
OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

COLUMBIA GORGE MANAGEMENT UNIT



MASTER PLAN SUMMARY

■ 1994 ■

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Master Planning Unit is indebted to the following individuals:

Jack Wiles, Area 5 Manager, for consultation,
Frank Arnold, Unit Manager, for consultation and thorough editing,
Kevin Price and **Ron Greenwood**, Assistant Unit Managers, for consultation,
Unit staff members who provided comments,
Design & Engineering Unit, for reviewing development proposals,
Michelle Harris and **Sandy Martell**, Administrative Support staff, for word
processing and document collation,
Dave Wright, Land Manager, for consultation
and,
the **National Scenic Area staff**, **Gorge Commission staff** and **Tribal Representatives**,
for consultation.

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THE SUMMARY DOCUMENT

This document is a summary of the master planning effort for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Columbia Gorge Management Unit properties. It summarizes the research and background material. The goals, objectives and development proposals in this summary are the same as those listed in the detailed, staff use, master plan.

THE DETAILED MASTER PLAN DOCUMENT

A detailed master plan document is prepared for staff use both within the department and by other natural resource and recreation management agencies. It includes specific delineations of resources, and lists of resource enhancement projects and interpretative sites that are only summarized in this document. The 'Land-Use Suitability' Chapter of the detailed plan includes a property action list that is not included in this summary.

Copies of the detailed master plan are available at the reference desks of the following libraries and at Rooster Rock State Park and the Area 5 Office. OPRD addresses are shown on the following page.

The Dalles Public Library
722 Court St
The Dalles

Hood River Public Library
502 State St
Hood River

Gresham Public Library
385 NW Miller
Gresham

Multnomah County Library
801 SW 10th
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FOR QUESTIONS

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LIST OF KEY ABBREVIATIONS

For simplicity the following titles have been abbreviated in this plan:

USACE	United States Army Corp of Engineers
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CRGNSA	Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
DLCD	Department of Land Conservation and Development
DSL	Oregon Division of State Lands
GMA	General Management Area (Gorge Commission Planning Area)
HCRH	Historic Columbia River Highway
<u>MP</u> <u>CRGNSA</u>	<u>Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area</u>
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
ODOF	Oregon Department of Forestry
OPRD	Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
ODOT	Oregon Department of Transportation
RSC	Resource Suitability Class (OPRD)
RIC	Recreation Intensity Class (USFS)
<u>SCORP</u>	<u>Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan</u>
SMA	Special Management Area (USFS Planning Area)
UPRR	Union Pacific Railroad
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

INTRODUCTION - CHAPTER 1

Focus on the Gorge

The geographic scope of this plan includes all current OPRD properties in the OPRD Columbia Gorge Management Unit, and opportunity areas for future involvement. It also includes a Gorge wide assessment of recreation needs.

The Management Unit includes 27 individually named OPRD properties, totalling approximately 6,600 acres. The majority of the properties are located within the Columbia River Gorge. Two properties are located on the Sandy River and one ownership is located in the City of Portland. The properties are located in Multnomah, Hood River and Wasco counties. All but **Dabney State Recreation Area** and **Rocky Butte State Scenic Corridor** are located within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

The portion of **Deschutes River State Recreation Area**, located on the west side of the Deschutes River, also lies within the boundaries of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. However, this property is not included in the OPRD Columbia Gorge Management Unit and, as a result, has not been master planned as a part of this document. Master planning for **Deschutes River State Recreation Area** is needed in conjunction with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and the Deschutes River Recreation Area. Until that master plan is complete, OPRD will work with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and Gorge Commission staff on issues relevant to the property as needed.

The Unit headquarters is located at **Rooster Rock State Park**; the Area headquarters is in Portland; and the state headquarters is in Salem.

See the attached location and vicinity maps on pages 19 and 23. A listing of the properties included in this Management Unit follows this page. The full property classification name is included in this chart. Throughout the document only the core portion of the property classification names will be used to save space.

OPRD PROPERTIES INCLUDED IN THE COLUMBIA GORGE
MANAGEMENT UNIT

OPRD PROPERTY NAMES	COUNTY	ACRES
ROCKY BUTTE STATE SCENIC CORRIDOR	MULTNOMAH	13.52
LEWIS AND CLARK STATE RECREATION SITE	MULTNOMAH	34.65
DABNEY STATE RECREATION AREA	MULTNOMAH	134.96
CROWN POINT STATE SCENIC CORRIDOR	MULTNOMAH	306.67
PORTLAND WOMEN'S FORUM STATE SCENIC VIEWPOINT	MULTNOMAH	7.26
GEORGE W. JOSEPH STATE NATURAL AREA	MULTNOMAH	150.12
GUY W. TALBOT STATE PARK	MULTNOMAH	378.34
ROOSTER ROCK STATE PARK	MULTNOMAH	872.91
BRIDAL VEIL FALLS STATE SCENIC VIEWPOINT	MULTNOMAH	15.55
SHEPPERD'S DELL STATE NATURAL AREA	MULTNOMAH	518.79
DALTON POINT STATE RECREATION SITE	MULTNOMAH	41.00
BENSON STATE RECREATION AREA	MULTNOMAH	271.95
AINSWORTH STATE PARK	MULTNOMAH	156.00
MC LOUGHLIN STATE NATURAL AREA	MULTNOMAH	216.30
JOHN B YEON STATE SCENIC CORRIDOR	MULTNOMAH	284.48
BONNEVILLE STATE SCENIC CORRIDOR	MULTNOMAH	51.05
SHERIDAN STATE SCENIC CORRIDOR	MULTNOMAH	11.05
LANG FOREST STATE SCENIC CORRIDOR	HOOD RIVER	197.67
LINDSEY CREEK STATE SCENIC CORRIDOR	HOOD RIVER	129.21
STARVATION CREEK STATE PARK	HOOD RIVER	152.62
VIENTO STATE PARK	HOOD RIVER	247.91
WYGANT STATE NATURAL AREA	HOOD RIVER	722.16
VINZENZ LAUSMANN MEMORIAL STATE NATURAL AREA	HOOD RIVER	126.00
SENECA FOUTS MEMORIAL STATE NATURAL AREA	HOOD RIVER	632.58
KOBERG BEACH STATE RECREATION SITE	HOOD RIVER &	87.55
MEMALOOSE STATE PARK	WASCO	336.79
MAYER STATE PARK	WASCO	636.67

The National Scenic Area and the OPRD System in the Gorge

This work is an outgrowth of several years of OPRD coordination with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area staff and Commission, and US Forest Service staff, during their preparation and completion of the Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. OPRD participated in the Management Plan development process as the state advocate for recreation issues and needs, and as a major resource and land owner, and provider of recreational opportunities in the Gorge.

The Management Plan has provided a comprehensive, general assessment of resource carrying capacities and appropriate use levels throughout the Gorge. Their plan has served as the basis for county zoning ordinances in the Scenic Area. The Gorge Commission and Gorge counties have land use and development regulation jurisdiction over OPRD lands in the Gorge. OPRD will need to seek final permit approval from the appropriate Gorge counties and, at times, from the Gorge Commission for its development proposals and for any desired future plan amendments. The Management Plan has also provided recommended recreation development proposals and suggestions for prospective agency partners in implementing the proposals. As a result, the Management Plan has served as a major reference for this OPRD planning effort.

This master plan provides a more detailed and precise assessment of resources and opportunities on OPRD lands, than the Management Plan could achieve. It also provides a comprehensive, area wide assessment of recreation demand, supply and needs in the Gorge, in supplement to the Management Plan's recreation goals. The master plan is intended as a vehicle for determining the department's most appropriate role as a recreation provider and resource protector in the Gorge and the National Scenic Area, and among its fellow federal, state and county agencies, OPRD's role has been determined by examining the Management Plan proposals and goals, by examining the OPRD mission and mandate for master planning, and by examining its traditional role in light of emerging recreation and resource management trends in the Gorge.

OPRD Mission

Our mission is to provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

OPRD Master Planning Mandate

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) prepares master plans for its ownerships as mandated in ORS 390.180. Master plans are intended to determine the carrying capacity of department lands and to guide appropriate department long range recreational use, development and expansion actions and resource management priorities. The plans are also intended as sources of information for other agencies, local jurisdictions and for the general public about OPRD resources, facilities and future plans.

This master plan satisfies the department's obligation, under OAR 736 Division 70 (State Agency Coordination Rule), to coordinate our planning efforts with affected agencies. It also provides the kind of information needed to prepare land-use compliance requests necessary for development proposals within the jurisdiction of the National Scenic Area, local counties, and others.

This master plan provides a detailed and comprehensive understanding of:

- Recreation demand and opportunities in the Gorge.
- Resource values and sensitivities on OPRD lands, and regionally.
- Development constraints on OPRD lands.
- Interpretive opportunities on OPRD lands.
- Appropriate recommendations for the expansion of OPRD facilities and lands.
- Appropriate recommendations for OPRD resource management and enhancement.
- A summary of possible partnerships, trades and land stewardship alternatives for OPRD involvement.

