternative method.

These small trails used can be treacherous but for climbers, these are the safer option.

Perhaps some designation of these trails as "climber walk-off only" could be potential solution?

Thank you very much for recognizing the importance of climbing at Smith Rock.

I'm sure the climbing community as a whole would support the creation of a climbing management guide.

A climbing ranger would also be a welcome addition.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to weigh in on this.

Respectfully,
Leon Wright
Oregon City, OR



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:00 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Climbing community supports efforts to make climbing
safer for all

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:02 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I believe clarity should be provided on the Smith Rock Master Management Plan. All over the country, when people mention Smith Rock, they associate it with the birth place of American sport climbing. The support of the Oregon State Parks service has been integral in creating and maintaining the amazing climbing history and culture at Smith Rock.

I believe that adding additional regulation to access, climbing, and trail standards doesn't benefit the people that this amazing park is serving. An opportunity for climbers to volunteer, donate, and help meet the additional impact of climbing at Smith Rock should be given to climbers and climbing advocacy groups. Groups such as the Access Fund and their members would be happy to step up and work with the park's service to offset the impact climbing is having on the park and other groups.

I believe a chance should be given to climbers to allow them to regulate themselves and give back. Together we can accomplish more and continue the amazing legacy of climbing at Smith Rock.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:02 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I am writing on behalf of the climbing community to express our gratitude for the recognition of climbing as an important form of recreation at Smith Rock State Park and our eagerness to contribute to the ongoing planning process.

Climbers have a long and proud history at Smith Rock State Park, where they have helped shape the park's unique volcanic tuff formations and contributed to its world-renowned status. As visitation continues to grow, we understand the importance of protecting the park's natural and cultural resources while ensuring quality recreational opportunities.

We would like to address the following talking points in relation to the draft Master Management Plan:

We commend Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciate the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

We thank park officials for acknowledging the success of the current raptor management approach.

Additionally, we would like to request clarification on the following points:

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate. We also encourage park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan. We ask that park officials recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

We believe that addressing these points will help ensure the continued success of Smith Rock State Park as a climbing destination and protect the park's valuable resources. Thank you for considering our feedback and for your dedication to preserving the unique beauty and recreational opportunities of Smith Rock State Park.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:03 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I am writing to share my thoughts on the plan being developed for climbing management at Smith Rock State Park. As you know, climbing is an important activity at the park, and it is critical that we prioritize climbing access for visitors while preserving the park's natural resources.

First and foremost, climbing is a significant draw for visitors to the park and is a key contributor to the local economy. Climbers come from all over the world to experience the unique and challenging climbs at Smith Rock. Limiting access to climbing through a reservation system could significantly reduce the number of climbers coming to the park, leading to a reduction in revenue for local businesses and ultimately impacting the economic health of the community.

Furthermore, climbing is an important part of the park's identity and history. Many climbers have been coming to Smith Rock for decades, and they have helped shape the park's culture and sense of community. A reservation system could lead to a reduction in the number of these long-time visitors, leading to a loss of the park's unique character and culture.

It's also worth noting that a reservation system may not be effective in managing the impacts of climbing on the park's natural resources. Climbers often make decisions about which climb to attempt based on factors such as weather, time of day, and personal preference. A reservation system would limit their ability to make these decisions, potentially leading to increased crowding and environmental impacts on popular climbs.

In conclusion, I urge the park officials to prioritize climbing access and to consider alternative methods for managing the impacts of climbing on the park's resources. I believe that a reservation system could have significant negative impacts on the local economy, the park's culture, and the ability of climbers to make informed decisions about their climbs. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:04 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your Draft Plan and including Smith Rock's legacy of rock climbing.

I first climbed at Smith Rock in 1985 and have returned most years to enjoy the unique rock climbing opportunities, the beautiful landscape and abundance of wildlife and birds of all types.

I'm a long time birder as well and have always appreciated the success of Smith Rock's approach to raptor management with climbing regulations.

Having a Climbing Ranger would help provide more sustainable management of the resource for increasing numbers of climbers visiting Smith Rock into the future.

It would be helpful if the Master Management Plan clarified which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Access trails to climbs at Smith have had years of successful and unsuccessful management.

With the erosional qualities of the soil and rock, it's critical to incorporate design aspects into climbing trails that address specific issues and classifications.

I hope these can be incorporated into the Master Management Plan.

Thanks again for your stewardship and forethought of this amazing natural resource for all users into the future!

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:04 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I'll start by saying thank you for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process. As part of the climbing community, I support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger

I believe that the Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

I also believe that climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan, and that park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Thank you,

-Riley Rustad



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:06 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for identifying climbing as an important form of recreation and allowing for the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

I want to express my support towards the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger to be added to the park staff.

I also want to thank park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

I would like to request that the Master Management Plan clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and how it will require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

I would also like to add that most climbing access trails are rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards to ensure that all climbing access remains open as well as preserving resources by requiring many of those rugged accesses not brought up to unnecessary access standards.

Thank
you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:06 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for recognizing climbing as an important aspect of recreation in Smith Rock State Park. Due to the popularity of the area and the growth of the climbing community, I encourage you to add more detail to the plan in regards to climbing regulations. Currently there is ambiguity around climbing access trail creation and management as well as potential reservation systems. Please elaborate on these aspects by allowing for rugged access trails which may not meet standards for other trails in the park, and clarifying which activities would be covered or not in a reservation system. If a reservation system will be implemented in the future, public participation should be integrated at that point as well.

Thank you again for your thoughtful consideration of the future of climbing in Smith Rock State Park.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:08 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I agree with these statements provided by the Access Fund.

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:08 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Climbing has long been an important part of recreation at Smith Rock. While the draft master plan makes some good points in including climbing, I believe it does not go far enough, nor does it address some important specifics. I believe the master plan should specify which activities and areas would be impacted by a potential reservation system. It should also integrate public input on its implementation and design.

The other major concern I have involves climbing access trails. While I applaud the master plan's vision for well managed trails, climber's access trails are often rugged by default, as determined by the areas they are made to access. These may not meet all the standards laid out in the master plan as it currently stands. Park officials should recognize this and allow some leeway when it comes to these trails, otherwise a large amount of climbing areas may become inaccessible.

Regards,
Theo Garrett



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:09 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I am a member of the climbing community who enjoys the access to climbing at Smith Rock, and am pleased that the process has included opportunities for climbers to provide feedback. Thanks! I would like to register concern about some of the standardization proposed to trails, as climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards so that access to climbing walls can be maintained with minimal disruption to the park's landscape.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:09 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:10 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hi, thanks for planning the management of Smith Rock so its beauty and preservation is conserved for future generations. I've enjoyed climbing at Smith Rock for many years and see the necessity to manage and advocate for climbing access. Climbing is a sport comprised of many different ability levels and it wouldn't be fair to deem all access the same. The approach to some climbing areas is often heinous and require a different set of skills; it shouldn't be seen as requiring equal access to all. In the same way you wouldn't put a novice in the driver's seat on a Formula 1 track, there are different trail conditions valued by the climbing community. I would ask that we focus on preservation and maintenance of these more aggressive trails that fall outside any universal standard or guidelines for trail conditions.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:11 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hello and thank you for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation in Smith Rock.

I think the development of a Climbing Management Guide is a great step and I also support the idea of a climbing Ranger.

We also appreciate that park officials have recognized the success of the current raptor management approach.

However, I'd like to see some clarity on which activities a potential reservation system would regulate. I'd also like to see public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system similar to the ways many other state and national parks have approached such systems.

Further, climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan. I think park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Thank you very much,

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:11 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I am writing to express my support for prioritizing climbing access at Smith Rock State Park and to advocate against implementing a reservation system for climbers.

Climbing is a major draw for visitors to Smith Rock, and it is essential that the park officials prioritize access for climbers while also ensuring the protection of the natural resources in the park. Limiting access through a reservation system could have significant negative impacts on the climbing experience and the local economy without meeting the intended goals.

Firstly, a reservation system could result in decreased visitation from climbers, leading to a reduction in revenue. Climbers come from all over the world to experience the unique and challenging climbs at Smith Rock, and a reservation system would limit their ability to plan and enjoy their trip to the fullest.

Moreover, a reservation system would make it difficult for climbers to adjust their plans based on weather, unexpected delays, or other factors that may arise. Climbing is an outdoor activity that is subject to changes in weather and other environmental factors, and climbers need flexibility to adapt their plans accordingly. Climbers often make decisions about which climb to attempt based on factors such as weather and the number of climbers already on a particular climb. A reservation system would restrict their ability to make these decisions, potentially leading to increased crowding and environmental impact on popular climbs.

Finally, a reservation system may not be an effective means of managing the impact of climbing on the park's resources. Historically speaking, climbing ethics have a strong inclination towards preservation and conservation and this can be seen in other popular climbing areas such as Yosemite, Joshua Tree and Indian Creek. The issue that is felt Smith Rock is facing is not unique, and policies/ideas that other parks featuring climbing have implemented should be considered in regards to their level of success while retaining access.

In conclusion, I believe that prioritizing climbing access and finding alternative methods to manage the impact of climbing on the park's resources is the best way forward. A reservation system would negatively impact the climbing experience and may not be an effective means of protecting the park's resources.

Thank you for considering my input on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:12 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process. Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:15 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Dear Smith Rocks Management,

living in AL, we made it to your fabulous place only once so far. Retiring now, Smith Rocks are on top of our "go climb" bucket list, with friends from Europe wanting to join us. We appreciate the park management in the past - and are looking forward to a good relationship between park management and climbers in the future. I have not been able to look in the management plan draft, but I encourage you to work with climbing representatives to keep it accessible.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:16 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:17 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:18 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I am writing for clarification on potential reservation systems and the future of approach trails. Climbing at Smith Rock is an iconic part of Central Oregon and I believe should remain accessible to all. Thanks for all you do.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:20 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I lived in the PNW last year and plan to return to Smith Rock in the coming months as it is such a special place to climb. I am very grateful that Smith Rock State Park recognizes climbing as an important part of recreation, and that the success of the raptor management approach has been recognized. As a climber, I support the development of a Climbing Management Guide. I also think that the public should have input as to how a reservation system gets implemented. Additionally, I believe that climbing trails should have flexibility in terms of regulations as these trails are often rugged by necessity. Thank you for all your hard work!

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:25 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I'm a rock climber and resident of the Pacific Northwest who climbs at Smith Rock State Park several times a year. I'm writing to offer comments on the proposed Smith Rock Master Plan.

I'm glad that climbing, which has a long and rich history at the park, is recognized as an important form of recreation, and I'm hopeful that climbers can work together with other stakeholders to preserve, protect and improve the park in coming years.

I want to voice my support for the creation of a Climbing Management Guide, and the position of Climbing Ranger. Both are important steps to outlining and maintaining rules and regulations governing climbing in a way that respects input from climbers.

I'm also glad to see the success of the current raptor management system, and hope that it continues to successfully meet the needs of both climbers and the wildlife we share the cliffs with.

I have two additional requests for clarifications to the plan. One is that the Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

The second is that the trails climbers use are often rugged by necessity, and shouldn't need to be regulated by the standards of other trails in the park. These trails typically offer access solely to climbing routes, and are not of interest to others recreating in the park. While I do want to see unnecessary social trails minimized to cut down on land impact, I don't see much value to requiring that climber trails adhere to the same rules as general hiking trails.

Thank you!

Nate Scharping

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:25 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thanks for recognizing climbing as an important aspect of Smith Rock State Park. I've visited the park, and I know it's amazing place to climb. As a climber, I supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger, as well as the continuation of the successful raptor management plan.

I hope that the Master Management Plan will clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and I encourage the park to seek additional input on this system.

I also hope that the park will acknowledge that climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards, but these trails are essential and should still be allowed.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:26 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for the chance to give input on the proposed master plan. I would like a minimization of a reservation system but clearly defined reasons for any system implemented.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:27 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:28 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I'm so grateful that careful planning and consideration is happening around Smith Rock State Park.

One of my favorite things about the park is the climbing access and I support the development of any guidelines and plans that will allow climbing in a sustainable way.

Priorities for me would include:

- * Preserving access to climbing areas
- * Continuing the successful raptor management approach
- * Allowing flexibility in the standards (re: trail quality and design) to allow climbing to continue
- * Support for a Climbing Ranger in helping set up the community and continued activity for success
- * Public participation in the development of the plan and what's next

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:28 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process. As a climber, it is an important part of my physical and mental wellbeing, as is hiking or exploring many other areas of the state park. We support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger. We also want to thank park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards. This also helps keep non-climbing traffic to a minimum and makes the trails less of a hassle to maintain.

Please keep Smith Rock open as its an important place in the history of. climbing.

Thanks,
Matt Wendel

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 11:29 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I am a climber who has enjoyed the beautiful climbing available at Smith Rock. I appreciate this opportunity to participate in this planning process, and the recognition of Smith Rock State Park of climbing as an important activity within the park.

Thank you for recognizing the success of the current raptor management philosophy. I hope that going forward, the Master Management Program can clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and that public participation will be required in the planning of this system. Finally, I encourage park officials to recognize that climbing access trails may not meet universal design principles, but consider flexibility for this in their standards.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide my input as a climber in this process.

Brittany Crocco

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:39 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I am a climber who has enjoyed the beautiful climbing available at Smith Rock. I appreciate this opportunity to participate in this planning process, and the recognition of Smith Rock State Park of climbing as an important activity within the park.

Thank you for recognizing the success of the current raptor management philosophy. I hope that going forward, the Master Management Program can clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and that public participation will be required in the planning of this system.

Finally, I encourage park officials to recognize that climbing access trails may not meet universal design principles, but consider flexibility for this in their standards.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide my input as a climber in this process.

Brittany Crocco

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:39 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Dear Smith Rock State Park Officials,

I am writing to express my support for prioritizing climbing access at Smith Rock State Park and to advocate against implementing a reservation system for climbers. As a member of the climbing community, I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the planning process and would like to share some important talking points.

Firstly, I would like to thank Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and for engaging with the climbing community in the planning process. We fully support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger, which will help to ensure safe and sustainable access to climbing areas.

We also appreciate that park officials have recognized the success of the current raptor management approach, which has allowed for a balance between protecting the nesting sites of raptors and providing access to climbing areas.

However, we are concerned about the potential implementation of a reservation system for climbers. The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate and should require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system. We believe that a reservation system may not be the most effective way to manage climbing access and could create unnecessary barriers for climbers.

Moreover, climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan. We urge park officials to recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards. This will ensure that climbers can access the climbing areas safely

and efficiently.

In conclusion, I urge Smith Rock State Park officials to prioritize climbing access and to consider the concerns of the climbing community regarding the potential implementation of a reservation system. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:40 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I have had the wonderful opportunity to have climbed at Smith Rocks since the early 90s. My daughter was introduced to climbing at SR, an experience that evolved into an integral part of her life still today some 30 yrs later. We have seen the dramatic increase in the use of SR and applaud Smith Rock State Park of recognizing the need for a Climbing Management Guide, including the potential for a Climbing Ranger. Those of us who have been climbing for decades are alarmed not only by the dramatic increase in numbers of climbers, but also by the use impact and apparent lack of climbing etiquette so crucial to sustaining the micro and macro climbing environment for future generations. The future of climbing, especially in heavily used fragile, cultural areas like Smith Rocks, will now require Master Management Plans. Responsible climbers value these needed changes, and respectfully request the opportunity to share our collective knowledge and experience in the planning and implementation of management plans that will protect our access to climbing in stunning areas like Smith Rocks State Park.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:41 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Thank you for your consideration,
Linda Winter

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:42 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

As a climber, I would ask that you please Please consider these points while making your plan for Smith Rock State Park.

* Thank. you Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

* I supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

* Thank you park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

* Please make sure your Master Management Plan clarifies which activities a potential reservation system would regulate. Please

require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

* Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:43 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Please consult w local tribes too, thank you

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:45 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:45 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:46 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hello, I am writing to comment on the draft master plan for management of Smith Rock State Park. As a general matter, I applaud the work you have done and proposals aimed at addressing overcrowding, access, and habitat preservation. I want to address two points that may warrant more clarification:

First, the plan proposes considering the implementation of a "reservation system." (P. 39) It's clear that any reservation system is hypothetical at this point, but in order to address public concerns about access, I believe the plan should both identify what types of activities could be subject to the system (even if the list is preliminary) and commit to involving public participation if a reservation system is ultimately implemented.

Second, by necessity, climbing access trails are often incompatible with accessibility and classification standards addressed in the plan. (P. 40). I believe the plan should acknowledge that reality and allow for flexibility with respect to access trails that have no viable alternatives.

Again, I thank you for your work on this important issue, and I am excited about the future that this plan outlines for Smith Rock.

Sincerely



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:50 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I am writing to express my concern for clarification on potential reservation systems and future approach trails in the drafted plan for Smith Rock regarding climbing access.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:51 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hi! Wanted to voice my support for rock climbing and full access to the outdoor spaces of our state and nation!

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:52 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I am writing to you today as an avid climber and frequent visitor to Smith Rock State Park. I would like to take a moment to express my deep appreciation for the recent recognition of climbing as an important form of recreation at the park, and for the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

As a member of the climbing community, I strongly support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger at Smith Rock State Park. I believe these measures will help preserve the natural beauty of the park while also ensuring that climbers like myself can continue to enjoy this incredible destination.

I am grateful to park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach. The efforts to protect the park's natural resources while allowing us to climb in designated areas are admirable and greatly appreciated.

As the Master Management Plan is updated, I ask that park officials clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate. Moreover, I urge park officials to involve the public in the planning and implementation of any reservation system. This would ensure that the concerns of the climbing community are taken into account, while also enabling park officials to manage visitor use more effectively.

I understand that climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan. I hope that park officials can recognize the importance of these trails to climbers and allow them some flexibility within the standards.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to manage Smith Rock State Park in a manner that benefits all visitors. I look forward to continued collaboration and the opportunity to enjoy this world-class climbing

destination for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:53 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:55 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Dear Smith Rock State Park officials,

First off, I want to express my gratitude to Smith Rock State Park for letting climbers make use of this beautiful area, and for allowing us to participate in this planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and Ranger, though it is also important that the plan clarifies which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

We hope that the Master Management Plan will also recognize that climbing access trails are rugged by nature, and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards.

Smith Rock is one of the most incredible climbing locations I've ever been too, and means so much to the community. We appreciate the park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

Thank you for
taking our input!

Best,

Lillian
Krovoza

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:56 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:58 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I wanted to thank you for recognizing the importance and legitimacy of rock climbing at Smith Rock! The State Park is one of my favorite places in the world and I have collectively spent at least 6 months camping in the park or local community.

I am writing to advocate for some important nuance within the Master plan. I would like you all to ensure that you consider public input when any kind of reservation / restriction of public access is made to the park. Secondly, I would urge you all to consider climbing approach trails as special cases that do not need to adhere to the universal trail standards. These is common practice in state and national parks around the country.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 01:59 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Please don't make a reservation system for climbing

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:00 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Ty for recognizing climbing within smith rock state park.

As a climber, been to smith rock twice, live in Tacoma, wa and lover of history of climbing there is an important few chapters at least that need to be devoted to this special part of OR. I'm sure you're aware of this and it sounds like we are trying to preserve this treasure both environmentally as well as recreational. Tough to be perfect in both I think. Raptors take priority for sure. Closing areas is smart and I'd think climbers mostly want to follow the rules re wildlife. Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts. I support access fund and their work so for more of my viewpoints on this id refer you all there. Climb on friends.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:02 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for taking the climbing community into consideration for this future plan of Smith Rock. I feel that the inclusion of a climbing ranger as well as continued communication with the climbing community would bear aid in a cohesive experience for all at Smith. Many aspects of climbing are not entirely understood by those who generate use and development plans. Climbers are far more likely to function within a well made system of climber specific needs are taken into account and expresses throughout the planning process.

Thanks for your time!

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:03 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Climbers have a long, proud history at Smith Rock State Park. Visitors from around the world come to test themselves on volcanic tuff formations that feature some of America's first sport routes. And the unique natural habitat along the Crooked River in Oregon's high desert is also home to a wealth of cultural and natural resources.

I recognize that since the park adopted its first management plan in 1991, visitation has tripled. It makes sense that officials are developing a new plan to guide the park's management, protect natural and cultural resources, and provide quality recreational opportunities for the next 20 years. I thank Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and, as a climber, I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the planning process. I support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger. Further, I appreciate that park officials have recognized the success of the current raptor management approach.

The draft plan recognizes climbing as an important form of recreation but leaves some climbing access questions unanswered. Specifically, I would like clarification on potential reservation systems and the future of approach trails. The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system. Additionally, climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:04 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Please act so safe climbing is possible.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:05 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

To Smith Rock State Park management.

Please consider the long lasting effects of a reservation system for all visitors. Current reservation systems in other park systems are wrought with problems and decrease equitable access for all user groups and all economic levels. This is very concerning as a person who supports equal access to public lands for everyone. I believe all other options should be sought prior to a reservation system, including the use of a climbing ranger to manage and help to find creative solutions.

Thankyou



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:06 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:09 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

As a climber, I appreciate that Smith Rock State Park is recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation in the park, and I support the development of a climbing management guide and the potential for a climbing ranger to help manage the increase in climber visits to the park. I am optimistic that in the Smith Rock State Park management plan that is being developed, there will be further clarification as to which activities would be regulated by a potential reservation system. I am also optimistic that, should such a reservation system be enacted, that the public would be involved in the planning and implementation of such a plan. Lastly, I value accessible trails that enable all members of our society to explore and enjoy Smith Rock State Park. However, the steep and rocky terrain that must be navigated to reach the base of climbing cliffs is not always amenable to the construction of such trails. Making an accessible trail through such terrain would likely require significant trail work and resources. In light of these unique aspects of climber trails, I encourage the park to allow some flexibility when climber access trails do not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:10 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

We appreciate the Park recognizing climbing as an important for of recreating and for developing a Climbing Management Guide. My understanding is that climbers have generally managed raptor mitigation respectfully. I hope Park Management plan could understand that climbing trails are often, by nature, rugged. Further, I would hope the plan clarifies exactly what activities are to be regulated with any reservation system.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:10 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process. The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger. We thank park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:11 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

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Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:12 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:13 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:14 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I have been climbing at Smith Rocks for over 40 years. I thank you for recognizing climbing as central to the Park's recreation opportunities. I applaud your overall approach to developing a Climbing Management Guide. I would ask that you recognize that approach trails to some climbs are of necessity steep, loose and not up to "standard" for normal trails. Please allow some flexibility within the Plan for access trails to be what they need to be.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:14 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:15 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:17 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Please clarify if a potential reservation system would affect climbers, and if so, how.

Please clarify if climbing access trails are required to meet design and classification standards, or will they be exempt in whole or part?

Please include climbers, specifically the Access Fund, in developing your Master Management Plan.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:19 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for acknowledging climbing as an important form of recreation at Smith Rock and allowing climbers in to the process of a Climbing Management Plan. Smith Rock is a special place to me because it was where I first learned to climb outside. As an avid climber and outdoor enthusiast, I am in full support of a Climbing Management Plan at Smith Rock State Park, as long as it takes into consideration the needs of climbers and history and culture of climbing at Smith Rock State Park.

The climbing community understands the impact that we have, particularly when it comes to raptor management and trail management. The current raptor management plan has been a success, and I hope that future management plans would use this successful program as the backbone. Additionally, climbing trails are often rugged by nature and may not meet universal design standards. This is a piece of climbing culture as part of the adventure is in finding the approach trail and leaving as minimal of a trace behind. It would be helpful if the Master Management Plan recognizes the uniqueness of climbing approach trail and allows flexibility within its standards.

Lastly, we all know that climbing has increased tremendously and there is talk of reservation systems. If a reservation system is put in place, it needs to clarify which activities this system would regulate (visitation, hiking, climbing, multi-pitch climbing, etc...) and require public participation in the planning and implementation of any reservation system. The climbing community understands that increased visitation places higher impact on these resources that we all love and we want to have a voice in how any sort of reservation system would work.

Thank you,
Christy

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:20 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process. We support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger. We also thank park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system. Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:20 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Protect Climbing at Smith Rock

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:27 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Climbing is an important form of recreation & the climbing community supports the development of Climbing Management Guide & Climbing Ranger. The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system regulate & should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning & implementation of any reservation system.

Due to trail ruggedness also allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standard.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:31 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standard

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:34 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:35 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:36 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

As a frequent visitor to your beautiful and exhilarating park, I would like to thank you for recognizing that climbing is an important form of recreation, and I do appreciate getting the chance to provide feedback in the development of the management plan.

Here are some particular points I would like to stress and hope that they are reflected in the next update to the draft:

1. I fully support the development of a Climbing Management Guide
2. I fully support the creation of a role of "Climbing Ranger"
3. The plan needs to clarify which specific activities any proposed reservation system would regulate
4. The plan should require park officials to include public participation in both the planning and implementation of any reservation system
5. Climbing trails should be allowed some flexibility instead of being rigidly categorized in the trail classification standards; access to/from climbing areas can often be rugged because of the nature of the terrain, befitting the heavily physical nature of the activity, and potential risk of falling items to people below.

Thank you for taking my input into account.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:37 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community supports the development of a
Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:37 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Dear Smith Rock State Park Rangers,

As a climber, I'm writing to express my sincere gratitude for recognizing the importance of climbing as a form of recreation in Smith Rock State Park. I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the planning process, and I am excited about the steps being taken to manage climbing access sustainably.

I strongly support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the creation of a Climbing Ranger position to help manage climbing access. It's great to hear that you consider the current raptor management approach a success, and I'm hopeful future developments can follow a similar approach.

As the park grows in popularity, I understand the challenges of balancing the interests of different user groups. In the Master Management Plan, I hope you will clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and ensure public participation in the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

I also wanted to raise the issue of climbing access trails. I understand that they are rugged by necessity and may not always meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan. I would encourage you to consider allowing some flexibility within the standards for climbing access trails.

Thank you for your hard work in managing Smith Rock State Park. I'm grateful for the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful natural resource, and I'm committed to working together to protect it for future generations.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:38 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:39 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for giving the climbing community the opportunity to comment on this master plan for the park. Climbing management guides have proven to be successful at many other parks and will work at Smith Rock with the participation and buy-in from climbers..

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:39 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Having climbed for over 20 years and traveled extensively for the love of climbing in the outdoors, I feel it's important to take into account various recreation activities when making long term planning process.

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:40 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I first visited Smith Rock State Park in 2000 and have been many times since specifically to rock climb.

I'd like to thank Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and I think it's important that the climbing community have the opportunity to participate in the new management planning process.

I wholeheartedly support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and ideally the appointment of a Climbing Ranger. Any new Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation in the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Also since climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Kind Regards,
Andrew Peacock

Sincerely



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:41 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:41 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I have yet to climb at Smith Rocks, but I advocate for my future climbing there and for all climbers nationwide as a 20 year plus e Access Fund Regional Coordinator for SW Colorado and two term Board Member. The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards. Keep the trails as rough and natural as possible, with due concern for erosion and avoidance of social trails.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:42 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:43 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for recognizing climbing as a major use of Smith Rock State Park. Its great that you are working on a climbing management plan & hopefully hiring a climbing ranger. The Final Master Plan should clarify which activities would be covered by a potential reservation system. I am opposed to requiring reservations for specific routes or climbing areas. Those details should be left to recreationalists discretion during their visit. If reservations are necessary, they should be built around parking management. Any public reservation system should be developed collaboartively with park users and proposed for public comment. Finally, climbing trails often occupy terrain unsuitable for ordinary trail classification standards. This does not mean climbing trails should be left unmaintained. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:44 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

What is your grand plan, climbing shouldn't be regulated
etc, trails should be more natural, We shouldn't have to reserve, some the best
people I've met have been while I'm waiting for a spot some times.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:44 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:45 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:46 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:47 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:47 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hello!

First off I just want to say that me as well as the rest of the climbing community is very grateful for everything being done to support climbing at Smith Rock, and these are just a few sections which I am worried are a little vague or unclear.

It would be nice if the Master Management Plan clarified which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Thank you for your time,
And thank you all again for everything behind done in the best interest of Smith Rock.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:48 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:52 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

need clarification

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:53 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:53 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:54 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Climbing is an important like for many people to the outdoors and gives them more reason to protect the outdoors. For this the climbing community is thankful that the state park has given them a place to better know nature.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:55 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Climbing is an important like for many people to the outdoors and gives them more reason to protect the outdoors. For this the climbing community is thankful that the state park has given them a place to better know nature.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 02:56 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:05 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Smith rock hold a special place to me since it was the first place I was ever able to climb at outdoors. Beyond the broader cultural importance of what smith rock is to climbing, I know that there are many people out there like me that see smith rock as a very special place in their personal climbing history. This is why I believe that The Master Management Plan needs to better clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate before it is put in place. I also feel that it should require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system, this would further build trust between the climbing community and those in charge. It would also continue to allow climbers to continue to "regulate themselves" since they would be able to play an active role in the implementation of such a system. Thank you so much for all you've done for our community and for continuing to promote awesome climbing in one of the most amazing environments in the world.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:06 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Keep this place climbing friendly.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:06 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:07 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:08 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:09 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:09 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

As a 40 year user of Smith Rocks, including its time as a state park, I support efforts to create a plan for the future use of the park, which is a stunning resource. The draft plan recognizes climbing as an important form of recreation, but leaves some climbing access questions unanswered.

I and the rest of the climbing community thank Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciate the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

We support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

We thank park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Thank you for your attention.

David Dugdale

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:10 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:10 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Regards,

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:11 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Smith rock is a fantastic place and I've had the good fortune to visit three separate times, once on a trip solely focused on climbing and twice when it was one of two trip priorities.

When I visited I was very impressed by how well managed the park was. The well built trails, the bathroom facilities that were close enough to climbing areas and the clearly designated boundaries for 'base' areas all stood out to me as great management practices.

Like so many guests, I found parking to be a challenge, but I think I'm ok knowing that some people might get turned away or have to walk a bit further rather than having more parking spaces and more crowds.

I appreciate that the updated management plan recognizes the significant role of climbing recreation in the park. I can see the value of having a climbing ranger to support this reservation.

As an out of town climber I liked being able to arrive and know I would be able to climb, weather permitting. I understand the desire to improve experience through a reservation system and I ask that the climbing community or their representatives (Access Fund, local advocacy organizations) be at the table for those conversations. I have seen some places where reservations are managed by 3rd parties that charge fees even to apply and those fees do not support the park which I think is an unfortunate waste and government subsidy to a corporation. I've also seen reservations done in a way that allows locals to claim reservations well ahead of time without knowing for sure they'll want them on any particular weekend and then leave them unused which is also a misallocation of resources.

Finally, I hope that it will be understood that although Smith has great, well-built trails throughout, I would hate to see access limited in some sectors where building such trails is financially or environmentally impractical. It is better to have a few areas with more of a 'backcountry' feel and less well-developed assets than to close access because trails cannot meet standards.

Thank you for your work and for soliciting input on your plan.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:12 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

I believe the Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Additionally, climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:12 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:13 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:13 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

To whom it may concern: I'd like to comment on the draft plan for climbing management that was recently made public.

First, thanks you for stating that climbing is an important form of recreation at Smith Rock State Park! Please accept my comments as I have been to and climbed at Smith.

Regarding the proposed registration system what exactly are the activities that would be regulated? I believe that you should allow public participation into the planning and implementation of any system that you consider.

Regarding climbing access trails: Flexibility with the standards for trail design need to take into account that climber's trails are often rugged by necessity and are not for non-climbers. Please don't cause existing climber access trails to be closed or removed simply because they don't meet arbitrary standards in the Master management plan. Flexibility is key for climbers!

I think the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a climbing ranger are good ideas. Let's work to get management and climbers on the same page to maintain access and prevent over use of this awesome area!

A final point; Thank you for recognizing the success of the Raptor management plan. When you communicate with climbers, climbers will modify their behavior for clearly defined goals. Let's all work together to keep this great place great!

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:14 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I am an avid rock climber and have been enjoying climbing at Smith Rock for almost 30 years. It's an amazing place and I have always been impressed by how well it's managed considering the high numbers of climbers who enjoy the place. I do hope this tradition can continue into the future and I thank you for your efforts in making this such a great place.

I support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Yours sincerely,

Arjun Heimsath

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:14 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Please protect Smith Rock for climbers and wildlife

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:15 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Many thanks to Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

As a climber I support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger. Thanks

to park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

I do feel that the Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system. As you may well know climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:16 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger. The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Many thanks,

Adam

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:16 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:17 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:18 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:18 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

As someone who's visited smith rock several times and who is passionate about recreation in the natural beauty of your park I would like to voice my hope that you will allow climbing to be practiced in the park and will allow climbing access to be maintained to the degree that the climbers who use them require (perhaps rougher and less marked than the typical hiking trail).

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:19 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:20 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Climbers have a long, proud history at Smith Rock State Park. Visitors from around the world come to test themselves on volcanic tuff formations that feature some of America's first sport routes. And the unique natural habitat along the Crooked River in Oregon's high desert is also home to a wealth of cultural and natural resources.

Thank you Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and for the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

I support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger, but would hope that any Master Management Plan would clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and, also, require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:20 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Please remember that Smith is a world renowned rock climbing destination. Please keep it that way by not restricting climbers in anyway.
Thanks

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:21 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I have many friends and some family that live near Smith Rocks and when I visit I do go the Smith rocks to climb. I enjoy the park every much and look forward to climbing there in the future. It will be good to have a plan for the park moving forward. No surprises. Have good, maintained trails throughout the park is very important to protect all areas of the park.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 3, 2023 03:21 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I started climbing at Smith Rock about ten years ago.

It's an amazing place with a very rich history.

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger. The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:30 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:31 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process. The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger. The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:32 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I began my relationship with rock climbing at Smith Rocks State Park in 2013. I have only known the climbing community to be good stewards of the areas we recreate in, and this includes respect for other users and wildlife. I believe the public should have guiding influence of management plans in the park that govern their access and enjoyment of them. This influence must include climbers, which constitute a primary user group. If access and use is to be regulated then the system should be amenable to the needs of climbers firstly, and secondly restrict very little if any common practice by guided groups or independent climbers. I do not advocate for decreased access of the park or limited availability of use being regulated by a third party or mandated by law. Despite the increase in popularity of the sport, laws to regulate it will not likely change with variability in user groups. Please keep climbing in Smith Rock accessible to anyone.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:32 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for your consideration of climbing and the climber community in the Smith Rock Development Plan. I whole heartedly support the appointment of a climbing management guide and a climbing ranger.

