

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

June 29, 2016

Agenda Item: 6a

Information

Topic: Sumpter Valley Dredge State Historic Area
Transfer of Wright House to City of Sumpter

Presented by: Kammie Bunes, Acquisition and Property Specialist

In 1993, OPRD began acquiring land to create Sumpter Valley Dredge State Historic Area (SHA) to preserve one of the nation's oldest surviving gold-digging dredges; a five-story structure that had been on the National Register of Historic Places (Register) since 1971. The Department purchased the dredge superintendent's house and a large barn in 2001. These structures were added to the Register as the "Wright House" in 2004. A building preservation plan dated 2010 identified a number of concerns related to the house's condition, including a deteriorating foundation, siding, and roof. No major renovations have occurred.

The Department's Historian subsequently recognized the house as having significance for its general association with Sumpter's early mining industry, but determined the house was actually not a major component of the specific dredge preserved at the SHA. Costs to rehabilitate the Wright House for use as a park office or interpretive center were taken into account; given the condition, distance from the dredge and relatively low interpretive values for the Department; the Historian recommended the Department relinquish ownership.

Sale to a private buyer would be considered an adverse effect under ORS 358.653, the state law obligating state agencies and political subdivisions to consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) prior to modifying or disposing of a historic property to avoid negative impacts. The Mayor of Sumpter has requested the property be transferred to the City, who would lease to the Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers, a non-profit group that would pursue funds and provide volunteers to restore the Wright House, which could also provide added exhibit space for Sumpter Municipal Museum, and an office for the nonprofit museum association.

Department policy allows for a no-cost transfer to local agencies provided the property is used for public purposes. The transfer would be conditioned upon the city's continued compliance with ORS 358.653 and include a reversionary clause back to OPRD if conditions are not met.

Prior Action by the Commission: None

Action Requested: None

Attachments: Map

Prepared by: Kammie Bunes

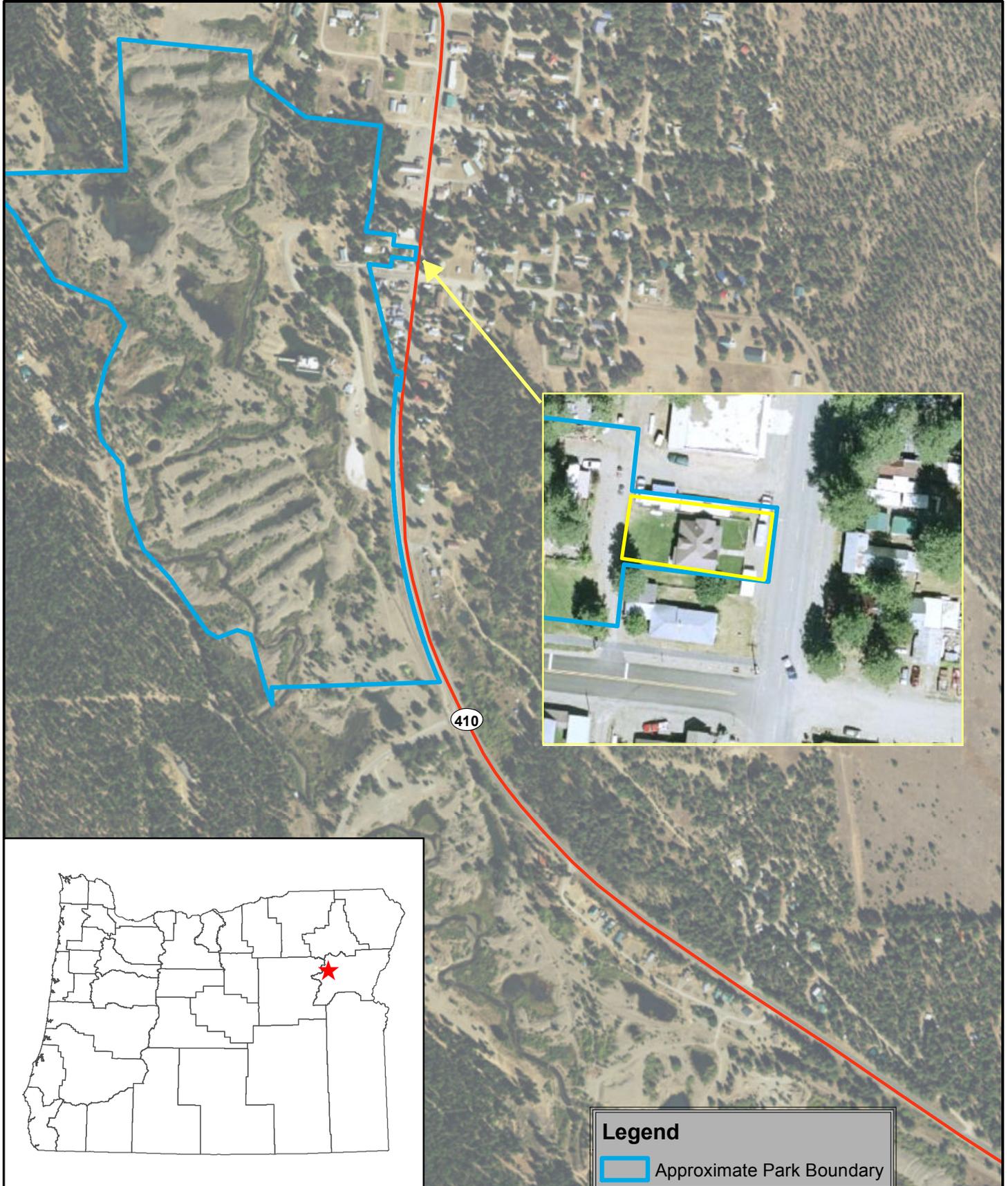
Sumpter Valley Dredge

Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept.
725 Summer St. NE, Suite C
Salem OR, 97301



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Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

June 29, 2016

Agenda Item: 6b

Information

Topic: Booth State Scenic Corridor – ODOT Highway ROW Acquisition

Presented by: Kammie Bunes

The Booth State Scenic Corridor (SCC) is located approximately eight miles east of Lakeview, Oregon. The 318 acres of land were acquired between 1928 and 1944. The property consists of a mixed forest with a stand of old growth ponderosa pine. The wayside area located at the northwest end of the property was originally developed during the Depression era with assistance of Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees.