Master plans are conceptual documents which provide guidelines for future OPRD development priorities. Final decisions about development proposal implementation and associated funding priorities will be made by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission and the department director, as a part of OPRD System budget preparation. Changes in prioritization or project descriptions may be based on new opportunities or changing recreational, resource or jurisdictional conditions.

OPRD Planning Goals

The following goals, in combination with the OPRD mission and mandated assessments, have guided the identification of specific development and expansion proposals for this plan. They also have guided the identification of appropriate resource management and enhancement priorities for the Management Unit.

1. **PUBLIC FORUM:** Develop the master plan within an interagency and public forum.
2. **NATIONAL SCENIC AREA:** Prepare a plan which is comparable to the goals, assessments and proposals in the Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.
3. **RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES:** Continue to provide traditional OPRD recreation opportunities in the Gorge, and provide for some additional recreation opportunities which can be accommodated by OPRD.
 - Provide for increased recreational access to the Columbia River where suitable and feasible.
 - Provide multiple recreation activities at each property, where possible.
 - Devote popular riverside lands to day-use and active recreational activities, while providing support facilities and overnight camping nearby.
 - Provide additional trailheads and trail connections.
4. **RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS:** Provide only those opportunities which can be accommodated within resource protection and engineering constraints identified in the master plan assessments.
5. **SOCIAL DIVERSITY:** Improve access to recreation sites for a broader sector of the public, based on differences in physical and mental abilities, ethnic or cultural background or income level.

6. **LAND CONSOLIDATION:** Consolidate land ownerships and pursue land trades where needed to provide efficient management of public lands.
7. **LAND USE APPROVAL:** Collect information needed for local land-use approval and development permitting for OPRD development proposals and for a few possible plan amendment requests.
8. **PROPERTY BUFFERS:** Identify adjacent lands which need to be acquired to protect resources and uses within OPRD lands or to protect an adjacent resource which contributes to the enjoyment of the property.
9. **AREAS OF CONCERN:** Identify adjacent or nearby lands which, if current zoning or land use would change, would jeopardize OPRD land or resources. Monitor for changes which would warrant future acquisition as a buffer.
10. **NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION:** Identify areas needing OPRD protection, special management techniques and/or enhancement for long term quality and diversity and to provide public enjoyment and understanding.
11. **VISUAL RESOURCE PROTECTION:** Retain ownership of OPRD lands which were acquired or donated for scenic protection before the creation of the National Scenic Area.
12. **CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION:** Protect and preserve known significant cultural sites. Perform surveys on OPRD lands per the Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area cultural resource guidelines. Monitor known statewide or regionally significant cultural resources outside of OPRD lands for possible threats and evaluate for acquisition on a case by case basis.

OPRD's ROLE IN THE GORGE

The following section outlines the department's traditional role and areas of that tradition which should be continued. It also outlines areas which the department should embrace as part of its role for the future. Decisions about the appropriate role for the department have been based on the recreation needs assessment, and an examination of department capabilities and opportunities. Development proposals which represent the department proposed role are summarized in the following "Summary of Concepts" chapter.

OPRD has traditionally been the major provider of water-related recreation access and facilities in the Gorge, as shown by developments on the Sandy River, at Benson Lake and on the Columbia River. These properties are known for their high quality day-use and group-use facilities, in conjunction with water access. OPRD has also been the major provider of quality, high amenity camping in naturalistic settings. OPRD endeavors to continue in these roles, diversifying and expanding, where possible, opportunities for providing these traditional recreation facilities.

OPRD has historically been the protector of many scenic viewpoints, thousands of acres of scenic cliff-side lands and other scenic areas in the Gorge since the 1930's. OPRD can continue to manage its existing scenic properties for that purpose. However, because of the USFS National Scenic Area mandate to protect scenic lands in the Gorge, OPRD will concentrate, in the future, on expanding other resource and recreation goals.

Because of the National Scenic Area (NSA) mandate for the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to protect scenic lands in the Gorge, certain OPRD lands with primarily scenic values may be traded for high value

recreation resource lands owned by the USFS. This will be done where trades result in consistent and efficient land management. Trades will also be pursued which can consolidate OPRD ownership of needed recreational lands currently owned by the USFS but located within, adjacent to or nearby OPRD recreation sites.

OPRD has been a key participant in the protection and use of abandoned portions of the Historic Columbia River Highway (HCRH) for recreational trail use and in pursuing the completion of a low level trail on the Oregon side of the Gorge. OPRD will continue in this role and pursue connections to recreation sites and other trail networks and related trailheads. OPRD will continue to work closely with ODOT and the NSA to achieve these goals.

OPRD will continue to support safe cycle touring and recreational cycling in the Gorge. The department will coordinate with ODOT to promote safe cycle touring in the Gorge and the development of alternative cycling routes where needed.

In the last few years, boardsailing, rock climbing and mountain biking have grown significantly in popularity in the Gorge. Certain OPRD lands have the unique settings and resources required for these activities, as well as opportunities for additional recreational activities.

OPRD lands offer numerous opportunities for increased interpretation of the many historic, cultural and natural resources within or as seen from the property. The department will pursue partners within the National Scenic Area in an effort to create a cohesive and high quality interpretive program in the Gorge.

PLANNING PROCESS

The department has developed a master planning process which offers opportunities for review and discussion of the plan throughout the process. Issues and strategy are discussed at many stages of plan development by field and program managers, department administrators, staff, advocacy groups, other agencies and jurisdictions, members of the public and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission. An outline of the process follows.

1. Introductory meetings are held with the public and with field staff. Ideas, comments and concerns are gathered as a beginning point for problem-solving and for potential development and management proposals.
2. Master planning staff inventory and evaluate OPRD lands and resources. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission review staff progress to date. Staff share research with other appropriate agencies, jurisdictions and groups for accuracy.
 - A comprehensive, Gorge-wide evaluation of recreation demand, supply, opportunities and providers is completed, and a determination of the potential areas for OPRD involvement is made. A summary of this information is included in this document. The complete evaluation of recreation needs is in the detailed master plan, Chapter 4, Recreation Needs and Opportunities.
 - A detailed inventory and evaluation of constraints to development and of natural and cultural resource values is completed for all OPRD lands in the Management Unit and for proposed acquisitions where possible, this information is summarized in this document. Important interpretive opportunities are noted. Detailed information is found in the detailed master plan, Chapter 6, Natural and Cultural Resources and Chapter 7, Interpretive Opportunities.

- All OPRD lands in the study area are evaluated and designated for sensitivity to recreational use and development and recommendations are made for land acquisitions, trades and sales. This evaluation is found in Chapter 9, 'OPRD Land-Use Suitability' in the detailed master plan. Maps detailing OPRD land-use designations can be found in the detailed master plan chapter 9.
 - Those development and expansion proposals which can be appropriately sited and developed within resource constraints and within OPRD's role, goals and objectives are then selected from Chapter 4, of the detailed master plan. Specific development proposals, design guidelines and mitigation needs are described in Chapter 10, OPRD Development Proposals this chapter is the same in the summary and the detailed master plan.
 - Resource enhancement and management proposals are also summarized in Chapter 8. Forest management guidelines as mandated for OPRD lands in Oregon statute are also included in Chapter 8. More detailed information on specific resource and management proposals can be found in the detailed master plan.
3. Master planning staff collect and evaluate resource, recreation and management information, write text and create illustrative maps of the steps outlined above. Development proposals are identified and recommended.
 4. A draft plan is developed and distributed for in-house and interagency review.
 5. Public meetings are held to discuss the draft plan and are followed by a public comment period. A proposed addendum to the draft plan is prepared in response to comment and administrative direction. A public meeting is held to present the addendum and to receive public comment on the proposed changes to the draft plan.
 6. A final draft plan is produced for review and approval by the Director of OPRD. Copies of the final draft are reviewed by OPRD and The Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission. Opportunities for public comment are included in the Commission review process.
 7. The plan proceeds through the administrative rule process and eventually becomes adopted as a rule. Opportunities for public participation are included in this process.
 8. The plan is proposed to local jurisdictions for inclusion in local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances, according to the State Agency Coordination process outlined in ORS 197.180 and OAR Chapter 660, Division 30 and Division 31.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND COMMENT PERIODS

Two introductory public meetings were held September 5 and 6, 1991, at Hood River Valley High School and Corbett High School. The meetings were advertised in the Oregonian, Gresham Outlook, Hood River News, and The Dalles Chronicle. The purpose of these meetings was to introduce our planning process to the public and make initial contacts with interested citizens. The turnout in Hood River was good, with a wide cross-section of interests being represented. The turnout in Corbett was small.

After the draft master plan was developed, it was mailed to persons, groups, agencies and jurisdictions on the mailing list. Three public meetings were held, September 13, 15 and 16, 1993, to present the

draft master plan to the public and to receive initial comments. The public comment period was open for four weeks after these meetings.