Please consider clarifying which activities a potential reservation systems would regular, and if it would address climbing permits or parking/camping availability.

Please also consider that many of the rugged trails we use to access climbs may not meet the standards of access to the general public, and the different guidelines and classifications may be needed for hiker trails vs climber trails.

Thank you for reading and considering the needs of the different communities that access Smith Rock. I am very glad that this development plan is in process so that many communities may continue to enjoy this beautiful place, and we can help protect and preserve it.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:33 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hi, I am a climber that has greatly enjoyed climbing at Smith Rock over the years. I hope the park includes climbers in the discussion of any future management plan. My experience with other parks and implementation of reservation systems is that they really tend not to favor climbers (or understand/take into account some of the specific needs of climbers), or allow for the fact that climbing is weather dependent and thus often doesn't allow for advanced planning (E.G. making a reservation 2 weeks in advance.).

The park is a wonderful place and I applaud the efforts of the caretakers of Smith Rock State Park for maintaining such a beautiful park. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:34 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:34 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hi there -

I've been making trips to climb at Smith Rock since 2008 - it is an incredibly special place and I'm grateful for the opportunity to climb there and to participate in the planning process.

Developing a climbing management guide and a climbing ranger are fantastic ideas. I think that the management plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

If there are standards for trail standards - please know that climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and classification standards set forth. I hope the park can recognize this and the rationale behind it, and allow climbing trails some flexibility - perhaps clear signage to prevent hikers from getting in over their heads.

Also, the birds of prey at Smith are one of the best parts of visiting there - I had one memorable trip a few years ago where we met a community member who helped track raptors and got to look at some nests through his spotting scope. It was a trip highlight - and I'm glad that the current raptor management program is in place and has been successful so far. Hopefully that continues.

Looking forward to my next visit to Smith Rock State Park!

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:35 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hello! I am a member of the regional climbing community, and I wanted to thank y'all for the work you are doing in improving the management plan for Smith Rock State Park. I know it's gotten a lot busier in the last few years, so thank you for working on trail maintenance, and thanks for initiating a reservation system to help limit overcrowding. It would be great though if you could clarify which activities the reservation system would regulate, and also be sure to allow access to climbs that have an approach trail that's rugged by necessity (don't close down climbs just because they're hard to get to please!). Smith Rock is such a cool place with great scenery, fascinating geology, and fabulous rock climbing, and I really appreciate your stewardship of this special place!

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:36 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I have been an active climber and guide for over 27 years, I have been fortunate to climb all over the world, and had the opportunity to visit Smith Rock a few times. Smith is a great area and a treasured resource. Thank you for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation, and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to participate in the planning process. In many, if not most of the areas I have visited in my travels, they all a climbing management plan and climbing ranger(s). This is something that would be beneficial to Smith Rock as well. This Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system. In addition, please keep in mind that climbers trails differ from hikers and other access. Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

If you have any questions, or need anything else, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you,
Marty Molitoris

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:37 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:37 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hey folks! Thank you for keeping Smith a destination with climbing central to its identity, use, and history!

As a climber who's been coming to Smith year in and year out I love the idea of a dedicated climbing ranger. I think if reservations are going to be used, we should make it quite clear in the plan what the situation is, so that public comments can provide feedback on any reservation system. I'm also glad the current raptor system is working, hopefully that can continue.

Thank you for caring about and preserving climbing access in the park, -Miles

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:38 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and climbers as a user group at the park.

I think the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger are good ideas. I think reservation systems can be tricky to design. The last thing anybody wants to do is have to get on their computer at midnight to compete for reservations that are unblocked at odd or arbitrary times. If a reservation system is developed, I hope that those kinds of issues are considered.

It does not seem right to me that climbing access trails should all need to conform to the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan. Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity, and allowing climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards should not negatively affect other park users.

Thanks for your time.

-Brad Leneis

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:39 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:40 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

It looks like a lot of time and effort were put into the Smith Rock Master Plan.

Thanks to everyone who has worked on this project.

I'm sure the team working on this project understands the particulars quite well.

I've rock climbed at Smith Rock the past decade and understand the pressure put on the park from the increased use.

Thank you for continuing to implement the current raptor management program, as well as supporting the annual Spring Thing.

I think a Climbing Ranger would be a positive position for the community.

If a reservation system is implemented it would be helpful if this was delineated by activity.

I think the climbing community needs to regularly reminded about respectful use: toilet needs, dogs, noise (music and beta-spraying), large groups, respecting ALL users, and co-habiting with wildlife (especially rattlesnakes).

Thank you for reading my email. Best of luck with the plan.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:40 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:41 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Smith Rock State Park is an amazing resource. My wife and I (and now our son) have been visiting Smith Rock for 25 years for climbing and hiking. We understand that with increased usage and visitation it is important to develop a Climbing Management plan. We are supportive of a management plan for the long term sustainability of the park. Through the process of developing a plan, we ask:

1. Please require officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.
2. Please recognize that climbing access trails are often rugged and do not meet 'trail' standards.

Please allow some flexibility with the standards so that non-conforming climbing access trails can remain open to access important climbing resources.

Thank you for your dedication to the process and in your consideration of these matters.

Torsten
Golden, CO

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:41 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hello.

As a

previous visitor to Smith Rock, I am writing in support of continued access to climbing at Smith Rock.

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards Ranger.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:42 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

My name is Jake Mutter and I am a rock climber who visits Smith Rock several times a year to practice my sport, challenge my body, and enjoy the outdoors with friends and family. I have a vested interest in the contents of the management plan and its current drafted state.

Firstly, I want to thank Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process. Furthermore, I support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger, and I want to thank park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

One area of concern I have is that the Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system. Additionally, climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

I have confidence that once the concerns regarding reservation systems and climbing trail standards are recognized and addressed that the Management Plan will be highly beneficial for all users of the park, climbers and otherwise.

Thank you for your time!

Jake



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:43 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hey y'all!

Thanks so much for including the climbing community in your management plan. It's great to hear raptor management has been successful.

I am curious about normal trail standards for climber access trails. Often climbing trails are rugged as they need to access the base of the cliffs. I am hoping there will be some leniency for climbing trails.

Also curious about the reservation system. As our parks move to more and more reservation systems it seems as it can be somewhat exclusive. Some of us work on call and can't plan our vacation in advance to have a reservation for camping or access to parks. Because of this vacation time fills in the gaps that form naturally when one isn't needed. And thereby it is ideal to be able to recreate in our national parks at the last minute. If a reservation system is put in place, I hope there will be a chance to incorporate public input.

Thanks for your time

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:44 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:44 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I would like to express my agreement with the advocacy being done for this project by the Access Fund. As I think they have phrased it well, I will simply copy the talking points they have already laid out. Thank you!

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach. The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:45 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

If reservations are required, please only make this for the weekends. The weekdays do not see nearly as much traffic and should not be restricted.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:46 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process. The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger. It will help to promote the safety of climbers. The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system. Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards. Please do not require reservations for climbing at Smith Rock! It is a pillar of climbing on the west coast and should not be made less inclusive. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:46 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

To Whom it may concern,

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:47 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Climbing Management Guide, recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation, providing the opportunity to comment, and acknowledging the success of the raptor management.

Climbing should not be subject to a reservation system.
Crag should not be regulated with a reservation system.

Trails to climbing crags should not be subject universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards. Climbing trails by design are rugged.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:49 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you to Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger. The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards. Please let us know how the Access Fund can participate and support the process.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:49 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Dear Smith Rock State Park officials,

I would like to express my gratitude for your recognition of climbing as a valuable form of recreation and for providing us with the opportunity to participate in the planning process. I am thrilled to see the park's commitment to managing climbing in a way that balances access with conservation.

I fully support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger. These resources would greatly enhance the safety and enjoyment of climbers while also helping to protect the natural environment.

I want to thank park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach. It is reassuring to see that our shared goal of protecting wildlife and preserving climbing access is being achieved through thoughtful management practices.

As the park moves forward with the Master Management Plan,

** I would like to emphasize the importance of clarifying which activities a potential reservation system would regulate.

** It is also critical that any reservation system is developed with public participation in mind to ensure that it meets the needs of both visitors and the park.

I understand that climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards outlined in the Master Management Plan. I ask that park-officials recognize this, and allow flexibility within the standards for climbing access trails.

Thank you for your commitment to climbing and

conservation. I hope that Smith Rock State Park remains a world-class climbing destination for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:50 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for allowing the public to participate in the Smith Rock Master Plan process. The draft plan is very high quality, comprehensive and clearly has a lot of excellent input and thought put into

it over the years. I live in Alaska and visit the park to go rock climbing, I am so impressed by the existing park, but I have experienced the congestion and overcrowding recently.

Here are a few things I noted from the plan:

1. Additional rangers are critical, including a climbing focused ranger. I am the Deputy Director of a Parks and Recreation Department.

I benefit every day from our ranger program, rangers have such a wide variety of skills and can work on education, regulation, maintenance and switch between these needs daily. More rangers will help with managing the over population of the park and the impact on the natural resources.

2. Recognize that all trails should not be designed to universal standards. I am a Landscape Architect by profession and recognize the importance of equity in design. Meeting the needs of all levels of recreationists is important, from the mobility challenged to the highly skilled climber who want to access steeper terrain.

3. Remove all green lawns and watered landscapes. Consider replacing the main grass lawn by the river with native grasses and manage with controlled burns for education. It makes no sense to have lawn grass here, people can go to their town park to enjoy lawns, let people learn about the native landscape and ecosystem at Smith Rock.

Thank you for considering my comments! And thank you for a wonderful park.

Sincerely,
Michele Elfers
Juneau, Alaska

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:51 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and giving the climbing community an opportunity to participate in the planning process.

Conversely, the climbing community recognizes Smith Rock as both an unbelievable natural resource and important location in the history of American rock climbing, in the same category as Yosemite and the Shawangunks.

During my last visit in summer 2022, I marveled at being able to climb famous and spectacular routes such as the Pioneer Route on Monkey Face and get a chance to see Just Do It up close.

The climbing community naturally has concerns about discussions about a reservation system.

Please clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and please also integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Regarding trail constructions, certainly high-use trails like Misery Ridge require thought about accessibility and accommodating large numbers of hikers of varied ability.

Yet it would be unproductive to hold climbing access trails to the same standards.

Please recognize that climbing trails are often more rugged by necessity and allow climbing access trails more flexibility.

Sincerely



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:52 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hi there!

As a member of the Oregon climbing community, I'd like to thank Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation, and I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the planning process. Thank you!

I support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger and want to express my thanks to park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

However, I ask that the Master Management Plan please clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and request that it also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

In addition, I'd like to note that climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan. I respectfully request that park officials recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Thank you for your consideration and for listening to the climbing community!

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:52 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Re Smith Rock Management Plan

Dear Smith Rock Park Management,

Thank you for reading, and thank you for the chance to participate in the development of the Smith Rock State Park management plan.

As a climber, naturalist, former resident of Oregon, and lifelong Smith, Rock fanatic, I very much appreciate the value of strong management, and recognize the challenges in balancing a multi use resource.

Development of a Climbing Management Guide, as well as a Climbing Ranger position will bring needed clarity to the community at large on best use practices, as well, as on the ground support, in their implementation.

I agree the reservation systems and help manage overcrowding; done well, they have the potential to improve the user experience for all. I encourage park officials to take a nuanced approach, however, clarifying which activities, park regions, and times/seasons will be impacted.

Lastly, climbing access trails – really more routes - often fail to meet comm park trail standards. While erosion control is imperative, and social trail formation is to be discouraged, please recognize the potential variance in climber access trails when crafting park regulation.

Thank you again for reading, and the chance to participate in the conservation of this unique and vital resource.

Sincerely,

-John McDougall
Shiprock NM

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:53 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

First off thank you for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation at Smith. I understand the need for some sort of reservation system especially as the sport of climbing continues to grow- I think it would be helpful to discuss which parts may be under reservation and how implementing that system may affect all the stakeholders

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:54 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Climbers like myself are good people, but we can really trash the environment, especially along approach routes and at the base of climbs. I urge officials to develop rules that focus on habitat protection.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:54 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for including climbing in the master plan and acknowledging the success of the raptor closure. Thanks as well for giving the possibility of a climbing ranger. It would be nice if you could include information about approach trails in the plan and clarify the possible reservation system. Thanks for reading this and thanks again for including climbing in your plan.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:55 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Please maintain access to
all of the climbing at Smith Rock.

This is one of my favorite places to climb. I hope we can continue to use this great
resource for many recreational pursuits.

Keep up the great work!

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 09:56 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 12:27 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The Access Fund's guidance and advice for this plan is invaluable.

Thanks

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 12:28 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Artem Vasilyev

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 05:28 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

As a climbing videographer, I am deeply concerned about the stated objective of the drone policy - to prohibit all use outside of official business

Without a drone - often a videographer or photographer must rig lines and invariably introduce the risk of knocking a rock down on hikers below - or dropping equipment. Not to mention potentially impede on other climbers experience. With a modern silent drone hanging outside of hearing range - these dangerous risks for others can virtually be eliminated in situations where they would otherwise be non-negligible, while also being silent and unnoticed.

I film in the park - in compliance with the guidelines and my own best judgement - and always put together a careful plan to make sure that my drone will not be seen or heard by anybody other than my subject.

Rather than a blanket ban - a more reasonable solution would be to establish a permit system. The idea being that a pilot would be required to present a plan to the rangers, and if it is deemed both safe and reasonable - for it to be approved.

I only film in locations and times where there are no other people around me. I follow all aircraft, wildlife, and piloting best practices and have never experienced an incident with the drone (or had somebody spot or hear it). It would be a shame for responsible videographers to lose the ability to use this tool.

I understand the dislike of drones (I personally hate hearing them as well) - but they can be used as tools to responsibly film in the park.

A permit system with a stated time and place for a shoot - along with the idea and equipment that will be used - seems like the most reasonable solution to this problem.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nathan Hinkle

Date comment received:

May 8, 2023 10:38 PM

Location (if provided): Portland, OR

Public comment:

Thank you to Oregon State Parks and the other stakeholders who have prepared this update to the Smith Rock Master Plan. I grew up and still live in Oregon, and I have been visiting Smith Rock for my entire life. I look forward to seeing the improvements in the master plan put into practice to ensure the long-term sustainability of this great resource.

In short, I support the following proposals in the draft master plan:

- The proposed additional bridges
- Prohibiting dogs (preferably on all trails, at minimum on misery ridge)
- Banning drones without an FAA license
- Separate short-term and long-term parking

I oppose a parking reservation system, because experience with reservations on federal lands in the northwest shows that many reservations are made speculatively and then not used. A high enough fee to discourage speculative use would also punish low-income users. Reservations for group camping would make sense, as this is often used by larger groups with more structured plans and schedules.

Consider implementing digital signage for parking status, to indicate to users before they leave US-97 if short term and/or long term parking is unavailable. This could be implemented with PCMS in the interim, and eventually replaced with permanent VMS systems in coordination with ODOT. Collaborate with ODOT to show real-time information on TripCheck so visitors can determine if parking is likely to be available before departing from their origin point.

There is zero mention of public transit in the draft master plan, and only tangential mention of bicycles in the context of restricting mountain bikes. This is a massive missed opportunity and it is imperative that transportation alternatives be included in the plan. Parking is a widely acknowledged problem at Smith Rock. As visitation continues to grow, it is unrealistic to expand parking capacity indefinitely to accommodate increased use.

The Smith Rock to Sisters Scenic Bikeway originates at the park, but is not referenced in anywhere in the plan. Secure, accessible bicycle parking should be a key part of enhancements to the parking areas, visitor center, and campgrounds; and ensuring safe visitor access for bikes on roads approaching the park is essential as well.

There is currently no public transit service to Smith Rock whatsoever. The only bus service in the area is the Central Oregon Breeze, but it operates only once per day and does not have an official stop in Terrebonne. Even if it did, the town is not within practical walking distance of the park. Public transit should be established with a bus route connecting Bend, Redmond, Terrebonne, and the park visitor center without requiring transfers. This would reduce the need for expanded parking,

facilitate the state's official goals towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and enable access for community members who do not have access to a car – whether by choice, or due to financial reasons, disabilities, or other limitations. Transit schedules should be coordinated to coincide with peak visitation times, and could also be leveraged to enable off-site parking when all spaces within the park are occupied. Public transit has been used successfully to reduce parking congestion and enable more equitable access at other popular locations including the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area.

I also appreciated the suggestion from Andrew Hawley to install anchor/skills stations for climbers to practice skills at ground level (or very close to ground level). Many novice climbers come to Smith Rock for their first outdoor climbs due to its popularity and proximity, despite it having some very technical terrain. Providing an area to practice skills safely would be a benefit to the climbing community and also reduce search and rescue incidents.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Paula Bue

Date comment received:

May 9, 2023 06:20 PM

Location (if provided): Astoria, OR

Public comment:

Dear OPRD,

After reviewing the master plan for important improvements at Smith Rock State Park, I would like to offer the following:

First, as a long time Oregon resident, I've watched the park grow exponentially this past decade, so I am excited to see the vast improvements proposed starting with the parking. I am sure all the area residents will appreciate anything that will make their lives easier, especially during the peak seasons. I wonder if at some point some kind of busing and/or shuttle system couldn't be implemented, especially on the weekends. Something like a park and ride from Terrabone? Or, incentives for car/van pooling? I'm not sure what that would look like, but anything to get people out of their cars. (I don't know about the overnight camping, probably a separate issue).

Next, restroom,& welcome center will be a welcome addition as well. I can't imagine what it's like in the summer months, so whatever can reduce pressure on staff and The Rock is always welcome. I would like to see designated dog trails. While many of us are dog lovers, not all dogs and humans are social. I have seen, on more than one occasion, one person hiking in with two dogs on each arm. Multiple dogs barking and aggressively going after each other, none of which is a good hiking experience for the rest of us

Last, I am in favor of keeping the ban on drones and any other flying object out of the park.

In closing, I want to thank all the park staff and management for a job well done. Dealing with the public can't be easy under the best of circumstances, so keeping their cool and doing their job during the busiest of seasons is to be commended. We love our parks to death, but appreciate all the hard work. Thank you for the plan process and hope you can proceed quickly with implementation once approved.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Quentin Holmes

Date comment received:

May 10, 2023 10:52 AM

Location (if provided): salem, OR

Public comment:

I learned about the upcoming changes to your plan on the explore oregon podcast.

It all sounds pretty good to me, but I would like to give my opinion/ guidance on the change to drone rules.

I think the current seasonal ban for the raptors is a good idea. A total ban on drones would be a big mistake. If you do decide to add more restrictions (which I dont advocate for) please don't make it a "may issue" permit. I give the same argument The park Manager Matt gave on the podcast when talking about the parking permit system. Part of the beauty of this place is a spontaneous visit. As someone who takes my drone everywhere, needing a permit to fly in a gorgeous place such as smith rock takes a lot of the magic out of it. Sometimes the light comes in just right and I dont want to be thinking about how I should have bought a permit two weeks ago.

The additional requirement of the pilot having an FAA part 107 license should be more than enough to filter out the amateur recreational pilots that can cause problems. Anyone who spends the amount of time and money to get a 107 should be a responsible and courteous pilot.

I dont think there should be more restrictions, But if you are set on that, dont make it a permit system.

Thanks for your time.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Kai Robinson

Date comment received:

May 11, 2023 01:05 PM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Smith Rock State Park is a popular destination for both hikers and climbers, and as the number of visitors continues to grow, there is a need for better management of the park. One solution could be to have two separate parking areas, one for climbers and one for hikers. The argument for prioritizing climber parking is that hikers tend to leave more litter behind, which can be harmful to the environment and wildlife. By separating the parking areas, climbers can have a designated space to park and access the climbing routes, while hikers can park in a separate area and access the hiking trails. This would help to reduce congestion and improve the overall experience for visitors. Additionally, the park could implement a litter reduction program to encourage visitors to pack out what they pack in, regardless of whether they are hikers or climbers.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Chris Samaras

Date comment received:

May 12, 2023 07:51 AM

Location (if provided): Redmond, OR

Public comment:

I highly opposed a reservation system for the park. It should continue to be first come, first access. I do think it would be helpful to add some additional parking to the area.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Sam Bedell

Date comment received:

May 12, 2023 09:16 AM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

As a climber I am opposed to a reservation system unless it is expressly limited to a small percentage of parking such that current first-come-first-served parking is NOT reduced. With the fluctuating weather in Central Oregon, any potential elimination of flexible parking will push climbers to make decisions through a lens of scarcity. This could lead to climbers pushing to climb with wet rock or poor weather, which will lead holds breaking on the delicate tuff and people putting themselves in dangerous positions because this is the one opportunity they have to get something done.

I am also wary of reservation systems and significant fee increases because I believe our parks should be for everyone. Electronic reservation systems that rely on access to technology and disposable income discriminate against people in less stable socio-economic situations.

Overall I would like to see more specifics for how some of these plans would be implemented.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

William Prusinski

Date comment received:

May 12, 2023 10:08 AM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Overall I like most elements of the plan, especially the idea to consolidate parking and eliminate it from the main road and to update the facilities and utilities of the park. I think it's important not to add very much extra parking to not increase overuse of the park's resources. I like the plan for a new Welcome Center and hope it expedites visitor turnover for more casual users of the park

I don't like the idea of online reservations for parking or camping, I think it's antithetical to spontaneous access by the public. I think climbing access should be protected because it's a special use area and there are lots of places in Central Oregon to hike that don't have climbing resources.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Dustin Ebel

Date comment received:

May 12, 2023 10:29 AM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Please see the attached letter from the Smith Rock Group.



Smith Rock Group

To whom it may concern,

The Smith Rock Group has been part of the Smith Rock community since 1993 and has worked hand in hand with the park staff and community since. The current master plan was put in place to serve the park as it navigated an unknown future. Unknown in how the state would grow in population, unknown how the park would be used in advertising, and unknown in the growth of a global sport that has its roots closely tied to Smith Rock State Park. Climbing is an integral part of the park and we at the Smith Rock Group believe that as we move forward in assessing this current draft of the Smith Rock State Park Master Plan we do what it takes to protect access to the park for all users and protect this natural resource for generations to come.

As a whole we support the Smith Rock Master Plan and all that it includes. The main call outs that we want to address are the reservation system, access to trails, and additional parking and camping opportunities. The climbing management plan and possibility of a climbing ranger position also are vital pieces to the future of the climbing community here at Smith Rock State Park. This plan outlines what the future for the park will look like over the next 20+ years and we hope to give the park the tools it needs to lead in a positive direction.

Adding trails and adapting the park for hikers who make up the majority of users with close to 65% of the overall user population is a vital piece to the success of this plan. Moving the welcome center to the oversized parking area will help draw the attention away from the Chute Trail and additional trails into the canyon and along the rim will give visitors a better chance to enjoy the park and not have to commit to a long hike in the canyon, thus creating a higher turnover of parking spots throughout busy days in the park. Additional parking areas that remove the danger from parking on Wilcox or at the Northern Point will also be influential in how people experience the park in the years to come.

The reservation system is a highly contested item in this master plan as many parks that have instituted a reservation system have been at odds with the climbing community. Most of these areas are doing what is best for the ecology of the park and trying to mitigate the degradation caused by visitors to these areas. Red Rock National Conservation Area and the National Park System have instituted reservation systems that have severely limited the accessibility to their respective parks or areas. The communication with the different user communities and overall marketing and transparency of these plans have lacked input and communication from relevant stakeholders. While it is difficult in many places to really work with relevant stakeholders we are lucky in the relationships that the climbing community has with park management. We believe having the reservation system on the table as a potential tool is important and ask prior to implementing a reservation system of any kind the park staff and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will work with relevant

stakeholders to implement and adapt the system over time.

Additional and safe parking is needed in addition to the protection of our natural environment. Our ask is for the certain parking areas to be prioritized as funding comes in. The Welcome Center parking and visitor center, Chute Parking, and Northern Point parking plans would make for a safer experience. The addition or updating of bathrooms in each of these locations will also spread the carrying capacity of the park wider and make for a more pleasant experience.

The recognition of the climbing community at Smith Rock and the role climbers play in the visitation and experience of all users is core to the identity of the park. For the last 30 years the Smith Rock Group, which is led by climbers to support the conservation and restoration of the park's trail systems, has worked to maintain a positive image of the climbing community and its impact on the park. The addition of a climbing management plan would be welcomed by us and hope that we can work side by side with the park and state staff to implement a plan to allow for access and also protect the natural beauty that the park has. This plan will help protect all aspects and we highly recommend the creation of this plan. Along with the climbing management plan we also advocate for a specific climbing oriented ranger that would oversee the development of new routes, maintain community outreach, and be another healthy piece of the partnership that we have created thus far.

We are hopeful that the master plan as it is currently will be passed in the next phase of the process and that the park management will continue to work closely with the stakeholders that positively impact the park. Thank you for your time and consideration of our viewpoint and we look forward to increasing our impact on the park and the positive future we build together.

Sincerely,

The Smith Rock Group Board



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Connor McCafferty

Date comment received:

May 12, 2023 11:27 AM

Location (if provided): Redmond, OR

Public comment:

Hello,

I live a 10-minute drive from Smith Rock, and I visit the park to rock climb about 4 times per week.

Parking can be a genuine issue some days, it presents safety hazards as well as an unwelcoming atmosphere to the start of a visit. I would like to see clarification on the proposed parking reservation system.

My preference is that any parking-policy changes will not hinder the ability of frequent visitors and local stewards of the park to visit and enjoy.

Thanks!



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Andrew Child

Date comment received:

May 12, 2023 02:40 PM

Location (if provided): Corvallis , OR

Public comment:

I don't know if this needs to be in the master plan but I think that some attention should be paid to year round water availability in the park. Right now both water fountains are shut off during the winter months and there is nowhere to fill water when they are off. Surely with as much traffic as this park sees it would be worth ensuring that there is somewhere to fill water year round.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Rick Krause

Date comment received:

May 12, 2023 06:06 PM

Location (if provided): Madras, OR

Public comment:

Implementing a reservation system should not be part of the management Plan.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Adam Snyder

Date comment received:

May 13, 2023 10:50 AM

Location (if provided): Bend , OR

Public comment:

I would like express concern for a potential reservation system for parking at Smith Rock. If a reservation system is implemented I hope that it's scope is very limited. Looking at the reservation system recently implemented in the Three Sisters Wilderness, no shows are a daily occurrence and ultimately take away from people's ability to visit these places.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Pete Keane

Date comment received:

May 13, 2023 03:01 PM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Hello- I would like to write in and state my opposition to a parking reservation system. This will make it hard for climbers and hikers to use the park when the weather is right.

We already have a mechanism in place for capping use at the park- Parking. When the lot is full, the lot is full.

As a Rock Guide at Smith Rock, a parking reservation system would crush our business, as most our guests book trips last minute. This will impact people's livelihoods.

Thank you for listening,

Pete Keane



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 13, 2023 03:28 PM

Location (if provided): , OR

Public comment:

The current system may have some flaws, even though, it does effectively limit the park occupancy. Cost would be the determining factor on controlling the sincerity of a reservation. To little, who care if I show. To much, I'll make sure I honor it. Frequent and local users of the park would be catastrophically effected. The ability to show up at the park and use for a couple hours or the day is a huge draw. Reservations would limit this commonplace utilization of the park. Please consider wisely the size and scope of a reservation system.
Thank you.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Gregory Whipple

Date comment received:

May 14, 2023 10:58 AM

Location (if provided): Redmond, OR

Public comment:

Preservation and recreation should be at the top of the list. Prioritizing the ability to recreate (climb, bike, fish, trail run, highline, bird watch, etc) as long as it is done in a sustainable manner- is what public lands are for. Access, ways to spread the crowd out at Smith (rather than funneling everyone down one central ramp) would be great. However I don't believe in growth for growths sake. The park does have a capacity and there shouldn't be unlimited parking. Events are fine but guiding should be prohibited/regulated.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Max Tepfer

Date comment received:

May 14, 2023 04:45 PM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

I'm excited by the vast majority of the proposed plan. Offering increased hiking options on the rim, restructuring parking to make it more efficient and safe, hiring a climbing ranger, and formalizing climbing access via the eventual formation of a climbing management guide are all great steps forward.

I personally have concerns about the proposed reservation system. I understand the reasons behind it, (offering people traveling from far away an option to guarantee parking without circling) but am skeptical that it'll actually serve that function well. I'm also scared that it could just be the tip of the spear and might someday result in a wider reaching, more restrictive reservation system.

Reservation systems are becoming increasingly common on popular public lands throughout the US and people frequently make a reservation without actually following through and visiting the place they reserved access to. In a scenario where access to Smith is reservation only, this will result in less access for everyone else. This phenomenon will also undermine the effectiveness of a program designed to offer access to people traveling from far away if there's no disincentive to making a reservation on the off chance you want to visit a place, and changing your mind last minute.

Ultimately, I'm skeptical of any reservation system, but am very, very strongly opposed to any form of blanket reservation system at Smith Rock. (as seen in the Three Sisters, Red Rock NCA, and various National Parks) If a reservation system doesn't target times of peak use, fails to penalize people for holding a spot without actually using it, or have the flexibility to offer space created at the last minute to those who are actually able to use it, it only serves to limit recreational access to a threshold lower than the actual intended capacity of the reservation system. I would love it if the language of the Master Plan provided some assurance that the park will treat reservation-only access or majority access via reservation as management tools of last resort.

My only other suggestion for the park is to consider creating a system that utilizing climbing guides during SAR operations at Smith, particularly in high angle rescue missions. Guides are among the most highly trained in this type of operation, (typically much more so than Deschutes SAR volunteers) have an intimate level of familiarity with the topography of the Park, and are frequently in a position to offer assistance to those in need.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Morrie Roberts

Date comment received:

May 14, 2023 04:50 PM

Location (if provided): Creswell , OR

Public comment:

To Whom it may concern,
Please consider more rim trails for the general public. Having a reservation parking area is great, but please do not limit climbers and others access to the park due to a reservation system. Central Oregon has enough permit systems in place, and it limit's people and families from accessing our beautiful outdoors (Three Sisters Wilderness). In the future, a climbing ranger would be helpful for climbers new to the area.

Thank you for your time,
More Roberts



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 14, 2023 06:08 PM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

I support the hiring of a climbing ranger to act as a liason between the climbing community and the park. I would prefer to not have a reservation system or if one is implemented that a number of first come, first served spaces are available, especially on weekdays. I would love to see increased parking and at least 1 of the 2 proposed bridges, if not both of them. Thank you for helping to protect our great treasure of a park.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Aimee Filimoehala

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 07:24 AM

Location (if provided): Portland, OR

Public comment:

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Smith Rock Master Plan. As Oregon's oldest climbing organization founded in 1894 becoming a nonprofit in 1946, our members have been visiting Smith to climb, hike, and appreciate this jewel of Oregon for decades. In fact, our volunteer instructors have been taking students there since the mid-60s to learn to how to climb safely while sharing and caring for our natural resources.

We're fully supportive of much that's outlined in this plan, including additional restroom facilities, better trail maintenance and erosion control, more interpretive opportunities, and improved parking.

However, there are also a number of aspects of this plan that aren't quite spelled out yet, and those are the points that we anticipate will most impact our safe-climbing classes. In particular, we're eager to learn more about the Climbing Management Plan, which, as briefly described in the Smith Rock Master, may include new standards for commercial use of the park, new permits and user fees, new rules for large groups, and a possible quota system. (We're not a commercial organization, however as a nonprofit we do ask students to pay a fee—a fraction of what commercial climbing organizations charge—to cover a portion of our costs.)

As longtime devotees of this beautiful and unique park, we're interested in participating in solutions that best represent the consensus of the community and which are in step with our organizational values of respect, safety, education, volunteerism, community, competence, and stewardship. Our volunteers would love to represent the Mazamas at the table as discussions around the Climbing Management Plan unfold. How can we best offer our time to help build an even better, well-protected Smith Rock?

Our organization appreciates all the time, thought, and research that went into crafting this new plan. We look forward to volunteering our time, sharing our experiences, and learning from the experiences of others as this new Climbing Management Plan is developed.

Please let us know how we can help.

Sincerely,

The Mazamas Board of Directors and Leadership



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Nicole Mardell

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 08:54 AM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Deschutes County Planning Division will be sending a separate letter of concurrence following the public comment period per (OAR) OAR 660-034-0020(1), and OAR 736-018. In the meantime, County staff is provided the attached comment to aid OPRD's edits of this document prior to the adoption hearings. Please contact Nicole Mardell, Senior Planner by email at nicole.mardell@deschutes.org.

NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES

Protection of Nesting Raptors

Objective: Birds of Prey that call the park home are respected by visitors and encouraged to thrive.

Existing Conditions: Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, Prairie and Peregrine Falcons have been nesting since time immemorial in the crags of Smith Rock, and are protected by state and federal regulations. As hikers and climbers continue to impose on their territory within the park, seasonal closures have been implemented in critical nesting areas to limit adverse impacts. The closure periods vary for each species, which can be confusing to some visitors. Raptor populations within the park are currently stable, indicating a successful protection program thus far.

Proposal: Continue to implement nesting area closures, and monitor for annual variances in bird activities. Consider a broader closure to encompass multiple species, and include USFWS, adjacent land managers, and the climbing community in strategy development and enforcement. Provide interpretive resources to the public about wildlife and agency efforts to balance recreation and habitat values.

Preservation of Intact Ecosystems

Objective: Maintain key landscape areas that exhibit high quality habitat characteristics.

Existing Conditions: The Ponderosa pine woodlands along the Crooked River and the native bunchgrass prairie on the northern uplands are priority areas for conservation activities. These areas exhibit important habitat characteristics that have been minimally impacted by park uses to date, but are susceptible to increasing environmental stressors. The southern woodland area is also a high-quality wildlife refuge for many large mammal species that are increasingly pushed out of more developed areas surrounding the park.