In 2015, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) requested a right of entry from OPRD to study conditions along the Booth SSC in anticipation of roadwork to address needed safety improvements along the Klamath-Lakeview Highway (Highway 140). As a condition of the right of entry permit, OPRD has requested ODOT share the results of their investigative surveys that relate to botanical, wetlands, wildlife and cultural resources.

ODOT's highway safety improvement project will include improving shoulder widths, realigning some portions and installation of additional guardrails. One of the challenges for this section of highway through Booth SCC is the location and proximity of the roadway relative to Antelope Creek. In many sections, the creek is immediately adjacent to the highway, with little to no space available for shoulder. ODOT is studying minor roadway realignment in these sections to allow for standard shoulder widths.

The current proposal is for the acquisition of approximately 4.70 acres of permanent easement for highway right of way purposes along the northwest side of the highway for the length of the park. There are two areas where the easement will extend further northwest into OPRD lands which will be used during the construction stages. The proposal also includes temporary use of a small area on the south side of the highway. Once the investigative Environmental and Cultural studies currently being done are reviewed, ODOT will be able to provide OPRD with more precise description of the easement areas needed.

Prior Action by Commission: None

Action Requested: None

Attachment 1: Map

Prepared by: Alice Beals

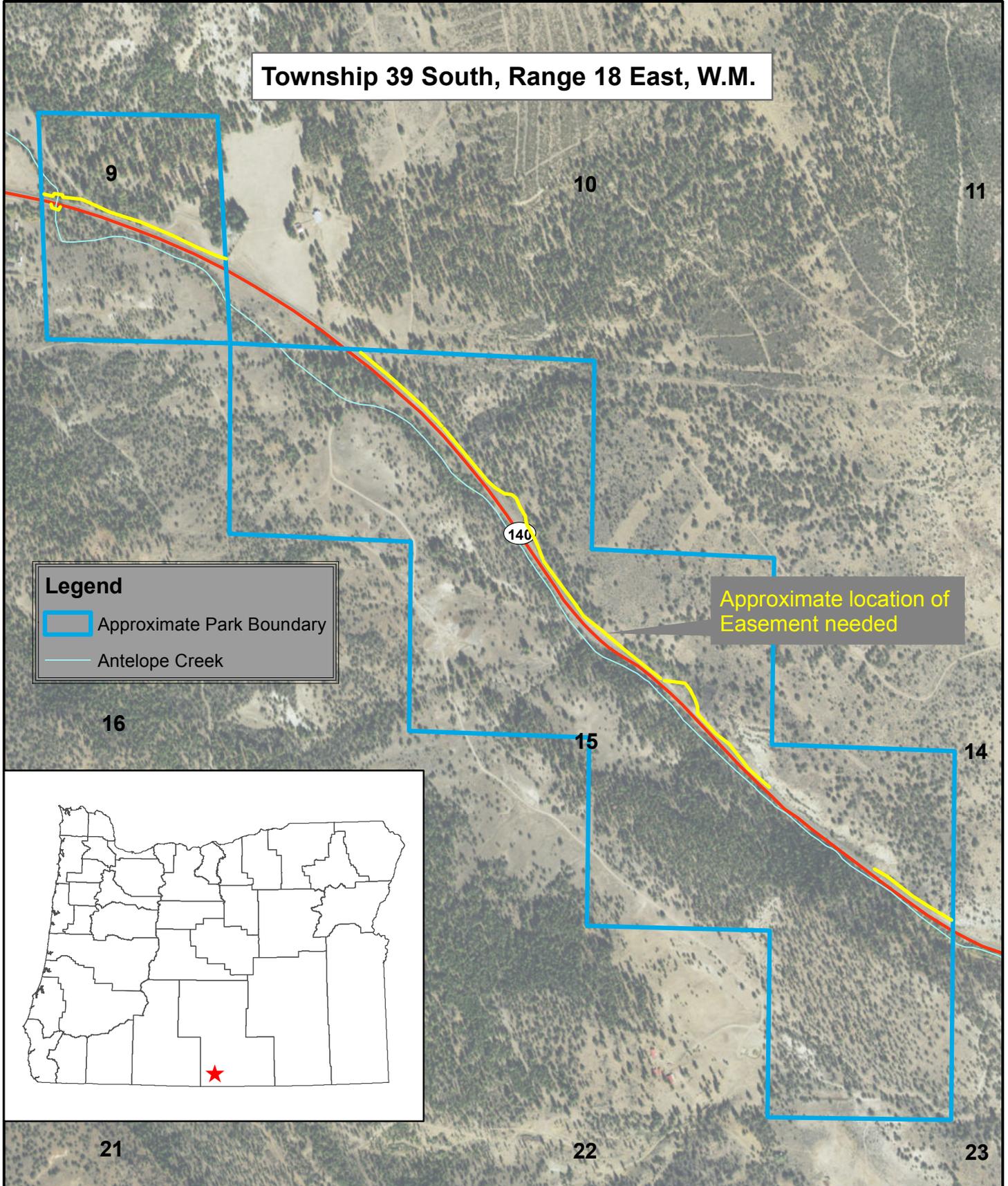
Booth State Scenic Corridor

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