The September meetings were held at Tryon Creek State Natural Area, Hood River Valley High School, and Corbett High School. Newspaper advertisements were the same as for the first introductory public meetings. Turnout at the September meetings averaged about thirty people. The Tryon Creek meeting had the smallest turnout. All of the meetings had a good representation of diverse interests. The spectrum of comments received ranged from those wanting to see more acquisition of land without development to those wanting more recreation facility development.

Anyone requesting a draft master plan summary was mailed one and was added to the mailing list. Before the September meetings, detailed master plan documents were placed at local libraries.

A "Proposed Draft Summary Addendum" to the draft master plan was prepared and sent out to the mailing list following the September meetings. A detailed "Draft Addendum" was prepared for public presentation and release in October, 1993, in The Dalles. A two week comment period followed that meeting.

Final proposed addendum to the plan was completed in December, 1993. Consideration and recommendations regarding the final draft plan were completed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission in mid January, 1994. Opportunities for public comment were available at that meeting. Opportunities for comment will also be available as part of the state of Oregon rule-making process, following final Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission approval of the master plan summary.

OPRD property names have been highlighted in the following chapters to help in identifying them in the document. Other properties, not owned by OPRD at the time of printing are not shown in bold.

SUMMARY OF CONCEPTS - CHAPTER 2

CONCEPTS

This chapter summarizes, up front, the OPRD planning concepts for expansion and improvements to facilities and resources. A map showing the major proposals can be found following Chapter 3. Detailed recommendations regarding land acquisition, trades, surpluses or critical adjacent lands can be found in the detailed master plan, Chapter 9, 'OPRD Land-Use Suitability'. Specific development descriptions and sketches can be found in Chapter 10, 'OPRD Development Proposals', both in the summary and the detailed master plans. Details about natural resource and forest management can be found in Chapter 8, 'OPRD Management' of the detailed master plan.

In general, OPRD expansion and improvement recommendations for the Gorge focus on:

1. Expanding and improving some critically located OPRD lands to create seven major recreation areas. These area locations and their facilities will primarily provide for river access activities.
2. Providing improved access and facilities on existing OPRD lands to solve a variety of user conflicts and resource impact problems.
3. Promoting the recreational development of abandoned segments of the Historic Columbia River Highway segments as outlined in A Study of the Historic Columbia River Highway, 1987, prepared by ODOT and OPRD.
4. Providing trailhead and trail connection projects along the lower elevations of the Gorge. Establishing selected trail segments along the Columbia River and short, easy-to-use trail segments in association with OPRD day-use areas and campgrounds.
5. Enhancing natural resources to protect and increase ecosystem diversity and quality on OPRD lands and to provide opportunities for wildlife watching and other nature study. Managing natural resources for human safety and for the protection of facilities.
6. Promoting interpretive opportunities and providing improvements for interpretation.

PROPOSALS

The creation of seven major OPRD areas is proposed for the Gorge Management Unit. This will be done by acquiring some new properties and consolidating existing properties as single use and management areas. These areas will provide a variety of recreation opportunities and experiences. Each of the seven areas includes some of the following elements:

- * Consolidation of land ownership through acquisition or trades.
- * Construction of major access structures.
- * Expansion of existing camping facilities.
- * Provision of riverside day-use areas.
- * Provision of swimming, boating and boardsailing facilities.
- * Provision of trail-related recreation.
- * Provision of interpretation and education facilities.

The creation and completion of all seven areas will require energetic partnerships among OPRD, the USFS NSA staff, the Gorge Commission and staff, local jurisdictions, the tribes, grant entities and resource permitting agencies. Improving access to the Columbia River at **Ainsworth**, **Viento**, **Wyeth** and **Mayer** will all require expensive solutions for bringing visitors across, under or over the railroad tracks from the freeway. The availability of funding for these critical access developments and facilities will determine how soon and how many of these proposals can become reality. OPRD will continue to work with the appropriate partners toward the eventual, and successful completion of priority improvements.

(OPRD properties and facilities are shown in the "Facilities and Site Constraints" maps in this master plan).

Lewis and Clark State Recreation Site / Sandy River Delta

The USFS has developed five alternative proposals for the development of a Western Gateway to the National Scenic Area. The USFS and ODOT are cooperating on a site study to determine the impacts of their proposals and needed interchange improvements. The alternatives include development north and south of I-84. Some OPRD property may be needed for improvements to the interchange and for facility development south of the I-84. The USFS proposals also include a small education/interpretation facility north of I-84 and new Sandy River recreation access north of I-84.

The development of the Western Gateway project could impact existing **Lewis and Clark** parking developed to provide recreational access to the Sandy River south of I-84. OPRD recommends that the NSA pursue an alternative which will not diminish existing river recreation parking in the area. Locating the majority of Gateway development to the north of I-84 would preserve current river access opportunities.

OPRD would support a Western Gateway proposal which can function in relation to an intermodal transportation hub for recreation access to the Gorge, including sufficient parking for park and ride, shuttle and bus staging.

The provision of additional designated public access to the Sandy River is recommended downstream or north of I-84 in partnership among OPRD, Division of State Lands, and the USFS. This proposal should be coordinated with the development of the NSA Western Gateway and future interchange improvements.

Improvements to existing river access facilities at **Lewis and Clark** are proposed to increase and enhance recreational river access to the Sandy River. Improvements are also proposed for Sandy River access at **Dabney** in compliance with the Sandy River Scenic Waterway designation.

Rooster Rock State Park / Guy Talbot State Park

The area of **Rooster Rock**, south of the freeway, which includes Mirror Lake, has an outstanding wetland ecosystem and a unique opportunity for a small scale educational facility. The proposals for this area emphasize development of wildlife viewing trails with viewing blinds and boardwalks, bridges and fencing to minimize the disturbance of wildlife and wetlands. Minimal parking is proposed. The parking area and educational facilities will be developed within the recreation intensity levels of the MP CRGNSA. Proposed access to the site will be from the I-84 interchange off ramp to **Rooster Rock State Park**.

The proposals for **Guy Talbot** include the development of "reservation only" group day-use and group camping facilities. Access to the site would either be through the town of Latourell or via a new access from the HCRH. Development of the **Guy Talbot** proposals will require a plan amendment to the MP CRGNSA.

Ainsworth State Park

The **Ainsworth** proposal includes the eventual expansion and consolidation of OPRD ownership on the north and south sides of I-84, and to the east of **Ainsworth** on the south side, the expansion of camping, trail connections and group use is proposed. On the north side, the expansion of riverside day-use and river access is proposed. These proposals will require land trades with the USFS and the eventual acquisition of privately owned parcels. Interim public river access can be provided at property owned by the USFS via a railroad underpass. Long term river access expansion would require an at-grade public railroad crossing. The private ownership of the boat ramp at Covert's Landing is compatible with OPRD goals as long as river access is available to the public there.

Wyeth

The USFS has expressed interest in developing a major river access facility to showcase their heightened role as a recreation provider in the Gorge. The **Wyeth** proposal is an important component of needed additional river access and camping in the Gorge. The MP CRGNSA describes this site as one of the best for a major river recreation facility in the Scenic Area. The proposed development would provide facilities for windsurfing, boat launching, picnicking, and interpretation. The MP CRGNSA recommends a day-use facility capable of handling 1,000 people at a time. South of this site is the existing USFS **Wyeth** campground which the MP CRGNSA proposes to expand to handle an additional 350 people at one time.

The expansion of the **Wyeth** campground can provide much needed camping on a large scale. OPRD supports the USFS direction on both of these projects.

Viento State Park

The **Viento** proposal provides for public river access. The property has sandy beaches and is an excellent location for day-use, beach play, swimming, and windsurfing. MP CRGNSA states that this site is large enough to handle 875 people at a time.

Two alternatives are proposed for increased river access at **Viento**. One alternative is to provide an at-grade vehicular crossing of the railroad and parking on the north side of the tracks. UPRR is open to discussions regarding an at-grade crossing as a solution to public safety concerns. This alternative would leave the existing day use and camping areas unchanged except for the construction of an access road.

The other alternative is to build a pedestrian underpass beneath the tracks and to develop additional parking in the existing day-use area. This alternative will not provide enough parking to justify the substantial cost of a pedestrian underpass unless camping is removed to allow additional day-use parking capacity. If this alternative is implemented no removal of campsites could happen until the USFS expands its **Wyeth** campground. The **Wyeth** area has enough "buildable" land available to develop extensive new camping and can provide a quieter, less crowded setting.

The **Viento** and **Wyeth** proposals are separate but complimentary developments with the **Wyeth** river access site offering motorized river recreation opportunities, and **Viento** providing only non-motorized

opportunities. In addition, a successful agreement between OPRD and the Gorge tribes will be needed regarding Native American fishing rights in relation to windsurfing access at **Viento**.

