

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

February 25, 2025

Agenda Item: 3a **Action**

Public Comment Allowed: Yes

Topic: Commissioner web page revision

Presented by: Chris Havel

The current Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission web page publishes meeting information, plus commissioner names, geography, and term dates:

2024		Commissioners
November	+	Congressional District 1: Doug Deur Term expires May 2025
September	+	Congressional District 2: Elizabeth Hill; Chair Term expires May 2025
June	+	Congressional District 3: Betty Izumi Term expires February 2028
April	+	Congressional District 4: Melissa Cribbins Term expires February 2028
February	+	Congressional District 5: Joel Conder Term Expires May 2028
July	+	Congressional District 6: Vicki Berger Term Expires May 2028

It is common in other natural resource cabinet agencies to publish a little background on each commissioner, usually with a photo. Examples are attached. Putting faces to names and sharing commissioner connections with the agency recreation and heritage mission can build community and transparency around the commission's work. It can also intrude on commissioner privacy.

This agenda item is to prompt discussion among the commissioners about whether to update the web page with this kind of deeper information. While there's an action requested, staff do not have a recommendation. Tell us what you'd like us to do, and we'll have at it.

Action requested: Approve staff to work with each commissioner to draft a web page with a short bio, photo, and other pertinent information for inclusion on the agency website. The draft will be provided for commissioner approval before going live.

Attachment: example commissioner web pages from the Oregon State Marine Board and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Prepared by: Chris Havel

Oregon State Marine Board

Laura Jackson, Board Chair

Jackson began her love for boating in 3rd grade when her parents bought a cruising sailboat. That summer she learned to sail an El Toro in San Francisco Bay. Throughout junior high and high school, she sailed with her family and grew her skills in racing dinghies. In high school and college, she became a national-caliber sculler. Beyond school, she competed for a seat on the US Rowing team and took up kayak racing. Today, one of her mottoes is "any seat, any boat, any time."



Serving the community is also a theme in Ms. Jackson's life. Whether working for a government agency, serving on various citizen advisory committees, or volunteering for a cause, she seeks to give back to the communities that have given her so much. She is currently President of the Oaks Park Community Boathouse in Portland and has served as a youth rowing and paddling coach. She also volunteers at The Oregon Humane Society in their Second Chance team, where she also works in their volunteer administration group.

As a Marine Board member, she hopes to work in a collaborative environment to create ways to share our waterways and find a means to reach the group of boaters who do not realize they are boaters (e.g. SUP and kayak paddlers). As a participant in many aspects of boating, she is keenly aware of safety issues, especially those related to the conflict between user groups, and would like to find ways to resolve these challenges through education and courtesy rather than more regulation.

Term: 2023 – 2027

Steve Lambert

Steve Lambert, is the newest Board member and a Jackson County resident. He also serves as a Jackson County Parks Manager.

Steve has worked in public park management for three decades. He began his career in parks and recreation in eastern Washington while earning a degree in Natural Resource Management from Washington State University.

After college, he spent a short amount of time working for the US Army

Corps of Engineers on the Snake River in Clarkston, Washington, where his duties included patrolling the river to ensure safe and responsible use. In 1999, he relocated to the Willamette Valley and managed recreation facilities on three reservoirs, including Clear Lake in the Willamette National Forest. In 2009, he and his family moved to the Rogue Valley, where he currently manages county park facilities on five reservoirs and the Rogue River.



Steve is passionate about providing boating access for Oregonians in a close-to-home experience. No matter where he has worked, he has seen the joy boating brings to families, both by paddle, oar, and motor. Whether building boating facilities including boat ramps and marinas, or operating public rental businesses where those who may not own a boat can easily experience boating, he is devoted to meeting the recreational needs of his fellow Oregonians. In his spare time, you can find him paddling the waters with his wife and their two dogs.

On the Board, Steve hopes to help the agency plan for future challenges amidst environmental shifts, ensuring Oregonians always have safe, local access to the waters they cherish.

Term: 2023-2027

Craig Withee

Withee is a retired Civil Engineer who relocated to Bend in 2013 after spending over 30 years of his professional career in Alaska. After becoming a paraplegic from a car accident in 1969, Withee completed his college education with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering in 1973 and a Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering in 1975 from the University of Colorado. His 38-year professional career was spent in Facilities Engineering, operations, and management for the Department of Army and the Federal Aviation Administration.



Throughout his life, Withee has maintained a love for the outdoors, especially for boating, cruising, fishing, and hunting. He's owned and operated many motorized and non-motorized boats in lakes, rivers, and the ocean, including Alaska bush country, busy ocean harbors, and large river drainages. Withee's outdoor enthusiasm has continued into retirement with boating on the high lakes and rivers in Central Oregon and the coastal communities in Reedsport, Florence, and Newport. Most of his outdoor experiences have included his wheelchair, which has not hampered his pursuit of life and adventure.

Withee says, "Whether it was floating remote waters, jet boating whitewater rapids, or cruising in a bay, boating has always provided me with challenges, serenity, camaraderie, and fulfillment over the years. Life for me would have been incomplete if those opportunities were not available."

Term: 2021 – 2025 (second term of service)

Jorge Guzman

Guzman's boating experience and water recreation started with surfing on Oregon's coast and other beaches around the world.

His passion and interest in water sports then expanded to Stand Up Paddleboarding, kayaking, and canoeing. Guzman's passion for water sports continues to grow and he now enjoys exploring Oregon's waterways on his personal watercraft.



A priority for Jorge Guzman as a Board Member of the Oregon Marine Board is to improve water access for everyone and introduce new communities to safe boating experiences for recreation, stewardship, and economic development.