Proposal: Discourage off-trail use by the public, and monitor adverse impacts and changes to species composition over time. The woodland canopy should be bolstered through strategic plantings, and juniper encroachment should be periodically thinned to preserve habitat values. Collaborate with other agencies and local partners on project planning and implementation.



Photo by Steve Lay

should also include County planning and ODFW. These sites might be updated since inventoried by the County in the early 90s. Development will need to mitigate impacts to nesting sites



MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Each project proposed in the Smith Rock Master Plan may trigger a variety of permit review types, including for local, state, and federal regulations. The development concepts are preliminary, and will need significant further study and final design in order to be built. The permitting process helps each concept take shape in a manner that is legal and acceptable by all applicable standards, often providing opportunities for public input. In the case of Smith Rock, the applicable jurisdictions are Deschutes County, and various State and Federal Agencies.

LAND USE AUTHORITY

Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) describe the master planning criteria that OPRD must follow in amending existing state park master plans under OAR 736 Division 18. A key thread through the criteria is agency coordination, including requirements for consultation with numerous state and federal agencies, and with local governments (OAR 736-018-0028. Development of the park facilities described in the plan is regulated under the provisions of the Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan.

DESCHUTES COUNTY

Zoning

Title 18 of the Deschutes County Code (DCC) details zoning regulations that apply to Smith Rock State Park. The park is generally designated Open Space and Conservation (OS&C) with small areas of ~~Multi-Use Agriculture (MUA)~~ and Exclusive Farm Use -Terrebonne Subzone (EFU-TE) located along the southern boundary. The park also includes areas within the Landscape Management Zone (LM), the Wildlife Area Combining Zone (WA), the Sensitive Bird and Mammal Habitat Combining Zone (SBMH) and the Flood Plain Zone (FP). The entire park is within a Wildfire Hazard Zone.

Multiple

The implications for potential development in of each of these zones are reviewed below, beginning with the County's base zones.

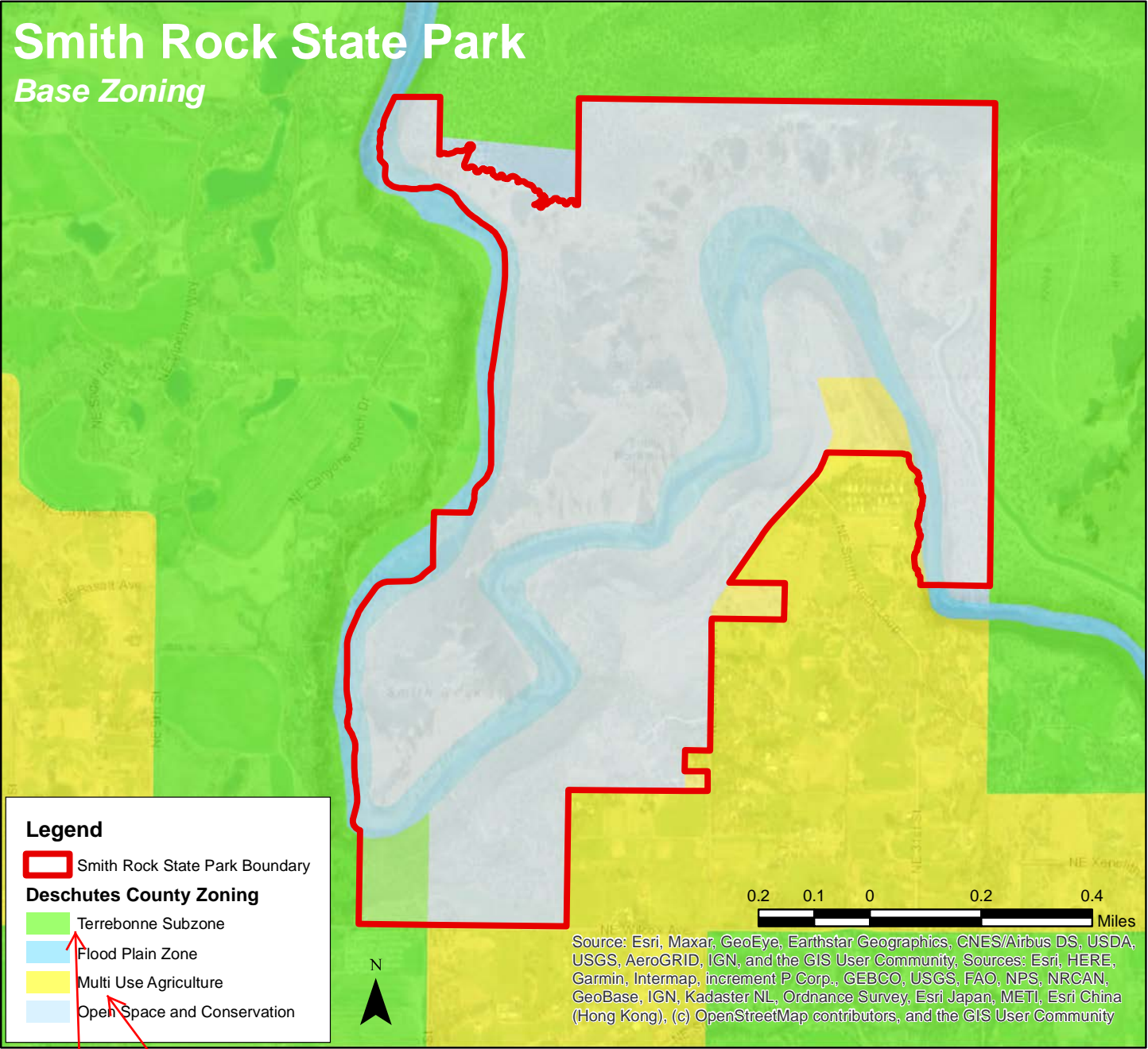


Figure 26: Deschutes Base Zoning Map

Exclusive Farm Use

Multiple*

Open Space and Conservation Zone (OS&C)

The OS&C zone: 1) protects designated areas of scenic and natural resources; 2) restricts development in areas with fragile, unusual or unique qualities; 3) protects and improves the quality of the air, water and land resources; and 4) plans development that will conserve open space. Deschutes County recognizes Smith Rock State Park as an established public park, adopted in its Comprehensive Plan. Amendments to the master plan and associated park improvements that are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan do not trigger conditional use (CU) review, and park development in the OS&C zone is generally allowed as an expansion of the “public parks and recreational areas” use.

There are three specific uses (or use expansions) proposed in the master plan concepts that will require CU review in the OS&C zone:

- Welcome Center
- Excavation, grading, fill, and removal within the banks of a river or within a delineated wetland, including new pedestrian bridges.
- Campgrounds and alterations of existing campgrounds that would amount to approval of a “substantially new proposal”

New Trails will also likely require Conditional Use permit

Whether or not a project requires conditional review, all park improvements developed as part of the master plan update will require administrative land use review, including site plan review, prior to construction.

Multiple Use Agriculture (MUA)

The MUA zone allows “public uses,” campgrounds, and other recreational uses as conditional uses (DCC 18.32.030). Structures are limited to 30 feet in height. Setbacks from NE Crooked River Drive are 30 feet, side setbacks are 20 feet, and rear setbacks are 25 feet. Setbacks from the north lot line must meet solar setback requirements in DCC 18.116.180. The overflow parking and any new park development in the MUA zone will require conditional use, site plan, and potential variance reviews.

Exclusive Farm Use (EFU)-Terrebonne Subzone (TE)

The EFU zone is an agricultural zone that allows public parks and

Setback is 100-feet from Crooked River Drive (LM Road)

mapped wetland in this area, coordinate with DSL early

playgrounds as conditional uses (DCC 18.16.030). The southwest corner of the park and part of the Canyon Trail is within the EFU-Terrebonne Subzone. New trails proposed in the EFU zone will require site plan review and a conditional use permit.

Landscape Management Combining Zone (LM)

The LM zone maintains scenic and natural resources in LM designated areas, and maintains and enhances scenic vistas and natural landscapes as seen from designated roads, rivers, and streams. At Smith Rock State Park, the Crooked River is a designated LM river, and NE Crooked River Drive is a designated LM road, which requires a 100-foot building setback from these features.

As shown in Figure Y., a large portion of the park is within the LM zone, and as such, almost all of the proposed development concepts will need to comply with the ~~building setback~~ criteria. LM Criteria. However, there are exceptions when the standards of the LM Combining Zone do not apply.

[Insert Figure Y. Landscape Management Combining Zone Map]

Wildlife Area Combining Zone (WA)


The Wildlife Area Combining Zone (WA) conserves and protects important wildlife areas in the County and allows development compatible with wildlife protection. Areas north of the Crooked River within the park have been identified as winter deer range and therefore are part of the WA zone.

Sensitive Bird and Mammal Habitat Combining Zone (SBMH)

The SBMH zone aims to ensure that sensitive habitat areas identified in the County’s Goal 5 Sensitive Bird and Mammal Inventory as critical for the survival of certain sensitive species are protected from the effects of conflicting uses. According to the Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan, the park has seven inventoried golden eagle nests and one prairie falcon nest that are protected by the SBMH zone. For projects proposed within a quarter mile of an identified nest, building permits, conditional use permits, or site plan applications will trigger additional review under DCC 18.90.

Flood Plain Zone (FP)

The FP zone is designed to protect the public from hazards associated with flood plains, to conserve important riparian areas along rivers and streams for fish and wildlife resources, and to preserve significant



Nest data from 1994 and may have changed. Early coordination with ODFW and USFW is recommended.

scenic and natural resources. The 100-year flood plain along the Crooked River is subject to Flood Plain (FP) zone standards. Developments including roadways or bridges ~~within the Deschutes~~ County FP zone would require FP review.

but not limited to,

grading,
excavation, fill or
removal,
vegetation changes

ADDITIONAL DESCHUTES COUNTY REGULATIONS

Off-Street Parking and Loading

- County off-street parking standards are contained in DCC 18.116.030(G).
- Parking lots have minimum landscaping requirements, listed in DCC 18.124.070.B

Bicycle parking
standards are
contained in DCC
18.116.031.

Rimrock Setbacks Outside of the LM Combining Zone

Outside of the LM Zone, all structures located within 50 feet of rimrock are subject to site review if visible from a river or stream. Site review standards are listed in DCC 18.116.160. Proposed development such as the Welcome Center is subject to the LM setback.

Most if not all the
development is
within the LM Zone.
Rimrock setbacks in
the LM Zone are
contained in DCC
18.84.090. Suggest
adding a few
sentences.

Building Setbacks for the Protection of Solar Access

Deschutes County has a passive solar code (DCC 18.116.180) that requires new structures to be sited so that they do not block the sun from falling on adjacent properties.

Right-of-Way Permits

The only public right-of-way (ROW) within Smith Rock State Park is NE Crooked River Drive. All work within County roadways, including construction of underground pipelines, will require a ROW permit approved by the Deschutes County Road Department. Any permanent changes to the affected roadway, including new access points, must comply with Deschutes County Road Department standards.

Wastewater Treatment

An approved wastewater treatment and disposal system is required for the new Welcome Center and all plumbed restrooms proposed in the park. Septic location approval is required for building expansion or new structures (DCC 13.08.030). Wastewater treatment systems must be designed according to Deschutes County standards and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulations.

Stormwater

Drainage facility guidelines for Deschutes County are found in the Central Oregon Stormwater Manual (COSM) (DCC 17.48.190). The COSM outlines minimum design requirements and standards for stormwater management systems in Central Oregon, including erosion and sediment control. A stormwater permit meeting the COSM requirements will need to be approved by Deschutes County.

Wildfire Hazard Zones

The County Building and Construction Code (Title 15) addresses Wildfire Hazard Zones (DCC 15.04.085). The entirety of Smith Rock State Park is within a Wildfire Hazard Zone. Activities within this zone are subject to the provisions of the Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Section R327 of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code. These provisions only apply to new dwellings and their accessory structures; therefore, they should not affect planned development for the park.

Deschutes County Building Permits

Nearly all construction requires a County building permit, approved by the Deschutes County Building Department. Relevant exceptions include fences and walls, trails, pedestrian bridges, certain small structures and driveways. Separate plumbing, electrical, and mechanical permits may also be required, as applicable. Land use approval, onsite septic, and driveway access must be addressed prior to building permit application approval.

Deschutes County land use review and development permits are needed for many of the proposed projects in the updated master plan, to ensure compliance with the applicable zoning code. Because the park is composed of over 20 parcels, zoning standards and permitting criteria may vary across adjacent parcels within the park. Refer to Figure X. and the Deschutes County zoning map to confirm the applicable zoning for specific projects.

Table 1 provides a summary of anticipated land use reviews and building permits required for the proposed master plan project concepts. ~~Because the park use has already been established, most improvements in the park will require a site plan review, but not a conditional use permit.~~

See permit chart



Proposed Development	LU Review Required	Building Permit	Applicable Zones
Welcome Center	Site Plan, LM Application, Conditional Use Review	Yes	OS&C, LM, (Unlikely to qualify as a Modification of Approval (DCC 22.36.040) based on prior land use decisions.)
Chute Area Parking	Site Plan	Yes	OS&C, LM, SBMH
North Point Parking	Site Plan, CUP (any portion in MUA)	Yes	OS&C, SBMH, MUA, LM
Overflow Parking	Site Plan, Conditional Use Review	Yes	MUA, LM
North Point Restroom	Site Plan, LM Application	Yes	OS&C, SBMH, LM, MUA (depends on location)
Chute Area Restroom	Site Plan, LM Application	Yes	OS&C, LM, SBMH
Pedestrian Bridges	Site Plan, Conditional Use Review, LM Application	No	OS&C, FP, LM, SBMH, (possible FEMA coordination)
Bivouac Campground and Group Sites	Site Plan, Conditional Use Review, or Modification of Approval, LM	No	OS&C, LM, (May qualify as a Modification of Approval, see DCC 22.36.040.)
Bivouac Campground Restroom/Shower Building	Site Plan, Conditional Use Review, or Modification of Approval, LM	Yes	OS&C, LM
Barrier-free Rim Trail	Site Plan, Conditional Use or Modification of Approval	No (if applicable)	OS&C, FP SBMH, LM
South Point and Canyon Trail decommissioning and habitat restoration	Site Plan, Conditional Use Review	No	EFU, LM, FP

Figure 28: Permitting Summary Table

General comment is to evaluate rimrock for projects to confirm rimrock setbacks can be met. Also, consider a geologic report to ensure safety for work near the rimrock.

Suggest breaking this out into two line items. Trail decommission wouldn't require CUP/SP, but any work in wetlands/ Flood Plain related to habitat restoration/ decommission would require CUP.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 09:30 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I write to share my perspective on the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's (OPRD) recently released Smith Rock State Park Master Plan draft (the Plan). I am an avid recreational rock climber with a vested interest in the world-class climbing resources available at Smith Rock State Park. I grew up in Eugene and visit the park multiple times per year. OPRD's recent Plan draft includes strong recognition of climbing as a long-standing recreational activity within the park, and recognizes climbers as responsible users and partners in conservation activities such as raptor management. The climbing community is deeply grateful for this recognition, but the Plan remains vague on important details related to proposed trail standards and a proposed reservation system for park access. I respectfully request OPRD issue clarification on these details and ensure adequate opportunities for public participation in the ongoing Plan development process.

Regarding a reservation system, the Plan proposes to "[c]onsider implementing [a] reservation and quota system for... facilities throughout the park" (see page 46 of the Plan), but does not specify which activities may be regulated and does not articulate the need for public input opportunities regarding such a system.

The climbing community believes strongly that any reservation or quota system for activities within the park, should such a system be determined necessary, must be formulated in conjunction with significant public input on the nature of that system and the types of activities it may regulate.

Regarding trail standards, the Plan proposes to "incorporate universal design principles and trail classification standards in development plans" (see page 40 of the Plan). This well-meaning proposal is in response to the fact that many trails "were largely created through formalization of climbing and social routes throughout the park. As a result, extended lengths are steeper and narrower than design guidelines, and many trails are now subject to erosion" (ibid).

While climbers strongly support the overriding goal of increasing access, durability, and capacity on many trails throughout the park by incorporating universal design principles, the climbing community is also uniquely aware of the fact that, by nature, some existing trails to world-class climbing opportunities are rugged and will not be able to meet such standards. We believe the Plan must articulate exceptions for such trails that nonetheless allow for their maintenance in order to preserve access and reduce proliferation of social trails to the available climbing resources.

Rock climbing at Smith Rock State Park has a long and storied history, and climbers from across Oregon, across the country, and around the world regularly travel to our State for these world-class climbing opportunities. Along the way, climbers contribute significantly to the state and local tourism and recreation economy. Multiple local small businesses in Oregon serve the climbing community as well, which has a significant footprint in our state. I urge you to ensure the above issues are fully addressed in future iterations of the Smith Rock State Park Master Plan. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and thank you for all you do at OPRD.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 09:32 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Hi,

I live in Central Oregon and frequently climb, hike, and enjoy Smith Rock. I recently found out about the master plan and decided to read the entire thing to figure out what changes were going to be made to the park. Overall, I love that you guys are trying to preserve such an amazing park. It is my favorite place on Earth and I want it to stay pristine.

I do have a few things that worry me about this plan. The main thing is the reservation system. As a local to the area and having grown up here, I've watched reservation systems come to many of our outdoor paradises. I have troubles accessing trails that used to hike or climb all the time growing up because you have to plan so far in advance to access them. There's been many days where my friends and I decided to go to Smith to climb or hike last minute because we live so close. It's not fair to locals to have to be planning for reservation systems. As well as the majority of people only walk to the rim of the park for photos and views and maybe stay for a couple of hours. If there is only a finite number of reservations for a day, how is that a good use of a reservation when there are people who want to spend the entire day exploring the park and may not be able to get a reservation for that day.

I understand the parking situation is tough and that the park is over capacity by 8 people on busy days. I think the parking situation is perfect for maintaining the right capacity. Simply just provide the amount of parking for the capacity of the park.

My last worry is about drones. I completely understand that there are irresponsible people flying drones around the park. I also know that raptor seasons are not always respected by all drone flyers. But that doesn't mean you should ban drones for everyone. I fly my drone at Smith all the time (outside of raptor season) and in a very respectful manner. It is the best way to film me and my friends climbing and it's one of my passions. I think the best way to deal with this is either to have a permit system for drones at Smith that you can apply for the week or day before, or to have a lottery for drone slots everyday. I really hope you can understand that not

everyone flying drones is out to be irresponsible. Many of us are certified and accredited drone pilots.

I hope you can find some validity in my comments. I love this park and want it to remain special. It's a place I grew up climbing and there's no place I'd rather spend my time.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 09:33 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Hello,

I am an Oregon resident, climber, biologist, and constant frequenter of Smith Rock. I've seen it evolve and grow over the years and agree that the park must be renovated to meet demand. I think the vast majority of the plan will be great, but I offer the following points for your consideration into the draft.

-What does "limit commercial climbing use to certain areas" mean? Although I understand commercial guiding business has a place at Smith, I want to stress that certain crags should not be closed off to the public for commercial use. It would be great to have this extrapolated in the plan.

-I did not see measures to create stricter dogs on leash rules. I see this as one of the major ways vegetation communities at Smith are degrading. Perhaps dogs could be restricted to only larger trails main trails, not smaller climbing trails where plant species are more sensitive and trails are more narrow. Also, more signage for dogs to be on leash.

-Interpretive signage could be helpful regarding raptor areas along with signs detailing where/when these areas are closed. Most climbers want to respect the birds, but aren't well versed enough to know how. Resources would be great.

-I would suggest banning drones and low flying helicopters. These practices degrade the experience for everyone else in the park.

-I like the climbing ranger idea, it would be great to have a relatable resource!

-I would recommend taking serious home hardening measures when building new structures in order to reduce fire damage and threat. These new buildings should be equipped to handle climate change aka increased large forest fires and weather anomalies. I would also recommend solar panels for new new larger building.

-I like the group camp area idea that's rentable for commercial groups. It's probably best to have them in a different area to keep them as a group.

-I would recommend composting restrooms as opposed to flush toilets for any new ones added in the park. This was not detailed in the plan thoroughly.

-My biggest concern is that the proposed permit system for parking/climbing/etc. was not detailed thoroughly in the plan. Any permit system enacted at the park should be thoroughly reviewed by the public and not just forced in place through OPRD. I feel that if public comment blesses this plan as is, it will give the park full reign to install any kind of permit system without public input. Although numbers should be reduced at the park, the lack of parking naturally reduces numbers as well.

Thank you for all your hard work on this behemoth of a document. I'm excited to see the improvements and just hope that the dirtbag climbing culture is also kept alive at the park. :)



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 09:34 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

As a climber who has enjoyed climbing at Smith Rock State Park on a visit to Oregon, I want to thank you for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation in the park as well as for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach. I wanted to further express my support for the possibility of a Climbing Ranger at the park and for the development of a Climbing Management Guide.

I would also like to state the wonderful impact that a stay in the park had on my son, who practiced climbing and rappelling there with an Outward Bound program.

I hope that the Master Management Plan for the Park will clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and urge you to require public participation in the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Lastly, I want to emphasize that the nature of climbing access trails is different from trails for the general public. These climbing access trails are, often by necessity, rugged and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan. I hope you will recognize this and allow for the necessary flexibility in the standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

Sincerely,
Kai Ewert



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 09:35 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process. The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger. The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach. The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 09:36 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger.

The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 09:37 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

I appreciate all the hard work put into making this plan over the past few years. I think the plan looks wonderful and was well thought out. I am especially happy to see the suggestion to prohibit drones, as they are particularly disruptive to visitors and wildlife.

I'd like to address one of the more contentious items: parking. I do not feel confident that the idea of implementing a reservation system for parking would be equitable. I feel this would favor out of town visitors rather than locals (neither should be favored), as locals are more prone to enjoy the park on a whim, while out of town visitors would be more likely to reserve a chunk of time for parking during their trip. I could also imagine people making hasty reservations, to make sure they can get a spot and then not showing up for the day if their plans changed. However, this does seem like an appropriate system for the over-night camping areas.

Again, thank you for all your hard work! I look forward to seeing how this plan develops as it gets implemented.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 09:38 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

The climbing community thanks Smith Rock State Park for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and appreciates the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The climbing community supports the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for a Climbing Ranger. The climbing community thanks park officials for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

The Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a potential reservation system would regulate, and it should also require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan; park officials should recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Tyler Swanson

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 12:05 PM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Hi OPRD,

Thank you for soliciting these comments from the public. Attached is the High Desert Climbers Alliance's summary of comments against the draft SRMP. These comments are aligned with the greater local climbing community. Looking forward to the future of Smith Rock State Park!



The HDCA is excited for Oregon State Park's new Master Plan for Smith Rock State Park. The HDCA held a meeting of representatives from the local climbing community with Matt Davey, Smith Rock Park Manager, on 5/10/23 to align the climbing community's response to the draft SRMP. The vast majority of the plan is directly in line with climbers' interests and we believe that both the park and climbing community will be well served by its implementation. There are a small number of concerns we'd like to voice to OSP.

Elements of the plan we like:

- Recognition of climbing as a legitimate and encouraged use
- Moving the bar forward towards a future Climbing Management Guide
- The potential hiring of a Climbing Ranger to help educate climbers new to the area
- The restructuring of parking to increase safety and accessibility
- The broadening of trail options to offer all visitors a diversity of hiking options

Our primary concerns revolve around the proposed reservation system, the level of involvement the climbing community (and public in general) will have in how the SRMP is implemented once it's finalized, and potential impacts to users as various projects are in process. Given that this document is intended to guide planning at Smith Rock for decades to come, we'd like more clarity in how specific elements of it will be implemented and what recourse the public will have as it plays out.

The proposed reservation system is a perfect example of this concern: as described to date, (a minority of parking to be slated for reservation while the majority is preserved for spontaneous use) it makes sense to us and we can conditionally support it, so long as first-come-first-served parking is not reduced beneath its current capacity. But given the national trend towards overly-restrictive reservation systems on popular public lands, we're concerned that it could evolve into a less tolerable system in years to come. We'd like more specific language describing this critical element of the plan that guarantees some amount of spontaneous user access. We would also like to see other alternatives to a reservation system formalized in the SRMP, and a commitment to exhaust other potential solutions that are less physically restrictive prior to implementing a reservation and quota system.

We see a widespread reservation system at Smith as a direct threat to access and in conflict with climbers' interests. Given that climbers make up only 21% of users at Smith, (OSP's 2016 visitor survey) implementing a reservation system to reduce crowding primarily caused by other park visitors will have disproportionate negative impacts on the climbing community. The HDCA and local climbing community acknowledge that despite the small proportion of visitors coming to Smith Rock SP for rock climbing, the impact to the park resources from the average climber is higher than that of the average day-hiker. However, through proactive measures by the HDCA, local climbing community, and aspects of the draft SRMP that we like, we strongly believe that these impacts can be properly mitigated.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Geoffrey Lodge

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 02:43 PM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Hello OPRD!

I just want to submit a comment about the reservation system that is being considered for Smith Rock. Specially, I would like this to not happen.

As a professional mountain/rock guide, I have seen this be implemented many times before with mixed results. The last one being the Three Sisters Wilderness. There is just too much competition from internet folks that grab things because they're 'cheap' for the sole reason being 'in case they need them'. This has lead to many areas now being way underused from no-shows. In turn, this pisses off the locals that live here and can't recreate in there own back yard. Smith Rock should not go down this path.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Koby Yudkin

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 04:11 PM

Location (if provided): Portland, OR

Public comment:

I do not believe that parking should be issued on a reservation system. As seen in the Three Sisters Wilderness, reservations are picked up as soon as they are available and then are treated as optional uses and often times people are unable to access these places even though many of the people with reservations never showed up. Parking should remain a first come first serve basis but if there is any kind of parking restriction, there should be abundant and dedicated parking for visitors that carpool to the park in order to incentivize more carpooling.



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Miles Britton

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 04:16 PM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment:

Parking limitations were tried at bachelor during Covid. They were not an effective way to manage crowds. Parking is troubled, but reservations aren't the solution!



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Commenter name (if provided):

Rod Jacobson

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 04:55 PM

Location (if provided): Bend, OR

Public comment: see next page

I live in Bend & have been climbing at SR for 20 years. I have seen a great usage increase of the park in that time. I am aware of all of the different competing factions involved in the new master plan & I understand the trade-offs.

The difference between our park & other parks is that they have multiple entry points, or a single entry point with much greater capacity. Our park forces everyone into a funnel (the incoming road & the one bridge access into the park). More access points (driving & walking) would not only reduce congestion in the main parking area, but would distribute people throughout the park, reducing the heavy wear on it in the main climbing & hiking areas. Hence, we need three bridges ASAP, preferably accompanied by two other independent auto-access locations.

It is my understanding that the motivation behind many of the changes of the 2018 plan, which I was a part of developing, is to 1) limit people's access to the whole park & 2) move parking from County road to State Park road. As far as saving the rest of the park for future generations, let's hope that humanity is around that long. This reminds me of the State of Oregon forcing densification of its cities. There are trade-offs. I don't have the time to write about them now, but there is a point of diminishing returns. As for moving the parking: don't remove the existing parking spots until the new spots have been added. If more disabled parking is in the future, due to the proposed greater accessibility of the park, do not take three or four existing non-disabled parking spots away for two disabled parking spots – create new spots. Please don't make the future parking spots too narrow just so you can squeeze in a few more spots.

Below are a few other observations/recommendations of mine:

- Regarding user groups, in this case hikers vs. climbers, I have read stats that don't acknowledge what seems to me to be an obvious point: although the number of hikers

that visit the park greatly outnumber climbers, the time a climber spends at the park (6-8 hrs.) greatly outnumbers the time a hiker spends at the park (1-2 hrs.). This means that the number of total hours that climbers use the park is probably the same as the number of hours that hikers use the park. Also, climbers are only responsible for ¼ of the traffic/cars. No bias here; I would just like this to be recognized.

- Open access once again, that was closed in 2005, from the east via BLM land to the Marsupials to relieve congestion at Smith.
- Open the S. Point access w/ a parking lot & bridge to the W. side to relieve congestion in the main area. This was a go until recently. If the bridge is in a flood plain at that point, move it upstream 100M.
- Visitation is only going to increase each year, just as it has for the last 30.
- If there really isn't room for parking in the main areas on State land, instigate a Shuttle system between Terrebonne & Smith Rock entry points.
- NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. This will ruin access for locals to Smith & those who 1) spontaneously show up, not knowing a system is in place, or 2) are unable to pre-plan their exact arrival date.
- NO RESERVED PARKING. What little parking there is now will be further decreased. People either won't show up, or in the case of hikers & other short-term users, will only use the parking spot for a couple of hours, leaving the spot empty the majority of the day.

The current SRMP mentality seems to be: IF YOU DON'T BUILD IT, THEY WON'T COME.

This philosophy is a fail – they will come, regardless.

To quote a great philosopher: “The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.”



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 12:15 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hello!

Thank you so much for recognizing climbing as an important form of visitation and recreation at Smith Rock.

I really see the value in having a Climbing Management Guide at the park, as well as a Climbing Ranger on duty.

However, the Master Management Plan should clarify which activities a reservation system would regulate.

Are there plans to allow the public to vote or otherwise participate in the planning on this reservation system?

Many thanks!
-Kaitlin Rupert



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 1:50 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Dear Smith Rock State Park Administrators:

As a climber who enjoys the amazing climbing offered by Smith Rock State Park, I want to thank you for recognizing climbing as an important form of recreation and I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

As a climber, I support the development of a Climbing Management Guide and the potential for hiring a Climbing Ranger at Smith Rock State Park.

I would like to thank you for recognizing the success of the current raptor management approach.

Moving forward, I would encourage you to clarify which activities the Master Management Plan will regulate via a potential reservation system and I would suggest that you would require park officials to integrate public participation into the planning and implementation of any reservation system.

Secondly, climbing access trails are often rugged by necessity and may not meet the universal design principles and trail classification standards in the Master Management Plan. I encourage park officials to recognize this and allow climbing access trails some flexibility within the standards.

Thanks for your time!

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 4:05 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Hi -

I'm an occasional climber at Smith Rock, with my first visit sometime around 2000 and my most recent in 2019. I'd be a far more frequent visitor if it were closer to home. It's an enchanting and unique destination, thanks to the combination of vertical walls, riparian ecosystem, and well-managed facilities. Thus, the future management of the park matters to me. I'm grateful for a chance to participate in planning for the park's future.

I recognize that increasing popularity of climbing and other outdoor recreation may require a reservation system. I hope Smith Rock State Park officials would request and incorporate suggestions and feedback when planning for any such system. Such input can lead to far more successful system because it addresses details that can make a system that benefits users while protecting park resources.

At the same time, I'd like to see some programs continue with minimal changes. Among them, current raptor management policies, which seem successful. Similarly, climbing access trails do not need to meet the design standards and classifications that apply for other trails. Climbers expect trails to be rugged and steep; those are often the most efficient and sustainable, because they minimize the number of trail miles and erosion when constructed right.

Thank you for your time, and the opportunity to be involved in the management of a place that's important to me.

blase reardon

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 4:47 PM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Dear Planning and Design Lead Marmon,

Thank you for looking at your management plan for Smith Rocks. It is a classic climbing destination and offers so much for all climbing levels. Please keep participants in the loop and how they may voice their concerns. I am not sure how the reservation system will impact the experience and what will be required. Thank you for this important work.

Sincerely,



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment received:

May 15, 2023 07:28 AM

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

To Jenna:

Thank

you for the opportunity to comment on the Smith Rock Master Plan. As Oregon's oldest climbing organization founded in 1894 becoming a nonprofit in 1946, our members have been visiting Smith to climb, hike, and appreciate this jewel of Oregon for decades. In fact, our volunteer instructors have been taking students there since the mid-60s to learn to how to climb safely while sharing and caring for our natural resources.

We're

fully supportive of much that's outlined in this plan, including additional restroom facilities, better trail maintenance and erosion control, more interpretive opportunities, and improved parking.

However,

there are also a number of aspects of this plan that aren't quite spelled out yet, and those are the points that we anticipate will most impact our safe-climbing classes. In particular, we're eager to learn more about the Climbing Management Plan, which, as briefly described in the Smith Rock Master, may include new standards for commercial use of the park, new permits and user fees, new rules for large groups, and a possible quota system. (We're not a commercial organization, however as a nonprofit we do ask students to pay a fee—a fraction of what commercial climbing organizations charge—to cover a portion of our costs.)

As

longtime devotees of this beautiful and unique park, we're interested in participating in solutions that best represent the consensus of the community and which are in step with our organizational values of respect, safety, education, volunteerism, community, competence, and stewardship. Our volunteers would love to represent the Mazamas at the table as discussions around the Climbing Management Plan unfold. How can we best offer our time to help build an even better, well-protected Smith Rock? What can we do to have a seat at the table?

Our organization appreciates all the time, thought, and research that went into crafting this new plan. We look forward to volunteering our time, sharing our experiences, and learning from the experiences of others as this new Climbing Management Plan is developed.

Please let us know how we can help.