Memaloose State Park

The master plan contains a proposal for development of an additional camploop in **Memaloose**. The proposed loop would be on the west end of the existing campground. The proposed camploop would be designed with clustered vehicle parking areas for five to ten cars each and tent camping sites in close proximity to the parking. A new restroom-shower building is included in this proposal.

Mayer State Park

Two different proposals were made for the west portion of **Mayer**. One proposal includes the addition of camping and the other does not. The camping proposal uses cluster car parking areas and tent camping sites developed in close proximity to them. The other proposal concentrates on the development of day-use and group facilities while leaving the majority of the site undisturbed.

Both of the **Mayer** proposals need to address vehicle access to west **Mayer**. The existing access to west **Mayer** is a circuitous route using narrow frontage roads, a freeway overpass and a degraded wooden railroad overpass with a load limit of five tons. This route is also posted: "No Trailers". To improve the vehicular access to west **Mayer** one of two access improvement options needs to be pursued. Either the bridge over the railroad needs to be replaced and upgraded; or the existing access causeway which was built by the USACE on the north side of I-84, needs to be widened and improved for two way traffic and pedestrian use. Improving the causeway will provide the best and most direct route to west **Mayer** and will allow access to an existing day-use area that currently receives minimal use. The causeway proposal will require successful negotiation with the USACE and other resource permitting agencies. Also, some private land or an easement from the UPRR will be required. Land trades with the USFS will be needed to secure a few small inholdings at west **Mayer**.

Other Facility and Access Improvements

Improvements to vehicular circulation, parking and/or facilities for day-use are proposed for **Dabney, Rooster Rock, Portland Women's Forum, Dalton Point, Benson, Bridal Veil, Shepperd's Dell, Ainsworth, Starvation Creek, and Mayer**. Group-use facility improvements are recommended for **Dabney, Guy Talbot, Mayer and Ainsworth**.

Rock climbing opportunities have been recognized at **Rocky Butte** and **Lewis and Clark**. Partnerships among OPRD, ODOT, the City of Portland, the City of Maywood Park and METRO are needed to ensure that **Rocky Butte** remains open to public recreation and that scenic values are protected. OPRD is working to preserve public access to the east side of the butte. OPRD has proposed a land trade with ODOT to preserve public access. At **Lewis and Clark** a partnership with the Portland climbing groups is needed to secure ownership of additional climbing opportunities there.

Significant increases in windsurfing access and parking are proposed for **Viento** and for the Wyeth site, as mentioned above. Camping expansion is proposed to focus on providing additional tent sites to free up RV sites for RV use. Camping expansion is proposed for **Ainsworth, Memaloose**, one of two alternatives for **West Mayer**, and for the USFS Wyeth campground.

SURPLUS AND TRANSFER PROPERTIES

Through this planning process several parcels were identified for transfer or surplus. Trade proposals were made to consolidate ownership and to provide for efficient management. Surplus recommendations were made for the properties that are not needed for recreation or resource protection. See Chapter 9, of the detailed master plan document, for the locations of all proposed surplus or trade parcels.

IN-LIEU AND REPATRIATION

USACE is required to provide in-lieu fishing sites for Native Americans as part of their mandated mitigation for the loss of sites due to the rising of the Bonneville Pool. Through this master plan process all of the river access sites managed by OPRD were looked at for in-lieu development suitability. **Koberg Beach** north of I-84 and a portion of the Squally Point area of **Mayer** were identified as parcels which may meet the requirements for development as tribal in-lieu sites. Only **Koberg Beach** and Squally Point were found to be suitable due to a lack of major conflicts with future needs for OPRD use and expansion. The Squally Point site meets the in-lieu site requirements except for vehicle access. OPRD has given the USACE permission to investigate the **Koberg Beach** site further for suitability for in-lieu development.

If in-lieu development is pursued at **Koberg Beach**, access to two recreation resources by the general public will have to be preserved. The west end of **Koberg Beach** has a good swimming beach that receives intermittent local use and the top of Stanley Rock, a large basalt outcropping, is the home of an impressive community of wildflowers. The top of Stanley Rock needs to be made more accessible with a staircase and hardened trails which will allow the opportunity to take advantage of its proximity to I-84 for interpretation and education.

If the eventual sale of this site to the USACE is pursued, provision for public access to Stanley Rock and the beach will have to be maintained and improved as detailed in Chapter 10. Revenue from the sale of a portion of the **Koberg Beach** property would be used to acquire public river access property elsewhere in the Gorge. Chapter 10 also contains the OPRD plan for the site if it is not sold to the USACE.

Opportunities for repatriation of tribal remains being returned under federal law may be possible on certain OPRD lands. Areas designated for Very Limited Development might be appropriate depending on resource sensitivities. Possible locations, methods, and other applicable information will need to be resolved in an agreement between OPRD and the tribes.

SQUALLY POINT

Squally Point is located in the far eastern portion of **Mayer**. The area encompasses Squally Beach and is west of Squally Point itself. Squally Beach is in an area of excellent windsurfing conditions with consistent and strong winds. Throughout this master plan process OPRD has received many comments asking OPRD to look at Squally Point as a potential windsurfing access point.

The 1986 Windsurfing Study produced by OPRD identified Squally Point as a high priority for recreational access and development based on a recreation opportunity analysis. An analysis of natural and cultural resource constraints to facility development was not completed for that report.

The 1989 The Dalles Riverfront Plan prepared by Wasco County, City and Port of The Dalles and the National Park Service, recommended that the Squally Point Beach and the Tooley Lake site be considered for intensive multipurpose recreation in order to meet recreation needs. Conservation management of adjacent sensitive natural areas was also recommended, as well as additional special study of resource constraints and the role of this site in relation to nearby facilities.

In January 1990, participants of a Recreation Sites Workshop organized by the US Forest Service and the Gorge Commission rated Squally Point as the most important potential recreational site in the Gorge.

The Draft Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area had a preliminary Recreation Intensity Zone of 4 for the site. This designation was based on the significant windsurfing opportunity of the site and on a large scale resource analysis of slope, geology and land use. At this point in the process the Scenic Area staff recommended that an indepth site analysis and natural and cultural resource investigation be completed before development proposals and the Recreation Intensity Classes were finalized. After a more indepth look at the site resources and restrictions the Recreation Intensity Class was changed to a Recreation Intensity Class of 2.

OPRD finished a Squally Point/Tooley Lake Preliminary Feasibility Study, in January 1991, with the help of a local advisory committee. The summary analysis concluded that intensive levels of site access and use would need to be limited to the far eastern portion of the study site and would be feasible only if the following requirements could be met:

- Protection of tribal access to land, water and treaty fishing rights. Tribal and legal negotiations would be needed before it could be known how this might be possible or not.
- Development of special construction techniques for steep and rocky slopes, sandy soils, wet soils and flood prone areas; and for providing access under the railroad grade and the freeway.
- Permit approvals from regulating agencies.
- Possible mitigation and/or enhancement of wetlands, flood areas and wildlife habitat.
- Protection of cultural sites.
- Protection of wildlife habitat from access and disturbance by the public.

These site constraints, the MP CRGNSA RIC 2 and no existing vehicle or pedestrian access, from the freeway, make the development of access and facilities at Squally Beach relatively much more costly than the alternative proposals mentioned in this plan. As a result, OPRD does not recommend development of Squally Beach access but will focus on other more feasible sites.

Wasco County has expressed interest in pursuing a recreation trail from the Discovery Center to Squally Point as part of The Dalles Riverfront Plan. A proposal of this nature would have to be designed to not cause significant impacts to the natural and cultural resources of the site. The trail would have to conform to the Land Use Designations and the tribal review process described in the MP CRGNSA. Any trail proposals will also have to address possible impacts/mitigation to natural resources identified in this master plan. A trail in this area would require a pedestrian crossing of the UPRR.

Also, a trail that would end on OPRD property without access for management or maintenance on that end could cause supervision and enforcement problems. If the trail was pursued from the Discovery

Center, the agency of trail origin would need to take responsibility for management and maintenance of the entire trail.

CORBETT LANDING

Based on input from a meeting of interested parties, concerning the public ownership and use of Corbett Landing, OPRD will pursue the following objectives:

- * Development of parking for landing access on the south side of I-84, to resolve safety problems with recreationists parking on the freeway ramp and access roads. OPRD will acquire the old lower Corbett quarry from ODOT for that purpose. OPRD will allow any organization, public or private, to develop parking and restroom facilities in the quarry site. OPRD will manage and maintain the parking facility once developed. ODOT would continue ownership of the ramp.
- * As the boat launch at **Rooster Rock** is improved for all season launching, OPRD recommends that recreational power boat launching at Corbett Landing be discouraged or restricted with barriers that would continue to allow access for the following kinds of activities: Bank fishing, barge pilot changing at Reed Island, commercial ferry service to Reed Island, 24 hour commercial access or fishing and mooring, disabled fishing access, emergency vehicular access, fishing charters, fish unloading, guide boat tours, recreational mooring and passenger loading, non-motorized boat launching, pedestrian access for viewing, potential sternwheeler stop, swimming, treaty/ceremonial/subsistence tribal fishing.
- * OPRD recognizes the economic and social importance of this river access and will only support closing the use of the ramp to recreational power boats. Recreational power boat launching can happen at other locations not far from Corbett Landing, and are better equipped to serve safe public recreational boat launching.
- * Basic improvements and maintenance are needed for the ramp. OPRD encourages ODOT to support private or other funding for these improvements.