Term: 2021 - 2025

Dax Messett

Dax Messett has spent his whole adult life working in the outdoor industry as a guide, outfitter, sales representative, international destination travel coordinator, writer, photographer, and featured guest speaker. Dax has been a commercial and recreational boater on Oregon's waterways for over 25 years. After a lifetime



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Commission Members



Becky Hatfield-Hyde
Paisley, OR
ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov

Southwest Region

Vice Chair of the Fish and Wildlife Commission
Appointment Effect: November 25, 2019
Term Expires: November 24, 2027

Becky Hatfield-Hyde is a rancher, writer and consultant who splits her time between the southeast and central Oregon communities of Beatty, Paisley and Brothers. She has spent the past 20 years working with Tribes, NGOs, elected officials and the agricultural community on water issues in the Klamath Basin, helping design the first Tribal water settlement in the Upper Basin on her family's Yamsi Ranch. She has worked to sustain fish and wildlife on her ranch properties, including a current effort to enhance sage-grouse habitat on her family ranch near Brothers. She and her husband, Taylor, have five children.



Dr. Leslie King
ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov
Portland, OR

Upper Northwest Region

Appointment Effective: November 19, 2021
Term Expires: November 19, 2025

Dr. Leslie King obtained her Medical Degree in her home state at the University of Virginia. Over the years, she also received Master's level training in environmental health (Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies), public health (Johns Hopkins) and tropical health (Gorgas Institute). These seemingly disparate areas of expertise are in fact linked by her love of the outdoors and recognition of the human connections to nature-- she has written numerous OpEd and Features heralding the potential catastrophic impact of climate change on human health for nearly twenty years.

Dr. King moved to Portland in 1997 for employment, but she has since traveled throughout the state in her medical practice serving rural/ remote, resource-poor communities. Recent overseas medical work included working with the Royal Flying Doctors Service of Australia where she witnessed the devastating effects of climate change on human health during Black Summer 2020, the wildfire crisis that threatened the entire Australian continent immediately prior to the Covid- 19 pandemic. This transformative experience led to Dr King's interest in joining the ODFW as a Commissioner upon learning about their unique Climate Initiative.

Dr. King is a Master Hunter, Angler and Trapper but spends lots of time outdoors doing none of these things as she is also an avid hiker, mountain biker and snowboarder. She is also very passionate about diversity, equity and inclusion in the outdoors and hopes to serve as an ambassador to welcome traditionally under-represented groups afield. She currently lives in Portland with dreams of building and living in an off-the-grid treehouse.



Mary Wahl
Langlois, OR
ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov
Chair of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

West Central Region

Appointment Effective: May 15, 2019
Term Expires: May 14, 2027

Mary and her siblings are 4th generation ranch owners on Oregon's south coast. She managed the Watershed Services program for the City of Portland for a decade, and managed toxics cleanup programs for Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality before that. She has a BA in Education from OSU, and a Masters from Harvard University.

Mary retired from her work in Portland to focus on Oregon's south coast conservation efforts. Her current work is conserving Oregon's land base for agriculture and habitat, integration of conservation and ranch operations, and protecting one of Oregon's last coastal old growth forest watersheds. She is currently on the board of the Wild Rivers Land Trust, and served as the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society's representative on ODFW's Conservation and Management Plan advisory group.



Robert (Bob) Spelbrink
Siletz, OR
ODFW.Commission@odfw.oregon.gov

West Central Region
Appointment Effect: May 15, 2019
Term Expires: May 31, 2028

Bob Spelbrink is a lifelong Oregonian, recently retired (2015) Dungeness crab fisherman and an active Oregon licensed salmon sport fishing guide. He has fished and crabbed in offshore waters from California to Alaska and also holds a 100-ton Coast Guard license. He received a degree in Business from Oregon State University and was then commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, later serving in both the Oregon National Guard and Army Reserve before his honorable discharge with the rank of Captain. Spelbrink has previously worked in advisory capacities with ODFW on a variety of both commercial and recreational fishery and crabbing issues, including as the Tri-State Dungeness Crab Commission delegate and ODFW Dungeness Crab adviser representing the Newport fleet. He also worked with ODFW on development of the Yaquina Basin Fish Management Plan, Cascade Head Marine Reserve, and the recent Coastal Fish Management Plan (CMP) for the mid coast region.



Mark Labhart
Sisters, OR
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North Central Region
Appointment Effect: July 1, 2019
Term Expires: June 30, 2027

Mark Labhart is a former Tillamook County Commissioner where he served for 12 years. Prior to that he worked for the Oregon Department of Forestry for 34 years with 20 years as the Manager of a majority of the Tillamook State Forest. He was an Incident Commander on one of Oregon Fire Teams for 11 years. He has served terms on the Fish Restoration & Enhancement Board, the STEP Advisory Committee, the Oregon Hatchery Research Center and the ODFW External Budget Advisory Committee. He chaired the Legislative Task force to find alternate funding sources for ODFW. Labhart sits on the OSU Sea Grant Advisory Committee as well as the OSU Extension Statewide Advisory Committee. He was a founding member of the Salmon Super Highway Project that looks to restore salmon access to tributaries in Tillamook County. He was chosen as Tillamook County's Citizen of the Year and volunteer of the year previously and Forester of the Year for Oregon by the Society of American Foresters. His passion is fly fishing in the central Oregon lakes and deer and elk hunting. He and his wife moved to Sisters to be closer to children and especially their grandchildren.



Dallas Hall Defrees
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East Region
Appointment Effect: October 1, 2024
Term Expires: September 30, 2028