Sincerely,

The Mazamas Board of Directors



Submit a Public Comment on the Draft Smith Rock Master Plan

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Date comment

received: May 16, 2023

Location (if provided): ,

Public comment:

Jenna,

Thanks for the rapid response yesterday regarding the comment period deadline. The Forest and Grassland had intentions to formally respond but could not find the capacity right now among all our program areas and resources. We are in the midst of large priority landscape fuels and fire planning as Central Oregon was in the first 10 identified areas across the national Forest Service system. Having numerous vacant positions hasn't helped.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment and acknowledge all the hard work that went into the Smith Rock Master planning. I commend you and the team on producing a well-written, easy-to-read, draft document that clearly and concisely explains the range of issues managers face and the solutions needed in the coming years. Our Forest Archaeologist particularly appreciated the Plan offering the perspectives of American Indian Tribal representatives to promote interpretation programs for enhancing the park experience and to explain the region and park's unique cultural heritage. Thanks again. Chris



Christopher Joosen
Recreation, Heritage, Lands and Partnerships Staff Officer

Forest Service
Ochoco National Forest & Crooked River
National Grassland, Supervisor's Office

Office: 541-416-6516
Cell: 971-801-3155
christopher.joosen@usda.gov

3160 NE Third Street
Prineville, OR 97754

www.fs.fed.us
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Caring for the land and serving people

SMITH ROCK STATE PARK

MASTER PLAN

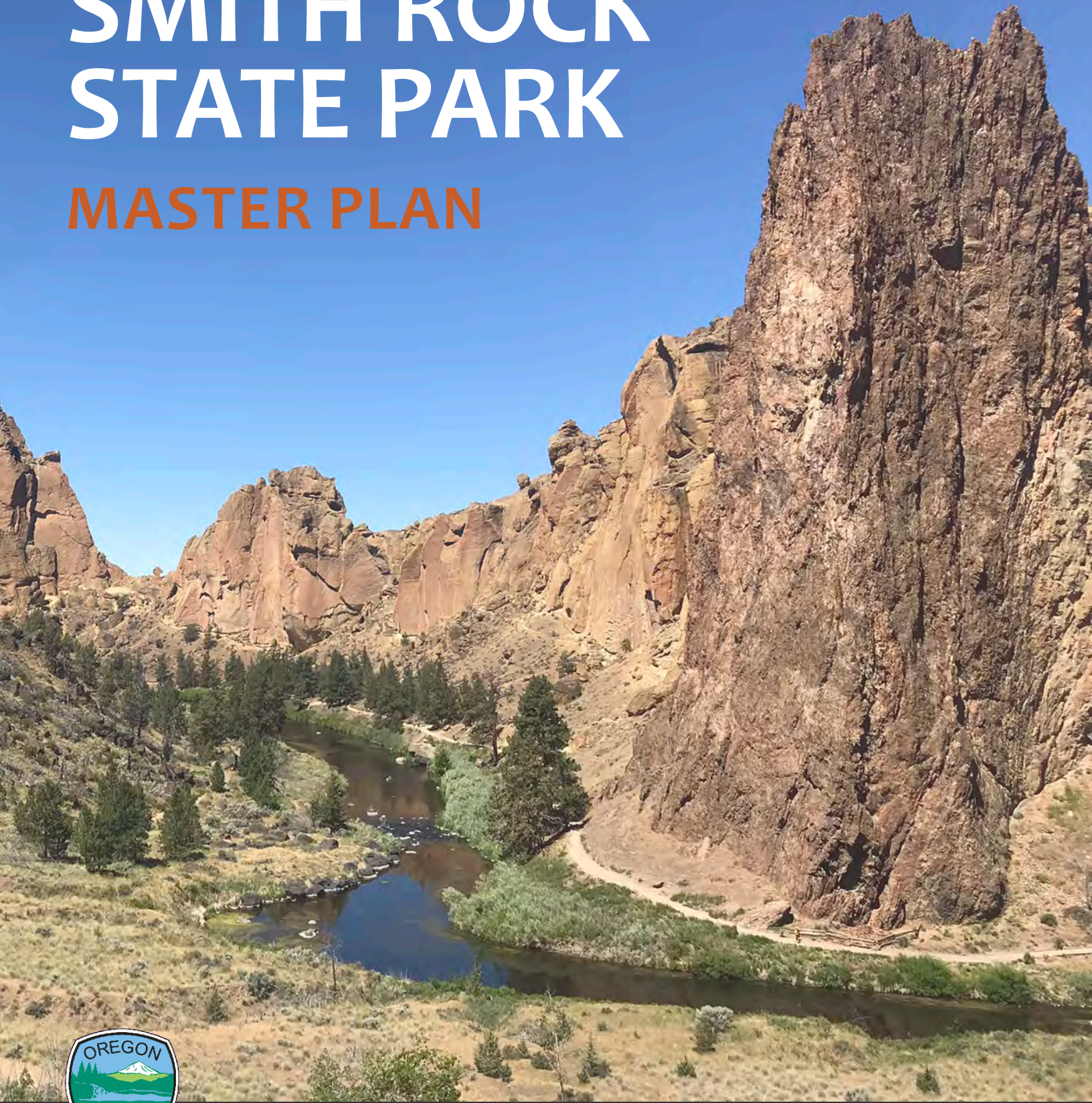


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All maps and graphics are sourced from OPRD unless otherwise noted. Maps in the document are for informational reference only and are not suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Primary data sources should be consulted to confirm the accuracy of the information for other uses.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Vicki Berger, Congressional District 5
Vacant, East of the Cascades

OPRD Executive Staff

Lisa Sumption, Director
Chris Havel, Associate Director
JR Collier, Deputy Director, Statewide Operations
Matt Rippee, Deputy Director, Field Services

OPRD Technical Staff

Ben Byram, Project Designer
Bridget Tinsley, Regional Resource Program Manager
Eric Timmons, Associate Director of Park Improvement
Fiona Noonan, Natural Resource Specialist
Haley Cox, Long Range Planner
Helena Kesch, Tribal Relations Coordinator
Ian Caldwell, ATV Program Coordinator
Jenna Marmon, Planning and Design Lead
Mary Schnetzky, Park Specialist
Matt Davey, Park Manager
Noel Bacheller, Natural Resource Coordinator
Sam Vanderbeek, Park Ranger
Scott Brown, Park Manager
Steve Jenevein, Archaeologist
Steve Memminger, District Manager
Susan Bethers, Mountain Region Manager
Tracy Johnson, Senior Project Manager

Given the extended timeline of this Master Plan update, there are many additional staff who contributed to the production of this report who are now in different roles within or outside the Agency.

Advisory Committee

Al Dertinger, Terrebonne Neighborhood Alliance
Andrea Breault, Cascades East Transit
Austin Greene Jr., Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs*
Austin Smith, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs**
Becky Cooper, US Bureau of Reclamation**
Brad Chalfant, Deschutes Land Trust*
Brian Frankle, Central Oregon Running Club*
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Chris Doty, Deschutes County Road Department
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Christina Peterson, Smith Rock Group*
Cliff Agocs, Timberline Mountain Guides
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David Vick, East Cascades Audubon Society
Diane Teeman, Burns Paiute Tribe
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Jim Beaupre, US Forest Service*
Joe Kresse, Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Committee*

Advisory Committee

Joe Sambatoro, Access Fund*

Judd Han, Smith Rock Mobile Estates*

Kathleen Sloan, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs*

Katie Hammer, Deschutes Co Bike and Ped Advisory Committee*

Kelly Simmelink, Jefferson County Board of Commissioners**

Keith Witcosky, City of Redmond**

Kim McCarrel, Oregon Equestrian Trails

Kit Dickey, US Forest Service

Kristine McConnell, Central Oregon Visitors Association*

Lisa Machnik, US Forest Service*

Mae Huston, Jefferson County Board of Commissioners*

Marcia Volk, smithrock.com**

Mark Warren, Central Oregon Slack Lining

Max Tepfer, High Desert Climbers Alliance**

Mike Britton, North Unit Irrigation District

Nancy Coleman, US Bureau of Reclamation*

Nancy Pustis, Oregon Dept of State Lands*

Nathan Garibay, Deschutes County Sheriff

Nick Lelack, Deschutes County Community Development*

Robert Brunoe, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs**

Seth Crawford, Crook County Board of Commissioners*

Shon Rae, Central Oregon Irrigation District*

Simon Wray, Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife*

Slater Turner, US Forest Service*

Steve Rondeau, Klamath Tribes**

Tammy Baney, Deschutes County Board of Commissioners*

Todd Coulter, Ranch at the Canyons

Tom Mooney, Redmond Fire and Rescue**

Tony Brown, Redmond School District*

Ty Tyler, Access Fund**

William Groves, Deschutes County Planning**

Consultant Support

GreenWorks, PC

*Participated in 2017-2018 only

** Participated in 2023 only

1 PLAN INTRODUCTION



OPRD MISSION + VISION

The mission of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is: To provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

This guiding document is rooted in the agency's vision: To take the long view to protect Oregon's special places and provide the greatest experience while creating stable future funding.

WELCOME TO SMITH ROCK STATE PARK

Smith Rock is a unique landform in Central Oregon, created over thousands of years by the constant carving of the Crooked River through layers of volcanic rock. Rising out of the high desert plateau, with the majestic Cascade Mountain peaks in the distance, the jagged



View of Monument Wall from the Lower Gorge.

spires of tuff are an aberration jutting six hundred feet into the sky. These scenic rock formations have become an internationally renowned climbing destination, drawing hundreds of thousands of hikers and sightseers to the park each year.

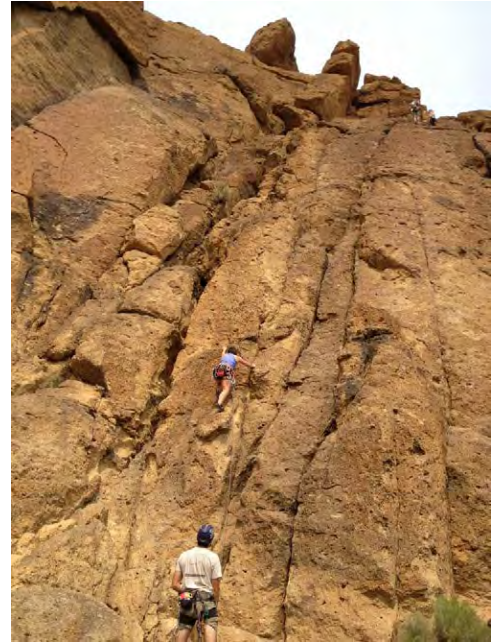
The character of the area has evolved over time, but it has always supported an abundance of life. Eagles, falcons, and numerous small animals and reptiles make their homes in the rocky crags; coyotes, bobcats and mule deer forage amongst the shrubs and woodlands; and beavers, mink, and river otters reside in the lush bottomlands. Native peoples have used and visited the area since time immemorial, as evidenced in part by a lasting oral history of the region.

Around the turn of the nineteenth century, Euromerican settlers started changing the landscape through public works projects and agricultural practices. Tunnels were bored through the rocks for irrigation system development, and improved transportation routes facilitated growth in population. These factors led to increasing use of the area for recreation activities.

Smith Rock became a State Park in 1960, ensuring that this stunning natural wonder would remain accessible to future generations. Development of park facilities has continued intermittently since the park was first established, but the primary uses – hiking, sightseeing, climbing, and camping – have largely remained the same.

NEED FOR A PLAN UPDATE

In order to balance the need for protection and enjoyment of a special place like Smith Rock, it is necessary to periodically assess the park's resources and determine its capacity for increased public use. Since the Smith Rock Master Plan was first adopted in 1991, annual park visitation has tripled, resulting in visitor demands that frequently exceed the existing infrastructure. Crowding and proliferation of rogue trails and climbing routes have degraded plant and animal habitats, decreasing the enjoyment for many visitors. The challenges for park management have evolved over time, and given the park's increasing popularity, there is a need to reevaluate the park conditions and chart a course for the future.



MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department initiated an update to the Smith Rock Master Plan in 2016. Due to several issues, including the unprecedented circumstances of a global pandemic, the plan has taken over six years complete. During that time, parks have come into greater focus as critical infrastructure for community health and wellness.

The State Park master planning process is enshrined in State law to ensure a comprehensive and collaborative effort is made, with public engagement being a critical component of the process. For the Smith Rock Master Plan, an Advisory Committee was established of over fifty representatives from partner agencies, tribes, and various stakeholder groups, which convened five times over the course of the project. Four rounds of public meetings were also held to gain input on management proposals and development concepts.

The Department produced several assessments, including for vegetation, wildlife, cultural resources, trails, and park capacity. A visitor survey was also conducted. The Master Plan comprises a summary of these assessments and the public input process, which guide the proposals for ongoing management and future development.



Rock climbing during the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse, by Andy Batt.

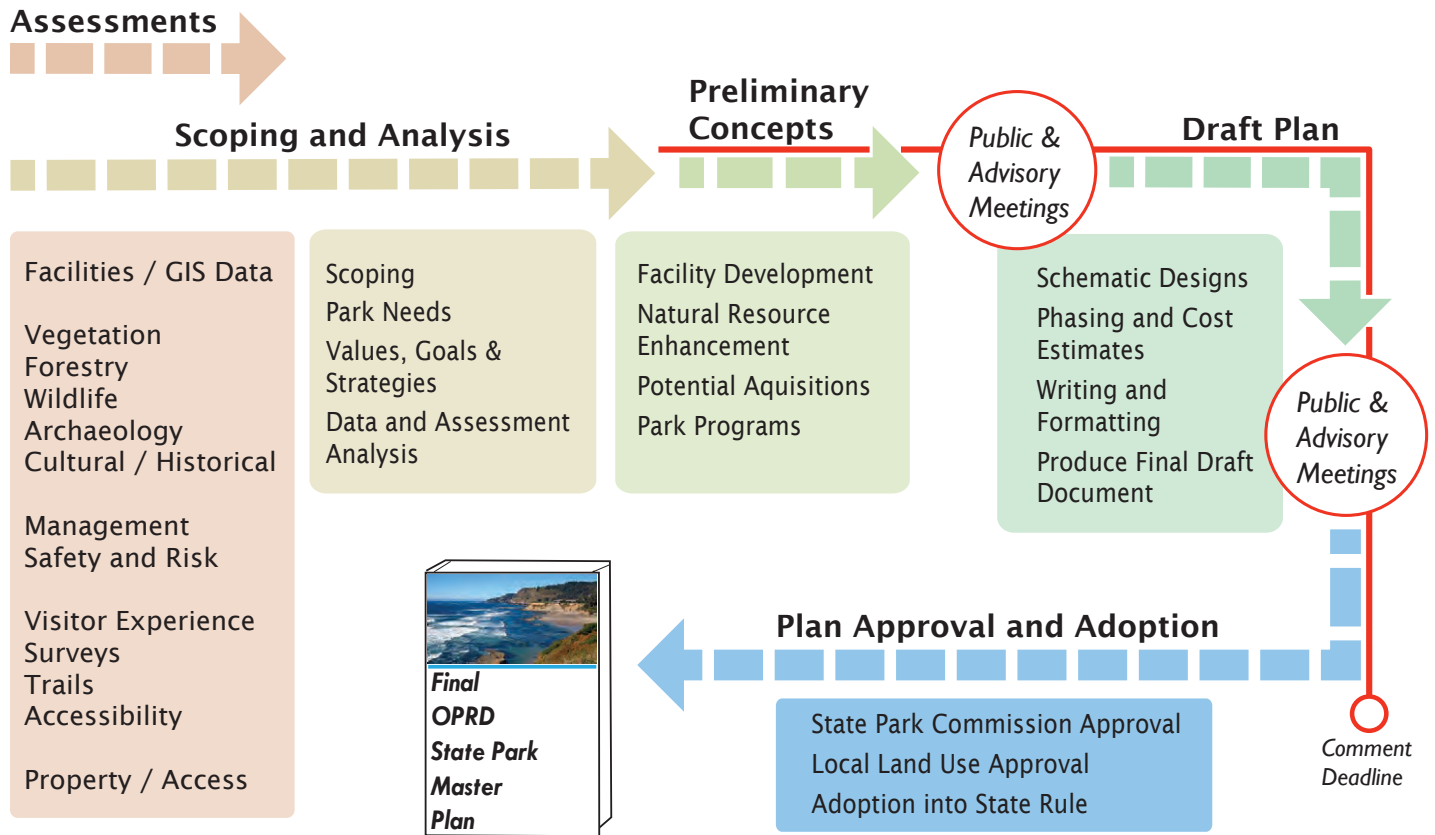


Figure 1: Master Planning Framework Diagram

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

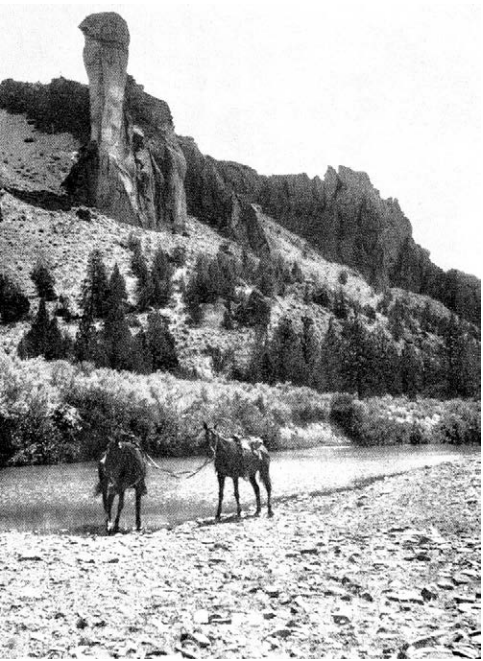
This Master Plan is intended to provide a 20-year vision; it is a guiding document for managers, partners, and interested members of the public to learn about the park resources, management goals, and future development proposals. Because of the many constituencies at Smith Rock State Park, defining and measuring success is a challenge, and ultimately a compromise. External forces, including population growth and climate change, will influence the landscape over time, and this plan is meant to provide a strong vision for the future, while allowing for adaptive responses to inevitable change.

Over the long term, success will be gauged by the degree to which management objectives are achieved. There is also a strong relationship between the health of the park's natural resources and the overall visitor experience, which can be gauged periodically through surveys, studies, and informal public feedback. At this point in time, broad support for the Master Plan is itself an indicator of success.

2 PARK CONDITIONS



Native American women photographed at Warm Springs Reservation, circa 1902.



Monkey Face along the Crooked River, circa 1905.



Prineville Shaniko Stage, Courtesy of the Bowman Museum, circa 1905.

CULTURAL HISTORY

Smith Rock State Park is located near the convergence of the Plateau and Northern Great Basin Cultural Areas, places traveled and used by Native peoples since time immemorial. The park is within the traditional homeland of the Tenino, today represented by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and within territory used by the Northern Paiute, who are represented by both the Warm Springs and the Burns Paiute Tribes. Archaeological evidence within the park and surrounding area suggests a deep history of continued use over thousands of years and to this day.

Known cultural sites represent a diversity of seasonal activities, as plants are collected and processed for food, clothing, and a variety of other uses. Harvesting fish and freshwater mussels from the rivers, and hunting small and large mammals are also common subsistence activities practiced by Native peoples in the area. Smith Rock is a culturally significant place, and is represented in both the ethnographic record and through Tribal oral history, with one Paiute story referring to Smith Rock as the “Animal Village.”

The first non-Native people to travel through the area were trappers that arrived starting in the 1820s. Early settlement was slow due to the rugged terrain of the Ochoco Mountains and ongoing hostilities with Native American Tribes in the region, which persisted up until the 1860s. In 1855, the United States and the Tribes of Middle Oregon signed a treaty wherein 10 million acres of traditional Native territory were ceded to the United States, and 578,000 acres were reserved for what became the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation.

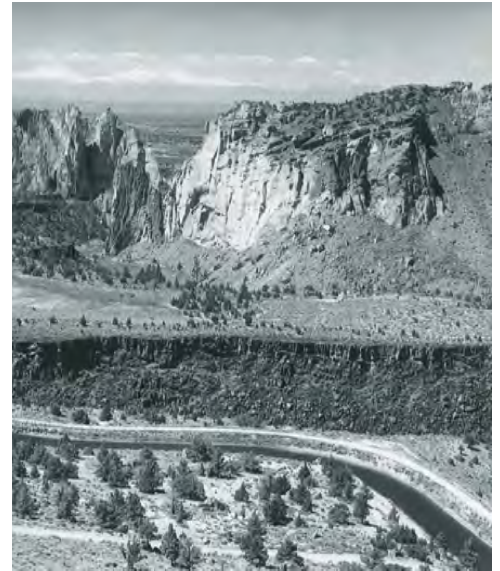
The John Day Basin Gold Rush in the 1860s and the Homestead Act of 1862 brought more settlers to the region by way of improved transportation routes. There were grand plans for a railroad between Albany and Ontario that would pass just south of the canyon, which ultimately never occurred. Stage coach lines were constructed along the proposed route, and a stop was located just a few miles upstream from the park at Forest Crossing. The name Smith Rock is thought to have been in honor of either a soldier who fell to his death there in the 1860s, or a sheriff and state legislator who lived in the area during that time.

A portion of the park was homesteaded by Otto Frank Wallenburg and his wife Emily Stuart, who moved to Central Oregon in 1909. They built a switchback wagon road from the plateau at North Point down to the river that is still in use today. The homestead included a small house, outbuildings, and nearly a mile-long irrigation ditch that allowed them to grow a highly productive vegetable garden. They also grazed livestock in the canyon and planted dryland rye crops on the flat upland peninsula.

Irrigation systems were key to the successful settlement of the region, and by 1907, the Central Oregon Canal had been constructed to divert water from the Deschutes River to thousands of farmland acres between Bend and the Cove Palisades area. During World War II, the Bureau of Reclamation initiated the massive North Unit Main Canal project to carry water through the mountainous area near Smith Rock. Two enormous tunnels were built, in part by Mennonite conscientious objectors to the war. The 3,400-foot-long Tunnel 1 was completed in 1945, and is presently accessed via Burma Road on the eastern edge of the park.

The State acquired the first 218 acres of land for the park from the Lowell E. and W.E. Dent families in 1960, followed by another five parcels totaling 103 acres. The City of Redmond then received a 120-acre BLM Patent for land adjacent to the Wallenburg homestead, which it transferred to the State of Oregon. Designation of this area as a State Park was strongly supported by many community members and Central Oregon Chambers of Commerce. Development of facilities began in 1961, and by the close of 1963 the park featured a total of 518 acres.

Recreational climbing at Smith Rock predated establishment of the State Park by about 30 years, and the first ascent listed in *Oregon Rock: A Climber's Guide* is West Gully, completed by Ross Petrie and Dave Pearson in 1946. The first ascent of Monkey Face, now called the Pioneer Route, was accomplished in January 1960 by Vivian Staender, Dave Bohn and Jim Fraser.



Irrigation canal photographed by Oregon State Highway Department, circa 1975.



Restroom construction, circa 1990.



Bridge reconstruction, circa 1990.

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Location

In the present day, Smith Rock State Park sits at the geographic center of the Central Oregon region, which encompasses Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson Counties, an area roughly 7,800 square miles. Situated along the eastern flank of the Cascade Mountains, where the densely forested, snowcapped stratovolcanoes give way to the high desert, this region is one of the preeminent locations for outdoor recreation in Oregon, and is known internationally for its resort destinations and outdoor-oriented culture. Over 60 percent of the land in Central Oregon is in public ownership, primarily managed by the National Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Located 25 miles south of Smith Rock State Park on US Route 97, Bend is the Deschutes County Seat and the largest city in Central Oregon, with a population of about a hundred thousand. Ten miles south of the park is Redmond, the second-largest city in the region and home to Redmond Municipal Airport, which provides commercial airline service to many major western airports. Located just three miles west of the park, the small community of Terrebonne is the gateway to Smith Rock, and serves as the closest point for essential services like groceries and gas. On US Route 26, the city of Prineville is about twenty miles southeast, the Warm Springs Reservation is about forty miles to the northwest, and Portland is about a three-hour drive.



Looking west from Burma Road towards Smith Rock with Cascade Mountains behind.

Population

Smith Rock is located in northern Deschutes County, which is the fastest-growing county in Oregon, driven largely by the rapid growth of the Bend-Redmond metro area. The county population increased by almost 40 percent just after the millennium, and increased another 25 percent in the last decade to almost 200,000 people in 2020, making it the eighth-fastest growing metro area in the United States during that time period.¹ The population of Deschutes County is projected to reach a quarter-million by 2035.

Neighboring Crook and Jefferson Counties are also among the fastest-growing counties in Oregon, led by the growth of small cities like Culver, Madras, and Prineville, all of which are located less than 20 miles from Smith Rock. As of the 2020 Census, Crook and Jefferson County both had populations just shy of 25,000 people. Jefferson County is also one of the state's most diverse, with Latinos and Native Americans representing almost 40 percent of the population.²

Most communities in Central Oregon were historically built around lumber mills, and while most have since shut down, some of the largest employers remain timber products manufacturers. Major tourism destinations are also a huge part of the local economy, alongside service, education, healthcare, government, and retail sectors.³ Boutique businesses in niche industries like craft brewing, outdoor recreation equipment, technology, and biosciences are increasingly making Central Oregon their home.

Recreation

OPRD operates three large State Parks in the region, with boat ramps, day use facilities, and expansive campgrounds: LaPine (2,300 acres), Prineville Reservoir (3,000 acres), and The Cove Palisades (4,400 acres). The two smaller regional State Parks, Smith Rock (690 acres) and Tumalo (330 acres), are very popular for day use hiking, sightseeing, and other activities. The agency also manages a number of Scenic Viewpoints in the region, including Pilot Butte, Cline Falls, Ochoco, and Peter Skene Ogden.

For local visitors, State Parks in Central Oregon function as a middle ground between City parks, which are typically smaller and highly developed with amenities, and the vast expanses of Deschutes and

1. The Bend Bulletin: https://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/us-census-says-deschutes-county-population-fastest-growing-in-oregon/article_a620329e-fc83-11eb-92d5-8b508749b53a.html

2. Central Oregon Health Data: <https://www.centraloregonhealthdata.org/demographic-data?id=285505§ionId=935>

3. Economic Development for Central Oregon: https://edcoinfo.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-Central-Oregon-Profile_-020421.pdf

Ochoco National Forests, which generally have more primitive campgrounds and day use facilities. For non-local visitors, State Parks represent an affordable and accessible option to experience the area's recreation opportunities and other attractions.

The 2019-2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identified hiking trails as a top priority for public recreation providers in the region, including connectivity between community trails and larger public land systems.⁴ At Smith Rock State Park, local hiking trails provide access to adjacent BLM lands and the vast Crooked River National Grasslands slightly further afield.



Figure 2: Regional Recreation Map

Geography

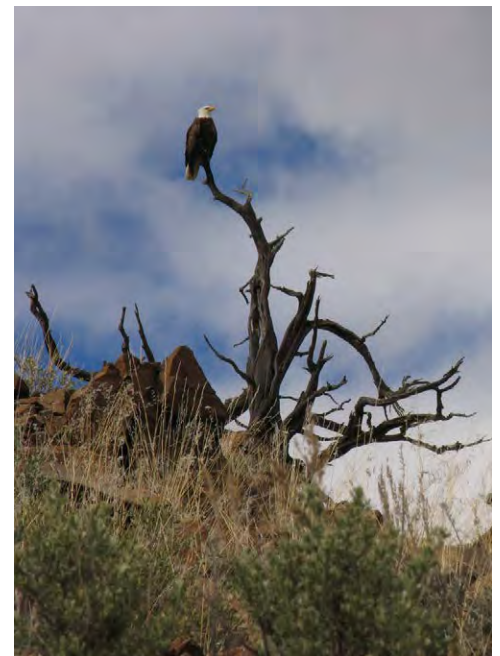
The Central Oregon high desert has been greatly influenced by volcanic activity, with layers upon layers of rock deposited and sculpted by natural forces over many millennia. Smith Rock is situated on the northwestern edge of the Crooked River Caldera, a 26x17-mile wide depression created by a series of supervolcano eruptions almost 30 million years ago.⁵ These eruptions deposited massive volumes of tuff and rhyolitic lavas, which over time were buried by subsequent eruptions of the Newberry Volcano, located about fifty miles to the south. The Crooked River has slowly and steadily incised a canyon through these rock layers, eroding and exposing the ancient tuff and basalt formations.

The present-day Cascade Mountains dotting the western horizon of Smith Rock are volcanoes that have influenced the landscape over the last several million years.⁶ Periodic eruptions have deposited so much debris that weather from the Pacific Ocean is blocked from reaching farther east, creating a rain shadow that characterizes the semi-arid climate of Central Oregon.

Smith Rock receives an average of just ten inches of precipitation annually, mostly falling as rain between November and January, with some thunderstorms in May and June. Summers are generally warm and sunny, averaging just over eighty degrees, with highs regularly exceeding a hundred degrees. In the winter, the average high temperature is just below forty degrees, with lows often below twenty degrees, but rarely below zero.

VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

The volcanic soils and dry climate of this region are somewhat inhospitable, but many people, plants, and animals have adapted to thrive in these conditions. . Central Oregon is located at the confluence of three main ecoregions: the Eastern Cascades, Northern Basin and Range, and the Blue Mountains. These areas all have unique



4. State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan: <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PRP/Documents/SCORP-2019-2023-Final.pdf>

5. Deschutes County Land Trust: <https://www.deschuteslandtrust.org/news/blog/2021-blog-posts/blast-from-our-past-crooked-river-caldera>

6. US Forest Service: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/deschutes/recreation/rocks-minerals/?cid=stelprdb5385354>



characteristics, but share a similar shrub-steppe environment, dominated by bunchgrasses, sagebrush, juniper, and pine trees.

Assessments completed for Smith Rock identified several distinct ecosystem types that contribute to the park's unique biodiversity, including Non-Vegetated Cliffs, Riparian Areas, Herbaceous Meadows, Shrublands, Woodlands, and Developed areas. Figure 3 shows the distribution of these ecosystem types within the park boundary.

Non-Vegetated Cliffs

Smith Rock is most known for the dramatic, 600-foot cliffs of tuff that rise out of the river canyon. This habitat type, while not particularly hospitable to plants, is host to a number of birds of prey, including golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and prairie falcons. The rocky cliffs also provide roosting locations for spotted bats, white-throated swifts and violet-green swallows. Scree generally occurs down-slope of the cliff environment, and is composed of mostly unvegetated loose rock fragments eroding from the crags above. It is home to many reptiles, and can serve as a foraging area for small rodents and birds.



Riparian Areas

The Crooked River is another main feature of the park, and the riparian area surrounding the river channel provides critical habitat for birds, mammals, and a variety of water-loving plants. This area is especially biodiverse in the context of the surrounding desert environment.

Northern river otters, American beavers, northern pikeminnows, and western ridged mussels are just a few of the creatures living in the water and along its edges. Vegetation in the wettest areas include softstem bulrush, sedges, rushes, cattail, and a variety of forbs. Poison hemlock and Canada thistle are problematic invasive species. Waterfowl, including great blue heron, pied-bill grebe, and common merganser, nest in the wetlands and marshes, which are characterized by teasel, meadow foxtail, and smooth brome. Larger shrubs like willow, mock orange, and exotic roses are also prevalent, encouraged by the upland irrigation runoff in many areas.



Herbaceous Meadows

Bunchgrass communities are mainly present in the least disturbed areas of park and provide habitat for a wide variety of rodents, and foraging grounds for mule deer, birds of prey, and other small

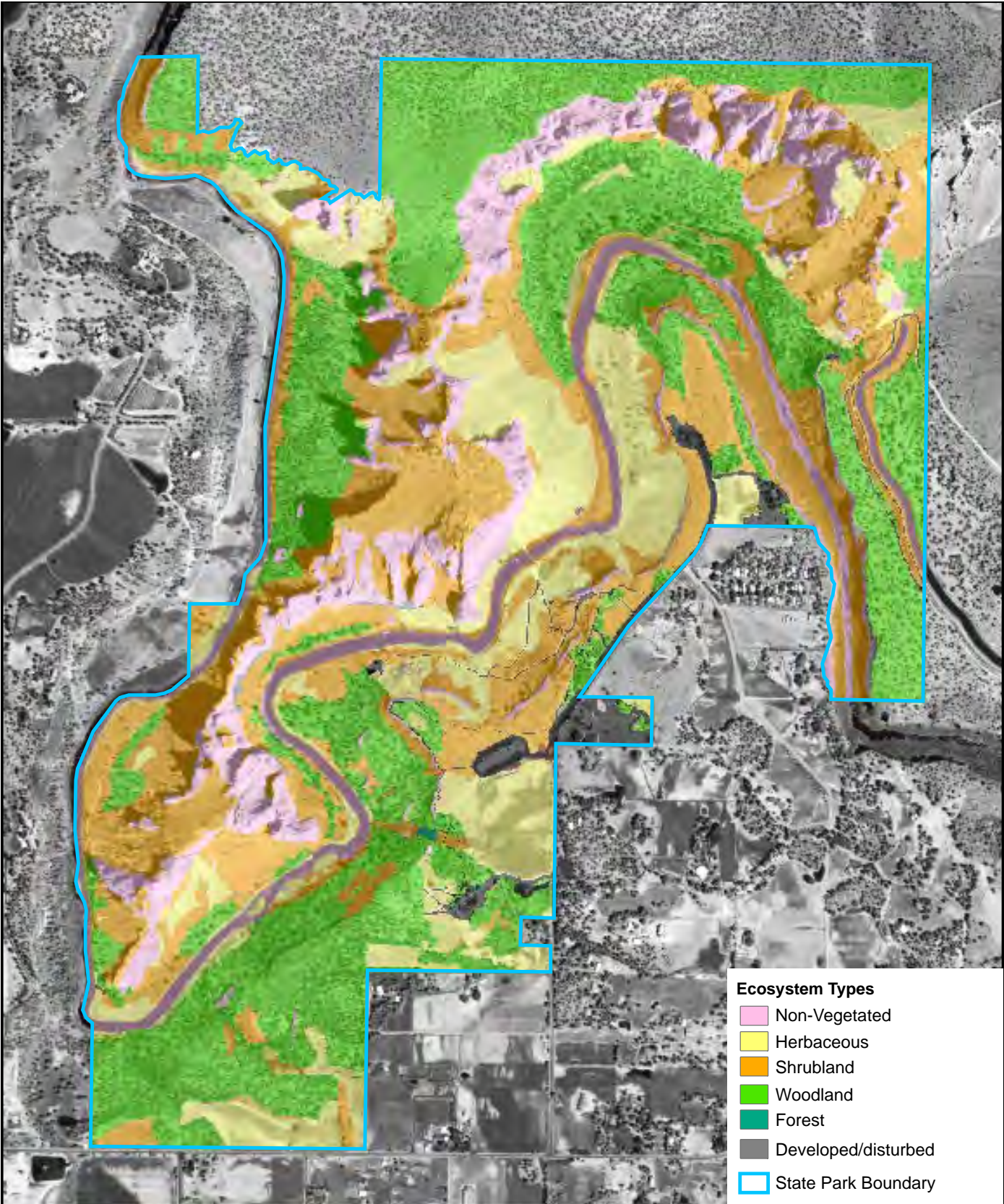


Figure 3: General Land Cover Map



mammals. The meadows are characterized by bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, Thurber's needlegrass, prairie junegrass, and bottlebrush squirreltail, while some terraced locations where weeds are less abundant are dominated by needle and thread, Indian ricegrass, and basin wildrye. Generally, this habitat type requires repeated natural or human-induced disturbance to prevent succession to shrubland and woodland types.