TRAILS

OPRD supports the priorities and projects described for the HCRH as outlined in the 1987 study entitled A Study of the Historic Columbia River Highway 1987. The highest priority connection project, as identified by the HCRH Advisory Committee, is the Hood River to Mosier or Twin Tunnels project. OPRD support this priority and will participate in forming the partnerships needed to acquire lands, complete trail and facility development and ensure top quality management. This master plan will not attempt to integrate the details of the 1987 study, except as shown on the trails maps. Instead, persons interested in specific details about those projects are encouraged to read the 1987 study.

Trail connections and/or trailhead development is proposed for a low elevation route from **Lewis and Clark** to the OPRD properties just west of Hood River via segments of the HCRH and via other new routes, and from the east side of Hood River to Mosier along the Historic Columbia River Highway (HCRH) to Mosier. Shorter, more accessible trails near the river and near day-use areas and campgrounds are proposed for the riverfront and Mirror Lake area of **Rooster Rock, Dalton Point, Guy Talbot, Coopey Falls** and Angels Rest in **Shepperd's Dell, Starvation Creek, Viento** and both **West and Upper Mayer**.

Opportunities for equestrian use and for mountain bikes are limited on most OPRD lands in the Gorge because of extreme topography or insufficient land base; however all trails on OPRD lands are open to mountain bikes unless posted. New OPRD trails specifically designed for mountain bikes are proposed between Hood River and **Starvation Creek**. These trails would cross **Wygant, Vinzenz Lausmann, and Seneca Fouts, and Viento**. No opportunities for equestrian trails have been described in this document, but further discussions and research may identify new opportunities in the future.

Included at the end of the Chapter 10 is a set of comprehensive trail maps showing most of the existing trails in the Gorge plus proposed trails. The USFS has a map available for the public which shows it's trails in the Gorge which are open to mountain bikes.

NATURAL RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT

Natural resource restoration, enhancement and protection projects are recommended on many OPRD lands in this Management Unit. The completion of these proposals will depend on practical partnerships between OPRD, vegetation and wildlife management agencies and private groups. These projects are described in detail in Chapter 8 of the detailed master plan. This summary document includes general concepts and major projects in Chapter 8.

Natural resource projects can be grouped into several general categories. They are vegetation management, wildlife management and access control.

Vegetation management projects range from the removal of introduced species to the restoration, enhancement, and protection of native vegetation. Vegetation management projects are proposed at the following properties; **Lewis and Clark, Dabney, Rooster Rock, Bonneville, Sheridan, Lang, Viento, Upper Koberg, Koberg Beach, Memaloose, and Mayer**.

Wildlife management projects include nesting boxes for several species of birds, improving trees for eagle perching, posting additional no hunting signs, habitat enhancement, and the control of introduced species. Wildlife enhancement projects are proposed at the following: **Dabney, Rooster Rock, Sheridan, Lang, Wygant, Seneca Fouts, Koberg, Memaloose, Rowena Plateau, and Mayer**.

Projects to control visitor access to sensitive natural resource areas are proposed at the following: **Dalton Point, Rooster Rock, Wygant, Seneca Fouts, Koberg, and Mayer**.

The cumulative effect of development and use proposals together with existing uses has been addressed for priority areas in Chapter 9.

INTERPRETATION AND SIGNAGE

Detailed proposals for interpretative improvements have not been included in the scope of this master plan. Rather, important opportunities for interpreting special features, and natural and cultural resources have been identified. The completion of a comprehensive OPRD interpretive program for its Gorge Management Unit is recommended. An interpretive plan and program for the OPRD Gorge Management Unit would be coordinated with the NSA Interpretive Plan to avoid duplication of efforts. In the interim, OPRD Area 5 and the OPRD Management Unit staff will continue to work with the OPRD Friends groups and other interested parties to provide interpretive panels, structures, and programs.

A letter of agreement should be pursued with the NSA regarding the design and installation of signs along access routes to and on OPRD lands in the NSA. The letter should stipulate that signs will be

characteristic of OPRD facilities and use mutually approved colors and styles which allow users to identify with the OPRD statewide system and logo.

RECREATION CONFLICT CONCERNS

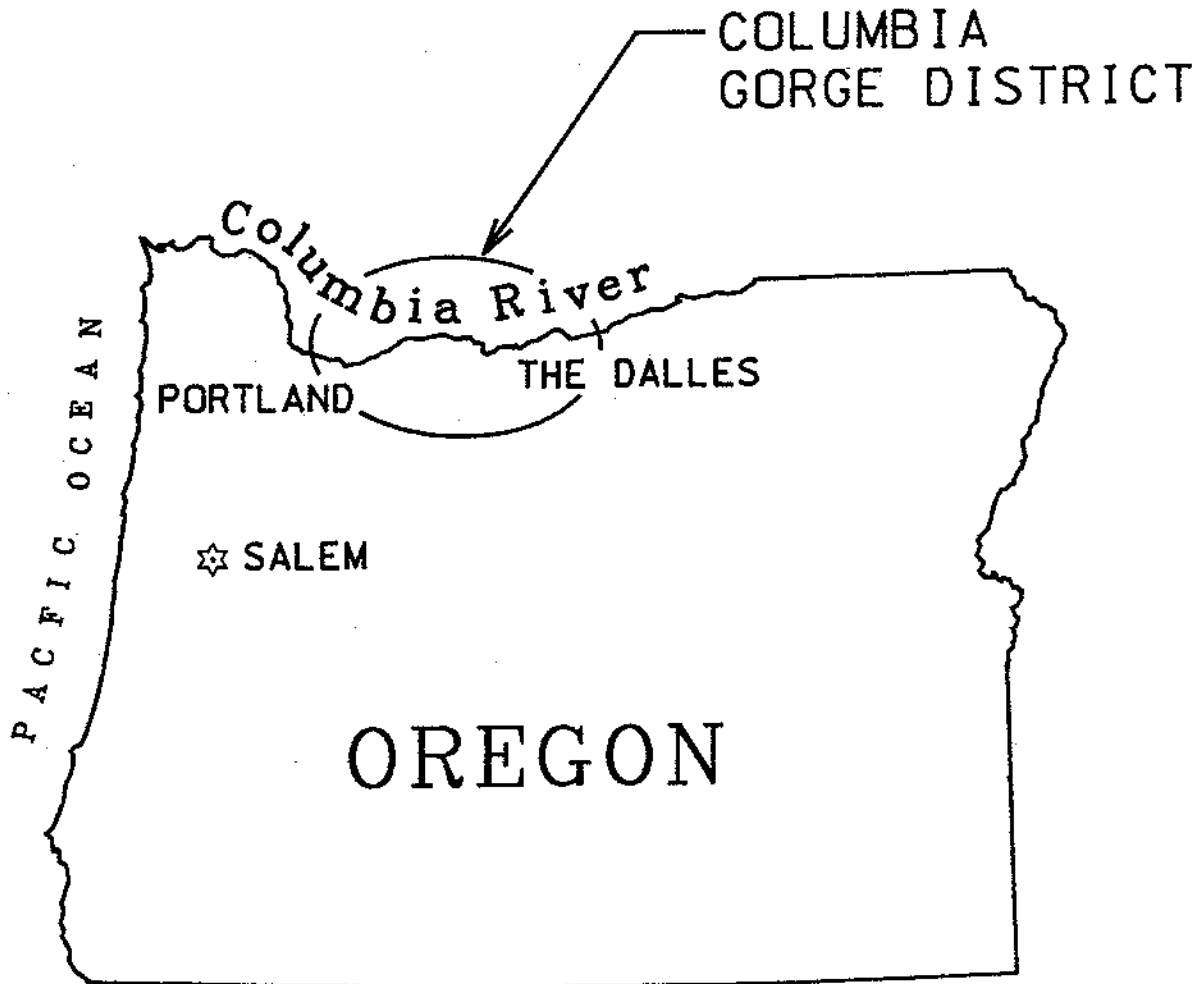
The combination of a diversity of potential recreation activities, with the needs of people working and living in the Gorge and the different missions of the various agencies can create conflicts. All of the development proposals in this master plan have been designed to avoid unnecessary impacts and to include mitigation for important resources. They have also been designed to prevent disruptive conflicts between recreation groups using the OPRD sites. However, several of the proposals are dependent on cooperative agreements with others, outside of OPRD, to be successful.

