

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

June 24, 2015

Agenda Item: 6c

Information

Topic: Floras Lake State Natural Area – Sixes Ranch Property

Presented by: Kammie Bunes

The Sixes Ranch is located immediately south of Floras Lake State Natural Area in Curry County. The ranch is also bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west, and the Sixes River to the south. Cape Blanco State Park lies immediately south of the Sixes River. In effect, the ranch lies between the two state park holdings. It has been a property of interest to state parks for many years, however, the landowners have been uninterested in selling any of the ranch, until now.

The Sixes Ranch totals approximately 800 acres and has been in the same family for five generations. The family currently raises cattle on the ranch, in addition to managing cranberry bogs and timber. The current owners wish to begin estate planning, which necessitates sale of a portion of the ranch in order to pay off debt incurred to fund development of the bogs.

The family and OPRD staff have been discussing a possible configuration that would include fee purchase of approximately 90 acres of mature Sitka Spruce forest with some meadow near the mouth of the Sixes River. The views from the property are of the Cape Blanco State Park and lighthouse to the south, Blacklock Point to the north, off shore rocks and the ocean to the west, and the lower Sixes River to the east. Acquisition of the forested bluff would preclude development of up to three houses that would be visible from Cape Blanco State Park, Floras Lake State Natural Area and from the ocean shore.

In addition to protecting the bluff from development, the acquisition would allow OPRD to develop a loop trail opportunity for visitors to the state natural area. An existing trail goes from a trailhead at Cape Blanco airstrip, west to Blacklock Point and down to the beach. Visitors currently must return the same way.

An appraisal review is underway. Staff hopes to present an acquisition proposal to the Commission for consideration later this year.

Prior Action by Commission: Addition of the Sixes Ranch to the list of acquisition priorities, April 2014.

Action Requested: None

Attachment 1: Map

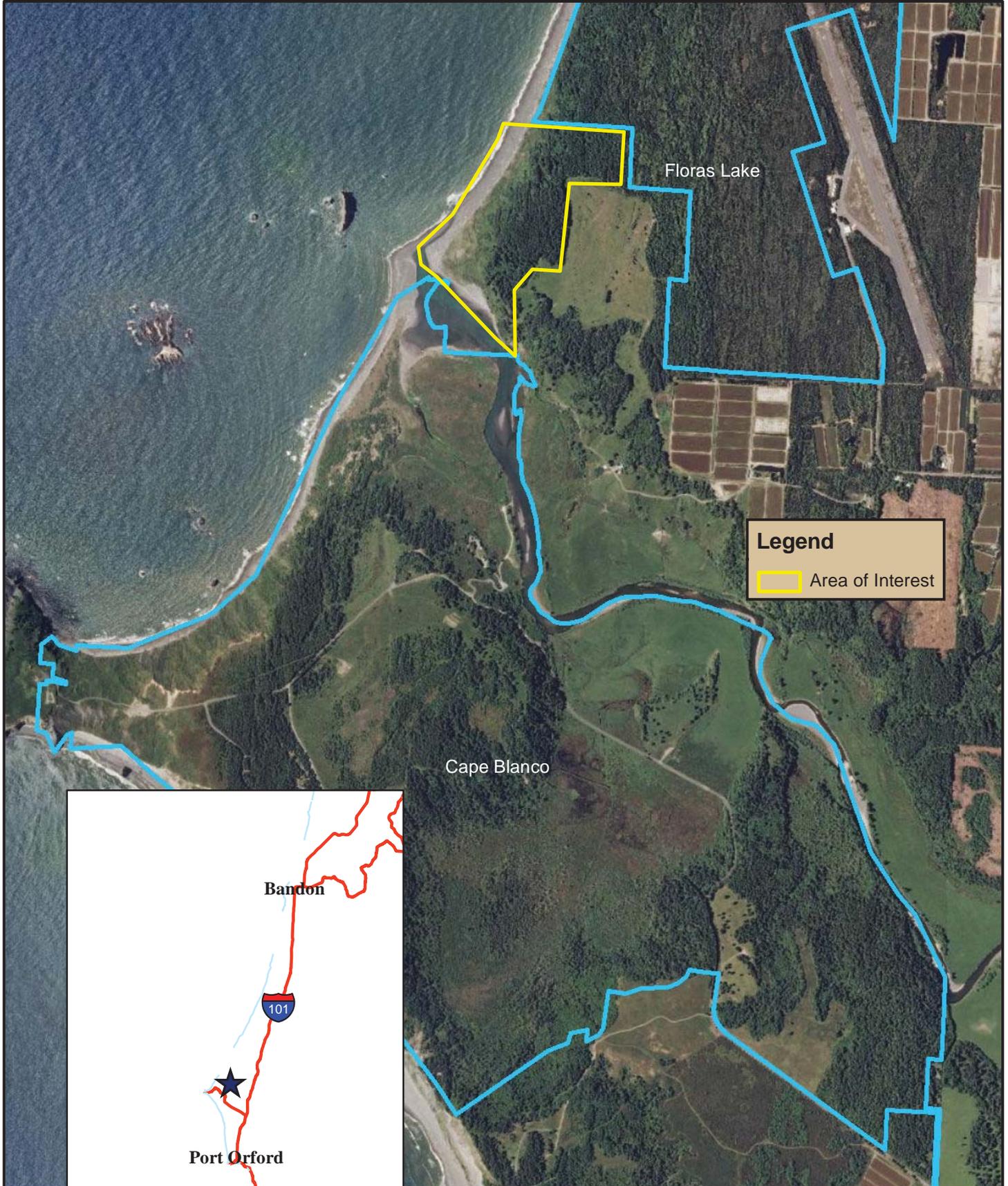
Prepared by: Kammie Bunes

Sixes River Ranch

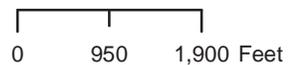
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June 24, 2015: Agenda Item 6c, Attachment 1



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