Shrubland

Shrub-dominated habitats occur mostly in areas where there is sufficient soil, and because some shrub species have more sharply defined ecological niches, unique communities occur near particularly wet or rocky areas. All shrublands contain an herbaceous lower layer, but they are mainly characterized by big sagebrush, rubber rabbitbrush, green rabbitbrush, spiny hopsage, rock spiraea, rose, mountain mahogany, creek dogwood, mountain alder, mock orange, rigid sagebrush, and bitterbrush. Many birds make their home in the shrublands, including the sage thrasher and several species of sparrows, and it also provides important hunting grounds for the golden eagle, coyote, and mountain lion.



Woodland

Nearly all of the park's woodland habitat is dominated by western juniper, but there are a few stands of ponderosa pine found on the stream terraces adjacent to the Crooked River. One small stand of black cottonwood even meets the criteria of a forest habitat. These tall trees are particularly important for a nesting pair of bald eagles that arrived at the park in 2012, as well as white-headed woodpeckers and golden-crowned kinglets. The woodland habitat typically has a significant shrub layer composed of big sagebrush and rabbitbrushes, and an herbaceous layer of native bunchgrasses. Some wetter areas are abundant with willow, red osier dogwood, sweetbriar rose, wax currant, golden currant, mock orange, and chokecherry. These areas provide important shelter and foraging grounds for small mammals like mink and spotted bats, among other species.



Developed

Much of the flat ground above the rimrock on the south side of the canyon has been significantly disturbed by humans, largely for historic

agricultural purposes and ongoing park activities. Cheatgrass and tumbled mustard are prevalent in former pasture areas, along road shoulders, and around other highly trafficked park sites. Cultivated lawn areas support yellow-bellied marmot and Belding's ground-squirrel, and numerous other bird species that are tolerant of human activities, such as house finch, American robin, and black-billed magpie. In the fallow fields on the south end of the park, meadow foxtail and smooth brome are abundant, which provides important habitat for rodents, black-tailed deer foraging, and would also support a handful of special-status wildlife species that prefer open areas, like burrowing owl and loggerhead shrike.

Invasive Species

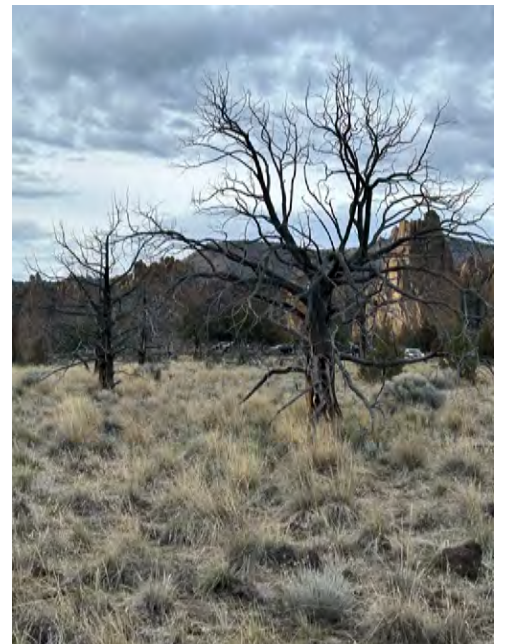
Human disturbance is the main cause for establishment of invasive plant species and associated habitat loss. As such, the places that have been intensively used for agriculture, grazing, and recreation, as well as the riparian corridor along the river, are the most ecologically degraded areas of the park.

Woodlands, shrublands, and herbaceous meadows have been mostly infiltrated by invasive species such as cheatgrass, red-stem stork's bill, tumbled mustard and bulbous bluegrass. Lower terraces and riparian areas are infested with Russian knapweed, leafy spurge, poison hemlock, and reed canarygrass. The fallow fields and pastures are composed almost exclusively of non-native species, but the irrigated areas generally have dense enough grass cover to exclude the more troublesome species.

Influence of Fire

Fire contributes significantly to the ecological health of most Western landscapes, and is critical to the reproduction of many plant species. Fire helps to clear out dense undergrowth, creating and maintaining more open habitat types. The relative absence of frequent, low-intensity fire within the last few centuries has increased overall plant density and encouraged proliferation of many non-native species at Smith Rock, which has degraded ecosystem functions, including resiliency to fire.

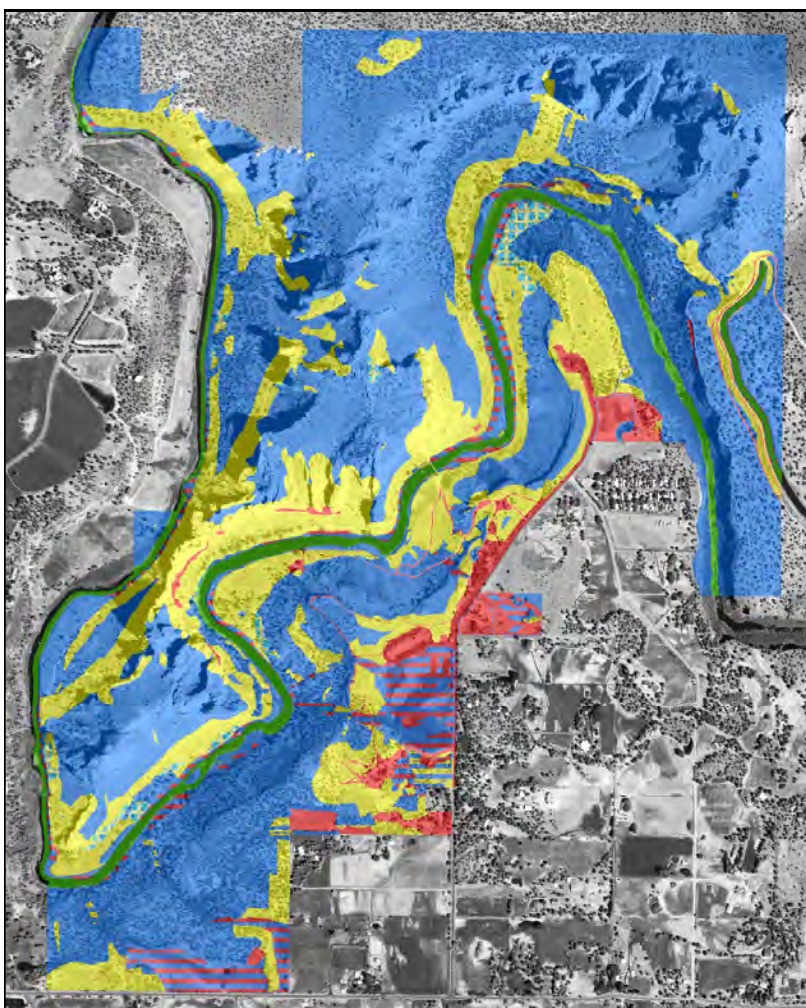
In August of 1996, a wildfire burned over two-hundred acres of the park, the effects of which are still evident along the canyon and uplands near the Chute. This area is now dominated by grasses, with some



young western junipers scattered throughout, and many dead snags still standing or on the ground. The mature canopy trees lost to fire will take decades to regenerate, but in the meantime, the dead wood will provide some important habitat value.

COMPOSITE NATURAL RESOURCE VALUE

The Vegetation and Wildlife Assessments produced as part of the master planning process both include an analysis of conservation values and development suitability throughout the park. These outputs are merged to form the Composite Natural Resource Value Map, which highlights areas with high conservation priority. For Smith Rock, around the existing day-use areas are the most disturbed, while the meadows and woodlands have high natural resource value. Figure 4 shows the composite natural resource values throughout the park.



Composite Natural Resource Value

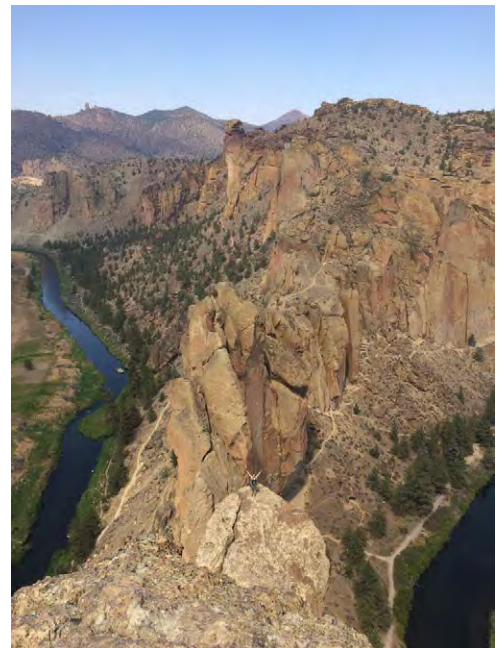
- 1 - Protected allocation
- 2/4 - Preservation where wetland. Low resource value where not wetland. Where wetlands are artificial and resulting from long-term flood irrigation, wetlands may not be jurisdictional.
- 2 - High resource value and conservation priority and/or wetland
- 2/3 - Moderate conservation priority where wetland, moderate resource value and conservation priority where not wetland; High conservation priority where wetland. Where wetlands are artificial and resulting from long-term flood irrigation, wetlands may not be jurisdictional.
- 2/3(2) - High conservation priority where wetland, moderate resource value where not wetland. Restoration is feasible, and if restored this area would be high resource value and conservation priority. Where wetlands are artificial and resulting from long-term flood irrigation, wetlands may not be jurisdictional.
- 3 - Moderate resource value and conservation priority
- 3(2) - Moderate resource value and conservation priority. Restoration is feasible, and if implemented this area would be high of conservation priority and resource value.
- 4 - Low resource value and conservation priority.

Figure 4: Composite Natural Resource Value Map

AREAS OF SCENIC INTEREST

Smith Rock State Park is scenic natural wonder, with uniquely gorgeous views from almost any location. The astounding scale of the rock formations becomes more evident as one approaches the canyon, from the rolling meadows and shrublands to the rocky terrace, and down through the woodlands to the river's edge, where the beautiful scenes are reflected on the surface of the water. This is a photographer's paradise, and indeed, pictures of Smith Rock proliferate on state and regional advertising for a variety of businesses, and many people come to the park to take pictures and have portraits taken with their families and friends.

From the highland trails the views are long in every direction, and there are a number of semi-formal viewpoints established throughout the park. To the west, Black Butte is prominent in the foreground, while Mt. Bachelor, the Three Sisters, Mt. Jefferson, and Mt. Washington are often snowcapped, rising up from the Deschutes River plain. To the northeast, craggy, juniper-dotted ridgelines extend to the formidable summit of Gray Butte. The Crooked River Canyon below frames the natural beauty of the park, juxtaposed with the developed homesites, farms, and towns nearby.





ADJACENT LANDS

The Crooked River marks a stark divide between developed agricultural lands and wilder mountainous territory, and Smith Rock State Park straddles this clash of environments. The park borders a number of private residential lots on the south side of the river canyon, all of which are accessed by Wilcox Road and Crooked River Drive. The expansive Ranch at the Canyons Home-Owners Association is adjacent to a large portion of the northwest corner of the park. Their grasslands are managed in partnership with the Deschutes Land Trust and public access is provided for a small section of the Summit Trail that traverses through this private property.

Lands bordering the park to the northeast and ranging for several miles beyond are owned by the Bureau of Land Management. The Gray Butte Trail extends from the park through this rugged landscape, into the immense Crooked River National Grasslands, which are owned and managed by the US Forest Service. Skull Hollow Campground is located just eight miles from Smith Rock, and with 76 sites, serves many people visiting the park. The USFS recently upgraded the facilities at Skull Hollow, which includes space for RVs and trailers. The lack of water is an ongoing challenge at this location.



EXISTING FACILITIES

Since the last Smith Rock State Park Master Plan was adopted in 1991, the park has grown in size, from 624 acres to almost 690 acres today. Four land acquisitions occurred during that timeframe, including a 17-acre woodland parcel along Wilcox Road, a few small parcels along Crooked River Drive that are used for maintenance activities, and a 38-acre river canyon parcel just upstream from the park administration building.

Trails

The park has over 22 miles of hiking trails, which vary in design and difficulty based on the terrain. They were informally established over many years of use, and have been reinforced as needed with wooden support structures and stronger surfacing. Erosion caused by poor drainage and overuse has become prevalent in many areas, particularly along the river and in steep sections of the canyon. Few accessible trail routes exist, and there is minimal connectivity between day-use areas

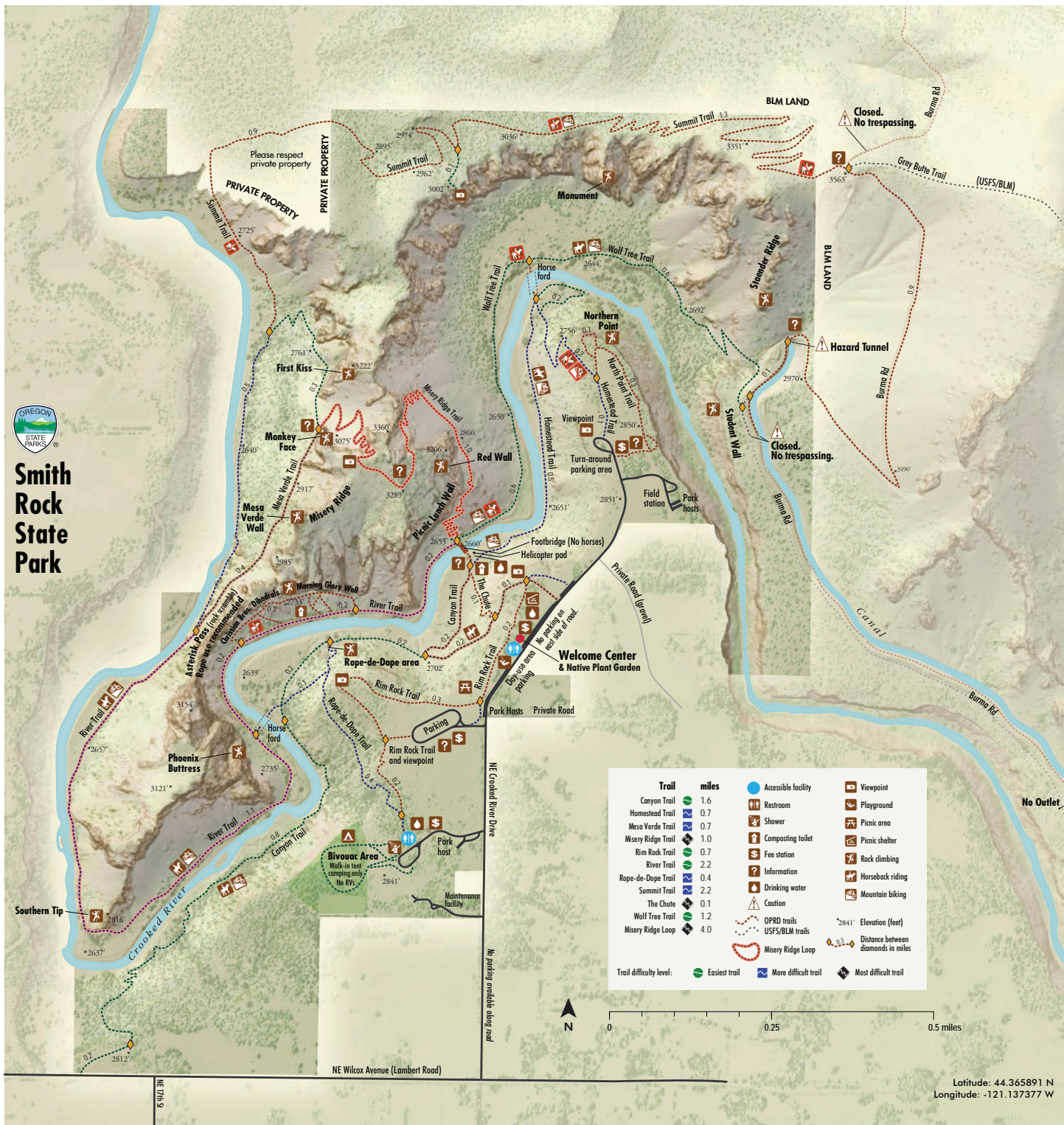


Figure 5: Existing Facilities Map



and parking. Emergency vehicle access extends into the canyon, but becomes impossible where trails are too narrow and steep. An overview of trail system is provided in Figure 5.

The master plan update included an assessment of the trail system to collect data on conditions and usage. Four trail counters were installed throughout the park, with the highest counts recorded at the footbridge. The data suggests that roughly half of trail users who cross the footbridge go on to hike the Misery Ridge Trail. Late spring and early fall are the most popular times for hiking in the park.

Misery Ridge is one of the hardest and most highly used hiking trails in the park and ascends immediately up towards Monkey Face and the Mesa Verde Trail after crossing the footbridge, making it a popular hiking loop option. These and the Summit Trail along the park's northern boundary are all considered difficult, and are not recommended for inexperienced hikers.

The widest, most well-developed trails are on the south side of the canyon, near the Welcome Center yurt and North Point. The Rimrock Trail and the North Point loops traverse these flatter uplands, providing more easily accessible experiences of the park. There are also many social trails in these areas, which contribute to landscape degradation and confusion.

The River Trail at the bottom of the canyon is considered easy, but due to the nature of the steep canyon walls, all trails are more difficult getting down towards the river. A single footbridge provides access to trails on the north and west sides of the canyon, including the majority of climbing routes and popular hikes. As such, this area is often congested with people.

There are well over a thousand vertical climbing routes bolted on the rock faces in the park, which are maintained by user groups. These areas require technical rock-climbing experience and would be inappropriate for most visitors without a professional guide. Unmapped social routes proliferate around the major climbing areas, both at the bottom and top of the canyon.



Day Use Areas

The two main day use areas are North Point and the Welcome Center at the Chute trailhead. There is on-street parking and an off-street overflow parking lot at each location, with minimal pedestrian connectivity between them. North Point and the Chute are the two primary trailheads leading into canyon, but the only footbridge across the river is accessed via the Chute. Both day use areas also have options for hiking along the rimrock.

North Point is located at the terminus of Crooked River Road, and has paved, head-in parking for 35 cars, and a 125-car gravel overflow parking area located just to the south. Within the vehicular turnaround there is a picnic area with about 6 tables and a few portable toilets. There is also a small amphitheater and group gathering area used somewhat informally for events, including weddings and large picnics. The Homestead Trail leads down into the canyon and south along the river towards the Chute Trail and footbridge.



Looking east at North Point day use picnic area.

At the Welcome Center and Chute trailhead there is paved, head-in parking for approximately 110 cars and a paved, off-street parking lot for 92 cars located just to the south. A yurt serves as the existing Welcome Center, located next to an irrigated lawn area with about 20 picnic tables scattered throughout. There is a plumbed restroom building, a native plant display garden, and a small rock-climbing play area nearby. At the Chute trailhead on the north end is a picnic shelter that is popular for people entering and exiting the canyon. These features are all located right along Crooked River Drive for about a half-mile stretch, which becomes extremely congested during busy seasons, frustrating visitors and causing safety concerns.



Welcome Center Day Use Area from Crooked River Drive.



View of Bivouac Campground communal cooking area by Marcia Volk.



Bivouac Campground

The overnight camping situation at Smith Rock, known as “the Bivy,” is unique in the State Park system, with parking for 50 cars and walk-in tent camping in a juniper woodland area nearby. Mainly developed as a primitive basecamp for climbing, there is a single restroom building with showers, and about 15 picnic tables located at the communal cooking area. No other amenities are provided, and campfires are not allowed. Trailers and RVs are not accommodated at this location, and sleeping in vehicles is not allowed. The campground operates from mid-March through mid-November, weather permitting, and is supported by a volunteer Park Host who typically resides in an RV onsite.

Maintenance and Administration

The main park administration building is located in a former residence near North Point, adjacent to the overflow parking area. The old barn is used for storing equipment, and there is dedicated staff parking and an RV/trailer site for the Park Host. Two other maintenance yards are located along Crooked River Drive, one across from the Welcome Center yurt, and one farther south of the Bivouac Campground. There are a few storage sheds, staff parking, a small administration building and a manager’s residence. All of these facilities are aging and in need of upgrades for security, efficiency, and accessibility.



VISITOR EXPERIENCE

User Survey

A user survey was conducted in 2016 as part of the master plan update, wherein day-use and overnight visitors were questioned about a range of topics, including the distance, duration, and purpose of their trip, the characteristics of their group, activities and spending, and overall satisfaction with their experience.

Just over half of the visitors surveyed were from Oregon, with nearly a quarter having driven less than thirty miles to reach the park. Among overnight users, just under half lived in Oregon, and 18 percent were from outside of the United States. Roughly equal proportions of day users were male and female, while a much higher percentage of overnight users were male. The average age of respondents was about 40 years old, but overnight users were likely to be about ten years younger. Almost 90 percent of the respondents were white, with four percent being either Latino or Asian, respectively.

Day use visitors spent almost four hours in the park on average, and were more likely to participate in hiking or walking, sightseeing, and dog walking. Overnight visitors were most likely to stay two or three nights and participate in rock climbing, running, biking, or picnicking. Overall, the most popular activities were hiking or walking (93%), sightseeing (53%), outdoor photography (35%), wildlife viewing (23%), and rock climbing (21%).

When presented with options for potential improvements, park users strongly supported creating more opportunities for hiking, viewing wildlife, and escaping crowds. Visitors were least satisfied with existing parking, group facilities, and interpretive opportunities. Over 80 percent of park users also felt some degree of crowding on their visit, which is significantly higher than for most other State Parks. However, nearly 80 percent of users still reported that they were “very satisfied” with their experience.

Survey respondents were also able to provide open-ended comments and suggestions, and the most common themes that emerged from their responses were: improve parking, protect natural resources, manage crowds, provide more restrooms and drinking fountains, add



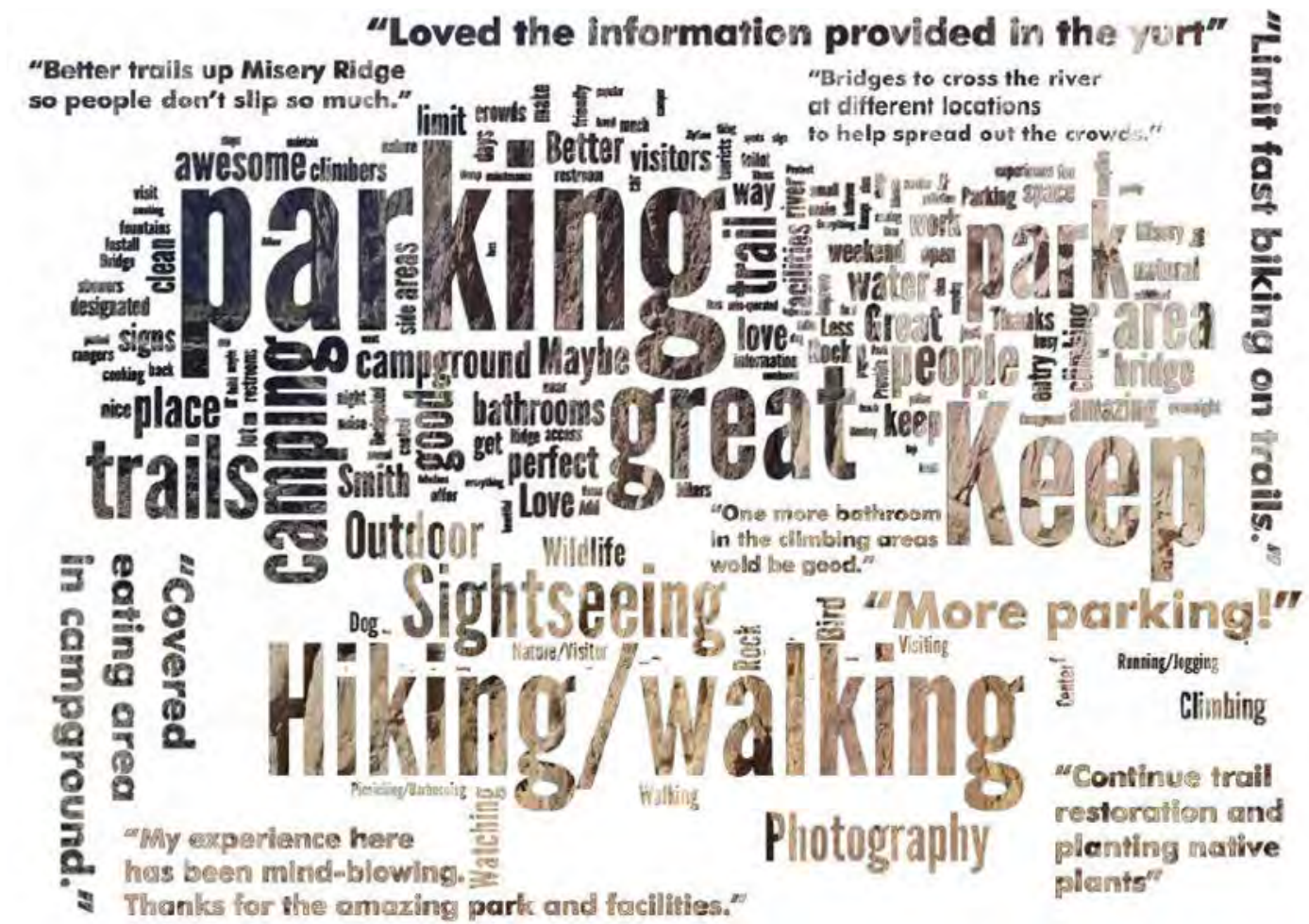


Figure 6: User Survey Word Art

another bridge, and improve trail etiquette. Many people also expressed a desire for minimal changes, as indicated by most park attributes falling in the “keep up the good work” performance category.

Capacity Assessment

A capacity assessment was commissioned as part of the master plan update, to determine how to best monitor and alleviate the impacts of drastically increasing visitor use. Goals and objectives were identified for natural and cultural resources, visitor experience, and park operations. The park was then divided into analysis areas, with measurable indicators and quantified thresholds established to achieve the goals and desired experiential outcomes.



Photo by Lyn Wilchek

Indicators such as the percent cover of invasive species, acres of high-quality wildlife habitat, length of unsanctioned trails, and number of people in view were proposed to be monitored and evaluated against a desired threshold. For some indicators, thresholds may vary by analysis area. For example, a larger number of people in view on a hiking trail may be more acceptable near the Welcome Center area than in the back country.

Based on the numeric thresholds established for various indicators, the park capacity was quantified in terms of “people at one time.” The assessment methodology determined the physical capacity of various park features, including trails, day use facilities, overnight facilities, and climbing areas. The overall day use capacity was determined to be 1,178 people at one time, while the overnight capacity was determined to be 114 people at one time.

In order to avoid crowding and negative impacts to the landscape, the report suggested that the physical capacity of the park should be balanced with the number of visitors. Parking availability is one way to theoretically limit the number of visitors present in the park at any given time. As determined by the user survey, each vehicle typically

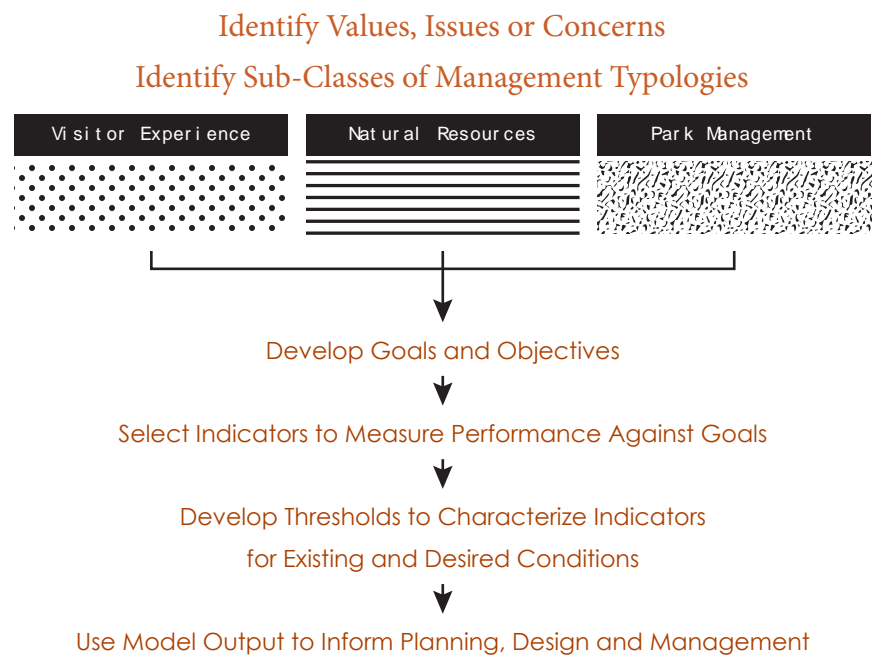


Figure 7: Capacity Assessment Process Diagram

carries about three people, so the number of parking spaces could be converted to a visitor capacity.

The assessment methodology ultimately concluded that the capacity of day-use parking exceeds the physical capacity of the park by about eight people. Though the numbers are fairly balanced, this means that if the parking areas are full, the park is operating just slightly over capacity. Given that the distribution of people varies throughout the park, visitors are likely to feel crowded in key activity areas.

It was recommended to plan for additional physical capacity within the park in tandem with developing additional parking, in order to limit adverse impacts to the park resources and the visitor experience. Deterring illegal parking was also identified as critical to reducing impacts of overuse.

Public Engagement

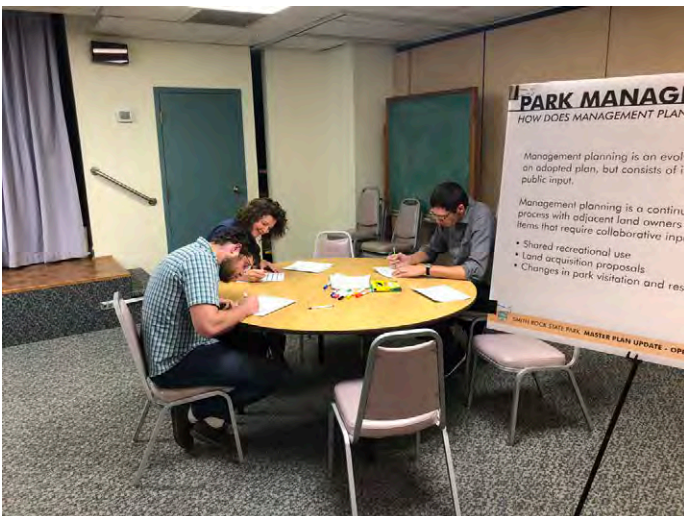
The master planning process is a unique opportunity for OPRD to engage with specific user groups, partner agencies, tribes, and the public in defining a direction for the future of a beloved place. For Smith Rock State Park, the process was extended, largely due to the global pandemic that upended the course of normal operations at the Agency.



Beginning in 2017, OPRD held targeted outreach meetings with key groups, including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Deschutes County Commissioners, Terrebonne Neighborhood Alliance, Northwest Sustainable Climbing Conference, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Portland Metro. A project Advisory Committee was established with representatives from these and other stakeholder groups, which met five times during the course of the project.

Four rounds of public meetings were also convened with local and regional in-person and virtual participation options. In order to gain diverse perspectives, multiple meetings were held in Redmond, Bend, Portland, and on Zoom, with both presentation and open house formats. Meetings were advertised through a variety of methods, including fliers in the park, press-releases in local newspapers, social media postings, and direct mailers. A project website was created to facilitate communications and feedback throughout the process.

Generally, OPRD staff provided updates, including summaries of park assessments, surveys, and input received, and solicited input on key development and management proposals. Throughout this iterative process a few key themes emerged, including availability of parking and camping, visitor congestion, and resource degradation. Figure 8 shows the distribution of priority issues identified by the Advisory Committee and the general public.



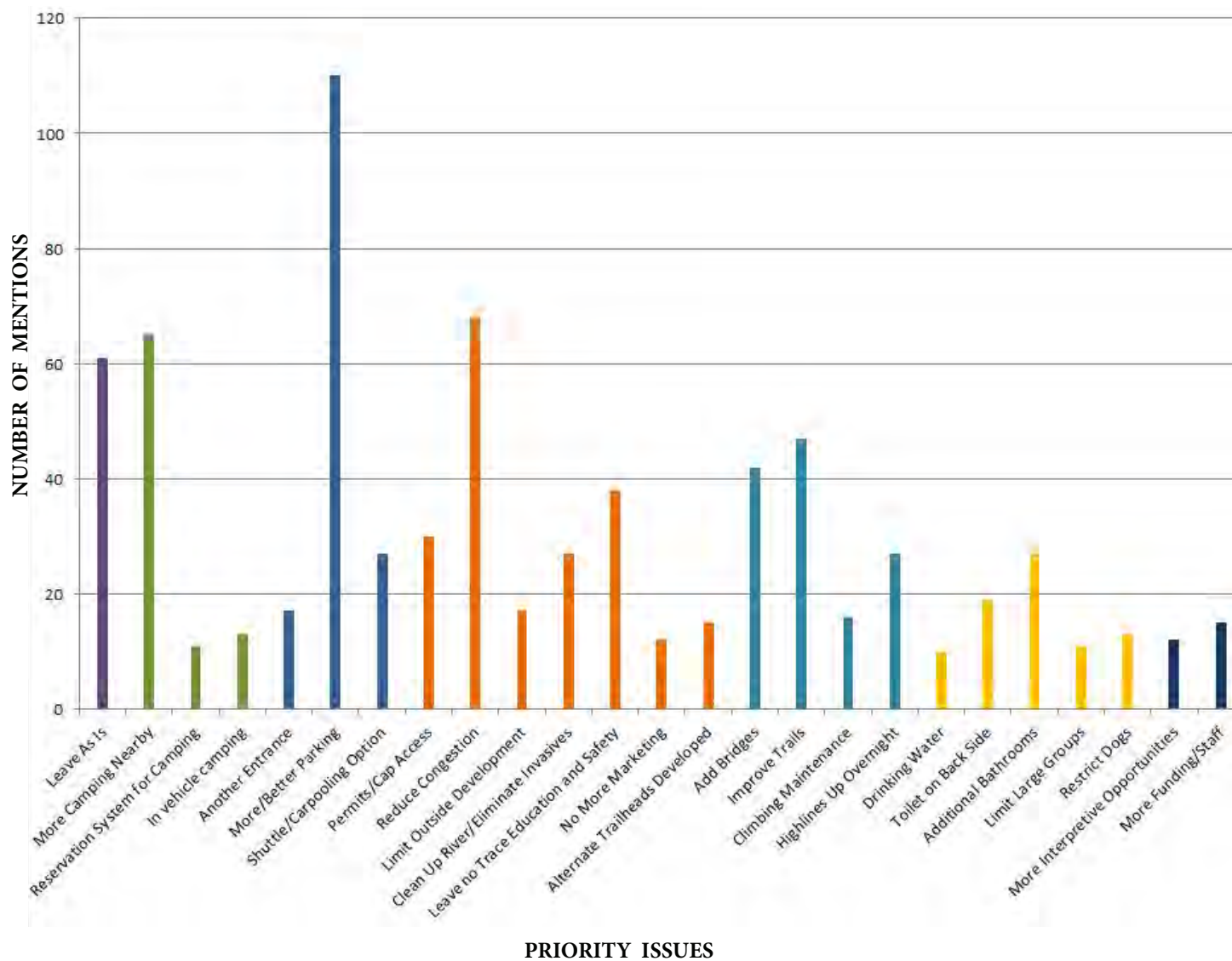


Figure 8: Public Engagement Survey Graph, 2017

Two public meetings in April 2023, one by Zoom and one in Bend, coincided with the Draft Plan being published on the OPRD website, followed by a 30-day public comment period. The plan was featured in several media articles including in-depth interviews with staff. Over 300 comments were submitted through the OPRD website, approximately 200 of those appeared to be from the dedicated climbing community. Major themes included the reservation system, parking capacity, trail development, and the Climbing Management Plan. Many individuals and organizations also expressed a desire for continued involvement in ongoing park policy and project development.