- Development of the USFS Western Gateway interpretive facility could impact the amount of parking currently available for recreational access to the Sandy River. OPRD provides the current parking for river recreation access south of I-84 and recommends that the NSA develop additional parking north of I-84 specifically for river recreation access. Western Gateway siting should work in cooperation with an area intermodal transportation hub and park and ride area.
- At all of the OPRD properties where crossing the UPRR is necessary for access to the Columbia River the railroad maintains that underpasses or overpasses will be required for pedestrian crossings with the possible exception of **Viento**. Some of the proposals would work best if at-grade railroad crossings were permitted by the railroad.
- The USFS and ODOT are evaluating alternatives to improve parking and circulation at the Multnomah Falls parking lot and rest area. OPRD can only support alternatives that have no impacts on **Benson**, a popular fee day-use park.
- Potential conflicts between windsurfers and fishing nets exists at some proposed windsurfing sites. Steps need to be taken to minimize potential conflicts and to seek approval from the treaty tribes.
- Public land which is suitable for public recreation access to the Columbia River is scarce. Pressure exists to develop these lands for campgrounds, day-use areas and to maintain them in an undeveloped state.
- OPRD owns one site which would make an excellent "In-lieu" site for USACE acquisition and development. This site also has local recreational use opportunities for the general public. OPRD endeavors to find a solution which can address Native American and local public recreational needs.
- Some of the proposals require the acquisition of privately-owned parcels of land. OPRD relies on willing sellers in seeking acquisitions.
- Some of the proposals would require local jurisdictional approval for land use class changes and plan amendments, or other permits.
- The success of some of the proposals will rely on certain USFS acquisitions, developments, trades and use agreements.

- Most of the proposals will rely on successful agreements with state, federal and local jurisdictions on the provision of sufficient law enforcement, safety, fire protection, emergency services, and directional and informational services.

COLUMBIA GORGE MANAGEMENT UNIT - CHAPTER 3

The Columbia Gorge Management Unit includes portions of Multnomah, Hood River and Wasco Counties and extends 65 miles from the east side of Portland to the western outskirts of The Dalles. The area defined as "the Gorge" lies between Troutdale and The Dalles. The Management Unit also includes the lower reaches of the Sandy River.



COLUMBIA GORGE DISTRICT LOCATION MAP

THE SETTING

Near the end of the last ice age the Columbia Gorge was created by a series of catastrophic floods which carved the dramatic gorge along the course of the Columbia River. Steep, near vertical, cliffs rising several hundred feet above the river, and high "hanging" waterfalls along the cliffs were the result. The Columbia River flows through this passageway in the Cascade range to the Pacific Ocean. The Gorge provides a near sea level passage connecting the Pacific marine climate with the inland, continental climate of Washington and Oregon. Strong winds result and are a dominant feature of the Gorge. During the summer months winds generally blow from the west. Warm, fall winds and cold, winter winds may blow from the east.

The Columbia River is second in volume and seventh in length of all rivers in this country and the largest river in the western hemisphere to enter the Pacific Ocean. The Bonneville Dam transforms the river into a 40 mile long lake between Bonneville and The Dalles.

The rugged topography of the Gorge and the Columbia River's bends, narrows and wide placid stretches are the basis for the tremendous scenic diversity found in this area.

The unique wind conditions, prevalent water features, challenging topography, fascinating geology, and diverse ecosystems provide the scenic, recreational and interpretive opportunities which characterize this nationally significant scenic and recreational area.

Plant and animal species diversity in the Gorge is great as a result of the varied climate and topography. An outstanding number of different habitat types ranging from the cool, moist conditions of the west end of the Gorge to the hot, dry conditions of the east end can be found.

Cultural resources are equally rich and diverse. There is evidence that native peoples inhabited the Gorge more than 10,000 years ago. The natural bounty of the region allowed the native populations to prosper and develop into an elaborate and complex culture by the time Europeans first arrived. As a connecting passageway between the northwest coast and the inner plateau, the Gorge was a great trading center where tribes met from across the continent.

The Gorge continued to be used as an important trade and transportation corridor beginning with the first European explorers and traders, followed by Lewis and Clark's expedition and later by the flow of immigrating settlers on the Oregon Trail. Eventually, major river locks, railroads and roads were constructed through the Gorge. Communities sprang up along the commercial routes to serve the major industries; timber, fishing, agriculture and hydropower. The Columbia River Highway, built at the turn of the century, was one of the first roads in the country to be built expressly to promote touring, enjoying scenery and outdoor recreation.

Today, the Gorge is a bustling thoroughfare which connects the urban fringes of Portland with the more rural and small town communities of Hood River and Wasco Counties. Agriculture and forestry, transportation and hydro-power are still the predominant economies of the area with recreation becoming a major industry as well. Native Americans, representing four sovereign tribal nations in the Columbia Basin continue to reside in and/or exercise their treaty rights in the Gorge primarily fishing, but also hunting and collecting are pursued. They are actively involved in the fisheries management of the Columbia River Basin.

Treaty and other unique tribal legal rights are a major consideration for planners in the Gorge.

The Gorge is the local recreational setting for Hood River and Wasco County residents. In addition, about 30 million people visit the Gorge annually. International visitors are drawn to the Gorge for its scenic beauty and strong, consistent winds. The demand for recreation access is expected to grow over the next several decades beyond the availability of recreational opportunities and facility development, creating ever more crowded settings and adverse impacts on resources. In addition, challenges will be presented to recreation providers to offer public access to the Columbia River across formidable man-made barriers such as the railroad and the freeway and amidst uses by other interest groups.

JURISDICTIONS IN THE GORGE

Of crucial importance to effective planning for OPRD lands in the Gorge is an understanding of the various agencies and governing bodies which have jurisdiction over OPRD development and, in some cases over OPRD management. Because of the presence of so many jurisdictions and regulating agencies, including the National Scenic Area's Gorge Commission, this master plan has been developed as a tool for accommodating the management and operation of the OPRD Management Unit to the requirements of these jurisdictions. The master plan has been developed in consultation with NSA staff, the counties, the tribes and with the many agencies involved in the Gorge, to attempt to make proposals which can minimize conflicts and can aid in the land-use approval and permitting processes. In some instances, however, the master plan data will be used to support our requests for NSA Plan Amendments.

The major land-use consideration in the Gorge is the National Scenic Area (NSA), which encompasses all but two OPRD ownerships in the Columbia Gorge Management Unit. The NSA was established by Congress in November 1986. A Management Plan for all of the lands within the NSA has been developed jointly between the USFS and the Gorge Commission. The MP CRGNSA was adopted by the Gorge Commission in October of 1991, and has been adopted by Multnomah County. The other counties will be developing ordinances to implement the plan.

OPRD has been a participant in the development of the MP CRGNSA for several years to champion recreational needs and issues in the Gorge. The OPRD master plan has been adapted from the traditional OPRD format to be more comparable with the goals, objectives, approaches to land-use designation and environmental and cultural resource protection restrictions of the MP CRGNSA. More detailed discussions of how OPRD land-use designations compare with NSA designations and how development proposals are affected by NSA resource regulations can be found in the following chapters.

OPRD staff will work with Multnomah, Hood River and Wasco Counties to determine how the OPRD master plan can be included in each of their respective planning ordinance adoption processes.

In addition to these land-use jurisdictions, the master plan has attempted to address the interests and authorities of many other groups and agencies including: USACE; BPA; Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; Confederated Tribes of the Yakima; Nez Perce Tribe; Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla; ODOT; USFS; USFWS; ODFW; DSL; Oregon Dept. of Agriculture; Water Resources and Environmental Quality; State Historic Preservation Office; Natural Heritage Advisory Council; Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee; local parks and water and soil/weed management agencies, among others.

Four federally recognized tribes exercise their treaty rights in the Gorge. Each tribe is a sovereign nation and government whose activities in the Gorge are defined and protected by treaty agreements made between them and the US Government in 1855. When the treaties were made, the tribes agreed

to cede much of their ancestral lands in the Gorge. However, they reserved certain rights, most importantly the right to fish forever at their traditional places. More specifically the treaty rights state the tribes shall have the "exclusive right of taking fish..at all usual and accustomed places in common with citizens of the US, and of erecting suitable buildings for curing of the same; the privilege of hunting, gathering roots and berries and pasturing their livestock on unclaimed lands...is also secured to them." These rights assure access to fishing sites. Also inferred is the right to have fish to catch, thus affirming habitat protection rights. These legally protected rights belong to each tribe and are regulated and enforced by the respective tribal governments. Planning for recreation opportunities and development in the Gorge is shaped by a legal mandate to uphold the treaty rights of the tribes.

When the Bonneville Dam was built, many of the traditional fishing sites became inundated. At that time the US government agreed to provide 400 acres of replacement sites in-lieu of lands that were lost. This agreement is not yet fulfilled, however the process of reviewing and selecting in-lieu sites on the shores of the river, primarily in the Bonneville Pool, is well underway. OPRD lands have been included in that review.

