

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

September 14, 2016

Agenda Item: 6a

Information

Topic: Brian Booth State Park – Forest Reserve Acquisition

Presented by: Kammie Bunes, Acquisition and Property Management Specialist

The Beaver Creek State Natural Area (SNA) Initiative, approved by the Commission in July of 2009, sought to link existing ownership on either side of Beaver Creek via several key land acquisitions using both state lottery and federal grant funds. Beaver Creek is approximately eight miles south of Newport and immediately east of Ona Beach in Lincoln County. In 2013, the Commission approved melding these two areas under the name Brian Booth State Park, seeking to provide a wide spectrum of visitor experiences in one amazing location. Campgrounds and trails are planned south of the creek, with a focus on habitat and passive recreation in the SNA lying within the floodplain and the uplands north of the creek.

In November 2014, the department received a grant of \$980,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Conservation Fund program to help purchase the Forest Reserve property. The subject property is approximately 156 acres; zoned Timber Conservation (T-C), which allows timber management, farm use, oil and gas exploration and private hunting and fishing operations (without accommodations). Conditional uses include permanent facilities for processing forest products, repairing logging equipment, parks and campgrounds, and firearms training facilities. Highest and best use was determined to be timber harvest according to an independent appraisal which has been reviewed by a third party appraiser and the USFWS.

This property has been of interest to the Commission for several years. If acquired, the property will be managed to benefit Marbled Murrelets and red tree voles, both listed by the state and federal government as threatened species. A nature trail may be possible, providing park visitors the opportunity to experience a multi-aged forest, dominated by Sitka Spruce with some trees as old as 165 years. Seasonal closures may be necessary to protect wildlife. The property also contributes to the viewshed from several points within Brian Booth State Park, and lies adjacent to existing state park ownership.

Property negotiations are nearing completion, and staff expects to seek Commission action at the November 2016 meeting.

Past Commission Action: Item 6a, Approve Beaver Creek Initiative July 2009; Item 6a, Approve subject property as priority for acquisition November 2014.

Attachment: Map

Prepared by: Kammie Bunes

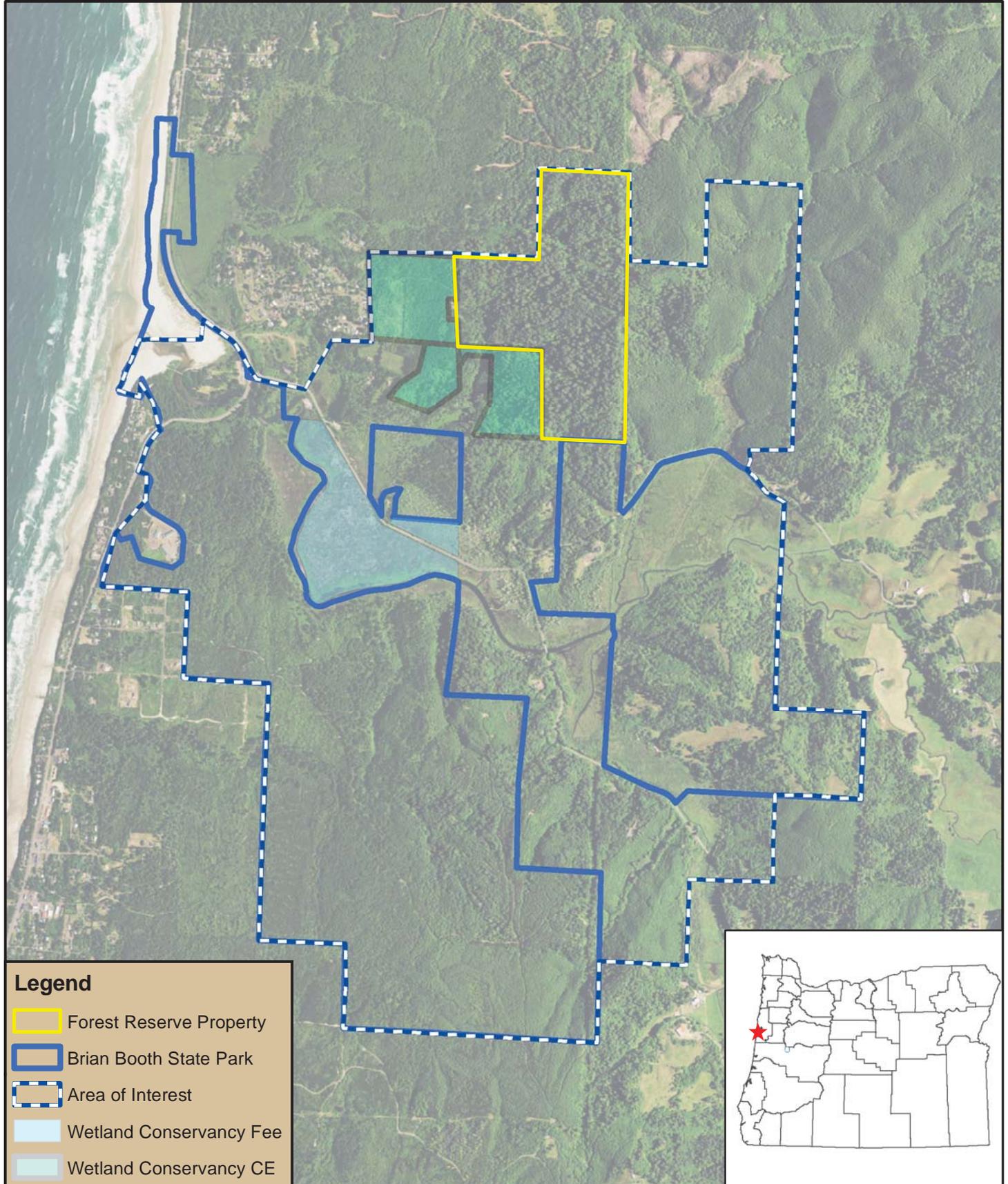
Brian Booth SP Forest Reserve Property

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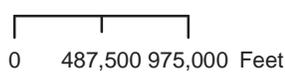


Nature
HISTORY
Discovery



Legend

- Forest Reserve Property
- Brian Booth State Park
- Area of Interest
- Wetland Conservancy Fee
- Wetland Conservancy CE



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E:8/22/2016
P:never

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