3 MANAGEMENT GOALS+ STRATEGIES



GUIDING VALUES

Throughout the master planning process, a wide variety of input was received from park users, agency staff, partners, neighbors, and community members. Everyone's comments and concerns together inform the following set of values for the park, which are guided and reinforced by the OPRD mission. These values are an important lens through which management and development decisions can be evaluated.

Preservation

- The park's unique geology and rugged, scenic landscape provide habitat for a variety of native plants and animals.
- Visitor access is balanced with appropriate protections for natural and cultural resources.

Recreation

- Trails support a wide range of activities, including hiking, wildlife viewing, photography, climbing, and walk-in camping.
- Climbing at Smith Rock is recognized as having a rich history, and is highly supported by the community.

Community

- Being within close proximity to population centers increases the park's natural value for a variety of user groups.
- The Agency and the diverse user communities all share a sense of responsibility for stewardship of the park.

The following objectives and proposals aim to address the most pressing management issues identified in the resource assessments and through public input received during the planning process. The issues are presented in four broad categories: Natural Resources, Recreation, Cultural Resources, and Administrative Operations.

NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES

Protection of Nesting Raptors

Objective: Birds of Prey that call the park home are respected by visitors and encouraged to thrive.

Existing Conditions: Bald eagles, golden eagles, prairie and peregrine falcons have been nesting since time immemorial in the crags of Smith Rock, and are protected by state and federal regulations. As hikers and climbers continue to impose on their territory within the park, seasonal closures have been implemented in critical nesting areas to limit adverse impacts. The closure periods vary for each species, which can be confusing to some visitors. Raptor populations within the park are currently stable, indicating a successful protection program thus far.

Proposal: Continue to implement nesting area closures, and monitor for annual variances in bird activities. Consider a broader closure to encompass multiple species, and include partner agencies, adjacent land managers, and the climbing community in strategy development and enforcement. Provide interpretive resources to the public about wildlife and agency efforts to balance recreation and habitat values.

Preservation of Intact Ecosystems

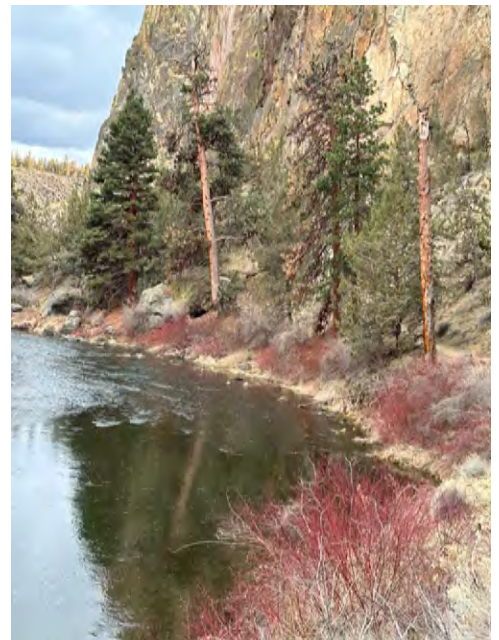
Objective: Maintain key landscape areas that exhibit high quality habitat characteristics.

Existing Conditions: The ponderosa pine woodlands along the Crooked River and the native bunchgrass prairie on the northern uplands are priority areas for conservation activities. These areas exhibit important habitat characteristics that have been minimally impacted by park uses to date, but are susceptible to increasing environmental stressors. The southern woodland area is also a high-quality wildlife refuge for many large mammal species that are increasingly pushed out of more developed areas surrounding the park.

Proposal: Discourage off-trail use by the public, and monitor adverse impacts and changes to species composition over time. The woodland canopy should be bolstered through strategic plantings, and juniper encroachment should be periodically thinned to preserve habitat values. Collaborate with other agencies and local partners on project planning and implementation.



Photo by Steve Lay





Restoration of Degraded Ecosystems

Objective: Areas that have been altered by human impacts are transitioned to more resilient native habitats.

Existing Conditions: Land use and recreation patterns over the last several decades have changed vegetation and habitat characteristics, particularly in the Crooked River riparian area and uplands in the central portion of the park. Invasive species have replaced natives and reduced ecosystem functionalities.

Proposal: Prioritize work to remove invasive plants, with particular focus along the Crooked River riparian corridor. Establish a native planting regime and engage partners in ongoing landscape maintenance and monitoring activities. Uplands impacted by irrigation and agricultural practices could be maintained as beneficial wetland habitats that increase biodiversity and provide opportunities for public education.



Photo by Scobel Wiggins

Adaptive Management for Sensitive Species

Objective: Unique plants and animals within the park are studied and supported through ongoing public inquiry and protection.

Existing Conditions: A host of birds, mammals and other interesting creatures thrive in the unique environment of Smith Rock, but may have a sporadic or undocumented presence. This is especially true for larger animals like mule deer, coyotes and bobcats. As habitat conditions evolve, sensitive populations are likely to be impacted, and for some species regulatory protections have been implemented. There are potentially threatened freshwater mussel species identified in the Crooked River, whose population characteristics are currently being studied within the park. Other sensitive species of interest include the burrowing owl, Swainson's hawk, and the red fox.



Photo by Marcia Volk

Proposal: Engage with partners to formalize collection of vegetation and wildlife data within the park. As more information becomes available, take strategic actions to enhance key habitat characteristics for sensitive species, including closure of habitat areas to the public. Continue to monitor changes in population characteristics over time. Implement best management practices to protect these species and their critical habitat.

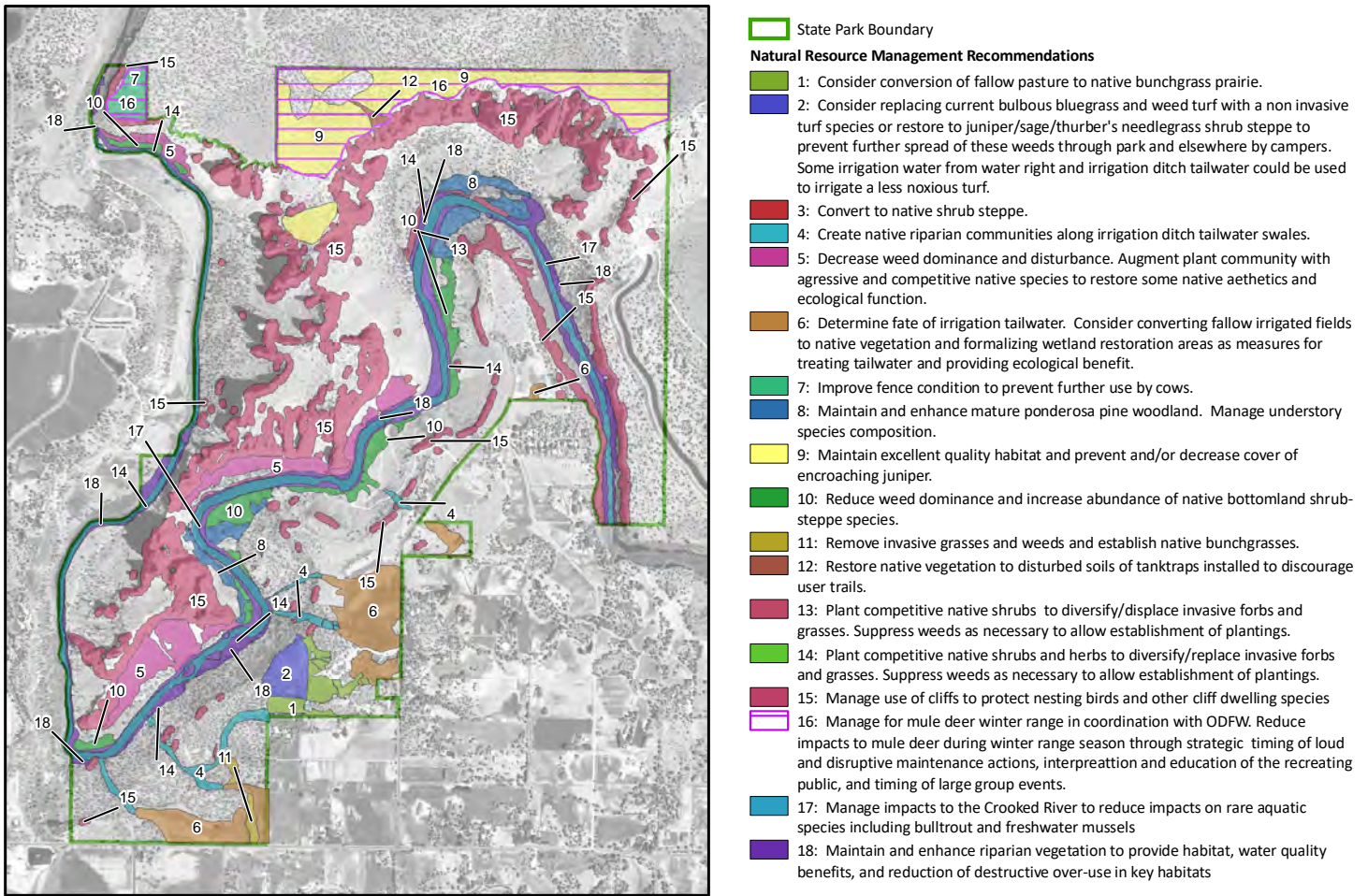


Figure 9: Natural Resource Management Map

Use of Irrigation and Water Rights

Objective: Maintain legal water rights for irrigation throughout the park, managed efficiently to meet management, aesthetic, and habitat needs.

Existing Conditions: The park has legal rights to use water for irrigation, which is supplied through the Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) canal system. The water has historically been used to flood-irrigate pastures on the south and central uplands, which has inadvertently created wetland habitat that would otherwise not be present in the park. The wetland habitat, while unnatural, supports a variety of wildlife considered beneficial to the park. There is also an irrigated lawn in the day use area, which is heavily used by park visitors. Availability of water has been limited in recent years, and the





park has opted to in-stream some of the water rights, which supports riparian habitat.

Proposal: Confirm legal thresholds of water use to maintain rights. Utilize water minimally in the park to enhance high-use areas with grass and shade trees, and to mitigate impacts of erosion. Explore using irrigation water to maintain beneficial wetland habitat for biodiversity and educational value.

RECREATION ISSUES

Visitor Capacity and Parking

Objective: The visitor capacity is monitored and appropriately managed to reduce adverse impacts to the park's natural and cultural resources, and to maintain a high-quality visitor experience.

Existing Conditions: Smith Rock has limited capacity to support both natural ecosystems and increasing recreational activities. At roughly 690-acres, the park encompasses the vast majority of the unique rock formations, and the official trail system provides access to explore almost every corner of the park. That said, unsanctioned trails, overwhelmed facilities, illegal parking, and human waste issues proliferate, which are together indicative of over-use.

Proposal: Strategically expand facilities, including trails and amenities, as needed to consolidate recreational use in areas that are most suitable for intensive development, and minimize recreational development in high-quality habitat areas. Reconfigure on-street parking to control access and improve safety, increasing capacity as appropriate. Reassess visitor capacity and crowding concerns, evaluating the impacts of development projects and management strategies over time, including the need for additional staff.

Provision and Maintenance of Amenities

Objective: The quality and quantity of park facilities are appropriate for optimal visitor experience.

Existing Conditions: Smith Rock has experienced a dramatic increase in visitation, especially in the last decade, transforming it from a relatively remote roadside wonder, to an iconic regional attraction.





Parking along Crooked River Drive on Memorial Day Weekend in 2016.

Development has been incremental, and remains fairly minimal. There are two plumbed restrooms, one for day use and one for overnight. They are frequently overwhelmed during the busy seasons, and even closed due to mechanical failures. There are also two primitive toilets and limited trash receptacles in the canyon, where human waste and litter issues have become more prominent. Tables, benches and formalized viewpoints are clustered throughout the park, mainly at the day use areas, where there is just one covered picnic shelter. The degradation of facilities due to age and overuse, and the relative lack of amenities has begun to negatively impact the visitor experience.

Proposal: Establish appropriate standards for amenities to streamline maintenance activities, including for restrooms, trash cans, tables, and benches. Prioritize replacement of obsolete amenities, and increase quantities as appropriate for visitor demands. Locate amenities in areas that are safe, highly used and easily accessible by visitors and staff.





Trail Standards and Circulation

Objective: The robust trail system facilitates a diversity of quality experiences for visitors of all ages and abilities to enjoy.

Existing Conditions: Trails at Smith Rock were largely created through formalization of climbing and social routes throughout the park. As a result, extended lengths are steeper and narrower than design guidelines recommend, and many trails are now subject to erosion. Few trails in the park meet accessibility standards, and most hiking options include a very steep descent into the river canyon. With only one river crossing, hikers are inclined to traverse longer distances over difficult terrain in order to create loops, which has contributed to increasing emergency response needs. With limited pedestrian connectivity between parking areas and trailheads, people walk significant distances along the road, causing congestion and safety concerns. Wayfinding is provided at official trailheads and junctions, but there remain many unsanctioned social trails that contribute to confusion, erosion, and habitat loss. There is a need to provide a more easily accessible experience of the park's resources.

Proposal: As appropriate, incorporate universal design principles and trail classification standards into development plans, and prioritize developing a barrier-free accessible path along the rim to connect parking areas. Upgrade trail infrastructure to accommodate heavier use, including emergency vehicles. Provide multiple river crossing locations to reduce congestion near the Chute, and diversify trail type and loop options throughout the park.

Access for Dogs, Horses and Bicycles

Objective: These intensive uses are monitored and managed to balance diverse recreation needs and limit adverse impacts to sensitive habitat areas, trails, and other visitors' experiences.

Existing Conditions: Horse use in the park has declined in recent years, while dogs have become more frequent visitors. These four-footed friends can cause significant damage by widening pathways, cutting switchbacks, trampling vegetation, and disturbing wildlife, especially in the riparian areas. Mountain bike use has also significantly increased in the park, and trails were not designed for this intensive use. The park's steep terrain poses safety risks, especially where



trails are narrow and crowded. Horses are restricted from using the footbridge, Summit Trail, and parts of the River and Wolf Tree Trails, while bikes are only restricted from Misery Ridge Trail. Dogs are allowed throughout the park, but many dog owners do not abide by the leash or waste pickup policies, and dogs are at risk of becoming overheated on hot summer days.

Proposal: Consider the various impacts of dogs, horses, and bicycles within the park, and engage user groups to implement appropriate restrictions and enforcement strategies. In particular, limit these intensive uses on steep, narrow trails and in congested areas. Establish appropriate design and etiquette standards where they may be allowed.

Standards for Climbing

Objective: Provide clear and accessible climbing guidelines and expectations that maximize safety, inclusion, and other best practices.

Existing Conditions: Smith Rock is a world-class climbing destination that thousands of people come each season to explore. As with many public outdoor climbing areas across the country, managers rely on user groups to self-police on appropriate equipment and etiquette, as park staff do not necessarily have climbing expertise nor the capacity to regulate this popular recreation activity. Installation of new routes must be approved by the Park Manager, but there is otherwise very little oversight of climbing activities at Smith Rock. With increasing use, there is a more pressing need to communicate expectations and proactively resolve conflicts.

Proposal: Collaborate with user groups and other agencies on a Climbing Management Plan that details appropriate standards for climbing in the park. Procedures should be outlined for creating new routes, leaving various marks and equipment, assumption of risk, and commercial use of specific areas in the park. A Climbing Ranger position is recommended to help educate the public and enforce climbing standards in the park.

Use of Drones and Low-Flying Aircraft

Objective: Limit drones and low-flying aircraft at Smith Rock State Park to minimize impacts to wildlife and visitor experience.

Existing Conditions: Take-off and landing of drones at Smith Rock





is currently prohibited during the raptor nesting seasons. Drones have been used more frequently in the park by both amateurs and professionals in recent years, which has increased potential for conflict with other park users, particularly rock climbers, who could easily be startled or injured while in a precarious position. In some instances, park users have been nearly hit by drones, and falcons and eagles have been known to attack drones flying near nests.

Proposal: Work through official channels to develop appropriate regulations for drone and other aircraft use in the park, whether as part of a statewide effort, or specific to Smith Rock. Evaluate potentially legitimate uses of these instruments in and around the park, and how to best accommodate these activities.

Interpretive Infrastructure and Programming

Objective: The Park's unique ecology and history are communicated to the public in creative and collaborative ways, promoting public stewardship and outdoor recreation etiquette.

Existing Conditions: A yurt located near the Chute trailhead serves as the Welcome Center for the park, which provides information about the geology, vegetation, wildlife, and recreation opportunities, including the history of climbing at Smith Rock. The Park Host currently staffs the center year-round, and volunteers provide a limited number of seasonal education programs. There are also a handful of interpretive signs throughout the park. An Interpretive Plan is currently in development, which includes a new Welcome Center proposal with expanded space for exhibits and group activities.

Proposal: The Interpretive Plan should explore ways to convey educational information about the park, while minimizing visual clutter on the landscape. Continue to collaborate with local schools, tribes, and user groups on content and delivery, with an emphasis on inclusivity. An Interpretive Ranger position is recommended to supplement ongoing volunteer-led programs and provide education to the public about Leave no Trace ethics.



CULTURAL RESOURCES

Protection of Cultural Resources

Objective: Cultural resources within the park are preserved according to OPRD policy and State and Federal regulations.

Existing Conditions: Previous surveys and consultation have identified multiple significant cultural resources at Smith Rock State Park. Cultural resources can include Traditional Cultural Properties, Historic Properties of Religious and Cultural Significance to Indian Tribes, as well as other historic sites and cultural artifacts. Known and unknown cultural resources are susceptible to a variety of impacts that can threaten or damage their integrity, possibly altering eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Impacts can occur from natural processes, including erosion, or from human activities, including for recreation.

Proposal: Conduct surveys to locate cultural resources throughout the park, particularly in areas proposed for public access and development. Evaluate identified resources in accordance with the eligibility criteria for the National Register of Historic Places. Consult with the State Historic Preservation Office and affected Oregon Tribes on all activities or projects that could affect cultural resources within the park. Take appropriate measures to prevent adverse impacts to known cultural resources, and consider interpretive opportunities that would educate visitors about significant park history.





ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

Staffing

Objective: The park has adequate staff to maintain facilities, facilitate programs, and respond to daily public needs and inquiries.

Existing Conditions: Current staffing at the park consists of one Park Manager, two permanent Rangers, one seasonal Ranger, three seasonal Ranger Assistants, and a part-time Park Specialist. Visitor numbers exceed the park capacity at many points throughout the year, requiring staff to operate in “triage mode,” prioritizing immediate safety issues and delaying general maintenance and improvement projects. The park relies on volunteers, including the Park Host, to assist with daily facility upkeep and provide key interpretive programs.

Proposal: Given Smith Rock’s increased popularity, the park would benefit from a full-time Park Specialist and two additional Rangers, including an Interpretive and/or Climbing Ranger, which would significantly improve the visitor services capacity. As new facilities are developed, seasonal staffing needs should be reevaluated.

Administration and Maintenance Facilities

Objective: The park administration and maintenance facilities are kept in good condition, supporting optimal park operations and staff safety.

Existing Conditions: The two park administration buildings were constructed in the 1960s, and are in need of major upgrades. Specifically, the buildings have inefficient heating and cooling systems and a lack of security features to adequately protect property and staff. The buildings do not meet current accessibility standards, and would be difficult to bring into compliance. The maintenance buildings are generally newer, but should be evaluated for their efficacy in supporting increased demands for park maintenance activities.

Proposal: Complete building inspections at regular intervals and take immediate action on any health and safety issues identified. Evaluate budget needs for potential building upgrades, including potential for facility replacement.



Emergency Operations

Objective: The park's procedures for emergency response are documented and actionable by staff, with involvement from other relevant service providers.

Existing Conditions: Park staff regularly respond to emergencies in the park, most often visitors needing medical attention due to injuries or exhaustion. There are also natural hazards that staff must be prepared for, including fires and storms, and altercations that could impact visitor use and safety of the park. These instances usually involve other emergency response personnel from the County, Fire District, Hospital, or other partner organizations. Staff are generally adept in assessing emergencies, but there is no documented protocol for responding in various situations. Access into the park by emergency vehicles is limited in the canyon area, necessitating rescues on foot or by helicopter, in some instances.



Deschutes County Search and Rescue operation at Smith Rock.



Proposal: Develop a readily available contact list of partner service providers, and collaborate on an Emergency Operations Plan that can be implemented by all parties. Improve all-terrain vehicle access throughout the park as feasible.

User Fees and Reservations

Objective: Utilize an online system to coordinate scheduling of group reservations and special uses, with fees charged in accordance with administrative needs and consider implementing a reservation system for some facilities, including parking, to accommodate long-distance travelers.

Existing Conditions: Consistent with many state parks, a day use fee of \$5 is charged for public parking., which is often at capacity during the busy seasons. The primitive Bivouac campground costs \$8 nightly per person, and essentially allows for two days of parking. Fees charged for special use permits are a flat rate plus extra for additional people. All facilities are first-come, first-serve unless a special use permit has been issued, which can include parking and specific use areas. The Bivouac at times becomes “overbooked” when paid campers leave in their cars and lose their parking space to another camper. There is also some difficulty with large groups, including commercial operations, unexpectedly occupying the campground, day use areas, climbing routes, and other facilities for extended periods, severely reducing availability to other users.

Proposal: Retain first-come-first-serve parking and camping options, but consider implementing a reservation system for some facilities throughout the park to accommodate long-distance travelers and large groups. Develop an online reservation and permitting system to streamline communications between visitors and park staff, particularly in the case of large group events and commercial activities. Evaluate fees and management at the Bivouac campground, and add designated group camp areas.

Partnerships

Objective: Park managers work collaboratively with the tribes, community organizations and adjacent land managers in planning and implementation of interpretation, development, trail improvement, and habitat restoration projects.



Existing Conditions: Given the limited capacity of park staff, managers have always welcomed opportunities to partner with community members on important projects. The park has a strong relationship with the Smith Rock Group and High Desert Climbers Alliance, whose members regularly volunteer to maintain and improve hiking and climbing trails. Staff also work with agencies including ODFW, USFWS, USFS and BLM on land management projects to preserve wildlife habitat and provide recreation services. Establishing a Friends Group has been of interest to enhance the park's ability to provide needed facilities and services.

Proposal: Continue to collaborate with partners on projects within the park, including planning efforts for climbing management, interpretation, and emergency operations. Engage with USFS and BLM on regional recreation planning efforts, particularly in the Crooked River Grasslands and on public lands adjacent to the park. Explore establishing a Friends Group.



4 DEVELOPMENT CONCEPTS



Photo by Marcia Volk



DESIGN INTENT

The Smith Rock State Park Master Plan provides a 20-year vision, with development proposals aimed at improving the visitor experience and alleviating managerial challenges. The plan seeks to provide more opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to enjoy the park, without spoiling the natural, minimally-developed quality that existing users highly value. These proposals can be implemented over time to accommodate present and future use, while preserving and enhancing the park's unique natural and cultural resources. Development concepts are proposed in five main focus areas of the park, and address key issues including crowding, circulation, interpretation and wayfinding, parking, and site utilities.

Crowding

Since the last Master Plan was adopted in 1991, annual park visitation has tripled from just over 300,000 people to over a million visitors in 2021. This dramatic increase has resulted in the park operating at full capacity much of the year, as evidenced by congestion and landscape degradation in key areas, particularly at the Chute, the footbridge, and the Bivouac Campground.

This plan addresses crowding issues by shifting the intensive-use areas away from Crooked River Drive, diversifying trail options, and planning for increased capacity in each focus area. The plan proposes a new Welcome Center, additional restrooms, accessible trails, group picnic areas, and reconfigured parking, with improved wayfinding to help orient visitors to appropriate areas of the park.

Circulation

As indicated by the visitor survey, hiking and walking are the most popular activities for park visitors. However, trails leading into and out of the canyon are all very steep, limiting participation and increasing the risk of illness or injury for many park users. With only one bridge facilitating access to the north side of the canyon, looping trail options are limited, and there is frequent congestion at the footbridge.

This plan addresses trail circulation challenges by proposing an accessible trail system along the rim and into the canyon, which will connect the new Welcome Center and North Point. Two new bridges are also proposed to reduce congestion along the river corridor

and provide more trail looping options in the canyon. Prioritizing development of sustainable, accessible trails will ideally reduce injuries and improve emergency access in the park.

Interpretation and Wayfinding

The current placement of park entry monuments and trail signage creates orientation challenges for many park visitors. Along with improved site design at the focus areas, there is a need to incorporate consistent and effective wayfinding monuments, trail maps, route signage, and interpretive infrastructure parkwide. The focus areas are designed to relocate trailheads and day-use activity centers farther from parking areas to safer, more appropriate locations. Heavy use is consolidated around the new Welcome Center, providing opportunities for creative wayfinding and interpretive installations.

Parking

Limited parking availability and the lack of pedestrian connectivity between day-use parking areas are significant challenges for both visitors and park managers. On busy weekends, visitors often circle parking areas multiple times and even wait in the roadway for parking spaces to become available. Once parked, people are forced to walk along the road adjacent to parked cars to access desired amenities, which causes congestion and safety issues.

In order to reduce pedestrian and vehicular conflicts, this plan proposes removing all roadside parking and consolidating off-street parking within the focus areas, prioritizing the new Welcome Center area. The maximum quantity of parking proposed is aligned with the visitor capacity of the park and provides for controlled access and future expansion areas as needed. These strategies ultimately aim to create a safer environment within the park and along Crooked River Drive, for neighbors and visitors alike.

Utilities

Due to the aging condition of most facilities at Smith Rock State Park, there is a need to assess and upgrade the utility systems serving each focus area. The potable water supply is sourced from a single well on the west side of Crooked River Drive, which has capacity for 15,000 gallons per day. There are separate septic drain fields for each permanent restroom and the administration buildings in the park.



Photo by Marcia Volk



This plan proposes to add new restrooms at North Point, the Overflow Parking area, Welcome Center, and Bivouac Campground, where showers will also be included. Existing restrooms and utilities will remain at the Chute parking area and Bivouac Campground. Electrical improvements near parking lots should be sized to accommodate future electric vehicle charging capacity and other green energy technologies.

DEVELOPMENT FOCUS AREAS

Park master plans are intended, among other things, to identify key facility improvements and guide future uses of parkland. Figure 11 is the Development Concepts Overview Map for the park and lists proposed improvements for each detailed focus area.

The concepts were developed through an iterative planning process that incorporated input from many sources, as described in previous chapters of this plan. The focus areas address some of the most highly used areas of the park, including: A. North Point, B. Overflow Parking, C. The Chute Parking, D. Welcome Center, E. Bivouac Campground, and the Trail System.

PARKING AREA	EXISTING QUANTITY	PROPOSED QUANTITY
North Point	35	85
Overflow Parking	125	100
NE Crooked River Dr. (Parallel)	60	0
NE Crooked River Dr. (Head-in North)	60	0
NE Crooked River Dr. (Head-in South)	50	0
The Chute Parking	0	100
Welcome Center	92	215
TOTAL DAY-DAY USE PARKING SPACES	422	500
Bivouac Campground	50	60
TOTAL PARKING SPACES	472	560

Figure 10: Parking Table

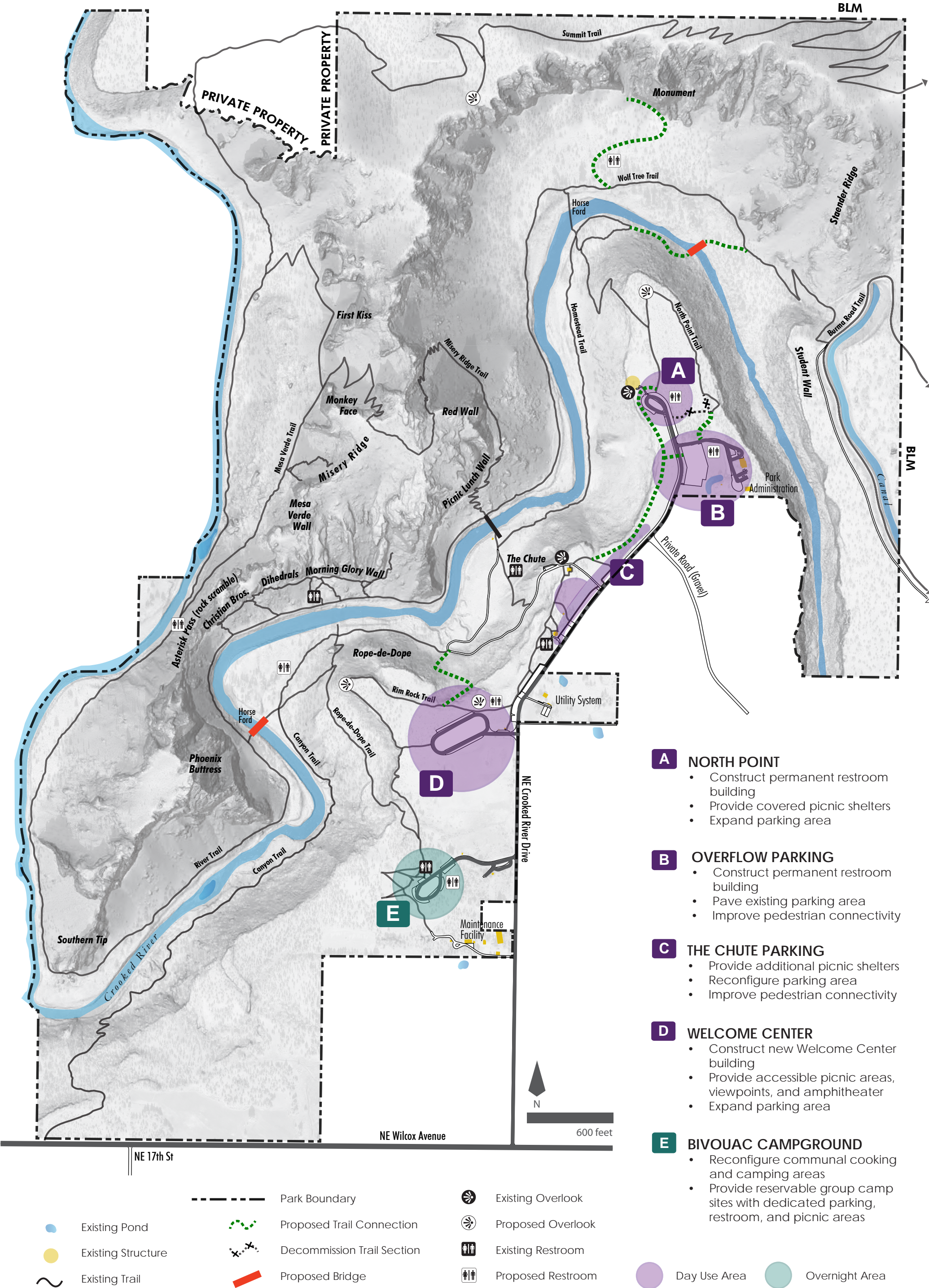


Figure 11: Development Concepts Overview Map

A. North Point

North Point is located at the terminus of Crooked River Drive and offers a panoramic view of the unique rock formations overlooking the river. This area features a parking lot, fee station, seasonal portable toilets, a small amphitheater, short walking loop along the rim, and access to the canyon via the Homestead Trail.

The plan proposes to remove the existing head-in parking and develop a new off-street parking lot within the park property. Proposed day-use amenities include a permanent restroom, picnic shelters, improved wayfinding, accessibility improvements to the amphitheater, and interpretive signage. To contain the development areas and minimize associated impacts to the natural habitat, fencing and landscape restoration are also recommended.