A portion of the Sandy River designated as a State Scenic Waterway includes **Dabney**. Developments in **Dabney** need to conform with Scenic Waterway guidelines for that portion of the Sandy River.

PARTNERSHIPS

In order to achieve the goals and implement the proposals in this master plan OPRD will need to work in close partnership with many other groups, agencies, and jurisdictions.

The USFS will need to be a primary partner with OPRD in ensuring that needed recreational and interpretive opportunities are provided in the Gorge, both as a land and facility manager, and as a land use jurisdiction. The county governments will serve as important partners in seeing that needed recreation facilities are approved for development.

Partnerships with the tribes will help to provide for tribal needs as well as allow for general recreational use of OPRD lands.

OPRD will need to work with ODOT and the HCRH advisory committee to ensure that key trail conversion and connection projects associated with abandoned segments of the HCRH are funded and implemented. OPRD will also need to work with ODFW, USFS, USFWS and many other natural resource groups to see the implementation of key enhancement projects.

Interpretive priorities will need to be pursued in cooperation with the NSA and other interested parties.

**VICINITY AND MAP KEY
TWO SHEETS**

**MAJOR PROPOSALS MAP
ONE SHEET**

WASHINGTON

BONNEVILLE S.P.
SHERIDAN S.P.
LANG S.P.

McLOUGHLIN S.P.
JOHN YEON S.P.

McLOUGHLIN S.P.

AINSWORTH S.P.

BENSON S.P.

SHEPPERD'S DELL S.P.
BENSON S.P.

BRIDAL VEIL S.P.
BENSON S.P.

ROOSTER ROCK S.P.

CROWN POINT S.P.

Beacon
Rock

Bonneville

Vancouver

COLUMBIA RIVER

Camas

Washougal

PORTLAND

Troutdale

MULTNOMAH CO.
HOOD RIVER

1

ROCKY BUTTE S.P.

2

LEWIS & CLARK S.P.

DABNEY S.P.

Sandy
River

1

1

4

5

6

7

9

8

10

ROOSTER ROCK S.P.
CROWN POINT S.P.
PORTLAND WOMENS FORUM S.P.
GUY TALBOT S.P.

11

12

13 & 14

ROOSTER ROCK S.P.
GUY TALBOT S.P.
SHEPPERD'S DELL S.P.

GEORGE JOSEPH S.P.
GUY TALBOT S.P.

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15

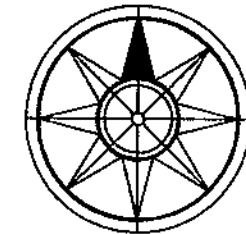
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NORTH

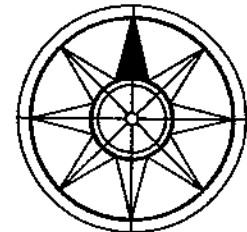
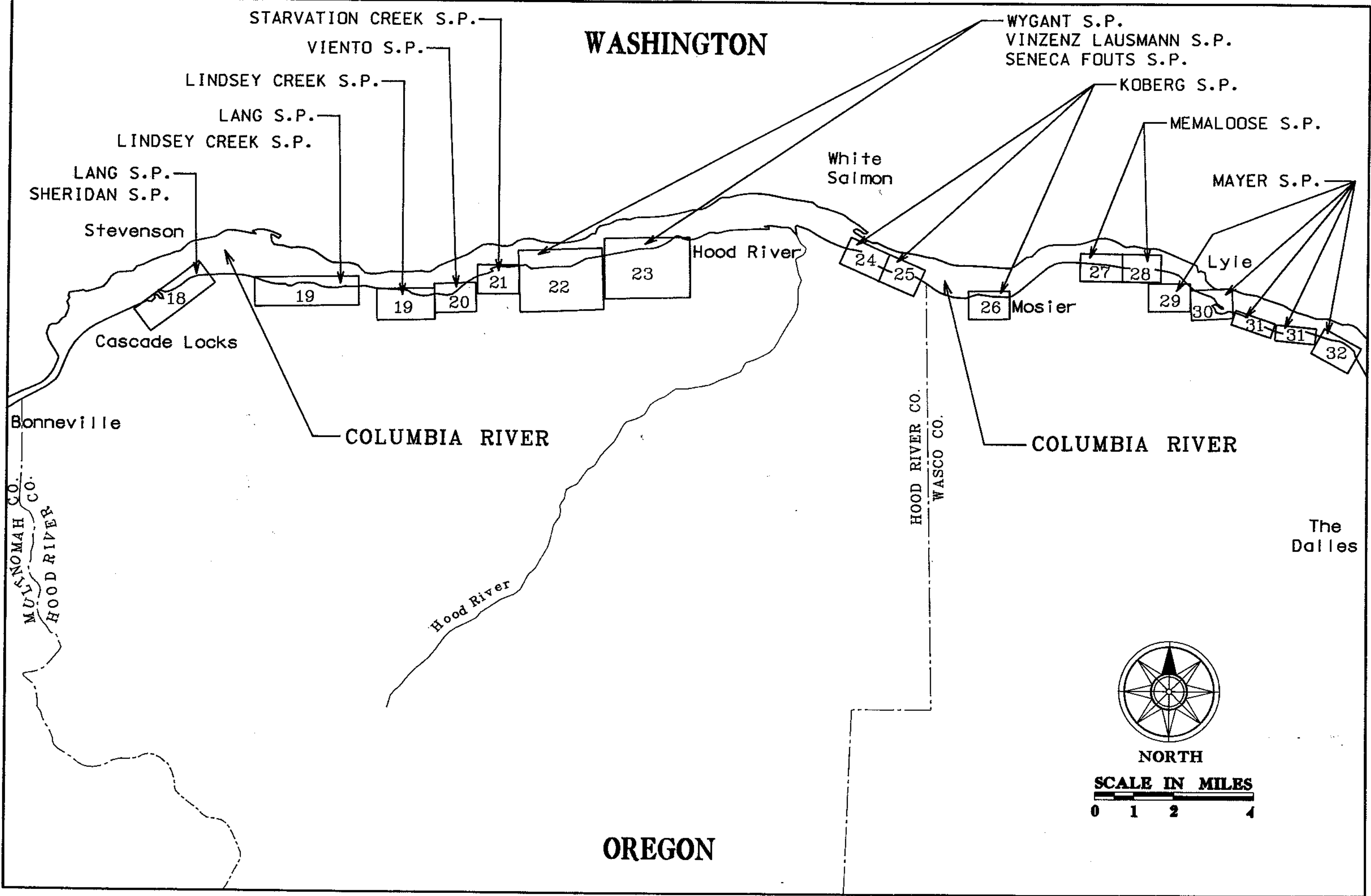
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OREGON

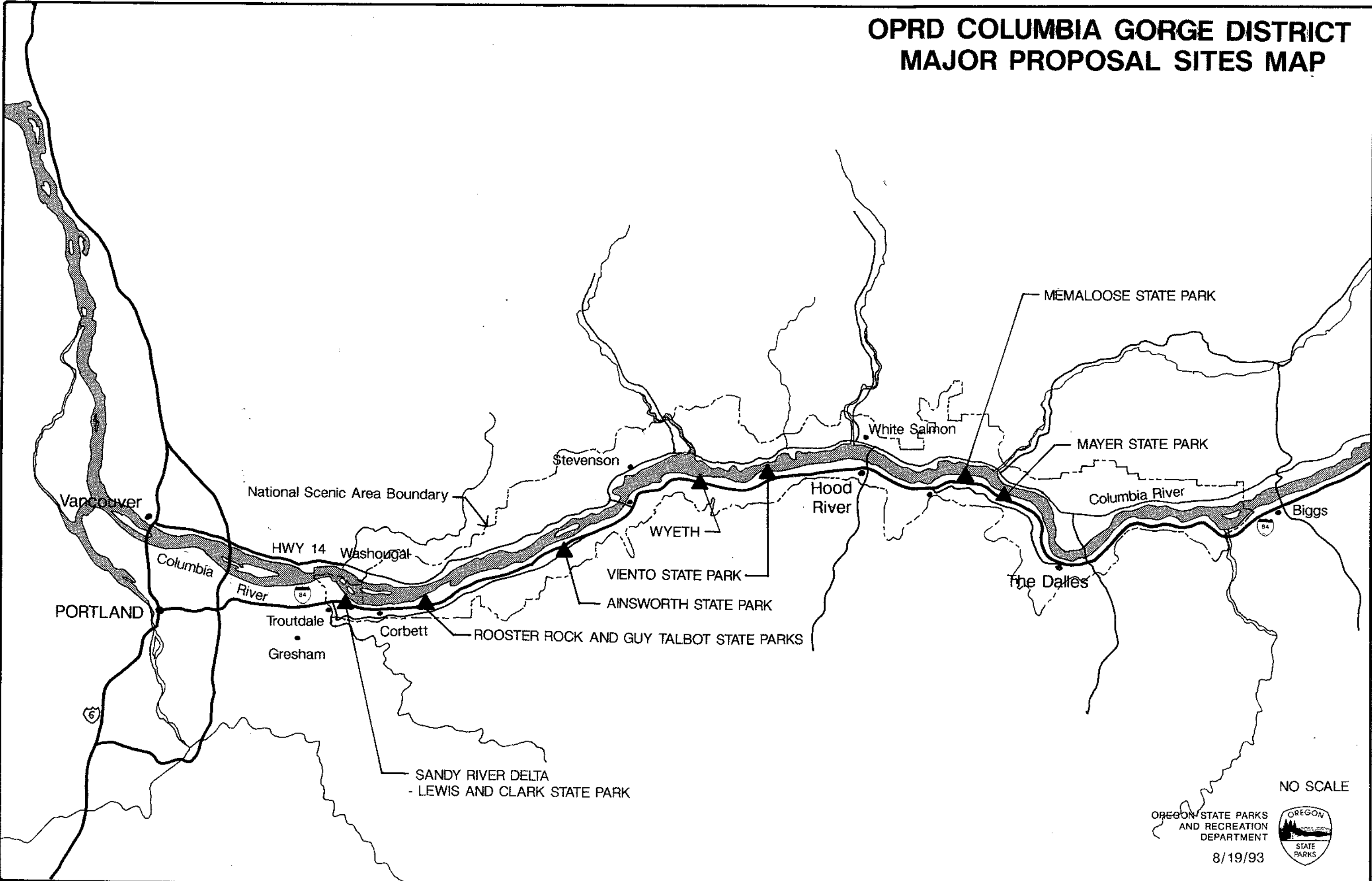
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OPRD COLUMBIA GORGE DISTRICT MAJOR PROPOSAL SITES MAP