Figure 12: North Point Existing Conditions



Development Recommendations

- A1** Improve trailhead and trail connections throughout focus area
- A2** Provide additional picnic shelters, including covered group areas
- A3** Construct a permanent restroom building
- A4** Improve ADA access at existing amphitheater
- A5** Construct off-street asphalt parking lot with approximately 85 spaces (77 standard, 6 ADA, and 2 RV)
- A6** Restore habitat within parking lot islands, along the roadway, and at decommissioned trails
- A7** Improve wayfinding signage at new trailhead location, including interpretive kiosk

- Rimrock
- Existing Trail
- Decommission Trail
- Proposed Trail Connection
- Existing Amphitheater
- Proposed Picnic Shelters and Restroom
- Landscape Area

- Cost estimate: \$2 million
- See Ch-5 for permitting requirements

Figure 13: North Point Focus Area

B. Overflow Parking

The Overflow Parking area is an existing gravel lot about 200 feet south of North Point, with space for approximately 126 cars. This area is closed seasonally to reduce erosion and wear on the gravel surface. Given the high level of park use throughout the year, it would be beneficial to formalize this parking area with improved drainage and asphalt surfacing.

The plan proposes to improve the overflow lot in its existing footprint, maintaining the single vehicular access point off Crooked River Drive. Pedestrian connectivity and accessibility will be improved across the road and along the Rimrock Trail toward both the Welcome Center and North Point. A permanent restroom and registration kiosk with wayfinding and interpretive elements will be provided, with controlled gate access implemented if needed. A vegetated berm is also recommended to provide a visual separation between the parking area and neighboring residents to the south.



Figure 14: Overflow Parking Existing Conditions



Development Recommendations

- B1** Pave existing gravel lot with approximately 100 spaces (92 standard, 6 ADA, and 2 RV)
- B2** Provide pedestrian connectivity across Crooked River Drive to the Rimrock Trail
- B3** Upgrade Park Administration building
- B4** Construct a permanent restroom building
- B5** Provide connection to North Point Trail
- B6** Restore habitat within parking lot islands, along the roadway, and in areas disturbed by construction
- B7** Include wayfinding and interpretive signage

- Rimrock
- Park Boundary
- Proposed Trail Connection
- Existing Structure
- Proposed Restroom
- Landscape Area
- Existing Pond

- **Cost estimate: \$800,000**
- See Ch-5 for permitting requirements

Figure 15: Overflow Parking Focus Area

C. The Chute Parking

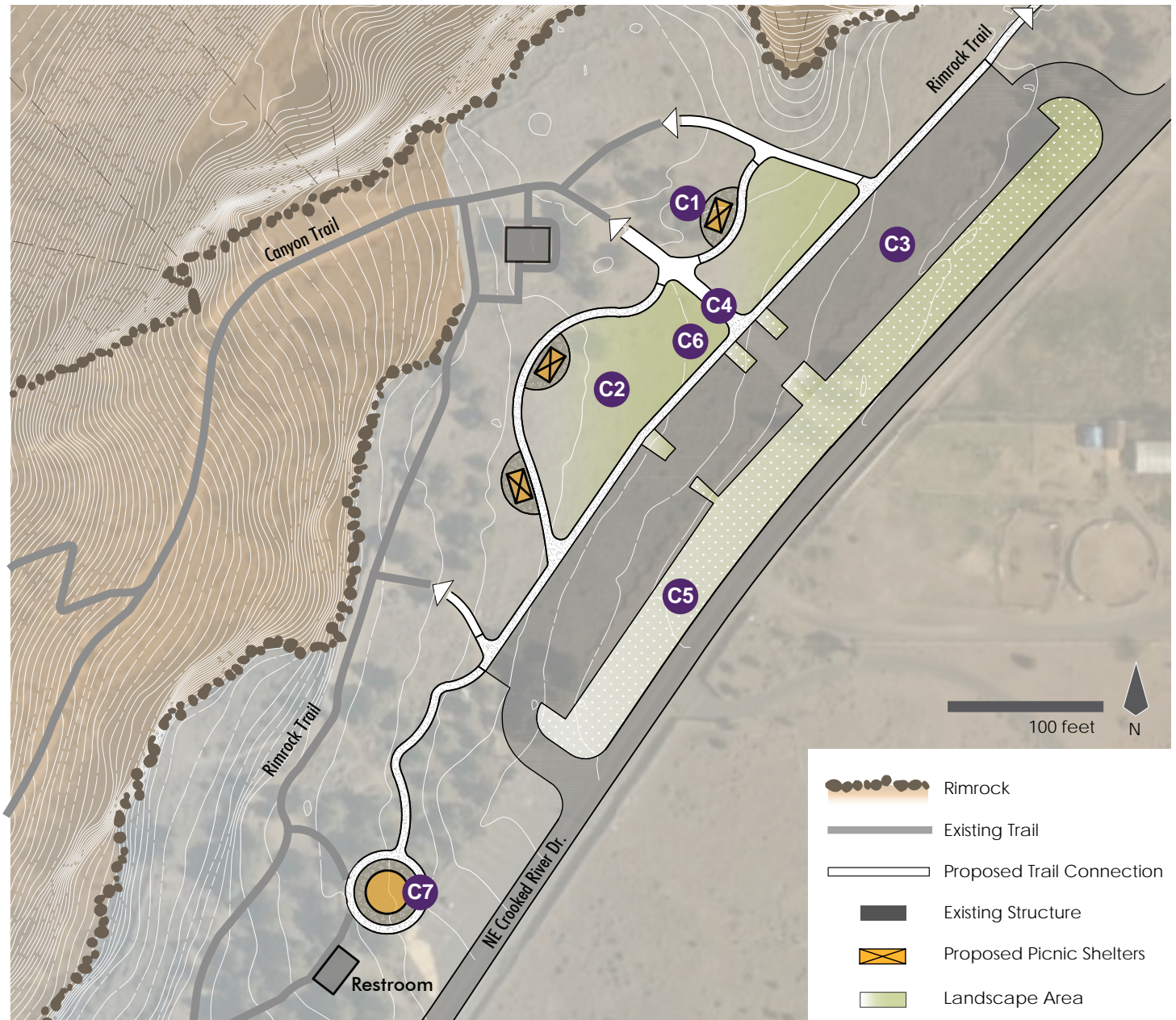
The Chute is the busiest area of the park, providing the most direct access to the footbridge and the hiking and climbing routes on the north side of the canyon. This area has a number of popular day-use facilities, including the existing Welcome Center yurt and the irrigated lawn area nearby. Highly-used picnic tables are scattered throughout this vicinity, but there is only one shelter, and limited space for large groups to reliably convene. The Chute also provides the only emergency vehicle access down into the canyon within the park. Head-in and parallel parking are located along Crooked River Drive for about a half-mile, causing congestion and safety issues.

This plan proposes to eliminate all of the on-street, parallel and head-in parking, instead providing an access-controlled parking lot parallel to Crooked River Drive. The new parking area will have separate entry and exit points, and include a buffered landscape strip along the road. The plan also proposes additional picnic shelters and expansion of the irrigated lawn area to support group activities. The Welcome Center is proposed to be relocated farther from the road and accessed by an expanded existing parking area just south of the Chute (See D. Welcome Center).

- ① Canyon Trail
- ② Overlook
- ③ Picnic Shelter
- ④ Trailhead
- ⑤ Parallel Parking (60)
- ⑥ Head-In South Parking (50)
- ⑦ Play Structure
- ⑧ Picnic Area
- ⑨ Restroom
- ⑩ Welcome Center Yurt
- ⑪ Pay Station
- ⑫ Head-In North Parking (60)
- ⑬ NE Crooked River Dr.



Figure 16: The Chute Existing Conditions



Development Recommendations

- C1** Provide accessible picnic tables, including group picnic shelters
 - C2** Expand landscape area for flexible uses
 - C3** Replace head-in parking with paved, off-street lot with approximately 100 spaces (95 standard, 5 ADA)
 - C4** Improve trailhead and trail connections throughout focus area
 - C5** Restore habitat within parking lot islands, along the roadway, and in areas disturbed by construction
 - C6** Improve wayfinding signage and interpretive elements, including community board
 - C7** Replace the existing Welcome Center Yurt with an open pavilion
- **Cost estimate: \$1.5 million**
 - See Ch-5 for permitting requirements

Figure 17: The Chute Focus Area

D. Welcome Center

The new Welcome Center area is designed to be the primary location where visitors arrive and get introduced to the park's resources. The Welcome Center building, which will replace the yurt currently located at the Chute, will include a small gift shop, interpretive exhibits, office and meeting rooms, and restroom facilities. There will also be a covered courtyard, with pathways leading to accessible viewpoints and group gathering areas, including a small amphitheater. The building style will maximize views and minimize impacts to the landscape, using durable materials in natural colors.

Improved trails are also proposed along the rim and into the canyon from the Welcome Center, with the intent of providing a quick, engaging, and accessible experience of the park. A comprehensive wayfinding and interpretive plan will be implemented at this location to provide a high level of service to visitors.

The existing 92-space parking area in this location is proposed to be reconfigured and expanded to accommodate larger vehicles and buses, with room for bus drop-off and possible future shuttle service.

- ① Parking (92)
- ② Trailhead
- ③ Head-In South Parking (50)
- ④ Drainfield
- ⑤ Pay Station
- ⑥ Entrance Sign
- ⑦ NE Crooked River Dr.



Figure 18: Welcome Center Existing Conditions

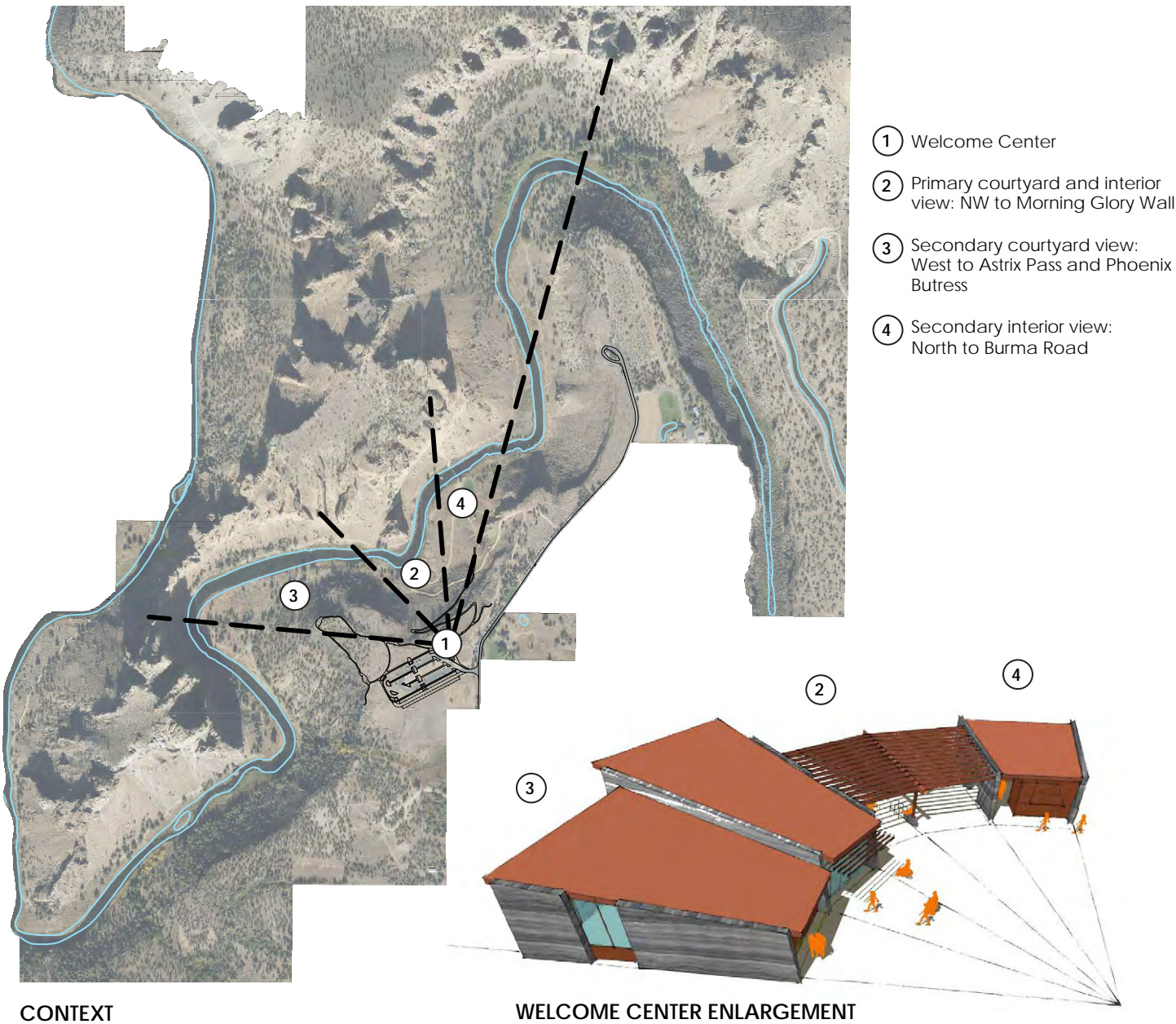


Figure 19: Welcome Center Viewshed

Development Recommendations

- D1** Expand and reconfigure existing parking lot to accommodate approximately 215 spaces (200 standard, 8 ADA, 7 RV)
- D2** Construct a new 2,500 square foot Welcome Center and restrooms
- D3** Improve the Rimrock Trail with accessible seating, viewpoints and interpretive elements
- D4** Improve trailhead and accessible trail circulation throughout the focus area
- D5** Develop comprehensive wayfinding and interpretive plan for this high-use area
- D6** Construct a new accessible amphitheater
- D7** Upgrade utilities, including potable water, electric service, and sanitary drainfield
- D8** Restore habitat within parking lot islands, along the roadway, and in areas disturbed by construction



Figure 20: Welcome Center Perspective

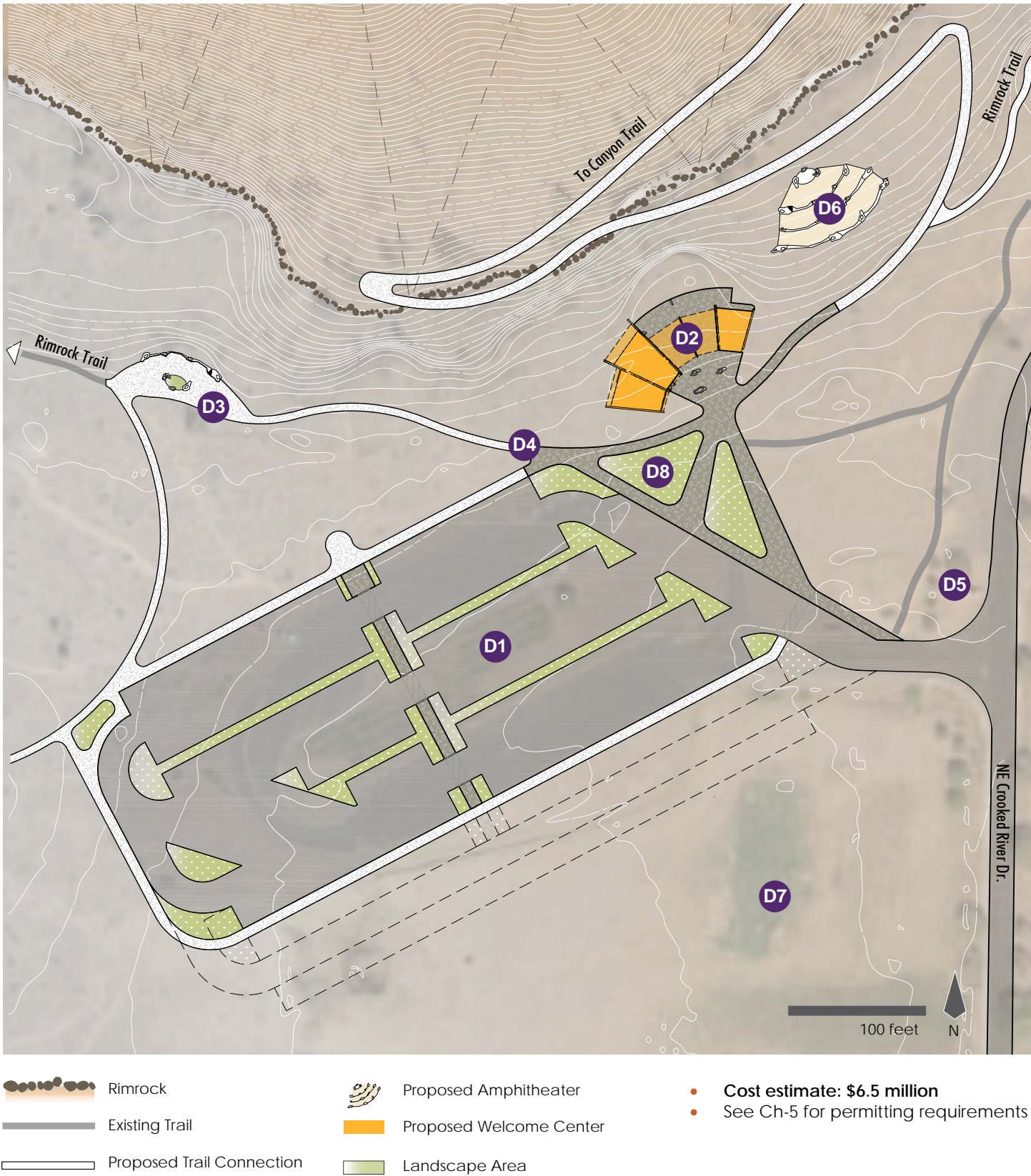


Figure 21: Welcome Center Focus Area

E. Bivouac Campground

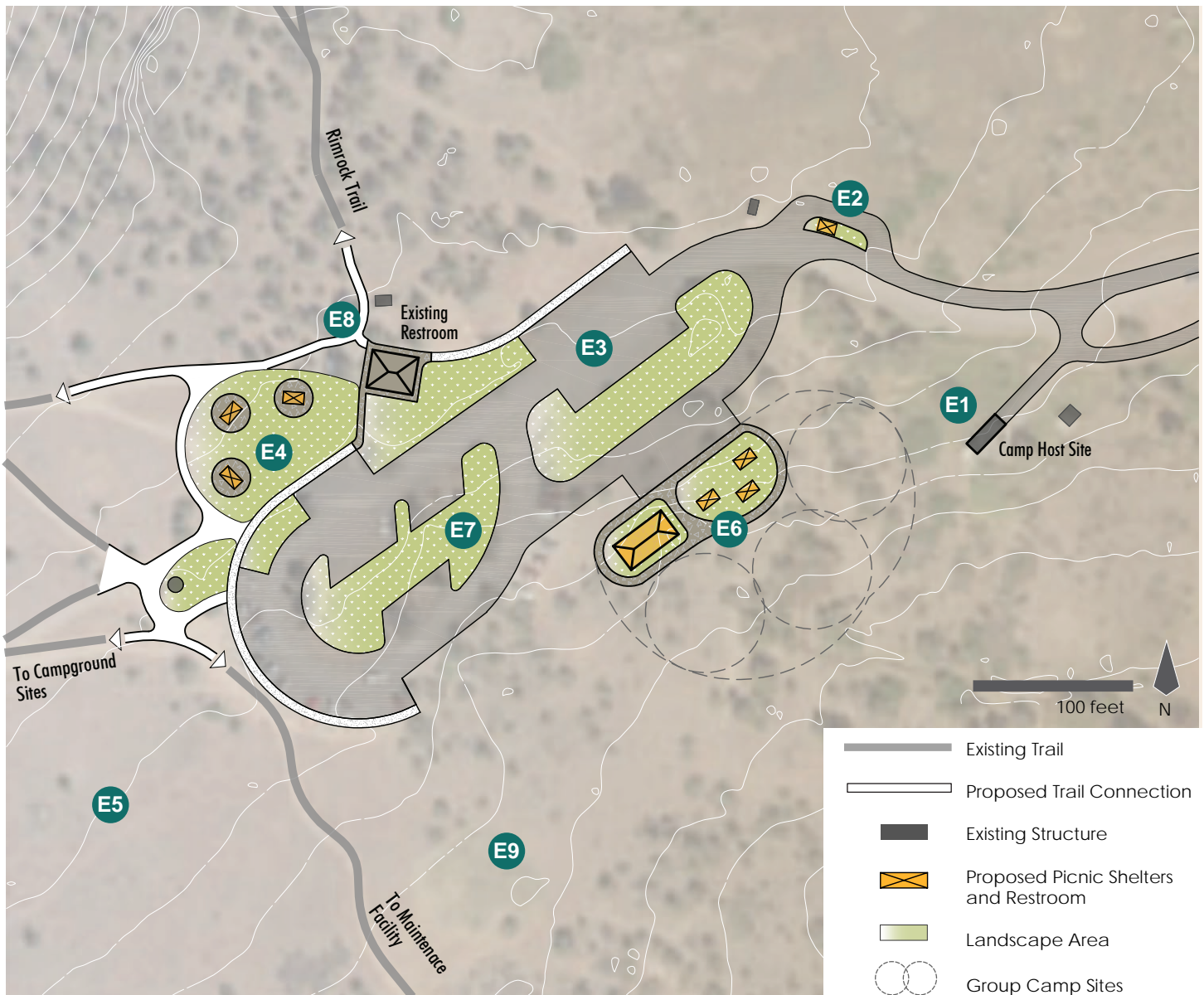
The Bivouac Campground, commonly referred to as the “Bivy,” is the only overnight-use area in the park, with exclusively first-come first-served, walk-in camping. The Bivy is located off Crooked River Drive south of the day use areas, tucked into the juniper woodland at the end of a long driveway. There is currently a dedicated Camp Host site to support the 50-space parking area, with associated fee station, trailhead, restroom and shower facility, and communal cooking area.

The plan proposes to add three group camp areas that would ideally be available for advance reservations. The group camp area includes dedicated parking spaces, a new restroom and shower facility, and additional picnic shelters. Other improvements include minor adjustments to the general parking layout, expanded camping and cooking locations, and a new registration kiosk with improved wayfinding and interpretive signage.

- ① Existing camping
- ② Shower & Restroom
- ③ Cooking Area
- ④ Parking (50)
- ⑤ Pay Station
- ⑥ Camp Host Site



Figure 22: Bivouac Campground Existing Conditions



Development Recommendations

- E1** Maintain the existing host access road and site.
 - E2** Provide a new kiosk for camp reservations, check-in, and camping policies
 - E3** Reconfigure parking to accommodate 60 spaces (55 standard, 5 ADA)
 - E4** Relocate cooking area outside of the parking lot and include shade structures.
 - E5** Consolidate walk-in camp sites away from rimrock
 - E6** Construct three new group camp areas with dedicated cooking shelters, restroom and shower building, and parking for approximately 8 vehicles (6 standard, 2 ADA)
 - E7** Restore habitat within parking lot islands, along the roadway, and in areas disturbed by construction
 - E8** Improve trailhead with wayfinding and interpretive signage
 - E9** Upgrade utilities for the new restroom and shower building
- **Cost estimate: \$2.8 million**
 - See Ch-5 for permitting requirements

Figure 23: Bivouac Campground Focus Area

TRAIL SYSTEM

As described in the 2017 Trail Assessment Report, the existing trail system has many sustainability issues resulting from poor design and increasing usage. With the lack of accessible hiking options, looping trail networks, and emergency vehicle access, there is a need to improve trail standards and circulation parkwide and implement a wayfinding and signage plan to improve the visitor experience and safety.

Figure 25 outlines the proposed standards for various trails throughout the park, to be implemented over time as opportunities arise. This plan proposes a number of trail improvement projects within each focus area and beyond:

- T1** Extend the Rimrock Trail from the Chute to North Point to improve circulation and provide easier hiking opportunities along the rim
- T2** Improve accessibility along the Rimrock trail from the Chute to the Bivouac Campground with viewpoints, seating, and interpretation
- T3** Develop a barrier-free trail from the new Welcome Center into the canyon, improving access for hikers, park management, and emergency vehicles
- T4** Construct additional bridges across the Crooked River at North Point and Phoenix Butte to provide more loop options
- T5** Improve River Trail for maintenance and emergency access
- T6** Formalize trail access from Wolf Tree Trail to the Monument Wall climbing area (Subject to further monitoring of Golden Eagle nesting activity in the area)
- T7** Improve Misery Ridge and Mesa Verde Trails to remove obstacles, reduce slopes, and upgrade structures where feasible
- T8** Manage lower section of Canyon Trail to prioritize wildlife habitat considerations
- T9** Connect North Point Trail to the Overflow Parking and decommission the existing connection

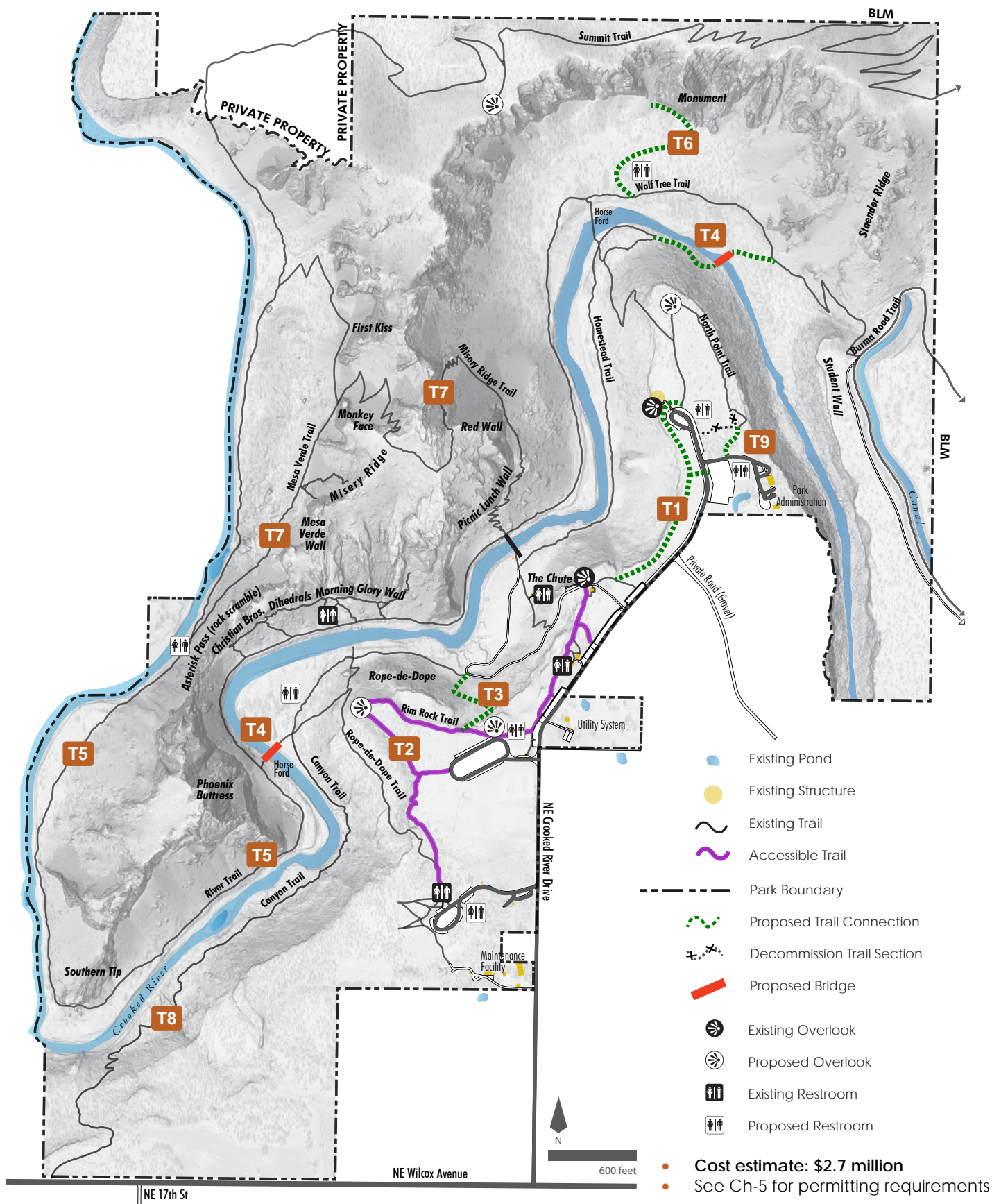


Figure 24: Trail System Project Map






Difficulty Level	Easiest 	Easy 	Moderate 	Difficult 	Very Difficult 
Proposed Trails	Rimrock Trail	Canyon, River, Wolf Tree Trails	Homestead, Mesa Verde, Summit, Rope-de-Dope Trails	The Chute	Misery Ridge
Tread width	60-96"	60-72"	36-60"	24-36"	12 - 36"
Shoulder Width	12" per side	12" per side	12" per side	6" per side	6 - 12" per side
Tread Materials	Paved, amended/compacted crushed stone surface (<1/2")	Paved, amended/compacted natural surface	Natural surface with amendments as necessary	Natural surface (native soils) with rock and some loose material possible	Native soil with significant rock, loose material common
Average Grade	2 to 5%	<5%	<7%	<10%	15% or greater
Maximum Grade	up to 8%	up to 10% for 30 feet	up to 12% for 10 feet	up to 20% for short distances	25% common for long distances
Cross Slope	1 to 2%	1 to 2%	3 to 4%	3 to 7%	3 to 7%
Tread Roughness	Low, generally smooth and even. No protrusions	Moderate, some rock or root protrusions <1/2" above trail tread	Moderate, some rock or root protrusions <2" above trail tread	Moderate, some rock and root protrusions <6" above trail tread	High, regular protrusions up to 12"
Notes	Maximum grade is only allowable with ramps and handrails. Related Standard: ADA	Width should comply with OPRD Accessibility Standards. Related Standard: ABA Outdoor Recreation Access Routes	Width should comply with OPRD Accessibility Standards or provide passing zones and landings intermittently as needed. Related Standard: ABA Trails	Cross slope increases proportionate to longitudinal slope. May include steps. Related Standard: USFS Hiker Trail 2	Cross slope increases proportionate to longitudinal slope. May include steps. Related Standard: USFS Hiker Trail 1

Figure 25: Trail Design Standards

5 PERMIT REVIEW

MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Each project proposed in the Smith Rock Master Plan may trigger a variety of permit review types, including for local, state, and federal regulations. The development concepts are preliminary, and will need significant further study and final design in order to be built. The permitting process helps each concept take shape in a manner that is legal and acceptable by all applicable standards, often providing opportunities for public input. In the case of Smith Rock, the applicable jurisdictions are Deschutes County, and various State and Federal Agencies.

LAND USE AUTHORITY

Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) describe the master planning criteria that OPRD must follow in amending existing state park master plans under OAR 736 Division 18. A key thread through the criteria is agency coordination, including requirements for consultation with numerous state and federal agencies, and with local governments (OAR 736-018-0028). Development of the park facilities described in the plan is regulated under the provisions of the Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan.

DESCHUTES COUNTY

Zoning

Title 18 of the Deschutes County Code (DCC) details zoning regulations that apply to Smith Rock State Park. The park is generally designated Open Space and Conservation (OS&C) with small areas of Multi-Use Agriculture (MUA) and Exclusive Farm Use -Terrebonne Subzone (EFU-TE) located along the southern boundary. The park also includes areas within the Landscape Management Zone (LM), the Wildlife Area Combining Zone (WA), the Sensitive Bird and Mammal Habitat Combining Zone (SBMH) and the Flood Plain Zone (FP). The entire park is within a Wildfire Hazard Zone.

Figure 26 shows the base zoning for Smith Rock State Park, and Figure 27 shows the applicable combining zones. Development considerations are described in further detail for each zone.

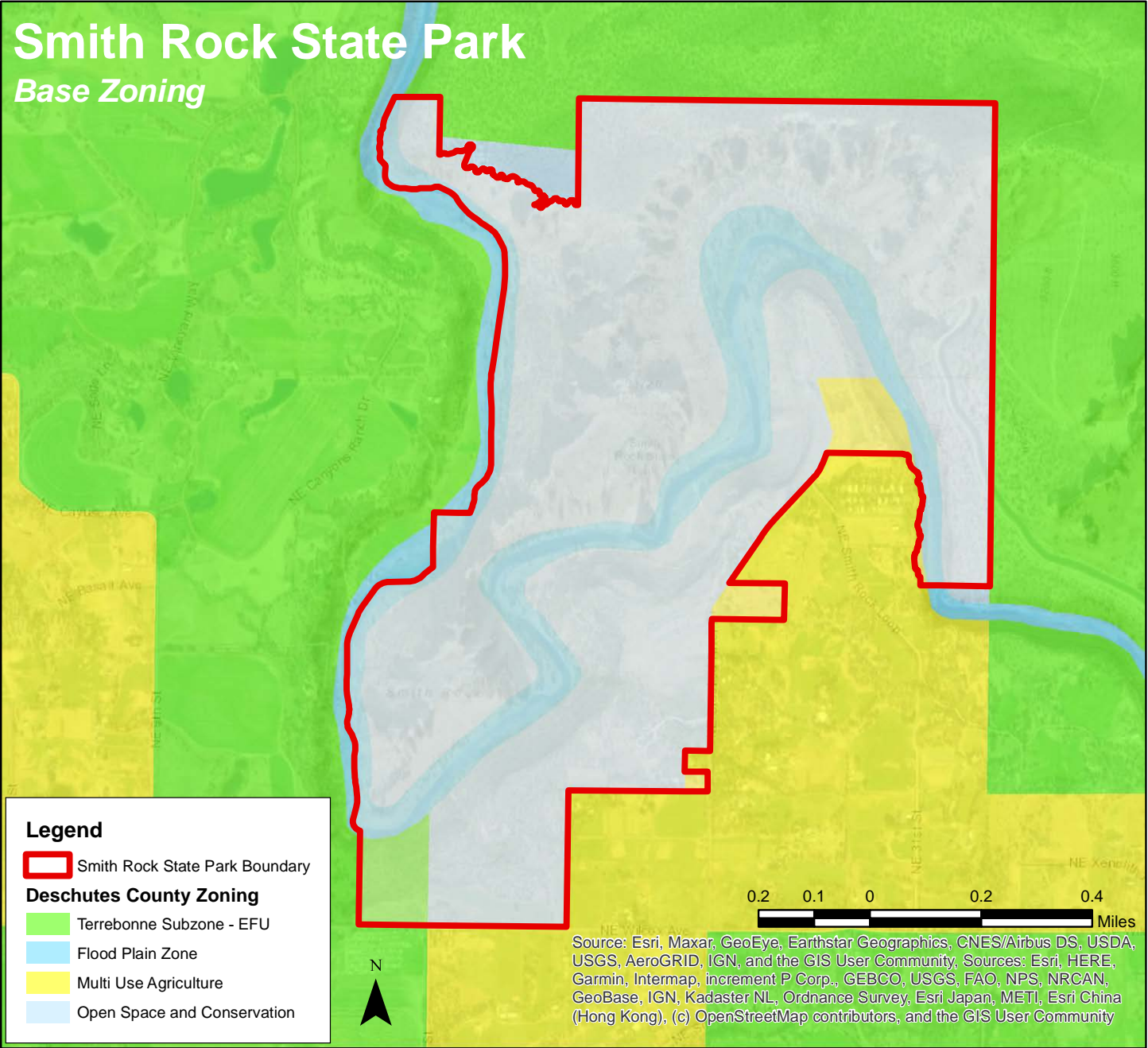


Figure 26: Deschutes Base Zoning Map

Open Space and Conservation Zone (OS&C)

The OS&C zone: 1) protects designated areas of scenic and natural resources; 2) restricts development in areas with fragile, unusual or unique qualities; 3) protects and improves the quality of the air, water and land resources; and 4) plans development that will conserve open space. Deschutes County recognizes Smith Rock State Park as an established public park, adopted in its Comprehensive Plan. Amendments to the master plan and associated park improvements that are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan do not trigger conditional use (CU) review, and park development in the OS&C zone is generally allowed as an expansion of the “public parks and recreational areas” use.