NO SCALE

OREGON STATE PARKS
AND RECREATION
DEPARTMENT



8/19/93

RECREATION NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES - CHAP 4

INTRODUCTION

The Columbia Gorge is known for its scenic, natural, and cultural diversity which is the basis for its outstanding recreational opportunities. Within easy access, along 65 miles of I-84, is the moist climate of the west, the dry climate of the east, the water resources of the Columbia and Sandy Rivers, dynamic wind conditions, spectacular scenery, diverse historical features, unique plant ecosystems, and the challenging topography and geology that we associate with the Gorge.

This abundance and diversity of recreational opportunities attracts large numbers of recreationists with equally diverse interests. With this broad spectrum of recreational activities and limited resources comes the possibility of opposing interests and adverse impacts on the resources.

The projected future demand for recreational access and facilities in the Gorge is virtually limitless as the population grows and interest in outdoor recreation increases. Recreation statistics for the Gorge predict a very high growth of recreational needs. Unfortunately, resources are limited and can only support a finite level of recreation and associated facilities. As a result, supplying the demanded amount of facilities is often difficult if not impossible. However, there is still some potential in the Gorge, for additional recreational development.

Given the limited resources of the area and unlimited recreational demand, it is OPRD's goal in this master plan to:

- Examine recreation needs and opportunities Gorge-wide.
- Identify those areas which are most appropriate for OPRD involvement.
- Plan for OPRD development of as many quality recreation experiences and facilities as fit our role as a recreation provider in the Gorge; while preserving the resources that make them possible and avoiding conflicts with other uses.

The information for this section was gathered from a wide variety of sources both private and public. A listing of all the sources used for this section can be found in the bibliography. Other information was obtained from field staff, public meetings, public comments, and workshops with special interest groups and their representatives.

Relationship between NSA Recreation Analysis & OPRD Recreation Analysis

This recreation analysis serves as a supplement to the NSA's examination of recreation needs in the Gorge. The National Scenic Area Act directs both the Gorge Commission and the USFS to conduct recreational assessments for the NSA.

For the General Management Area (GMA), the NSA Act mandated that the Gorge Commission protect and enhance the recreation resources of the Columbia and also required an assessment of recreational resources and opportunities for enhancement as part of the inventory process. The act then specifically directs the Commission to identify areas suitable for public use facilities and, subject to the treaty rights of Indian tribes, to designate areas to provide increased access for recreation purposes to the Columbia River and its tributaries.

The NSA Act also directed the USFS in the Special Management Area (SMA) to "...complete an assessment of recreation resources in the SMA and opportunities for enhancement...". The act requires development to be consistent with the protection and enhancement of the scenic, cultural, and natural resources.

Each of the processes completed by the Gorge Commission and by the USFS produced a recreation suitability analysis. The NSA suitability analysis is addressed in the form of Recreation Intensity Classes (RIC) mapped in the final MP CRGNSA, these RIC are described in more detail in Chapter 9 of this plan.

The NSA Recreation Intensity Classes combine resource sensitivity with recreational opportunities. OPRD has addressed only recreational opportunities in this chapter, separate from resource sensitivity mapping, so that the resource information can be clearly distinguished.

The final MP CRGNSA contains recommended recreation development proposals. Some of these proposals identify partnership projects with OPRD and specific proposals for lands managed by OPRD.

RECENT TRENDS AND TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES

The most visible and newest recreational activity in the Gorge is boardsailing. Boardsailing has increased 44% between 1987 and 1990 (Povey, 1991). With the recent influx of boardsailing has come an increase in associated recreational activities. The campgrounds are at or above capacity during peak times. The majority of the campers at the two campgrounds closest to boardsailing sites are tent camping boardsailors. The furthest OPRD campground from boardsailing sites seems to provide a refuge for traditional RV campers who are having difficulty finding open camp sites during the boardsailing season. When the wind is not blowing, the most popular activities of the boardsailors are mountain biking, shopping, and sightseeing (Povey, 1991).

Camping in the Gorge continues to be very popular, though the influx of boardsailors, who prefer tent camping, has displaced the RVs from RV sites. There is a need to provide additional camping and picnic facilities to bring back displaced users. OPRD currently operates three major campgrounds.

The use of jetskis and wetbikes is another recent trend which has increased most noticeably at **Rooster Rock** during the summer months.

The more traditional activities of fishing and boating in the Gorge occur at five OPRD properties. Boating users include: sport, commercial and tribal fishing; pleasure craft; and waterskiers. The Columbia River within Multnomah County is reported as having the highest need for additional boat ramps in the state. This same area has also been rated second in the state for needing additional moorages and boarding floats.

The traditional activities of sightseeing and picnicking have been, and continue to be, the most popular activities in the Gorge. Also, various sites along the Sandy and Columbia Rivers have been popular over the years for swimming and sunbathing.

Trail use continues to be popular in the Gorge especially at the higher elevations. There has been an effort by recreationists for many years to see the establishment of a series of connections through the Gorge at a lower elevation and along the river where possible. Most notable among these efforts are the Historic Columbia River Gorge Highway (HCRH) connection projects, the trail

400 project and the Chinook trail. Facilities which interpret the rich cultural history and the diverse natural resources of the Gorge are currently conspicuously absent.

Statistics from the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) are used in this chapter to show increases in demand and which recreational setting is most used and preferred by activity. The SCORP regions that cover the Gorge are Regions 7 and 10. Region 7 includes Multnomah County, in the west end of the Gorge, and the main population centers in the north end of the Willamette Valley. Region 10 includes Hood River, and Wasco Counties in the east end of the Gorge and a large portion of central Oregon.

Because the Gorge is a small part of the larger SCORP regions, the SCORP statistics may differ from the true use patterns in the Gorge. However the SCORP data still provides some indication of the preferred and most-used settings.

The following activities were inventoried and analyzed in the detailed master plan:

- Access for the Disabled
- Boating
- Boardsailing
- Botanizing & Nature Study
- Camping
- Cultural Resource Interpretation
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Off-Road Vehicle Driving
- Rock Climbing
- Sight-Seeing and Picnic Facilities
- Sunbathing
- Swimming and Beach Play
- Trail Use

OVERALL ANALYSIS

During this Recreational Needs Analysis all of the existing recreation sites and facilities in the Gorge were mapped. These included all of the public and private sites and facilities and the sites proposed in the MP CRGNSA. This mapping allowed a close look at the geographic distribution of recreation sites and the possibility of conflicts. Through this process areas lacking in a particular type of recreation facility became apparent. Optimal recreation facility spacing was also checked for certain activities and incorporated into the recreation needs analysis.

In some locations conflicts were found and mentioned in the above text or proposals were simply not made, because of readily apparent conflicts or excessive cumulative use. At other sites the recreation proposals added new activities to compliment and enhance the existing activities. An example would be the addition of river access or trail development near campgrounds. The new opportunities provide more activities for campers thus improving the camping experience.

The end result of this analysis combined with the OPRD land-use suitability designations, contained in Chapter 9 of the detailed master plan, is properly located and sized recreation facility proposals. New facilities done in this way will compliment and enhance existing facilities and recreational activities, without diminishing the quality of existing experiences.