There are four specific uses (or use expansions) proposed in the master plan that may require CU review in the OS&C zone:

- Welcome Center
- Excavation, grading, fill, and vegetation removal within the banks of a river or within a delineated wetland, including new pedestrian bridges.
- Campgrounds and alterations of existing campgrounds that would amount to approval of a “substantially new proposal”
- Rimrock Trail extension and new trail into canyon

Whether or not a project requires conditional review, all park improvements developed as part of the master plan update will require administrative land use review, including site plan review, prior to construction.

Multiple Use Agriculture (MUA)

The MUA zone allows “public uses,” campgrounds, and other recreational uses as conditional uses (DCC 18.32.030). Structures are limited to 30 feet in height. Setbacks from NE Crooked River Drive are 30 feet, CRD is LM zone with 100 ft setback, side setbacks are 20 feet, and rear setbacks are 25 feet. Setbacks from the north lot line must meet solar setback requirements in DCC 18.116.180. The overflow parking and any new park development in the MUA zone will require conditional use, site plan, and potential variance reviews.

Exclusive Farm Use (EFU)-Terrebonne Subzone (TE)

The EFU zone is an agricultural zone that allows public parks and playgrounds as conditional uses (DCC 18.16.030). The southwest corner of the park and part of the Canyon Trail is within the EFU-Terrebonne Subzone. New trails proposed in the EFU zone will require site plan review and a conditional use permit.

Landscape Management Combining Zone (LM)

The LM zone maintains scenic and natural resources in LM designated areas, and maintains and enhances scenic vistas and natural landscapes as seen from designated roads, rivers, and streams. At Smith Rock State Park, the Crooked River is a designated LM river, and NE Crooked River Drive is a designated LM road, which requires a 100-foot building setback from these features.

As shown in Figure 27. LM zone development criteria, a large portion of the park is within the LM zone, and as such, almost all of the proposed development concepts will need to comply with the building setback criteria.

Wildlife Area Combining Zone (WA)

The Wildlife Area Combining Zone (WA) conserves and protects important wildlife areas in the County and allows development compatible with wildlife protection. Areas north of the Crooked River within the park have been identified as winter deer range and therefore are part of the WA zone.

Sensitive Bird and Mammal Habitat Combining Zone (SBMH)

The SBMH zone aims to ensure that sensitive habitat areas identified in the County's Goal 5 Sensitive Bird and Mammal Inventory as critical for the survival of certain sensitive species are protected from the effects of conflicting uses. According to the Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan, the park has seven inventoried golden eagle nests and one prairie falcon nest that are protected by the SBMH zone. For projects proposed within a quarter mile of an identified nest, building permits, conditional use permits, or site plan applications will trigger additional review under DCC 18.90.

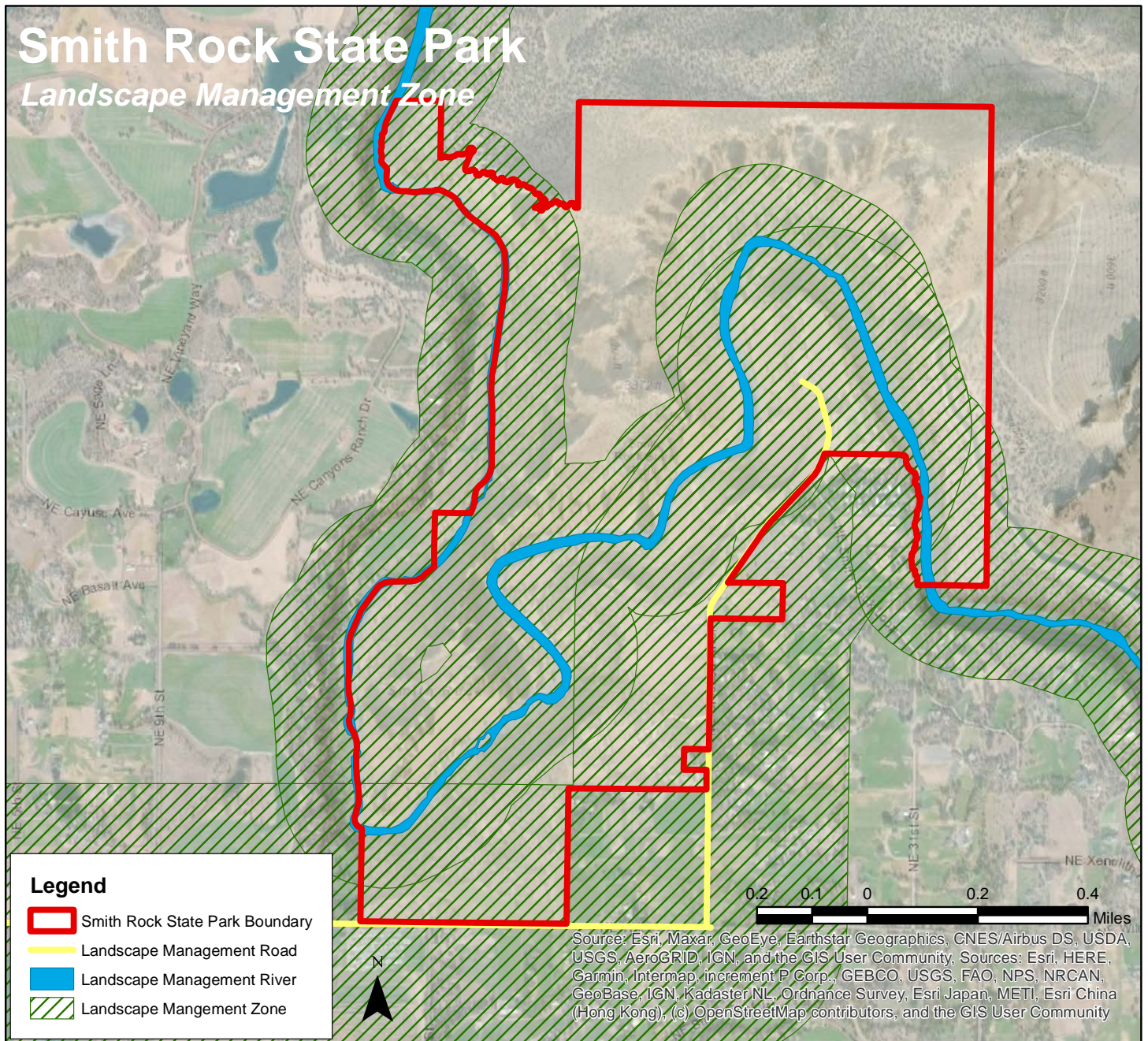


Figure 27: Deschutes County Combining Zone Map

Flood Plain Zone (FP)

The FP zone is designed to protect the public from hazards associated with flood plains, to conserve important riparian areas along rivers and streams for fish and wildlife resources, and to preserve significant scenic and natural resources. The 100-year flood plain along the Crooked River is subject to Flood Plain (FP) zone standards. Developments including roadways, bridges, grading, excavation, fill, and vegetation removal all would require FP review.

ADDITIONAL DESCHUTES COUNTY REGULATIONS

Off-Street Parking and Loading

- County off-street parking standards are contained in DCC 18.116.030(G).
- Parking lots have minimum landscaping requirements, listed in DCC 18.124.070.B
- Bicycle parking standards DCC 18.116.031

Rimrock Setbacks Outside of the LM Combining Zone

Outside of the LM Zone, all structures located within 50 feet of rimrock are subject to site review if visible from a river or stream. Site review standards are listed in DCC 18.116.160. Proposed development such as the Welcome Center is subject to the LM setback.

Building Setbacks for the Protection of Solar Access

Deschutes County has a passive solar code (DCC 18.116.180) that requires new structures to be sited so that they do not block the sun from falling on adjacent properties.

Right-of-Way Permits

The only public right-of-way (ROW) within Smith Rock State Park is NE Crooked River Drive. All work within County roadways, including construction of underground pipelines, will require a ROW permit approved by the Deschutes County Road Department. Any permanent changes to the affected roadway, including new access points, must comply with Deschutes County Road Department standards.

Wastewater Treatment

An approved wastewater treatment and disposal system is required for the new Welcome Center and all plumbed restrooms proposed in the

park. Septic location approval is required for building expansion or new structures (DCC 13.08.030). Wastewater treatment systems must be designed according to Deschutes County standards and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulations.

Stormwater

Drainage facility guidelines for Deschutes County are found in the Central Oregon Stormwater Manual (COSM) (DCC 17.48.190). The COSM outlines minimum design requirements and standards for stormwater management systems in Central Oregon, including erosion and sediment control. A stormwater permit meeting the COSM requirements will need to be approved by Deschutes County.

Wildfire Hazard Zones

The County Building and Construction Code (Title 15) addresses Wildfire Hazard Zones (DCC 15.04.085). The entirety of Smith Rock State Park is within a Wildfire Hazard Zone. Activities within this zone are subject to the provisions of the Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Section R327 of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code. These provisions only apply to new dwellings and their accessory structures; therefore, they should not affect planned development for the park.

Deschutes County Building Permits

Nearly all construction requires a County building permit, approved by the Deschutes County Building Department. Relevant exceptions include fences and walls, trails, pedestrian bridges, certain small structures and driveways. Separate plumbing, electrical, and mechanical permits may also be required, as applicable. Land use approval, onsite septic, and driveway access must be addressed prior to building permit application approval.

Deschutes County land use review and development permits are needed for many of the proposed projects in the updated master plan, to ensure compliance with the applicable zoning code. Because the park is composed of over 20 parcels, zoning standards and permitting criteria may vary across adjacent parcels within the park. Applicable zoning, land use, and building permit reviews anticipated for each project are outlined in Figure 28.

Proposed Development	LU Review	Building Permit	Applicable Zones
Welcome Center	Site Plan, LM Application, Conditional Use Review	Yes	OS&C, LM, (Unlikely to qualify as a Modification of Approval (DCC 22.36.040) based on prior land use decisions.)
Chute Area Parking	Site Plan	Yes	OS&C, LM, SBMH
North Point Parking	Site Plan, CUP (any portion in MUA)	Yes	OS&C, SBMH, MUA, LM
Overflow Parking	Site Plan, Conditional Use Review	Yes	MUA, LM
North Point Restroom	Site Plan, LM Application	Yes	OS&C, SBMH, LM, MUA (depends on location)
Chute Area Restroom	Site Plan, LM Application	Yes	OS&C, LM, SBMH
Pedestrian Bridges	Site Plan, Conditional Use Review	No	OS&C, FP, LM, SBMH, (possible FEMA coordination)
Bivouac Campground and Group Sites	Site Plan, Conditional Use Review, or Modification of Approval, LM	No	OS&C, LM, (May qualify as a Modification of Approval, see DCC 22.36.040.)
Bivouac Campground Restroom/Shower Building	Site Plan, Conditional Use Review, or Modification of Approval, LM	Yes	OS&C, LM
Barrier-free Rim Trail	Site Plan, Conditional Use Review, or Modification of Approval (if applicable)	No	OS&C, SBMH, LM

Figure 28: Permitting Summary Table

STATE AND FEDERAL

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 1200-C Construction Stormwater General Permit

DEQ issues the 1200-C permit to regulate stormwater runoff from construction activities that affect surface waters of the State. If any construction project disturbs more than one acre, or adds over 5,000 sq. ft. of impervious surface, a DEQ National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) 1200-C General Construction Permit is required. Construction of new parking areas, large buildings, and entrance roads are likely meet this threshold.

Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) Removal-Fill / United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 Joint Permit

Oregon's Removal-Fill Law (ORS 196.795-990) requires any person who plans to remove or place fill material within wetlands and other "waters of the State" to obtain a Removal-Fill permit from DSL, reviewed concurrently with the USACE under the Clean Water Act.

Delineation of wetlands and other waters of the State is generally performed early in design development, once a study area for the project has been defined. The study area should include all areas directly affected by permanent and temporary impacts, including areas temporarily disturbed by construction for staging, storage, and ingress/egress. A wetland determination to document the absence of wetland resources can be performed in situations where the National Wetlands Inventory, County soil survey, and other documentation do not suggest the presence of regulated wetland resources. There are mapped wetlands within the park and if impacted by development projects, a formal delineation must be performed to facilitate design development and consideration of alternatives.

OPRD ADA Transition Plan

The 2021 OPRD ADA Transition Plan¹ identifies accessibility barriers within parks and park programs for people with disabilities, and provides a roadmap for removing them within the next 25 years. Every Oregon State Park was surveyed to identify barriers and propose remediation strategies. Barriers can range from inaccessible picnic

1. The 2021 ADA Transition Plan can be downloaded here:
<https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/ao/pages/au-accessibility.aspx>

areas and restroom facilities, to parking lots without designated accessible parking. Proposed remediation strategies vary, but ultimately aim to remove low, medium and high priority barriers within a 25-year timeline.

Accessibility barriers identified at Smith Rock include: undersized accessible parking stalls, inadequate maneuvering space around site features, inappropriate mounting/access heights on some site features, loose unstable surfacing, and other items. Future renovation projects at the park shall incorporate remediation of the identified issues to improve site accessibility.

OPRD Accessibility Standards

In 2021, the Oregon State legislature passed House Bill 2171 which directed OPRD to develop statewide accessibility standards for a range of recreation amenities. These standards incorporate elements of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA), and establish guidelines to meet or exceed those standards within the Oregon State Park system, wherever feasible. The standards apply to new park development as well as renovation of existing features.

Due to the unique topography of Smith Rock, it is recognized that full compliance with the ADA throughout the park is both undesirable and unfeasible. New improvements, particularly around the Welcome Center and North Point day-use areas, should be designed to meet as many accessibility standards as possible.

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) requires approved archaeological permits prior to commencement of the following activities on public land: excavation or alterations of an archaeological site, exploratory excavations to determine the presence of an archaeological site, or removal of any material of an archaeological, historic, prehistoric, or anthropological nature.

Federal and State Endangered Species Act

The Smith Rock State Park Wildlife Assessment updated in 2023 includes a detailed assessment of the wildlife, references to their status

as sensitive species, and a discussion of associated state and federal legal requirements. The assessment also includes an analysis of wildlife resource values inform facility development plans and identify priority areas of the park for habitat preservation and restoration.

Note that there may be species present or likely to occur in the park that are on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Sensitive Species List. While not a regulatory tool, this list is used by ODFW to guide and promote conservation activities and to inform the Oregon Conservation Strategy.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) administers the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), which prohibit the unauthorized taking of migratory birds and bald and golden eagles within the United States.

Established buffer distances from known eagle nests are defined in the USFWS National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines and reflected in the Deschutes County Sensitive Bird and Mammal Habitat Combining Zone. Any construction activities during the nesting season within these buffer areas, or other activities causing direct impacts to active or alternate nest sites will require Deschutes County permit review and coordination with USFWS.

Nesting season begins when raptors commence their courting and nest-building activities, generally in early to mid-January at Smith Rock State Park. Nesting season ends on August 1, or earlier if the nests have been confirmed to have either fledged or failed. Public access, including for climbing activities, is curtailed annually within the nesting buffer zones during nesting season, in coordination with USFWS and ODFW. Drone operations within the park are not allowed during nesting season.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

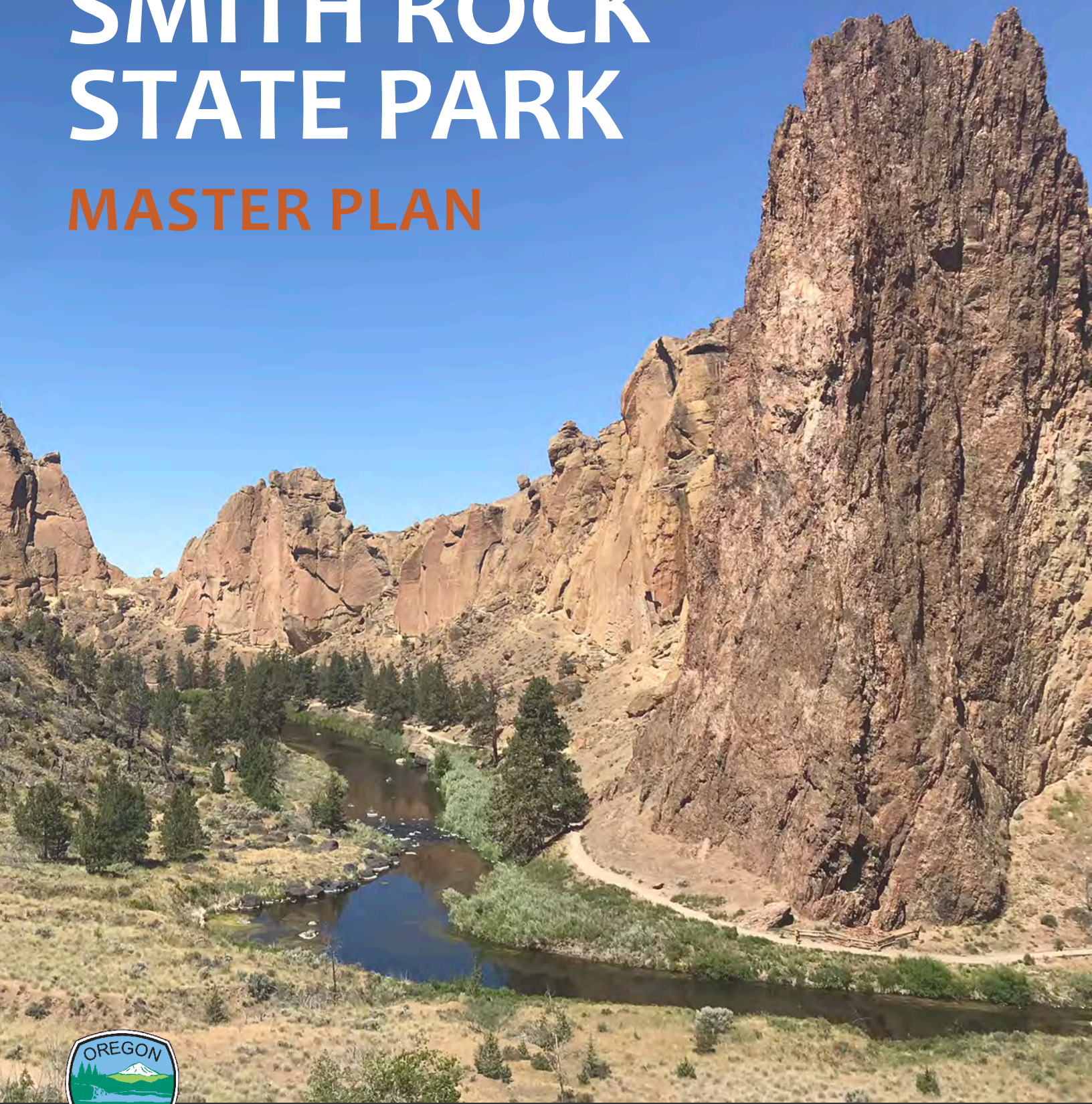
LWCF is a federal grant program that is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Grants are issued to assist with park land acquisition, project planning, and construction. Lands acquired or developed using LWCF Grants must be used in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation activities.

Transfer of land or development of facilities that are not deemed necessary to support public outdoor recreation can result in a 6(f) Conversion process.

Several LWCF grants have been used to acquire land and develop projects at Smith Rock State Park over the years. The most recent LWCF grant was for replacement of the park's only pedestrian bridge. All lands within the Smith Rock State Park boundary at the completion of the project in 2023 will be subject to the regulations of the LWCF program. Future proposed projects, including the new Welcome Center, should be reviewed for compatibility with the program requirements. Any potentially non-compliant features will need NPS approval.

SMITH ROCK STATE PARK

MASTER PLAN



Final Draft for Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission Adoption
- June 14th, 2023

The link to see the entire Master plan:

The bitly is: <https://bit.ly/OPRDMasterPlans>

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Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

Doug Deur, West of the Coast Range
Elizabeth Hill, Congressional District 4
Jennifer Allen, Chair, Congressional District 1
Jonathon Blasher, Congressional District 3
Steven Grasty, Congressional District 2
Vicki Berger, Congressional District 5
Vacant, East of the Cascades

OPRD Executive Staff

Lisa Sumption, Director
Chris Havel, Associate Director
JR Collier, Deputy Director, Statewide Operations
Matt Rippee, Deputy Director, Field Services

OPRD Technical Staff

Ben Byram, Project Designer
Bridget Tinsley, Regional Resource Program Manager
Eric Timmons, Associate Director of Park Improvement
Fiona Noonan, Natural Resource Specialist
Haley Cox, Long Range Planner
Helena Kesch, Tribal Relations Coordinator
Ian Caldwell, ATV Program Coordinator
Jenna Marmon, Planning and Design Lead
Mary Schnetzky, Park Specialist
Matt Davey, Park Manager
Noel Bacheller, Natural Resource Coordinator
Sam Vanderbeek, Park Ranger
Scott Brown, Park Manager
Steve Jenevein, Archaeologist
Steve Memminger, District Manager
Susan Bethers, Mountain Region Manager
Tracy Johnson, Senior Project Manager

Given the extended timeline of this Master Plan update, there are many additional staff who contributed to the production of this report who are now in different roles within or outside the Agency.

Advisory Committee

Al Dertinger, Terrebonne Neighborhood Alliance
Andrea Breault, Cascades East Transit
Austin Greene Jr., Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs*
Austin Smith, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs**
Becky Cooper, US Bureau of Reclamation**
Brad Chalfant, Deschutes Land Trust*
Brian Frankle, Central Oregon Running Club*
Bridget Moran, US Fish and Wildlife Service**
Bruce Schroeder, Central Oregon Trail Alliance*
Carol Benkosky, US Bureau of Land Management*
Cece Brink, US Bureau of Land Management**
Chris Cassard, Deschutes Co Bike and Ped Advisory Committee*
Chris Doty, Deschutes County Road Department
Chris Gannon, Crooked River Watershed Council*
Chris Joosen, US Forest Service**
Christina Peterson, Smith Rock Group*
Cliff Agocs, Timberline Mountain Guides
Craig McClure, Deschutes County Sheriff*
Dave Pickhardt, Redmond Fire and Rescue*
David Vick, East Cascades Audubon Society
Diane Teeman, Burns Paiute Tribe
Don Horton, Bend Parks and Recreation District
Don Morehouse, Oregon Dept of Transportation**
Dustin Ebel, Smith Rock Group**
Eric Hawley, Burns Paiute Tribe*
Eric Sande, Redmond Chamber of Commerce and CVB*
Gary Farnsworth, Oregon Dept of Transportation*
George Endicott, Mayor of Redmond*
Greg Ciannella, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board*
Jamie Bowles, Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife**
Jason McClaughry, Oregon Dept of Geology & Mineral Industries*
Jeff Kitchens, US Bureau of Land Management*
Jeff Rasmussen, Jefferson County Administration**
Jerry Cordova, US Fish and Wildlife Service*
Jim Beaupre, US Forest Service*
Joe Kresse, Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Committee*

Advisory Committee

Joe Sambatoro, Access Fund*

Judd Han, Smith Rock Mobile Estates*

Kathleen Sloan, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs*

Katie Hammer, Deschutes Co Bike and Ped Advisory Committee*

Kelly Simmelink, Jefferson County Board of Commissioners**

Keith Witcosky, City of Redmond**

Kim McCarrel, Oregon Equestrian Trails

Kit Dickey, US Forest Service

Kristine McConnell, Central Oregon Visitors Association*

Lisa Machnik, US Forest Service*

Mae Huston, Jefferson County Board of Commissioners*

Marcia Volk, smithrock.com**

Mark Warren, Central Oregon Slack Lining

Max Tepfer, High Desert Climbers Alliance**

Mike Britton, North Unit Irrigation District

Nancy Coleman, US Bureau of Reclamation*

Nancy Pustis, Oregon Dept of State Lands*

Nathan Garibay, Deschutes County Sheriff

Nick Lelack, Deschutes County Community Development*

Robert Brunoe, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs**

Seth Crawford, Crook County Board of Commissioners*

Shon Rae, Central Oregon Irrigation District*

Simon Wray, Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife*

Slater Turner, US Forest Service*

Steve Rondeau, Klamath Tribes**

Tammy Baney, Deschutes County Board of Commissioners*

Todd Coulter, Ranch at the Canyons

Tom Mooney, Redmond Fire and Rescue**

Tony Brown, Redmond School District*

Ty Tyler, Access Fund**

William Groves, Deschutes County Planning**

Consultant Support

GreenWorks, PC

*Participated in 2017-2018 only

** Participated in 2023 only

1 PLAN INTRODUCTION



OPRD MISSION + VISION

The mission of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is: To provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

This guiding document is rooted in the agency's vision: To take the long view to protect Oregon's special places and provide the greatest experience while creating stable future funding.

WELCOME TO SMITH ROCK STATE PARK

Smith Rock is a unique landform in Central Oregon, created over thousands of years by the constant carving of the Crooked River through layers of volcanic rock. Rising out of the high desert plateau, with the majestic Cascade Mountain peaks in the distance, the jagged



View of Monument Wall from the Lower Gorge.

spires of tuff are an aberration jutting six hundred feet into the sky. These scenic rock formations have become an internationally renowned climbing destination, drawing hundreds of thousands of hikers and sightseers to the park each year.

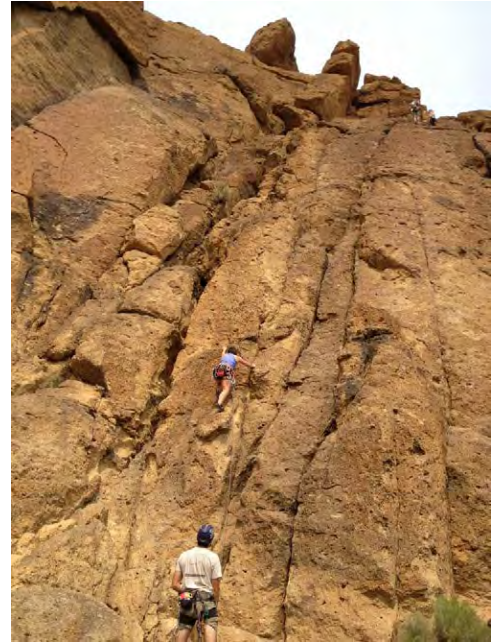
The character of the area has evolved over time, but it has always supported an abundance of life. Eagles, falcons, and numerous small animals and reptiles make their homes in the rocky crags; coyotes, bobcats and mule deer forage amongst the shrubs and woodlands; and beavers, mink, and river otters reside in the lush bottomlands. Native peoples have used and visited the area since time immemorial, as evidenced in part by a lasting oral history of the region.

Around the turn of the nineteenth century, Euromerican settlers started changing the landscape through public works projects and agricultural practices. Tunnels were bored through the rocks for irrigation system development, and improved transportation routes facilitated growth in population. These factors led to increasing use of the area for recreation activities.

Smith Rock became a State Park in 1960, ensuring that this stunning natural wonder would remain accessible to future generations. Development of park facilities has continued intermittently since the park was first established, but the primary uses – hiking, sightseeing, climbing, and camping – have largely remained the same.

NEED FOR A PLAN UPDATE

In order to balance the need for protection and enjoyment of a special place like Smith Rock, it is necessary to periodically assess the park's resources and determine its capacity for increased public use. Since the Smith Rock Master Plan was first adopted in 1991, annual park visitation has tripled, resulting in visitor demands that frequently exceed the existing infrastructure. Crowding and proliferation of rogue trails and climbing routes have degraded plant and animal habitats, decreasing the enjoyment for many visitors. The challenges for park management have evolved over time, and given the park's increasing popularity, there is a need to reevaluate the park conditions and chart a course for the future.



MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department initiated an update to the Smith Rock Master Plan in 2016. Due to several issues, including the unprecedented circumstances of a global pandemic, the plan has taken over six years complete. During that time, parks have come into greater focus as critical infrastructure for community health and wellness.

The State Park master planning process is enshrined in State law to ensure a comprehensive and collaborative effort is made, with public engagement being a critical component of the process. For the Smith Rock Master Plan, an Advisory Committee was established of over fifty representatives from partner agencies, tribes, and various stakeholder groups, which convened five times over the course of the project. Four rounds of public meetings were also held to gain input on management proposals and development concepts.

The Department produced several assessments, including for vegetation, wildlife, cultural resources, trails, and park capacity. A visitor survey was also conducted. The Master Plan comprises a summary of these assessments and the public input process, which guide the proposals for ongoing management and future development.



Rock climbing during the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse, by Andy Batt.

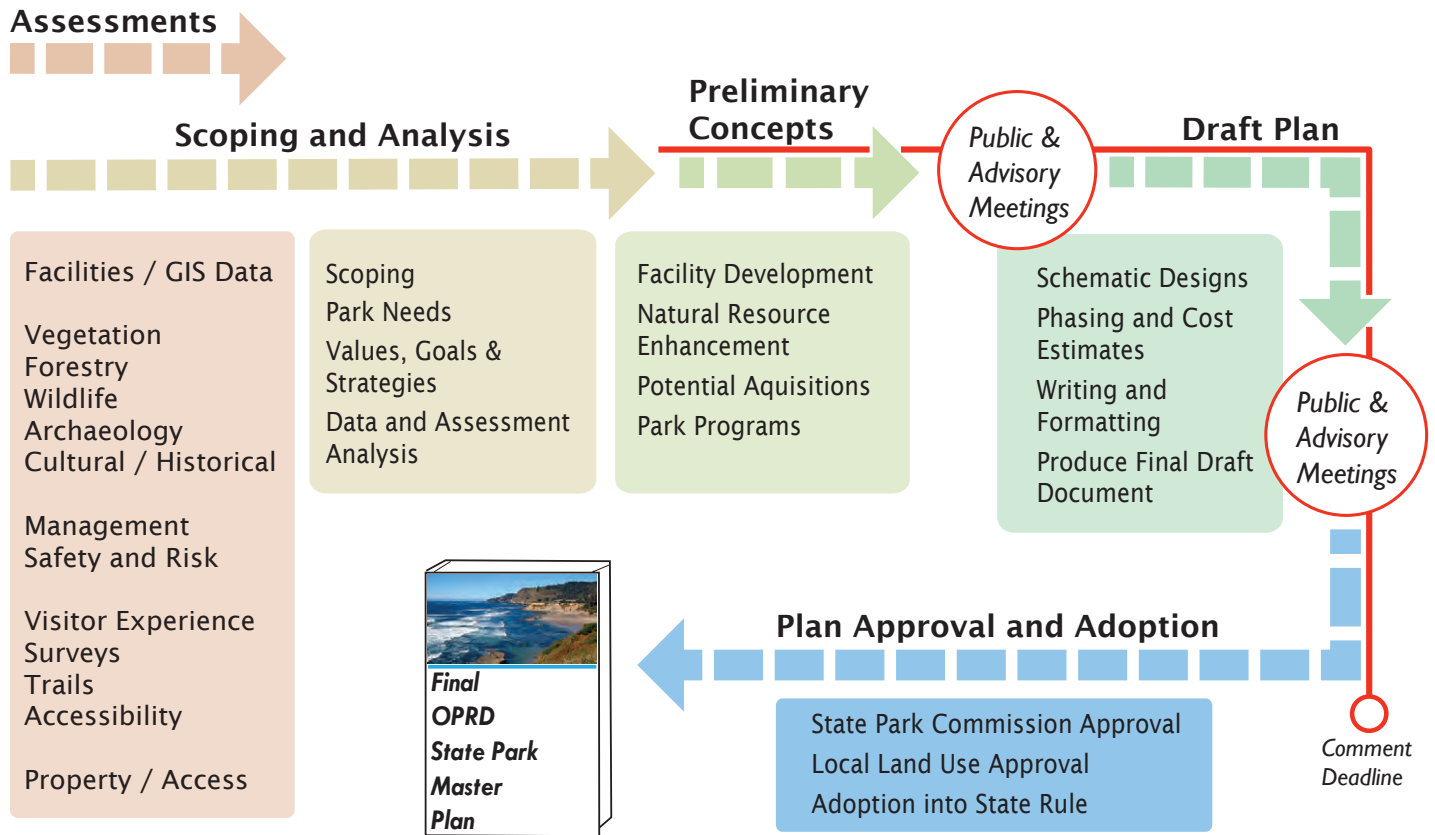


Figure 1: Master Planning Framework Diagram

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This Master Plan is intended to provide a 20-year vision; it is a guiding document for managers, partners, and interested members of the public to learn about the park resources, management goals, and future development proposals. Because of the many constituencies at Smith Rock State Park, defining and measuring success is a challenge, and ultimately a compromise. External forces, including population growth and climate change, will influence the landscape over time, and this plan is meant to provide a strong vision for the future, while allowing for adaptive responses to inevitable change.

Over the long term, success will be gauged by the degree to which management objectives are achieved. There is also a strong relationship between the health of the park's natural resources and the overall visitor experience, which can be gauged periodically through surveys, studies, and informal public feedback. At this point in time, broad support for the Master Plan is itself an indicator of success.